

# MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• *The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy. – John Lewis*



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Interview: Me Antoine Domingue

## “On est en plein délire...”

On se croirait dans une nouvelle édition de 'Flics en Délire!’

• ‘Jusqu’à preuve du contraire, je tends à penser que ces enregistrements concernant le CP sont véridiques. C’est maintenant à lui de nous démontrer le contraire...’

Opinion

### Beware of ‘Poli-Tiks’: Focus on substantive issues



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### Why America seems to struggle to produce a leader worthy of its greatness

# Shadows of Surveillance: The 'Missié Moustass' Revelations

In an era defined by political upheaval and widespread distrust, recent revelations involving Police Commissioner Mr Dip have sent shockwaves through the public sphere. The "Missié Moustass" series of clips released on social media clearly indicate the use of mass listening devices and operations that require highly expensive hardware and sophisticated spying software. Such systems are typically available only to state institutions (e.g., the NSS or Police Force), and the recent leaks may be attributed to internal frustrations regarding what are evidently illegal mass surveillance operations. It remains unclear whether there has been any tampering within the telecommunications service providers, but regardless of the source, the explosive content related to the "Missié Moustass" revelations has raised urgent alarm bells about the integrity of our institutions. During a press conference this week, Mr Dip vehemently denied the allegations against him, questioning the motives and timing of these accusations, particularly as elections loom on the horizon. As Senior Counsel Me Antoine Domingue aptly noted in this week's interview, we find ourselves in a situation reminiscent of a farcical drama — "It's like we're in a new edition of 'Flics en Délire' ('Cops in Delirium!')."

The scope of these alleged mass spying can be gauged from the leaks: the Police Commissioner himself and a few of his deputies, several ministers including the Attorney General, heads of public bodies, diplomats, judges and lawyers, senior political advisors and agents — often intertwined with business interests. We cannot attest to their veracity but the gravity of the allegations that transpire from those leaks against the CP and his acolytes cannot be overstated. If the claims presented in the recordings are substantiated, we face a crisis that threatens not only the reputation of the Police Force, an institution officially recognized as a 'disciplined force' that should be guided by the values of integrity, accountability, and public service, but also the very foundation of public trust in our institutions. This situation compels us to engage in deep reflection on the mechanisms underpinning our governance and the safeguarding of democratic values.

Thus far, the government has refrained from making any official statements regarding the allegations, leaving the public uncertain about potential actions that may follow, although it has made sure various social media channels ban the "Missié Moustass" posts. But immense reputational damage has already been done even internationally and, in such a climate, the question arises: can this government regain the public's trust? It is evident that rebuilding confidence in the current administration will be an uphill battle. Without transparency and decisive action, scepticism will only deepen, further eroding the already fragile relationship between the population and those in power.

Adding another layer of complexity to this saga is the allegation that responsibility for the illicit phone taps has been shifted onto opposition figures, with claims that it is the work of artificial intelligence. This narrative makes no sense even to educated laymen, while trying to divert attention to general questions about accountability and the ethics of utilizing technology for political manoeuvring. Instead of addressing the core issue of illegal surveillance, this deflection seeks to obscure the responsibilities of those



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in power, potentially further undermining the integrity of our institutions.

The revelations surrounding this affair also prompt a broader examination of the role of telecommunications regulatory authorities. What responsibilities do these bodies hold in preventing illegal surveillance? The existing framework, including the FCC Act, may harbour loopholes that facilitate such clandestine operations. As citizens, we deserve assurance that our privacy is effectively safeguarded by telecommunication service providers, especially when even established security systems can be compromised by skilled professionals.

Reports indicate that the Cybercrime Unit of the police has initiated an investigation to track down "Missié Moustass" and verify the authenticity of the voices involved, including that of Mr Dip. While this may provide a semblance of reassurance, it is doubtful whether that would be sufficient to restore public trust. It raises concerns about accountability and transparency when the Police Commissioner, a key figure in the investigation, does not step down during the inquiry. This situation makes the integrity of the investigation seem questionable.

The audio recordings circulating on social media reveal attempts at a cover-up and efforts to tarnish reputations — actions that could have dire repercussions for the integrity of our state institutions. These manoeuvres not only target political opponents but also seek to sideline civil servants deemed inconvenient. The implications of such conduct are far-reaching; if the police and other authorities can be weaponized against critics, the very fabric of democracy is at risk. Some allegations indicate criminal con-

spiracy activities to thwart normal police inquiries, order convenient medico-legal conclusions and cover-up crimes. What we are witnessing may indeed reflect a troubling trend toward state capture of subservient institutions as highlighted by this paper and numerous concerned voices in the past. This phenomenon occurs when institutions intended to serve the public interest are manipulated for political gain of the powerful and wealthy. Such manipulation not only threatens the integrity of these institutions but also jeopardizes the very foundations of our democracy, leading to a governance structure that prioritizes the interests of a select few over the welfare of the many.

Looking ahead, the next government will bear the significant responsibility of addressing this issue, potentially through the establishment of a commission of inquiry. Such efforts must be thorough, ensuring that the security and confidentiality of our communication systems are upheld. Ultimately, the fact that numerous individuals — politicians, journalists, judges, and police officers — may have been subjected to illegal surveillance reveals a chilling truth: no one is truly safe from such violations. The mechanisms meant to protect us are vulnerable, and it is our collective responsibility to demand accountability and reform.

The unfolding events surrounding the "Missié Moustass" affair are not merely about a few men's reputation; they represent a larger struggle for the integrity of our democratic institutions. We must remain vigilant and proactive in safeguarding our rights while demanding transparency from those in power. The future of our democracy hinges on our ability to confront these challenges head-on and restore trust in our institutions.

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**K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally & Kersley Ramsamy**  
 28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),  
 Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301  
 Tel/Fax: 212 1313  
 mtimes@intnet.mu ; www.mauritiustimes.com; facebook.com/mauritius.times

**HAPPY DIWALI**  
*Many many wishes to you and your family on this festival of Maa Lakshmi!*  
  
 Mauritius Times



Prakash Neerohoo

## Elections générales

# L'illusion monétaire des promesses mirobolantes

*Vendre le rêve d'être millionnaire à des gens crédules relève d'une stratégie cousue de fil blanc*

Le pays a connu une nouvelle escalade dans la surenchère électorale la semaine dernière en vue des élections générales du 10 novembre. D'abord, l'Alliance Lepep (gouvernementale) a voulu frapper fort en promettant de payer une allocation de Rs 5 000 pour un enfant de 0-18 ans durant un prochain mandat (2025-2029). Ensuite, elle a promis d'abolir la redevance mensuelle de télévision de Rs150 payable à la MBC. L'Alliance du Changement (Opposition), pour sa part, a annoncé que la pension de vieillesse sera de Rs 21 500 par mois dans un prochain mandat au lieu de Rs 20 000.

Après ces dernières promesses, on se demande s'il y a une limite à la démagogie électorale. "The sky's the limit", pour citer un idiomme anglais. En effet, dans sa stratégie de ratisser large auprès de l'électorat, laquelle indique un effort désespéré de séduire des groupes sociaux spécifiques, l'Alliance Lepep nous assène chaque semaine de nouvelles promesses, les unes plus mirobolantes que les autres. Rappelons les promesses les plus audacieuses faites par l'Alliance Lepep à ce jour:

1. L'accès gratuit à Internet pour les jeunes de 18-25 ans, ce qui est déjà en vigueur;
2. La pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 par mois, à implémenter lors d'un prochain mandat (2025-2029);
3. La gratuité des médicaments achetés dans les pharmacies privées pour tous les Mauriciens;
4. Le prêt hypothécaire sans intérêt pour les jeunes de 18-35 ans pour l'achat ou la construction d'une maison;
5. Une allocation de Rs 5 000 pour chaque enfant

de 0-18 ans dans une famille; et  
6. La suppression de la redevance de télévision de Rs150 par mois.

### Mythe du millionnaire

L'Alliance Lepep est en train de vendre l'illusion monétaire des promesses en faisant croire aux gens qu'ils auront beaucoup d'argent par voie de prestations sociales. Ce faisant, elle met l'accent sur la valeur nominale de la somme, et non pas sur la valeur réelle (valeur nominale moins le taux d'inflation). Prenons deux exemples.

**P**ension de Rs 20 000 : Elle dit qu'un couple de pensionnés de 60 ans ou plus deviendra millionnaire en touchant Rs 1 040 000 en deux ans (Rs 20 000 x 2 x 26 mois). C'est un mythe car avec l'inflation cumulative de 30% en cinq ans (soit 6% par an), la pension de Rs 20 000 ne vaudra que Rs14 945 en 2029. La somme de Rs 1 040 000 vaudra Rs 777 148 en 2029.

**A**llocation de Rs 5 000 aux enfants de 0-18 ans : Elle avance qu'une famille ayant un enfant touchera Rs 1 080 000 en 18 ans (Rs 5 000 x 12 mois x 18 ans). Or, cette somme de Rs 1 080 000 vaudra Rs 378 371 à la fin d'une période de 18 ans avec un taux d'inflation annuel de 6%.

Vendre le rêve d'être millionnaire à des gens crédules relève d'une stratégie cousue de fil blanc. A son crédit, l'Alliance du Changement a adopté une approche mesurée et ciblée concernant ses promesses. Par exemple, elle propose que la pension de vieillesse pour les pensionnés de 60-64 ans passe de Rs 15 000 en janvier 2025 à Rs 21 500 en 2029 avec une augmentation annuelle en fonction de l'inflation (voir le tableau 1). Cette

proposition a le mérite d'accorder une compensation de la hausse du coût de la vie chaque année.

Table 1: Pension increase over 5 years

	Year	Pension (Rs)	Increase (Rs)	Rate
Jan	2025	15,000	0	
Dec	2025	16,000	1,000	6.67%
Dec	2026	17,200	1,200	7.50%
Dec	2027	18,500	1,300	7.56%
Dec	2028	20,000	1,500	8.11%
Dec	2029	21,500	1,500	7.50%

### Redevance tv

En ce qui concerne la suppression éventuelle de la redevance de télévision, c'est une mesure qui devait être prise depuis longtemps. Les partis d'opposition l'avaient déjà proposée dans le passé. Dans aucun pays, cette redevance n'est obligatoire pour tous les usagers branchés sur le réseau électrique, qu'ils regardent la télévision ou non. Le paiement de la redevance aurait dû être facultatif. La redevance obligatoire est d'autant plus arbitraire que la MBC a un monopole sur les chaînes locales et offre quotidiennement un journal télévisé dénué de toute objectivité. L'idéal serait de libéraliser les ondes afin de permettre une télévision privée aux côtés d'une télévision publique, comme dans d'autres pays.

Laissons la liberté aux usagers de choisir le service de télévision auquel ils voudraient s'abonner moyennant une redevance mensuelle. Le monopole d'Etat sur la télévision locale est un modèle dépassé dans un monde audiovisuel où il y a déjà des radios privées. Il y va de la démocratisation de l'antenne dans un pays dit moderne.

Toutes les promesses susmentionnées, si elles devaient être réalisées, coûteraient les yeux de la tête à l'Etat. La question lancinante que tout le monde se pose est de savoir d'où proviendra l'argent pour financer toutes ces largesses alors que les ressources financières sont inadéquates en ces temps de déficits budgétaires annuels et d'endettement national croissant.

L'Alliance Lepep compte sans doute sur le loyer à recevoir (probablement \$1 milliard ou Rs 50 milliards) de la location de l'île de Diego Garcia aux Etats-Unis pour une période de 99 ans dans le cadre de l'accord anglo-mauricien sur la souveraineté sur l'archipel des Chagos. Faute de cette manne financière, le gouvernement devrait augmenter les taxes ou s'endetter davantage.

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P - Wazaa FM

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Beware of 'Poli-Tiks': Focus on substantive issues

*In this volatile period of electoral campaigning, it behoves every responsible citizen to be very careful about the 'tiks' and 'clicks' that forward unsolicited material around*

**A**n online post that contains disrespectful remarks about the Virgin Mary has gone viral and has elicited the justified indignation of citizens. I find this particularly offensive because reverence for the Divine Feminine is central to the Hindu conception and understanding of the cosmos and existence. The recently concluded Durga Puja celebration is a perfect illustration of this perspective of the Universal Mother, Durga Ma, who showers on us her blessings, love and is our refuge and protection. By the same token, all representations of the Divine Feminine pertaining to any culture deserve the same respect.

In this volatile period of electoral campaigning, it behoves every responsible citizen to be very careful about the 'tiks' and 'clicks' that forward unsolicited material around and that land almost literally in our laps. This surfeit of such 'poli-tiks' can overwhelm one, and human that we are, the possibility of being influenced by them is undeniable, especially for the feeble-minded or those who are looking for cheap thrills. We cannot decide our future on the basis of such ephemeral social media material, given the amount of fakes, misinformation and disinformation that has now become almost the norm on this platform. We have to make our own judgement based on more objective inputs about substantive matters of concern to both our individual and collective or national interest.

Personal attacks are part of the local political folklore and are to be condemned from whichever party they emanate. It is issues and policies that the potential elected representatives must elaborate upon. A good recent example comes from the US,

**“Voters have a short memory when it comes to politicians and politics – otherwise how can one explain that those who had been subjected to calumny earlier keep making a comeback? There have been repeated calls for a change of guards, for new leaders to emerge. We may have not gone down to the level of what happens in Africa where, as a leader in *The Economist* once noted, ‘incumbent leaders are changing or sidestepping constitutional term limits to extend their time in office, often provoking unrest’. The problem is that since we are presented with the same old faces as the main contenders, we have no real choice – it’s between Charybdis and Scylla...”**

## STAY INFORMED: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS ON SOCIETY



**“In this volatile period of electoral campaigning, it behoves every responsible citizen to be very careful about the 'tiks' and 'clicks' that forward unsolicited material around and that land almost literally in our laps. This surfeit of such 'poli-tiks' can overwhelm one, and human that we are, the possibility of being influenced by them is undeniable, especially for the feeble-minded or those who are looking for cheap thrills. We cannot decide our future on the basis of such ephemeral social media material, given the amount of fakes, misinformation and disinformation...”**

which is also only a few days away from their four-yearly presidential election.

Politician Tulsi Gabbard, who had run for the Presidential election four years ago as a Democratic candidate but stepped down in favour of current candidate Kamala Harris, was speaking at a venue and canvassing for Donald Trump, the Republican nominee. She explained why she shifted from Democratic to Republican without naming any names. It was purely because the Democratic Party according to her had failed the American citizens and had deviated from its ideals of serving the people and upholding freedoms.

One issue she pointed out was how as a result of the devastating cyclone that had recently swept through North Carolina, she had received complaints that the people there were forced to drink contaminated water that was burning their throats. Instead of attending to their basic needs in the aftermath of the cyclone, the Democrats-led executive was voting hundreds of millions to fund the war in Ukraine. Another problem was failure to control illegal immigration, with the quasi-invasion of millions of them from the southern border of the US, and that included criminals and potential terrorists. Worse still was the possibility

that these illegals would be fast-tracked to be able to vote – for the Democrats.

Rings a bell?

There is no dearth of issues that should be claiming our attention. For example, the unsavoury post referred to at the beginning raises concerns about the quality of individuals who occupy positions of high responsibility. It is not only technical competence that matters. More important is the attitude or way of thinking, which is reflected in one's behaviour and general conduct. And the higher the post - this is especially the case when it comes to posts at the apex levels of any organization or institution - the more important it is for the aspirant to have the proper attitude and qualities (that add up to making one human and humane) that are needed to go with it. One is thus able to fulfill one's duties and responsibilities with a degree of selflessness and to the highest possible level of objectivity, fairness and justice. Having the right person in the right place is a tiresome cliché that we have alas too often heard in vain.

Since we are at the top, let's remain there. It's clear that the conduct of affairs in our Parliament has been troubling for many citizens, with some instances of rudeness

and aggression from the former Speaker that did not reflect well on the House. So too with several of our elected representatives as they crossed swords with each other. Many a time matters were debated amidst expletives that would normally belong to more mundane levels. Refinement ought to be the overriding characteristic for interventions in the temple of democracy, as they engage the probity, responsibility and quality of the individuals.

Besides, though neither French nor English are our original languages, we do expect our representatives to at least make a conscious effort to have a decent level of articulation of either.

And since we are there, what about the promise of a constitutional change to limit the mandate of a prime minister to two terms? This issue has been flagged off and on, but has never been taken forward. Isn't it high time?

Pertinent to this is the fact that voters have a short memory when it comes to politicians and politics – otherwise how can one explain that those who had been subjected to calumny earlier keep making a comeback? There have been repeated calls for a change of guards, for new leaders to emerge. We may have not gone down to the level of what happens in Africa where, as a leader in *The Economist* once noted, 'incumbent leaders are changing or sidestepping constitutional term limits to extend their time in office, often provoking unrest'. The problem is that since we are presented with the same old faces as the main contenders, we have no real choice – it's between Charybdis and Scylla.

We therefore have to find an alternative, and very worthwhile is the suggestion of *The Economist*: 'Where democracies are fragile, the *two-term rule* for heads of government is invaluable, as it *forces change*'.

Among other problems awaiting sensible resolution is that of transport. The introduction of the metro notwithstanding, we are still not fully settled about an efficient, sustainable and clean transport system that would do justice to a country that boasts of being in the upper middle income category. Meanwhile, the fleet of vehicles is expanding at such a rate, with a proliferation of 'auto-points' at every nook and corner, that it looks likely that in a foreseeable future there will be more vehicles than people on the island. We are already choking on both the highways and the byways, not to speak of the mayhem that takes place whenever there is heavy rain even for a short period. When, if ever, are we going to sort out this public transport issue to national satisfaction?

We are a small country facing significant challenges, with each general election filled with promises of permanent solutions – each one touted as a 'defining moment' – but these promises are rarely fulfilled. Will November 2024 *really* be any different?

# Mo Ibrahim 2024: La gouvernance à Maurice en déclin

Par A. Bartleby

**L**e dernier rapport de l'Indice Ibrahim de la gouvernance africaine 2024, publié par la Fondation Mo Ibrahim, révèle une tendance alarmante concernant la gouvernance à Maurice. Autrefois considéré comme un modèle de gouvernance sur le continent, le pays a perdu sa première place au profit des Seychelles, qui se distingue désormais comme la nation la mieux notée et la plus améliorée d'Afrique.

Au cours de la décennie 2014-2023, Maurice a enregistré une baisse significative de 4 points dans son score de gouvernance globale, faisant de lui l'un des pays les plus dégradés en Afrique. Ce recul est d'autant plus frappant lorsque l'on considère que les Seychelles, partant de la 7e place en 2014, a gagné 10 points, s'emparant ainsi de la première position en 2024. Cette dynamique souligne l'urgence d'un examen approfondi des politiques et des pratiques en matière de gouvernance à Maurice.

## Les dimensions affectées

Les dimensions essentielles de la gouvernance, telles que la sécurité, le respect des droits, la participation citoyenne et l'État de droit, ont toutes connu une détérioration notable à Maurice. Les libertés personnelles, qui étaient autrefois un point fort du pays, ont subi un coup dur. La perception de la liberté d'expression et l'accès aux services publics sont également en déclin, tan-



P - contrepoints.org

dis que la protection contre la discrimination montre des signes de recul.

**C**oncernant la performance, la baisse de la sécurité est particulièrement préoccupante, avec des incidents de violence et de criminalité ayant miné la confiance des citoyens. Le gouvernement doit renforcer ses efforts pour garantir un environnement sûr et respectueux des droits humains. De plus, la diminution des libertés personnelles et de la liberté d'expression est alarmante; des pressions sur les médias et des restrictions sur les manifestations publiques nuisent à la vitalité démocratique et à l'engagement civique. Enfin, une participation politique accrue est cruciale, car le déclin de l'implication des citoyens dans le processus

décisionnel doit être inversé pour garantir que les voix des Mauriciens soient entendues.

## Un contraste frappant avec les Seychelles

Les Seychelles s'est distinguée par des avancées impressionnantes dans divers domaines. Sa progression de 10 points illustre non seulement une amélioration des politiques de gouvernance, mais aussi une résilience face aux défis du continent. Ce contraste met en lumière les enjeux auxquels Maurice doit faire face pour retrouver sa place de leader en matière de gouvernance. Les Seychelles, en améliorant sa transparence et son efficacité, offre un

modèle que Maurice pourrait envisager de suivre.

**L**a situation actuelle à Maurice, telle que décrite par le dernier rapport de l'Indice Ibrahim, appelle à une réflexion sérieuse sur les priorités politiques et les stratégies de gouvernance. Alors que les Seychelles émerge comme un exemple de progrès, Maurice doit se réévaluer pour éviter de glisser davantage dans les classements de gouvernance africains.

Pour redresser la situation, le pays nécessitera des réformes profondes dans plusieurs domaines.

- \* **Renforcement de l'État de droit:** Assurer que les institutions judiciaires soient indépendantes et efficaces.
- \* **Promotion de la transparence:** Instaurer des mécanismes pour renforcer la lutte contre la corruption et améliorer la transparence des processus gouvernementaux.
- \* **Amélioration du dialogue civil:** Créer des plateformes pour un dialogue constructif entre le gouvernement et la société civile.

La route à suivre pour Maurice nécessitera un engagement renouvelé envers les valeurs fondamentales de la démocratie et des droits humains, afin de restaurer la confiance des citoyens et de rétablir son statut de leader en matière de gouvernance en Afrique.

## Les deepfakes: Une menace émergente pour les élections de 2024

**L**es deepfakes, encore relativement nouveaux, pourraient avoir un impact significatif sur les élections de 2024. Après la désinformation qui a surpris beaucoup de monde lors du référendum sur le Brexit en 2016 et l'élection présidentielle américaine de la même année, une mini-industrie s'est développée pour analyser et contrer ce phénomène. Cependant, à l'aube de 2024 – une année marquée par plus de 40 élections dans le monde –, la peur de la désinformation n'a jamais été aussi présente. Dans de nombreux aspects, le problème s'est aggravé depuis 2016.

Les avancées technologiques depuis 2016 sont en grande partie responsables de cette situation, notamment le développement des médias synthétiques, communément appelés deepfakes. Eileen Culloty, professeure adjointe à l'École des communications de l'Université de Dublin, souligne qu'il devient de plus en plus difficile de déterminer si un média a été fabriqué par un ordinateur ou s'il repose sur des faits réels.

Bien que nous n'ayons pas encore pleinement compris l'ampleur de l'impact des deepfakes sur les élections, plusieurs exemples laissent entrevoir leur utilisation potentielle. 2024 pourrait être l'année où de nombreuses erreurs seront commises et où des leçons seront tirées.



L'élection indonésienne de février 2024 a vu une vidéo deepfake «ressusciter» l'ancien président Suharto. P - X/Erwin Aksa

## Les efforts de résilience

Depuis la propagation de la désinformation en 2016, les chercheurs ont produit d'innombrables ouvrages et articles, les journalistes se sont formés à la vérification des faits, et les gouvernements ont participé à des «comités grandioses» et à des centres d'excellence. Les bibliothèques sont devenues des piliers de stratégies de résilience, et de nouveaux organismes ont émergé pour offrir analyses, formations et ressources.

Ces efforts ont porté leurs fruits. Nous avons désormais une compréhension plus nuancée de la désinformation comme phénomène social, psychologique, politique et technologique. Les initiatives visant à soutenir le journalisme d'intérêt public et à promouvoir la pensée critique à travers l'éducation sont également prometteuses. Notamment, les grandes entreprises technologiques ne se contentent plus de prétendre être des plateformes neutres.

Les discussions réglementaires sont devenues urgentes, surtout depuis que les outils d'intelligence artificielle pour créer des médias synthétiques – générés en tout ou en partie par des ordinateurs – sont devenus courants. Ces deepfakes peuvent imiter la voix et l'apparence de personnes réelles. Leur réalisme impressionnant ne nécessite ni compétences ni ressources particulières.

Cette évolution est le point culminant d'une révolution numérique où des technologies successives ont rendu la production de contenu de haute qualité accessible à presque tout le monde. En revanche, les structures réglementaires et les normes institutionnelles pour les médias ont été principalement conçues à une époque où seuls quelques professionnels avaient accès à la production.

## Des exemples concrets

Les deepfakes politiques peuvent revêtir différentes formes. Par exemple, lors des élections indonésiennes de février 2024, une vidéo deepfake a «ressuscité» l'ancien président Suharto, apparemment pour inciter les électeurs à voter, mais fut accusée de propagande puisqu'elle provenait du parti qu'il dirigeait.

☞ Suite en page 6

# Les deepfakes : Une menace émergente pour les élections de 2024

☞ Suite de la page 5

Un autre exemple plus évident serait l'utilisation de deepfakes pour répandre des mensonges sur des candidats politiques. Un audio généré par l'IA, diffusé quelques jours avant les élections parlementaires en Slovaquie en septembre 2023, a tenté de faire croire que le leader de Progressive Slovakia, Michal Šimečka, avait discuté avec un journaliste de la manière de truquer le vote. Heureusement, l'audio n'était pas de haute qualité, ce qui a permis aux vérificateurs de confirmer rapidement son inauthenticité. Toutefois, l'intégrité des élections démocratiques ne peut pas reposer sur l'incompétence des faussaires.

## Les défis à venir

La technologie audio des deepfakes atteint un niveau de sophistication qui rend la détection difficile. Bien que les vidéos deepfake peinent encore à reproduire certaines caractéristiques humaines, comme les mains, la technologie continue de progresser rapidement. Il est également important de noter que la vidéo slovaque a été diffusée à la fin de la campagne électorale, un moment propice pour lancer des attaques de désinformation.

Si le fait d'enquêter sur les deepfakes est coûteux et chronophage, il n'est pas clair comment les commissions

électorales, les candidats politiques, les médias ou même les électeurs devraient réagir face à des cas potentiels. Après tout, une accusation fautive d'un deepfake peut être tout aussi perturbante qu'un deepfake réel.

## La protection de la démocratie

Il est crucial de ne pas oublier que toute désinformation n'est pas nécessairement technologique. Des rumeurs et des théories du complot sur l'intégrité du processus électoral constituent une tendance insidieuse. La fraude électorale est une préoccupation mondiale, de nombreux pays n'étant que des démocraties de nom.

**L**es plateformes de médias sociaux jouent un rôle dans la facilitation de la désinformation, mais il serait erroné de penser que le problème se limite à l'espace en ligne. Une façon d'aborder le défi de la désinformation lors des prochaines élections serait d'examiner la solidité des systèmes censés défendre la démocratie.

Dispose-t-on d'un système médiatique indépendant capable de fournir des enquêtes de qualité dans l'intérêt public? Existe-t-il des administrateurs électoraux indépendants? Des tribunaux indépendants pour trancher les litiges si nécessaire? Et existe-t-il un engagement suffisant envers les valeurs démocratiques, au-delà des intérêts



Le président indonésien Prabowo Subianto élu appelle à l'unité après une victoire éclatante - P - Reuters/CVN

personnels, parmi les politiciens et les partis politiques?

La réponse à ces questions déterminera la résilience de nos démocraties face aux défis posés par les deepfakes et la désinformation dans les élections de 2024 et au-delà.

# Réparations pour l'esclavage: Les nations du Commonwealth exigent des discussions

**L**es leaders du Commonwealth se réunissent actuellement à Samoa pour le sommet des chefs de gouvernement (CHOGM) et semblent avoir défié les souhaits du Royaume-Uni en planifiant de publier un communiqué sur la question des réparations pour l'esclavage. Bien que le Gouvernement britannique ait déclaré que les discussions sur ce sujet ne seraient pas à l'ordre du jour, certains dirigeants auraient préparé un projet de texte qui appelle à des discussions sur la justice réparatrice, rapporte Eleanor Langford de inews.

Selon la BBC, ce communiqué soulignerait les "appels à des discussions sur la justice réparatrice" et affirmerait que "le moment est venu d'une conversation significative, honnête et respectueuse en vue de forger un avenir commun basé sur l'équité". Ce texte insisterait également sur le rôle actif que les dirigeants du Commonwealth, y compris le Royaume-Uni, doivent jouer pour aborder ces enjeux.

Philip Davis, le Premier ministre des Bahamas et un fervent défenseur des réparations, a déclaré que tous les dirigeants comprennent "l'impact horrifiant que le commerce transatlantique des esclaves a eu sur la diaspora africaine". Il a précisé que cela ne se limite pas à des excuses ou à des compensations financières, mais qu'il s'agit d'une reconnaissance et d'une compréhension des souffrances endurées par leurs ancêtres.

Cependant, le leader travailliste Keir Starmer a écarté la possibilité de discussions sur les réparations, préférant se



Le gouvernement britannique continue de refuser de s'excuser officiellement pour son rôle dans la traite des esclaves. P - BBC

concentrer sur les défis actuels, tels que le changement climatique. Cette position n'est pas nouvelle : Rishi Sunak avait également rejeté ces discussions en 2023, affirmant que "tenter de déconstruire notre histoire n'est pas la bonne voie à suivre".

## Le gouvernement britannique refuse toujours de s'excuser officiellement

**M**algré les tentatives de certains dirigeants de faire avancer le débat, le gouvernement britannique continue de refuser de s'excuser officiellement pour son rôle dans la traite des esclaves. Les précédents gouvernements avaient déjà exclu une telle démarche, et le porte-parole de Downing Street a confirmé que le sommet se concentrerait sur "les défis et opportunités partagés" du Commonwealth, plutôt que sur

des excuses.

Le roi Charles III, qui assistera également au sommet, ne devrait pas s'excuser, car les monarques n'interviennent généralement que sur avis des ministres. Pourtant, lors d'une visite au Kenya en 2023, il avait exprimé sa "grande tristesse" concernant les "méfaits" de l'ère coloniale.

## Les coûts des réparations

Les réparations pour l'esclavage pourraient prendre plusieurs formes, allant des contributions financières directes à des programmes éducatifs ou à l'allègement de la dette. Les estimations varient de 200 milliards à 15 trillions de livres. En 2023, un rapport coécrit par le juge de l'ONU Patrick Robinson a même suggéré que le Royaume-Uni devrait payer 24 trillions de dollars pour son implication dans la traite

des esclaves.

Cette demande s'inscrit dans un contexte plus large, où d'autres nations, telles que les États-Unis, l'Espagne, le Portugal, les Pays-Bas et la France, sont également confrontées à des appels similaires.

## Un héritage à réexaminer

**E**n 1833, le Royaume-Uni a aboli l'esclavage, mais les compensations ont été versées non aux esclaves libérés, mais aux propriétaires d'esclaves, à hauteur de 20 millions de livres – l'équivalent de près de 20 milliards aujourd'hui. Cette somme représentait environ 40 % du budget national de l'époque, financée par l'emprunt public, remboursé par les contribuables britanniques jusqu'en 2015.

Cette histoire complexe soulève des questions cruciales sur la manière dont les pays reconnaissent leur passé colonial. Alors que certains députés travaillistes, tels que Bell Ribeiro-Addy, exercent des pressions sur Starmer pour qu'il reconsidère sa position sur les réparations, il est évident que la conversation sur ce sujet est loin d'être close.

Les discussions sur les réparations pour l'esclavage ne concernent pas seulement des questions financières. Elles touchent à des aspects fondamentaux de la justice sociale, de la reconnaissance historique et de la réparation des injustices du passé. Alors que le Commonwealth tente d'élever ces questions lors du CHOGM, il est essentiel que les gouvernements, y compris celui du Royaume-Uni, s'engagent dans un dialogue constructif qui puisse éclairer l'avenir sur la base d'une compréhension partagée des torts causés. Ce n'est qu'à travers un tel engagement que nous pourrions espérer aborder les séquelles de l'esclavage et construire un avenir plus équitable.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 12



Anil Madan

## Letters to a Seffrican

# Why America seems to struggle to produce a leader worthy of its greatness

*Regardless of whether our Presidents are true leaders and competent or not, America's problem of weak leaders is ultimately the World's problem*

My friend Gerrit, a South African—affectionately known as “Seffrican”—has asked why America seems to struggle to produce a leader worthy of its greatness. In response, I've penned these “Letters to a Seffrican,” aiming to explore this question that also troubles many in the US and to delve into the intricacies of American politics.

In this opening letter, I want to address Gerrit's concerns about the drama surrounding the race to the White House. Gerrit aptly noted that despite being a nation of 335 million people, we often face the frustrating reality of choosing between the “lesser of two evils” in presidential elections. This widespread lament is a sentiment familiar to many Americans. Why do we find ourselves in such a predicament?

While I will eventually tackle how the US manages to survive and thrive despite these challenges, for now, I'll focus on the presidential selection process and the nuances that contribute to our current political landscape.

### Defining Leadership

It is useful to define what we mean by leadership in this context. Obviously, “leadership” means many things, and different qualities in a leader appeal to different persons, depending on the context. There are, in my view, five different aspects of presidential influence, often mistaken for leadership, in the US.

The first is recognizing, influencing, and implementing policies on national issues that directly affect the well-being and prosperity of the American people. This catchall bucket is often referred to as the “domestic policy” agenda of a President.

The second involves foreign policy and how to formulate and execute positions and policies that the US takes in protecting its security and economic interests, and how it projects influence abroad, both by fostering and preventing actions of other nations. This aspect also involves both the active and passive deployment of American forces and military assets, both conventional and strategic. Absent a declaration of war, these functions are, for the most part, exclusively within the domain of the President. As our history has taught us, Presidents sud-

denly finding the military might of the US at their command, tend to unleash force, often in unproductive and tragic ventures.

The third involves leadership at the party level, that is, in fostering the agenda of the President's political party.

The fourth is allied with the third and is about how a President can use the veto power and the immense power of the presidency to prevent legislation from taking effect.

The fifth aspect of leadership is a somewhat distant recognition that there is a “national” interest in having a cohesive American policy that, in capable hands, tries to coordinate domestic, foreign and parochial policy interests.

Over the years, we have learned that America's outsize influence across the world allows us to have incoherent policies but nevertheless act like a Black Hole sucking up endorsements by other nations of our foolishness, and acceptance of American projections abroad that become accepted policy norms. This too is often mistaken for leadership.

### The Absence of Leadership

When most people speak about the lack of leadership

evident in US Presidents, it is often about a lack of leadership on the world stage, or the seeming chaos that exists within the US as viewed from abroad. Rarely do non-Americans see the lack of leadership as a problem for America's domestic policies.

The quality of “leadership” around the world is lamentable. I don't mean that there is any shortage of authoritarians and strongmen (Putin, Xi Jinping, Erdogan, Kim Jong Nuke, Modi, et al) or strong women (Sheikh Hasina before her defenestration, Gold Meier? Maggie Thatcher?), but I mean leadership in the sense of people who genuinely try to improve their countries and the lives of their people. So, although we should take no comfort from that observation, America is not singularly leaderless.

I will pause here to mention that India's Prime Minister Modi, despite his failings in many other aspects, has genuinely worked hard at fostering India's national interests as he works to modernize the country. China's Xi, on the other hand, has used technology to suppress and surveil his people. Quite the contrast. And Putin and Erdogan are just simply repressive in their quest to hold on to power.

Regardless of whether our Presidents are true leaders and competent or not, America's problem of weak leaders is ultimately the World's problem because of the disproportionate influence that the United States wields around the world. And, as we see China's influence grow exponentially, we are reminded of autocratic bullies who have suppressed their own people, wiped out the cultures of Tibetans and Uyghurs, not to mention of Hong Kongers, and threaten Taiwan, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines with metronomic regularity. These realizations make a leader like Xi Jinping also potentially the world's problem.

But enough of my whataboutism and enough digression.

### The American system is not designed to seek national leaders

The dearth of leadership in the US is primarily because our system of government and electoral processes are neither designed for, nor conducive to the selection of true national leaders as candidates for President.

This apparent contradiction, or oxymoron, that the search for a “leader” is not designed to find a “leader” bears some explaining.

As most people know, the US has two major political parties and they, more or less, alternate being in control of the House of Representatives and Senate. There are many other parties in the US, but they are, for the most part, marginal.

It is extremely important to understand that once the democratic process of electing Representatives to the House and Senators to the Senate is over, a decidedly undemocratic process takes hold and allows the party that gains control of the House or Senate, to seize control of the national legislative agenda.



President Joe Biden with Israel's PM Netanyahu in the White House. Pic Times of Israel

● Cont. on page 8

## Letters to a Seffrican

# Why America seems to struggle to produce a leader worthy of its greatness

● Cont. from page 7

How and why does this happen? There is a provision in the Constitution of the United States to which little heed is paid. It states: "Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member."

**W**hy is this provision important? For many reasons. First, because the party that has gained control of either the House or the Senate, can set its rules. And they do. This means that the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House, each chosen by the party that has gained a majority of seats in the particular chamber, get to control the legislative agenda. The Speaker and the Majority Leader can decide what issues come up for a vote and what do not have to defer to anyone else. It also means that the leaders of the party in charge can discipline members and cow them into subservience.

The most important aspect of this control is that a President whose party is not in control of the House and Senate cannot get much done without compromising with the party in control. And a President whose party does control both the House and Senate, can successfully push a legislative agenda that implements his party's vision of how the country should be governed.

Whereas it is true that the President can veto legislation passed by both Houses, it is highly unlikely that a President will veto legislation passed by a majority of the members that are affiliated with his political party, and since it takes a two-thirds majority in both houses to override a presidential veto, if the party in control is not the President's party, it has little chance of enacting any controversial laws.

## There is a premium on gaining control of the House or Senate

Owing to the fact that control of the legislative agenda is so important, there is a premium on partisanship. Each party wants to control the House and Senate and have a cooperative president.

As a result, presidential candidates tend to campaign on highly partisan issues and not on matters that affect the national interest.

It is not logical to assume that a party's candidate who has campaigned for a year or more on a highly partisan agenda will suddenly become a rational advocate for the national interest. This is a fundamental flaw in the way we go about choosing presidential candidates and it is not conducive to identifying and selecting leaders.

On the rare occasions that candidates do address national issues, they often fall



Barack Obama and Joe Biden in the corridors of power, Washington. Pic - Anadolu Agency

into the pattern that Trump has displayed: pandering to the fears, prejudices, and hatred that so many Americans have for non-white minorities, immigrants, and foreigners in general. As well, they tend to offer simplistic views of job losses to China and other countries, while offering promises to fix the problems, but with decidedly no clue about how to fix things.

## The Process of Choosing Presidential Nominees

**Part One:** Every political party in the US is entitled to nominate a candidate for president and get that candidate's name on the general election ballot when the votes for president are cast. The process leading up to that nomination is done on a state-by-state basis. There are votes cast in Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and the other US possessions and territories, but let us leave those aside for the moment.

The initial elections, or primary elections or "primaries" as they are called, are designed to allow members of a party to pick its candidate who will appear on the general election ballot in each state.

**S**o, states as diverse as Massachusetts and South Dakota, California and Arkansas, get to nominate who will be the presidential candidate for the Democrats, Republicans, and any other party that has qualified to have its candidate on the ballot. Qualifying to be on the primary ballot often involves no more than collecting the required number of signatures from voters and paying the listing fee.

**Part Two:** That sounds easy enough. But what if Massachusetts picks Candidate A for the Republican nomination, and Wyoming picks Candidate B, and Massachusetts picks Candidate C for the Democratic nomination and Wyoming picks Candidate D? How do you reconcile these choices?

This is where the national party

Conventions come in.

**T**he primary in each state ends up allocating a certain number of electors to each candidate. Some states have a winner-take-all system and some states allocate electors to candidates based on the percentage of the vote they have received.

At the party's national convention, the delegates allocated to each candidate vote to nominate that candidate. In the first round of voting, the delegates are bound to vote for the candidate in accordance with the allocation set by the primary voting results. If a candidate has enough votes to secure the nomination on the first ballot, that is the end of the story as we now have a nominee for the party. If not, there are subsequent rounds of voting. After the first

round, the delegates to the convention can vote freely and eventually a nominee is chosen.

## Primaries not designed to choose national leaders

In many states, only voters who are registered as belonging to a particular party may vote in that party's primary. However, some states allow voters to choose whichever party's primary they wish to vote in. Some states allow voters to decide on primary election day which party's primary to vote in, and then change their party affiliation. It is a very loose system, and "system" is hardly the word.

**A**s may be obvious, in local primaries, candidates try to appeal to voters based on issues of local concern. Some candidates try to address issues of national concern. But it is a balancing act.

The result is that State A may nominate a candidate who panders to voters on local issues, and State B may nominate a candidate who focuses on domestic social issues, whereas State C may nominate a candidate who addresses foreign policy issues.

This pattern of local voting is highly susceptible to local and parochial influences. Moreover, our history shows that people are rarely as motivated to vote in primary elections as they are to vote in the general election. This results in the disproportionate influence of fringe elements who are dedicated to particular causes and mobilize voters sympathetic to their causes to get out and vote.

So, this is how America's political stew is cooked. And so often, America's goose is cooked as we pick a flawed candidate.

Next time, we'll look at the electoral college system of picking a president.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



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Me Antoine Domingue

# “On est en plein délire...”

On se croirait dans une nouvelle édition de ‘Flics en Délire!’”



**D**ans un climat de tension et de controverse, l'attention se concentre sur le Commissaire de Police, M. Dip, suite aux révélations explosives de «Missié Moustass». Lors d'une conférence de presse, M. Dip a vigoureusement rejeté les allégations portées contre lui, questionnant les motivations et le timing de ces accusations, notamment à l'approche des élections. Si les allégations contenues dans les enregistrements s'avèrent fondées, nous nous trouvons face à une situation d'une extrême gravité. Me Antoine Domingue nous fait part de ses réflexions sur cette affaire troublante qui soulève des questions cruciales sur l'intégrité des institutions et la confiance publique. «On est en plein délire...! On se croirait dans une nouvelle édition de ‘Flics en Délire’,» déclare-t-il, capturant parfaitement l'absurdité de la situation.

Jagutpal, le ministre des Arts et de la Culture - Avinash Teeluck, ainsi que des journalistes, le juge Manrakhan, Me Gavin Glover SC, Me Roubina Jadoo-Jaunbocus, et un médecin proche du pouvoir, le Dr Zouberr Joomaye, ainsi que des politiciens de premier plan, tant de la majorité que de l'opposition.

Je note que MM Nawaz Noorbux, Al Khizr Ramdin, Shakeel Mohamed et Patrick Assirvaden ont déjà publiquement confirmé la véracité des enregistrements de leurs conversations, qui ont été médiatisés sur les réseaux sociaux. Je note également que, sans aucune preuve, les membres de la majorité évoquent carrément une fabrication par intelligence artificielle, voire une intrusion de l'opposition dans la vie privée, ainsi qu'une violation de la Constitution.

Selon l'ancien DPM, qui fut révoqué par le Premier ministre dans le cadre de l'affaire St Louis Gate, c'est l'opposition qui se serait enregistrée et aurait ainsi violé la Constitution en médiatisant le contenu de ses conversations privées.

Excusez-moi d'avoir à le dire publiquement, mais on est en plein délire...! On se croirait dans une nouvelle édition de ‘Flics en Délire’.

En ce qui concerne le “press statement” du CP, il refuse de se soumettre et de répondre aux questions de la presse. Il ne révèle pas le nom des personnes qui ont porté plainte au CCID. Est-ce que parmi ces personnes se trouve l'ambassadrice du Royaume Uni? Mercredi soir, à Bambous, le leader du MMM a sommé le CP de jurer un affidavit. Si le CP veut être pris au sérieux, qu'il le fasse immédiatement.

Jusqu'à preuve du contraire, je tends à penser que ces enregistrements concernant le CP sont véridiques. C'est maintenant à lui de nous démontrer le contraire avec des preuves irréfutables à l'appui.

Après sa visite matinale à l'évêché le mardi 22 octobre, le CP s'est entretenu avec la presse le matin du mercredi 23 octobre. Cependant, après l'avoir écouté, je ne suis pas convaincu. Monsieur de L'Estrac partage également cet avis, comme il l'a déclaré publiquement mercredi soir sur les ondes de Téléplus.

A cela j'ajouterai que toute enquête digne de ce nom devrait commencer par la saisie des téléphones cellulaires du CP et de tous les autres protagonistes avec lesquels il a parlé -- c'est-à-dire Lady Gel, le SP Jagai, le Police Medical Officer Gungadin, Avinash Teeluck, l'Attorney General Maneesh Gobin, le Dr Jagutpal, le Dr Joomye, sans oublier Me Roubina Jadoo-Jaunbacus ainsi que le poissonnier Basoo Seetaram.

Je note que jusqu'ici le CP ne nous a toujours pas dit si cela a été fait!!!!

\* **Le gouvernement n'a, jusqu'à présent, pas réagi officiellement à ces révélations, et les actions qui seront prises pour rétablir la confiance publique demeurent incertaines... si cela est encore possible sous le mandat actuel. Selon vous, est-il encore envisageable pour ce gouvernement de regagner la confiance du public?**

Le “spin doctoring” auquel nous assistons actuellement ne mènera à rien. Le CP aurait dû avoir été suspendu et la police, elle, dessaisie de cette enquête de police farfelue sur son chef hiérarchique qui demeure toujours en fonction.

\* L'attention est actuellement portée sur le Commissaire de Police, Dip, à la suite des révélations liées à l'affaire «Missié Moustass». M. Dip a, lors d'une conférence de presse, vigoureusement réfuté les allégations portées contre lui et a remis en question les motivations ainsi que le “timing” de ces accusations, formulées à la veille des élections. Toutefois, si les allégations présentées dans les vidéos s'avèrent fondées, nous serions face à une situation d'une extrême gravité. Quelle est votre réaction face à cette affaire?

**Antoine Domingue:** Ce sont en fait des “slides” contenant des dizaines d'enregistrements de conversations entre plusieurs personnalités, dont le Commissaire de Police, le Surintendant Jagai, d'autres officiers de police, le médecin de police, le Dr Gungadin, l'Attorney General - Me Maneesh Gobin, le ministre de la Santé - le Dr

«**Sans aucune preuve, les membres de la majorité évoquent carrément une fabrication par intelligence artificielle, voire une intrusion de l'opposition dans la vie privée, ainsi qu'une violation de la Constitution. Selon l'ancien DPM, qui fut révoqué par le Premier ministre dans le cadre de l'affaire St Louis Gate, c'est l'opposition qui se serait enregistrée et aurait ainsi violé la Constitution en médiatisant le contenu de ses conversations privées. Excusez-moi d'avoir à le dire publiquement, mais on est en plein délire...!**»

# 'Jusqu'à preuve du contraire, je tends à penser que ces enregistrements concernant le CP sont véridiques.

C'est maintenant à lui de nous démontrer le contraire...'

● Suite de page 9

Le *Secretary for Home Affairs* (SHA) M. Ravi Meettook et la *Disciplinary Forces Service Commission*, présidée par M. Vidianand Lutchmeeparsad devraient de toute urgence se pencher sur ce dossier qui est un "legal hot potato" et en référer immédiatement au Président de la République afin que le CP soit suspendu de ses fonctions pour "mis-behaviour" et éventuellement "removed from office" si sa culpabilité est établie devant un Tribunal Constitutionnel, comme cela fut fait pour le CP Raj Dayal en novembre 1997.

La visite matinale, photographiée et médiatisée du CP à l'évêché, avec un deuxième communiqué du diocèse à l'appui, et la conférence de presse matinale du CP annoncée pour mercredi 23 octobre à 9h du matin ne l'innocenteront pas et, à mon avis, tendent à l'incriminer davantage quand on se réfère à ses "Orders" où il avait déjà anticipé la diffusion de tels enregistrements et son refus de se soumettre au feu roulant des questions de la presse.

Quoi que l'on dise et quoi que l'on fasse, le présent "caretaker government" ne pourra rien y faire : son Premier ministre et trois de ses ministres étant directement impliqués dans toute l'affaire et il est évident qu'il appartiendra au prochain gouvernement issu des urnes de faire très rapidement le ménage, à grande eau, au Karcher et à l'eau de Javel...!

**\* Il y a une tentative de faire porter la responsabilité de ces écoutes téléphoniques sur les opposants au régime, en affirmant qu'il s'agit d'une œuvre de l'intelligence artificielle (IA). Quelle est votre réaction à cela?**

Il n'y a rien qui puisse soutenir l'assertion que c'est l'œuvre de l'intelligence artificielle qui a bon dos sans que l'on sache quelle est cette intelligence artificielle. Ceux qui voudraient nous faire avaler ces couleuvres insultent l'intelligence de l'électorat et se cachent derrière l'artifice de l'intelligence artificielle.

Que Facebook et TikTok aient enlevé les pages Web ne prouve pas que les enregistrements ont été fabriqués par Intelligence Artificielle (AI) ou manipulés. D'ailleurs, mercredi soir, Nawaz Noorbux sur Téléplus a confirmé, au moyen d'un logiciel, qu'il s'agit bien de la voix du CP.

Ce sont ceux qui sont incriminés tels que le Premier ministre et le CP lui-même qui ont intérêt à invoquer cette défense loufoque. Je note que cela est contredit par Collendavelloo qui a affirmé qu'il trouve cela extraordinaire que ceux qui sont dans l'opposition «*pe tap telephone dimoune, be ki zot pu fer si zamais zot prend gouvernement?*».

Il est absurde de vouloir faire croire que l'opposition a fait enregistrer et diffuser les conversations privées de Navin Ramgoolam, Paul Bérenger, Patrick Assirvaden, Shakeel Mohamed, Joanna Bérenger, Rajesh Bhagwan, Reza Uteem et l'avocat de Navin Ramgoolam, Gavin Glover SC.

**\* Quelles sont les responsabilités des autorités de régulation des télécommunications dans la surveillance et la prévention des écoutes illégales?**

L'ICTA est l'autorité de régulation et elle devrait pouvoir y répondre. Il faudrait donc que vous posiez la question à son Chairman, Me Dick Ng Sui Wa, avocat de profession, et les neuf autres membres de l'ICTA et à son Executive



Director, Monsieur Jérôme Louis, qui ont la responsabilité de réguler le secteur des télécommunications à Maurice.

Parmi les "statutory objects" de l'ICTA se trouvent le "licensing and regulation of the information and communications services", le "technical monitoring of the information and communication industry, the regulation of the security of data, ensure the safety of every information and communication services including telecommunication service" et "control the importation of any equipment capable of being used to intercept a message".

Toute interception doit satisfaire les conditions de la section 32 de l'Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001 et elle peut être autorisée par un juge à la demande de la police ou de la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) pendant une période ne dépassant pas 60 jours si le juge est satisfait que l'interception est "material to any criminal proceedings, whether pending or contemplated, in Mauritius".

Tous ceux et celles qui se sentent lésés par l'interception et la diffusion illégale de leurs conversations téléphoniques devraient porter plainte et tenter un procès à l'État mauricien et à ses agents et préposés pour entorse à leurs droit fondamentaux.

Je tiens à souligner à l'attention de vos lecteurs que le Police Act 1974 interdit aux officiers de police du National Security Service de "trail any individual on account of the involvement of the individual in any political activity or in any other form of lawful protest or dissent" ou de "act as a political activist, or engage in any political activity, or interfere in any manner with any electoral process".

**\* Nos lois, en particulier la FCC Act, comportent-elles des failles qui facilitent de telles opérations clandestines?**

La constitutionnalité de la FCC Act a déjà été contestée par le DPP. L'affaire est devant la Cour suprême. Et sa constitutionnalité sera également contestée devant les tribunaux dans les poursuites qui ont été récemment diligentées par la FCC devant la *Financial Crimes Division*, mais sans l'aval du DPP.

En ce qui concerne la FCC Act, vous n'êtes pas sans savoir que la section 66(2)(a) de cette loi permet à son Directeur des Investigations, avec l'approbation de son Directeur Général, de solliciter une autorisation judiciaire afin d'avoir recours à l'"intrusive surveillance" qui se définit comme suit : "an act of monitoring, observing or listening to a person, his movements, conversations or other activities and communications, from within a place other than a public place, and includes (i) surveillance from any residential premises or in any private vehicle or private property, and (ii) the use of any kind of surveillance device, drones or other electronic device to enter a place other than a public place".

**\* Par ailleurs, il a été rapporté que la Cybercrime Unit de la police aurait initié une enquête pour traquer «Missié Moustass» et, semble-t-il, authentifier les voix des différents protagonistes impliqués, y compris celle du Commissaire de Police. Cela vous rassure-t-il et pensez-vous que cette démarche soit suffisante pour rétablir la confiance et assurer la transparence dans cette affaire?**

Non, je ne suis pas le moins du monde rassuré.

● Suite en page 11

« Il n'y a rien qui puisse soutenir l'assertion que c'est l'œuvre de l'intelligence artificielle qui a bon dos sans que l'on sache quelle est cette intelligence artificielle. Ceux qui voudraient nous faire avaler ces couleuvres insultent l'intelligence de l'électorat et se cachent derrière l'artifice de l'intelligence artificielle. Que Facebook et TikTok aient enlevé les pages Web ne prouve pas que les enregistrements ont été fabriqués par Intelligence Artificielle (AI) ou manipulés. D'ailleurs, mercredi soir, Nawaz Noorbux sur Téléplus a confirmé, au moyen d'un logiciel, qu'il s'agit bien de la voix du CP... »

« Il est inconcevable de demander à un officier de police d'enquêter sur son supérieur hiérarchique tant que ce dernier est toujours en fonction et peut donc superviser une enquête où il est le principal suspect. On est dans un "judge and party situation". Une telle enquête est non seulement vouée à l'échec, mais elle est illégale et donc entachée de nullité. Selon les dispositions de la section 93 de la Constitution, le CP devrait être immédiatement suspendu de ses fonctions sur avis de la Disciplined Forces Service Commission... »

# 'Ce sont des pratiques occultes dont on soupçonnait l'existence mais qui sont maintenant étalées au grand jour. Cela ne fait que confirmer la perversion de nos institutions sous le règne du MSM et ses acolytes'

● Suite de la page 10

La police devrait être immédiatement dessaisie de l'enquête dès que l'*Independent Police Complaints Commission* aura été saisie d'une plainte à l'encontre du Commissaire de Police Dip. Voir la section 10(2)(c) du IPCC Act 2016. À la suite de toute plainte contre n'importe quel officier de police, la police doit immédiatement soumettre la plainte au CP qui est tenu dans les deux jours de communiquer une copie de la plainte au secrétaire de l'IPCC et la police "shall not investigate further into the complaint".

De plus, il est inconcevable de demander à un officier de police d'enquêter sur son supérieur hiérarchique tant que ce dernier est toujours en fonction et peut donc superviser une enquête où il est le principal suspect. On est dans un "judge and party situation". Une telle enquête est non seulement vouée à l'échec, mais elle est illégale et donc entachée de nullité.

Selon les dispositions de la section 93 de la Constitution, le CP devrait être immédiatement suspendu de ses fonctions sur avis de la Disciplined Forces Service Commission, présidée par M. Vidianand Lutchmeeparsad, et par ordre du Président de la République, Pradeep Roopun, "acting in his own deliberate judgment".

\* **Les bandes sonores diffusées sur les réseaux sociaux révèlent des tentatives de "cover-up", des efforts pour nuire à la réputation, voire emprisonner des adversaires politiques, ainsi que des manœuvres visant à écarter des fonctionnaires jugés gênants (Mme Ramsaha, ASP Kokil). Comment qualifiez-vous de telles actions, et quelles pourraient être leurs répercussions sur le fonctionnement de l'État et l'intégrité de nos institutions?**

Ce sont des pratiques occultes dont on soupçonnait l'existence mais qui sont maintenant étalées au grand jour. Cela ne fait que confirmer la perversion de nos institutions sous le règne du MSM et ses acolytes. Cette perversion est maintenant institutionnalisée à grande échelle et s'est répandue comme une gangrène.

Maintenant que le « misbehaviour » du CP et de ses nombreux complices est étalé sur la place publique, la loi doit être appliquée avec la plus grande rigueur afin que tous les suspects soient déférés devant la justice.

\* **Les exemples de Mme Ramsaha et de l'ASP Kokil révèlent-ils une tendance croissante à l'utilisa-**

« Toute interception doit satisfaire les conditions de la section 32 de l'Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001 et elle peut être autorisée par un juge à la demande de la police ou de la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) pendant une période ne dépassant pas 60 jours si le juge est satisfait que l'interception est "material to any criminal proceedings, whether pending or contemplated, in Mauritius". Tous ceux et celles qui se sentent lésés par l'interception et la diffusion illégale de leurs conversations téléphoniques devraient porter plainte et intenter un procès à l'État mauricien... »

**tion des forces de l'ordre pour écarter des éléments critiques ou "inconfortables" au sein du système?**

A cela, il faut aussi ajouter Monsieur Alain Malherbes qui a été arrêté par la police sur plainte de la Mauritius Port Authority et qui se trouve toujours en liberté conditionnelle et dont j'ai demandé à la CCID la continuation de l'enquête de police.

J'attends toujours un retour du Central CID à qui je viens d'adresser un rappel à la suite des révélations concernant le rôle du CP. J'ai donc conseillé à mon client de porter plainte auprès de l'Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) afin que la police soit dessaisie de ce volet de l'enquête.

\* **À ce stade, il est encore incertain si le système judiciaire et les institutions censées lutter contre la fraude et la corruption seront également mis en cause. Toutefois, ces révélations laissent déjà entrevoir l'existence potentielle d'un réseau organisé visant à instrumentaliser les institutions publiques à des fins politiques. Quels seraient les impacts potentiels de telles actions sur la séparation des pouvoirs et l'indépendance de la justice, ainsi que sur la confiance du public envers ces institutions?**

Il est évident que cela provient des services de renseignement de l'État mauricien afin de fragiliser les institutions, et les hommes et les femmes qui la composent. Seul un "Public Enquiry" peut nous permettre d'y voir clair afin d'y mettre bon ordre. Quand on sera en présence des preuves concernant les autres institutions, on avisera et on décidera de ce qu'il convient de faire.

\* **Tout cela semble confirmer ce que l'on dénonçait depuis un certain temps: un phénomène de "state capture". Pensez-vous que les institutions concernées soient en mesure de réagir pour restaurer leur crédibilité face à ces accusations de manipulation politique et de répression ciblée?**

Le ver est dans le fruit et cela prendra du temps pour rétablir et mériter cette confiance. La méfiance s'est installée et elle perdurera pendant très, très longtemps.

Les enquêtes doivent être diligentées et ceux qui ont enfreint la loi doivent en répondre devant la justice. En attendant des jours meilleurs, les citoyens doivent prendre leurs dispositions pour essayer de se prémunir contre de telles intrusions, autant se faire que peut. Et pour cela, il faudra en référer aux experts en la matière.

\* **Le prochain gouvernement aura la responsabilité de faire toute la lumière sur cette affaire, probablement par le biais d'une commission d'enquête, tout en assurant la sécurité et la confidentialité de nos systèmes de communication. Cependant, en attendant, devrions-nous remercier «Missié Moustass» pour son "œuvre publique", comme l'a fait l'ex-ASP Kokil, qui a été licencié de manière ironique «dans l'intérêt public»?**

Le présent gouvernement de transition a également cette responsabilité jusqu'au 10 novembre qui est la date du terme de son mandat.

Ce lanceur d'alerte a déjà expliqué sa démarche sur ses pages Web et d'où proviennent ces enregistrements. On s'attend à ce que « Missié Moustass » vienne prochainement à visage découvert avec encore plus de preuves dans le cadre d'un "Public Enquiry".

\* **Au vu du grand nombre de personnes**



« Le ver est dans le fruit et cela prendra du temps pour rétablir et mériter cette confiance. La méfiance s'est installée et elle perdurera pendant très, très longtemps. Les enquêtes doivent être diligentées et ceux qui ont enfreint la loi doivent en répondre devant la justice. En attendant des jours meilleurs, les citoyens doivent prendre leurs dispositions pour essayer de se prémunir contre de telles intrusions, autant se faire que peut. Et pour cela, il faudra en référer aux experts en la matière... »

concernées — politiciens, journalistes, juges, policiers, et peut-être d'autres — dont les conversations téléphoniques ont été mises sur écoute, il apparaît que les mécanismes de sécurité ont été contournés par des professionnels chevronnés, qu'ils soient internes ou externes aux institutions. Cela ne montre-t-il pas que personne n'est véritablement à l'abri d'une telle surveillance?

Je ne vous le fais pas dire. Il est évident que nous sommes tous des cibles potentielles surtout les "frontliners" que sont les journalistes et les avocats indépendants qui sont dignes de ce nom ainsi que les opposants au régime en place et les syndicalistes.

Même les diplomates, les officiers de police, quels qu'ils soient, et les apparatchiks du régime en place ne sont pas à l'abri du "tracking" et des "Cyber Patrols". Ces enregistrements démontrent que même l'ambassadrice du Royaume Uni n'est pas à l'abri et donc qu'il n'y a pas de système de sécurité. D'ailleurs, cela a été évoqué ce mercredi le 23 octobre à la Chambre des Communes.

## Elections générales

## L'illusion monétaire des promesses mirobolantes

● Suite de la page 3



P - panoramaaudiovisuel

“Dans aucun pays, cette redevance n'est obligatoire pour tous les usagers branchés sur le réseau électrique, qu'ils regardent la télévision ou non. Le paiement de la redevance aurait dû être facultatif. La redevance obligatoire est d'autant plus arbitraire que la MBC a un monopole sur les chaînes locales et offre quotidiennement un journal télévisé dénué de toute objectivité. L'idéal serait de libéraliser les ondes afin de permettre une télévision privée aux côtés d'une télévision publique, comme dans d'autres pays. Laissons la liberté aux usagers de choisir le service de télévision auquel ils voudraient s'abonner moyennant une redevance mensuelle...”

## Charges financières

Dans le tableau 2, nous avons estimé les coûts des différentes promesses de l'Alliance Lepep durant la première année du mandat 2025-2029 selon les hypothèses suivantes :

- (1) L'allocation de Rs 5 000 pour les enfants de 0-18 ans remplacera deux allocations existantes : l'allocation de Rs 2 500 (*child allowance*) pour les enfants de 0-3 ans et l'allocation de Rs 2 000 (*school allowance*) pour les enfants de 3-10 ans.
- (2) L'Internet gratuit est fourni à 100 000 jeunes aux frais de Rs 500 par mois.
- (3) L'intérêt sur le prêt hypothécaire sera payé par l'Etat dans un premier temps pour 10 000 jeunes ayant pris un emprunt de Rs 5 millions au taux d'intérêt minimal de 5% par an.
- (4) Les médicaments vendus par les pharmacies privées dans une année coûtent environ Rs 4 milliards au détail.
- (5) Une augmentation de Rs 5 000 par mois sera accordée sur la pension de base de Rs 15 000 à tous les bénéficiaires (pensionnés, veuves, orphelins, invalides) pour 13 mois dans une année.
- (6) La redevance de télévision sera supprimée pour 350 000 ménages pour 12 mois, ce qui causera un manque à gagner pour la MBC que l'Etat devra couvrir par une subvention.

Les nouvelles promesses coûteront Rs 43 milliards au total dans une première année. Le prochain gouvernement aura deux options pour financer les promesses : soit obtenir un loyer de Rs 50 milliards de la location de Diego Garcia, soit augmenter la TVA de 10% supplémentaires sur l'actuel taux de 15% (portant le taux de TVA à 25%). Les recettes de la TVA sont estimées à Rs 65 milliards dans le budget 2024-25, sans oublier qu'il existe déjà un déficit global de Rs 63 milliards avant les nouvelles promesses. Le supplément de 10% sur la TVA rapportera Rs 43, 3 milliards.

Prakash Neerhoo

Table 2: Cost of Promises in First Year

	Beneficiaries	Number	Amount Rs	Total Rs monthly	Total Rs for Year
Free Internet	18-25 yrs	100,000	500	50,000,000	600,000,000
Free Drugs	Population				4,000,000,000
Interest cost in 1st year of Housing Loan	18-35 yrs	10,000	246,607		2,466,070,000
MBC Licence Fee	Households	350,000	150	52,500,000	630,000,000
Pension Increase	60-99 yrs	311,800	5,000	1,559,000,000	20,267,000,000
Child Allowance	0-18 yrs	250,000	5,000	1,250,000,000	15,000,000,000
<b>Total</b>					42,963,070,000
<b>Financed by either of:</b>					
(a) Rental income Diego					50,000,000,000
(b) VAT increase from 15% to 25%					43,333,333,333

## Éclairages

● Suite de la page 6

Les élections présidentielles américaines de 2024 approchent à grands pas, prévues pour le 5 novembre. Cependant, le vote anticipé a déjà commencé, et les premières données laissent entrevoir une compétition féroce entre les candidats. Les analystes politiques prédisent que l'ancien président Donald Trump pourrait émerger victorieux. Mark Halperin, analyste politique renommé, affirme que si les tendances actuelles se maintiennent, Trump pourrait bien consolider sa position avant même le jour du scrutin.

Dans le contexte des élections, il est essentiel de comprendre la nature de l'ambition des deux candidats. Stefan Stern, professeur à l'Université de Londres, souligne que le poste de président des États-Unis est l'un des plus importants au monde. Cependant, les approches des deux candidats révèlent des visions très différentes du leadership et du service public.

## Kamala Harris: Une ambition tournée vers le bien commun

La vice-présidente Kamala Harris a été propulsée en tête de la course après le retrait surprise de Joe Biden, conséquence de sa performance décevante lors d'un débat. Elle a dû faire face à cette nouvelle réalité avec détermination. Malgré un parcours difficile lors de sa précédente candi-

dateure, Harris a surpris avec un choix judicieux en désignant Tim Walz, le gouverneur du Minnesota, comme colistier. Ce choix a permis de dynamiser sa campagne et de renforcer son image.

Harris incarne une ambition qui ne semble pas être un voyage égotiste. Elle cherche à promouvoir une vision d'Amérique moderne, équitable et prospère. Dans ses discours, elle évoque un avenir qui privilégie le bien-être de tous les citoyens, plutôt qu'un intérêt personnel ou partisan. Elle déclare que l'élection représente "une lutte pour la promesse de l'Amérique", affirmant avec force: "Nous ne reviendrons pas en arrière."

## Donald Trump: Une ambition centrée sur l'adulation

D'un autre côté, Donald Trump se distingue par son ambition, qui semble avant tout motivée par le besoin d'adulation et de reconnaissance. Sa campagne est marquée par des déclarations provocatrices et des affirmations farfelues, comme sa prétention d'être "plus séduisant" que Harris. Trump utilise la controverse pour galvaniser son soutien, s'appuyant sur des slo-

## Élections américaines

## Qu'est-ce qui motive Trump et Harris?



Deux visions opposées de l'avenir des États-Unis: Harris cherche à promouvoir une Amérique inclusive et tournée vers l'avenir, tandis que Trump aspire à restaurer une version idéalisée du passé. P - Los Angeles Times

gans qui évoquent un passé idéalisé.

Sa réponse impulsive et passionnée lors d'une tentative d'assassinat, où il a crié "Fight! Fight! Fight!" tout en levant le poing, témoigne de sa volonté de se présenter comme un combattant. Trump se positionne comme un outsider, prêt à affronter ceux qu'il considère comme des ennemis. Cette attitude séduit de nombreux électeurs qui recherchent un leader perçu comme fort et déterminé.

## Deux visions opposées de l'Amérique

Les ambitions de Harris et de Trump représentent deux visions opposées de l'avenir des États-Unis. Harris cherche à

promouvoir une Amérique inclusive, tournée vers l'avenir, tandis que Trump aspire à restaurer une version idéalisée du passé. Son slogan "Make America Great Again" implique que le pays a perdu son éclat, et il ne cache pas son désir de revenir à une époque où la majorité blanche dominait.

## L'héritage de l'ambition

Dans son livre *Fair or Foul: the Lady Macbeth Guide to Ambition*, Stefan Stern explore la nature de l'ambition à travers le prisme de la tragédie de Shakespeare. Il évoque les dangers d'une ambition aveugle et désespérée, comme celle que représente Trump.

À l'inverse, Harris incarne une forme d'ambition qui aspire à des valeurs progressistes et à un avenir meilleur.

## Les enjeux de l'élection

Alors que l'élection approche, plusieurs questions se posent: les électeurs choisiront-ils de revenir à des valeurs conservatrices et traditionnelles ou opteront-ils pour une vision plus moderne et inclusive? Les résultats des sondages préélectoraux montrent un pays profondément divisé, où les choix politiques sont souvent influencés par des considérations identitaires.

A. Bartleby

## Commonwealth nations to discuss slavery reparations, climate change

The leaders of the Commonwealth grouping of nations met on Thursday ahead of a summit in the South Pacific nation of Samoa that will feature talks on climate change and the question of reparations for Britain's role in transatlantic slavery.

King Charles, the head of the grouping, is among the representatives of 56 countries, most with roots in Britain's empire, who are attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that began on Monday.

More than half of the Commonwealth's members are small nations, many of them low-lying islands at risk from rising sea levels caused by climate change, reports Reuters.

Among them is Tuvalu, whose climate change minister, MainaVakafua Talia, urged the grouping to strive for the Paris Accord's warming goal of 1.5 degrees C, calling new fossil fuel projects a "death sentence" for his country.

"We call on our wealthier partners to align themselves with this goal and not fan the flames of the climate crisis with fossil fuel expansion," he said.

Island leaders are expected to issue a declaration on ocean protection at the summit, with climate change being a central topic of discussion.

"Climate change is an existential threat," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told a press conference after a meeting with counterparts.

"It is the No. 1 national security threat. It is the No. 1 economic threat to the peoples of the Pacific and to many members of the Commonwealth."

Zambia was among the African countries that warned of the rising impacts of climate change, including the effects on food security, she added.



On Thursday, Charles will be shown the impact of rising sea levels that are forcing people to move inland, a Samoan chief said.

Ocean temperatures are rising in the Pacific Islands at three times the global rate, Antonio Guterres, the secretary-general of the United Nations, has said, leaving their people "uniquely exposed" to the impact of rising sea levels.

### Reparations Push

Also on the agenda is a push for Britain to pay reparations or make other amends for transatlantic slavery, a long-standing demand that has recently gained momentum worldwide, particularly among the Caribbean Community and the African Union.

On Monday, Starmer said Britain would not bring the issue of reparations for slavery to the table at the summit and would not apologise, but was open to engage with leaders who want to discuss it.

He wanted to "look forward rather than looking backwards", he told reporters.

But a CARICOM source familiar with the matter told Reuters CHOGM presented an "important opportunity" for dialogue on reparations and the region, which groups countries such as Barbados and Jamaica, would be raising the issue there.

Eric Phillips, of CARICOM'S commission to seek reparations from former colonial powers such as Britain, France and Portugal, said he did not understand the relevance of the Commonwealth if Starmer "takes this cruel approach".

Opponents of reparations payments say countries should not be held responsible for historical wrongs, while those in favour say the legacy of slavery has led to vast and persistent racial inequality today.

"Whenever those affected by atrocities ask to talk, there should always be a willingness to sit down and listen," Kingsley Abbott, director of London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies, who is attending the summit, said.

From the 15th to the 19th century, at least 12.5 million Africans were kidnapped and forcibly taken by European ships and merchants and sold into slavery.

Those who survived the brutal voyages ended up toiling on plantations in inhumane conditions in the Americas, mostly in Brazil and the Caribbean, while others profited from their labour.

## Justin Trudeau in trouble, gets ultimatum: Why Liberal MPs demanded Canadian PM's resignation



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's rating touched an all-time low. Pic - ThePrint

Pressure mounts for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as demands for his resignation grew stronger on Wednesday. The Liberal Party Members of Parliament (MPs) gathered on Canadian Parliament Hill for a closed-door meeting with Justin Trudeau.

According to CBC News, during a closed-door meeting, dissatisfied Canadian parliamentarians expressed their concerns directly to Prime Minister Trudeau showcasing the rising discontent

within the party.

The meeting was held as part of the weekly caucus meetings as the House of Commons is in session amid the growing discontent with Trudeau and his administration, reports HT

Justin Trudeau was given an ultimatum to decide his future by October 28.

During the caucus meeting, a document outlining the case for Trudeau's resignation was presented, although it did

not specify any consequences if he failed to meet the deadline.

According to sources from Radio-Canada, 24 MPs signed an agreement calling for Trudeau to step down as the leader of the Liberal Party, as reported by CBC News.

### Why are Canadian MPs seeking Justin Trudeau's resignation?

At least 24 of the 153 Liberal MPs have been holding meetings to secretly oust Justin Trudeau. The MPs have been seeking Trudeau's resignation in a bid to save their party from a potential poll debacle.

The public opinion surveys have suggested that under Trudeau's leadership, the Liberals are likely to face a

political fiasco after Trudeau's Party was defeated in two safest constituencies in special polls held in June and September.

The MPs are also not happy with the preparations for the upcoming elections, which must be held before October 2025.

Another reason behind growing discontent among Liberal Party MPs is the declining trends in Justin Trudeau's popularity, which has sunk to an all-time low with rival Conservatives leading over Liberals by 19 points.

Fearing a massive defeat in the upcoming elections, some 24 MPs presented a document seeking Trudeau's resignation.

\* Contd on page 14

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## Moon Sample Talks: A New Chapter in US-China Space Engagement

As tensions rise between the United States and China, a surprising dialogue is unfolding over lunar rock samples retrieved by China during its recent moon missions. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson recently revealed that U.S. officials are engaged in discussions with their Chinese counterparts about allowing American scientists to analyze samples brought back by China's Chang'e missions. This potential collaboration could signify a significant thaw in relations, highlighting the complexities of space diplomacy amid fierce geopolitical rivalry.

In 2020, China made history with its Chang'e-5 mission, becoming the third nation -- after the U.S. and the Soviet Union -- to collect and return lunar samples. In June 2023, the Chang'e-6 mission followed suit, returning samples from the far side of the moon, marking another milestone in China's burgeoning space capabilities. These achievements underscore China's commitment to advancing its space program, positioning itself as a formidable competitor on the global stage.

However, the potential for U.S.-China cooperation is not without its challenges. Current U.S. law, specifically the Wolf Amendment, restricts NASA's collabora-



Moon sample talks show space engagement by rivals US and China. Pic – The Economic Times

tion with China to safeguard American technology from military appropriation. Despite this, Nelson reassured lawmakers that discussions regarding the Chang'e-5 samples would not pose national security risks. He expressed optimism about reaching a favourable agreement that would grant U.S. researchers access to the precious lunar materials, which could provide invaluable insights into the moon's geology and resources.

The ongoing talks represent one of the few instances of engagement between the two nations on space issues amid broader

military and economic tensions. While the U.S. has historically been cautious about collaborating with China, this shift in strategy appears aimed at avoiding miscalculations in future space operations. According to multiple U.S. officials, efforts have intensified over the past year to establish areas of coordination and communication, reflecting a pragmatic approach to a complex relationship.

Complicating matters, the Biden administration recently allowed a long-standing science and technology agreement with China to expire, reflecting

the prevailing skepticism among U.S. lawmakers regarding scientific cooperation with Beijing. Critics argue that such collaboration could benefit China's military ambitions, making the discussions surrounding lunar samples all the more sensitive.

In a parallel development, China's engagement with the Pentagon has increased, particularly concerning rocket launch notifications and satellite reentry timings. This shift indicates a growing recognition by both nations of the importance of communication to ensure safety in space operations.

Despite these positive steps, many in the space community remain concerned that military and economic rivalries could jeopardize future cooperative efforts. As both countries eye ambitious lunar missions -- NASA's Artemis program aims to return astronauts to the moon, while China plans its own crewed lunar landings -- the stakes have never been higher. Both nations are racing not only to explore space but also to establish global standards for space traffic management amidst the surge of new satellite constellations.

## Spurred by Shared Grievances, BRICS Gathers Pace

As U.S. election jitters loomed over this week's gathering of global finance chiefs in Washington, a smiling Vladimir Putin welcomed leaders from around the world in Kazan, Russia, representing nearly half the globe's population.

The BRICS club of emerging economies may not yet rival the International Monetary Fund or challenge the dominance of the U.S. dollar, but the first summit with its newly expanded membership highlighted its increasing influence. The final communiqué was rich in rhetoric but light on specifics regarding the creation of alternative payment and trade mechanisms designed to bypass Western-dominated structures, particularly in light of the sanctions imposed on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. Nonetheless, the summit achieved notable diplomatic victories, featuring the presence of U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, whose nation is interested in joining BRICS. Meanwhile, India and China used the platform to strengthen their ties.

For Putin, the attendance of so many leaders helped counter the narrative of Russia's isolation from the global economy, according to reports from Reuters. "They are not recognizing the significance of this event," remarked Alicia Garcia-Herrero, a senior fellow at the Bruegel economic think tank. "It signals that the West is losing power."

While Kazan may not achieve the historical importance of Bretton Woods -- where the victors of World War II established a monetary order that solidified dollar supremacy -- this week's discussions underscored a



Spurred by shared grievances, BRICS gathers pace. Pic - XM

widespread dissatisfaction with a system perceived as failing to serve much of the world. Over the past decade, capital transfers to developing economies have significantly declined, and emerging nations remain underrepresented in IMF decision-making. "Look at how many countries are eager to apply for BRICS membership," noted Mo Ibrahim, a Sudanese-British businessman whose foundation tracks governance in Africa. Putin has stated that over 30 countries have expressed interest.

"People see institutions that lack true representation or democracy -- structures established in 1945 that remain unchanged," Ibrahim added.

Since its inception in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India, and China, BRICS has had a mixed track record. Notably, its formation has not significantly altered the growth trajectories of its founding nations, according to Mario Holzner of the Vienna Institute for International Economic

Studies. Furthermore, the \$5 billion in loans anticipated from the BRICS New Development Bank this year pales in comparison to the \$72.8 billion distributed by the World Bank through credits, loans, and grants. Other initiatives within BRICS are still in their infancy.

"They may establish some kind of low-level money transfer system, but it's unlikely to be a game-changer," Holzner observed.

### Hedging Bets

Many commentators point out that as BRICS expands, disparities in size and influence among member countries, coupled with conflicting national agendas, could complicate consensus-building on joint initiatives.

However, those eager to join BRICS view it as a de facto trade forum, already accounting for a fifth of global commerce. "There is a significant opportunity in linking these economic corridors," said Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb during the IMF meeting in Washington. "We are indeed keen to become a member of BRICS."

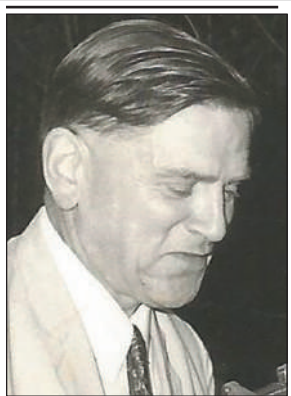
While most analysts doubt that BRICS' proposed payment system will soon challenge the dollar's supremacy, such initiatives attract countries wary of potential future sanctions from the West. "By joining, you're essentially cushioning yourself against geopolitical friction with the West," said Hamish Kinnear, a senior analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, who described BRICS as "a signal, not the cause of a changing world order." Rather than presenting an outright alternative to the IMF, many BRICS members and aspiring joiners see it as a strategic hedge in a shifting geopolitical landscape.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 287

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 19 February, 1960

• *Personality is everything in art and poetry.* — Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Peter Ibbotson

## Two Educational Reforms

Recently, I urged in these columns that the time is ripe for the introduction of compulsory primary education. I propose that attendance at school be made compulsory for all children from the age of 5 to 12. Furthermore, I suggest that those who go on to a government or aided secondary school should be required to

stay in school until at least the age of 15.

In England and Wales, it is compulsory for children to stay in school until the end of the term in which they reach the age of 15. The Labour Party's manifesto for the recent general election promised that a Labour government, if elected, would make it compulsory for children to stay until the end of the school year in which they turn 15. At the end of last year, a government committee (headed by the distinguished economist Sir Geoffrey Crowther, after whom the committee's report has been named) recommended that the upper limit of compulsory school attendance be raised to 16 years by 1970.

What are the reasons for this recommendation? In the Crowther Report, we read that "the country cannot afford to let so much talent go unutilised at a time when industry demands greatly increased skill and knowledge, especially in the face of the tremendous efforts being made by other countries to develop their human resources."

Supporting this statement, Sydney Tremayne pointed out in the *Daily Herald* that in most of the 50 states of the USA, the school-leaving age is already 16; and seven out of ten American children actually stay in school for full-time education until the age of 18. In England, only one child out of every ten receives full-time education until that age. The plan in the Soviet Union to provide all children with full-time education until the age of 18 is gaining momentum; even without such provision, Tremayne noted, "the quality and intensity of Russia's scientific and technical education is outstripping and frightening the Americans." He added that France and the Federal Republic of Germany make far better use than the UK of their children's talents and abilities.

The wastage of talent concerns many educationalists. Half of the children in England and Wales leave school at 15, yet many of these are just as bright and talented as those who continue their education. If we continue to waste our ta-



lented youngsters, we risk Britain failing to remain a world power. This is a fiercely competitive world of scientific advancement and growing complexity. Other countries threaten to surpass Britain simply because we neglect to make the best use of our most priceless asset: our children.

Similar arguments apply in Mauritius. Because there is no compulsory primary education, it is likely that capable minds are going to waste. Due to the current organization of secondary education and the awarding of scholarships, it is even more probable that good brains are being wasted at the post-primary stage.

Both forms of wastage can and must be avoided. Wastage at the primary school level can be prevented by introducing compulsory education up to the age of 12. While there is almost complete enrolment of under-twelves, there are means to enforce attendance. In England and Wales, school attendance officers are responsible for following up on children reported as absent from school; penalties are imposed on parents who fail to ensure their children's attendance. Let us implement compulsory attendance in Mauritius.

The second form of wastage at the secondary stage can be addressed by revising the current system of awarding scholarships to secondary schools. When Mr Nichols drafted his report on secondary education a dozen years ago, he criticized the scholarship system and suggested that government secondary schools could be run similarly to the UK's direct grant grammar schools. In these schools, in exchange for a state subsidy, at least a quarter of the children must be admitted without payment of fees, and a local

education authority can request that as many as half the available places at a direct grant grammar school be set aside for pupils without payment of fees. The remaining spots are filled by fee-paying students whose fees are determined by their parents' income. There is a maximum fixed fee; however, actual fees operate on a sliding scale.

I do not propose that all secondary schools in Mauritius be organized in this way. What I am suggesting, however, is that steps should be taken to ensure that scholarships to secondary schools are awarded to children whose parents cannot afford to pay the fees, but who, nonetheless, are found (by the scholarship examination) to deserve a grammar school place. Currently, scholarships are awarded to the children who score highest, regardless of their parents' financial situation. Consequently, many children receive scholarships whose parents could easily afford a fee-paying place, while many deserving children from low-income families are denied a secondary school education because they are not awarded scholarships.

What we want to see is a system in which scholarships are granted to children of proven ability who would otherwise miss out on a secondary education. Any reform of the scholarship system should also ensure that scholarships are awarded only to children whose primary education has been received at government or aided primary schools. Currently, some parents send their children to private fee-paying primary schools to prepare them for secondary school scholarships. This practice is indefensible; it uses financial means, rather than a child's ability, to determine their future.

When the economic commission visits Mauritius, it will include Mr. Houghton, deputy educational adviser at the Colonial Office. He is Sir Christopher Cox's second-in-command, and Sir Christopher is very familiar with Mauritius and its issues. I hope that, despite the aftermath of Alix — which will take many months to resolve in the short term, and many years in the long run — many people will convey to him their support for these two proposals:

1. To introduce compulsory education, initially at the primary level.
2. To revise the secondary school scholarship arrangements.

The Minister of Education has already gained the support of many through his actions regarding private candidates and the School Certificate. Many people will support him in advocating for these two reforms I have outlined. Therefore, it is up to the public to express their views to the Secretary of State's representative. In the current state of constitutional development in Mauritius, the Colonial Office's opinions can still influence proposed reforms, as demonstrated by the British Guiana contretemps in 1953.

Shintoism is an ancient nature and anthropomorphic religion originating in Japan, positing that all things — plants, animals, mountains, rivers, landscapes, and forces of nature — are presided over by a Kami, a God or sacred power.

In the wake of the upcoming elections, let us appeal to the Kami of Mauritius:

May all witness this as a normal wheel of the democratic cycle. Many such rounds of the wheel have come, and many more will follow; the paradisiacal island of Mauritius remains.

May people not pull each other down for

## Forum For an Agreeable Electoral Campaign

### *Shintoism: A Cool Prayer to the Kami*

the limited resources of the island. May politicians think, speak, and act beyond petty politics rather than seeking cheap political gains.

May speech be fair and considerate, avoiding the revival of suppressed communal tensions among diverse ethnic groups.

May all processes be free and fair at all levels, leading to equitable results.

May activists respect the peace of the

atmosphere at night and refrain from unnecessary noise.

May the media - whether written, spoken, or on social platforms - be judicious in their tasks for the perpetual good of Mauritius.

May experts and political analysts exercise mindfulness, recognizing that situations can have multiple interpretations.

May the democratic and bureaucratic

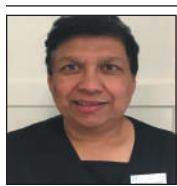
phases proceed smoothly, easing the comforting return to and continued consolidation of our democratic roots.

May people live, appreciate, and celebrate democratic elections — a boon denied to many in the cosmos.

May we embody and promote the republican values we have so hard earned. May all leave a legacy for posterity: an island where people feel proud to identify with Mauritius, both at home and abroad.

Toho kami emi tame (the remote god brings good fortune)  
Aum - Amen - Ameen

Ajeet Lekha



Dr Randhir  
Seewoodharry  
Buguth

## Caring for the Caregivers: Mental Health in Dentistry

**D**ental professionals play a crucial role in society, helping patients achieve good physical and mental well-being by alleviating oral pain and preventing infections. We also ensure that individuals maintain effective chewing capacity for digestion and a socially accepted smile, which is vital for self-esteem.

In the UK, mental health issues are increasingly concerning, with many dental professionals facing challenges stemming from poor working conditions, regulatory pressures, patient litigations, and the decline of NHS dentistry. Alarmingly, some patients are being encouraged by solicitors to sue dentists on a 'No win, no fee' basis.

A 2024 survey from the Office for National Statistics indicates that 97% of patients without a dentist were unsuccessful in accessing NHS services. In Warrington, a town between Liverpool and Manchester, people were queuing as early as 2:30 a.m. for NHS dental appointments.

A recent census of over 3000 dental professionals revealed that 52% have sought help for mental health issues, a 21% increase from 2021. Additionally, 70% of practice principals struggle to unwind after work, and one in four feel insecure in their roles. Males report a better work-life balance (67%) compared to females (45%).

Work-related stress can become overwhelming, leading to burnout. Factors such as micromanagement, poor organization, undervalued staff, and a demotivated team can contribute to anxiety and depression. This not only



In the UK, mental health issues are increasingly concerning, with many dental professionals facing challenges stemming from poor working conditions, regulatory pressures, patient litigations. Pic - LinkedIn

affects practitioners' ability to empathize and communicate with patients but can also lead to misdiagnoses and litigation — both highly stressful experiences.

Signs of burnout include lack of energy, disturbed sleep, negative feelings, loss of motivation, and reduced productivity, often accompanied by anxiety and depression. Unfortunately, these issues are not as visible as physical disabilities.

Mental health should no longer be stigmatized; feelings of shame, guilt, or weakness only compound the problem. Everyone is susceptible to mental health issues, which are treatable. Various therapies exist, including lifestyle changes, improved work-life balance, dietary adjustments,

exercise, meditation, gardening, socializing, and other recreational activities. Simple pleasures, like reading in a park or enjoying nature, can also provide relief.

Some cases may require medications like antidepressants, which need regular review until stabilization. Support is vital, and confidentiality is crucial in fostering a safe environment for individuals to seek help.

Workplace mental health leads are recommended to enhance communication between staff and management, promoting a positive work ethic and healthy environment. To improve dental health in society, we must prioritize the mental health of dental professionals.

Common stressors often overlooked by the public include falling behind schedule due to complications, striving for technical perfection, late cancellations after preparation, patient non-cooperation, lack of appreciation, and unrealistic patient expectations. Other stress-inducing situations, though less frequent, include equipment breakdowns, unavailability of materials, staffing issues, and patients failing to disclose complete medical histories, often blaming dentists for complications.

Dental professionals also face medical emergencies, such as fainting, asthma attacks, seizures, angina, or adrenal crises, often hoping to manage these situations without needing to call an ambulance.

Despite these challenges, many dentists are among the top 3% earners in the population, achieving six-figure salaries. This success can be attributed to excellent patient communication, careful risk assessment, well-organized procedures, honesty, competency, effective anxiety and pain management, and a willingness to go the extra mile for patients.

Transforming nightmares into dream jobs requires dedication and support. This reflection is timely, as World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2024, reminds us of the importance of mental health awareness in our profession.

### Spirituality

## Mauritian Marathi Society celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi in London

Suresh Gunputrao

**T**he Ganesh Chaturthi festival, commonly referred to as Ganpati, is an important event in the calendar of the Mauritian Marathi Society (UK). This year, the MMS celebrated the event on the 7th and 8th of September in Palmers Green, North London. As it was a weekend, devotees from various parts of England converged on Palmers Green,

including many Christians who joined the Mauritian Marathi community in celebrating alongside the Hindu community. The ceremony was inclusive and welcoming to all, as they came to make their offerings and pay their respects to Lord Ganesh.

In the days leading up to the festival, a clay statue (murti) of Ganesh is crafted and decorated with eco-friendly materials to comply with river authority requirements. After the festival, the statue is ce-

remoniously immersed in the river.

At a designated time, Acharya Shree Trydev performed the consecration and inauguration of the Ganpati murti, inviting devotees to make their offerings and prayers. The priest conducted the ceremony with serenity, piety, authority, and discipline, capturing and maintaining the attention of the devotees throughout.

This year, members of the Gujarati community also made a valuable contribution to the festival, adding a new dimension to the proceedings. The immersion (Visarjan) of the statue concluded the festival, marking an emotional moment for many devotees, who implored Ganpati to "poorna varsi nokarya" (come back again next year).

The weather played its part in making our Ganesh festival a great success, made even sweeter by the timely arrival of a baby girl to a member of our Mauritian Marathi community.

The two-day event encapsulated the community spirit that underpins Ganpati, fostering a shared sense of purpose and pride among all groups of worshippers who attended. The occasion maintained the deep religious sentiment that makes Ganpati a significant time of the year for all Hindus and demonstrated the strength, unity, and inclusivity of the Hindu community — together, we are stronger.

Suresh Gunputrao is the Secretary of the Mauritian Marathi Society (UK).

## The Aapravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival Celebration Committee

190th Anniversary Celebrations of Indentured Immigrants – Girmitia Arrival  
2 November 1834 - 2 November 2024

The Aapravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival Celebration Committee is solemnly inviting you to be present at the Annual Yaj Ceremony to pay tribute to the Girmitias - Indian Indentured Immigrants.

**Aapravasi Ghat**  
**Saturday 2nd November 2024 -**  
**From 8.00 am to 8.45 am**

The programme will comprise Yaj, Prayers, Tribute, Lighting of Lamp and Shradhanjali with offering of flowers.

Please bring along garlands, flowers, bouquets for the Shradhanjali.  
**Guests & Participants are requested to be seated by 7.30 am.**

**Dr Mrs Sarita Boodhoo**  
President  
**Mrs Rita Ramlallah**  
Secretary





## Following a Mediterranean diet reduces the risk of cognitive decline in older people

A recent study published in *Molecular Nutrition and Food Research* indicates that older individuals following a Mediterranean diet are at a reduced risk of cognitive decline. Led by Mireia Urpi-Sardá from the University of Barcelona, the study provides new insights into how this dietary pattern impacts cognitive health in aging.

Conducted over twelve years with 840 participants aged 65 and older in Bordeaux and Dijon, France, the research is part of the Joint Programming Initiative "A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life." Professor Cristina Andrés-Lacueva explained that the study developed a dietary metabolomic index using biomarkers from participants' serum to evaluate the association between the Mediterranean diet and cognitive impairment.

The analysis focused on baseline levels of fatty acids, gut microbiota-derived polyphenol metabolites, and other phytochemicals, which are indicators of the



Mediterranean diet's health benefits. Cognitive function was assessed using five neuropsychological tests over the twelve-year period.

The findings revealed a protective relationship between adherence to the Mediterranean diet — assessed via serum biomarkers — and cognitive decline in older adults. Professor Mercè Pallàs noted that utilizing dietary pattern indices based on biomarkers offers a more accurate method for dietary assessment, considering factors like bioavailability.

Alba Tor-Roca, the study's first author, emphasized that higher adherence to the Mediterranean diet, as determined by dietary biomarkers, correlates with a decrease in long-term cognitive decline. These results support the use of these biomarkers for monitoring health benefits associated with dietary patterns, guiding personalized dietary counseling for older adults.



## What is a communist, and what do communists believe?

Simply put, a communist is someone who supports communism. I study the history of communism, which is a political and economic view.

Communism has long been controversial, and in the U.S. today, reputable sources disagree about it. Some experts argue that communist views are well supported by historical evidence about the way societies have developed over time. Others suggest that history has shown communism not to work.

Many of those appraisals are based on examples of people who tried to establish communism. Communists have launched revolutions in many places including Russia and China. In five countries — China, North Korea, Laos, Cuba and Vietnam — communist parties control the current governments. The economic and political systems in those countries are not fully communist, but some might be working to transition from capitalism to communism.

In part because the U.S. has difficult relationships with these countries, many Americans have negative views of communists and communism. To evaluate those countries and to decide your own opinions about communism in general, it is important to first be clear about what the principles of communism are.

Communists believe that people should share wealth so that no one is too poor, no one is too rich, and everyone has enough to survive and have a good life.

A communist might be a member of a Communist party, which is a political party, or a member of a group of people who want to play a role in government.

In communism, people work together to produce and distribute the things they need to live, such as food, clothing and entertainment. That does not mean that everything is shared at all times.

In a communist society, individuals might still live in their own homes and



Seeking social change often requires collective action. champc/Stock / Getty Images Plus

have their own food, clothing and personal items such as televisions and cellphones. However, the places where these items were produced, such as factories and farms, would be owned by everyone.

Similarly, a person might still create artistic products such as works of literature or craftsmanship on their own. The goal would not be to make money, though, but instead to share for everyone to enjoy.

Communists support some form of collective ownership. Ownership by everyone would ensure that all members of society have equal rights to the products from the factories and farms because they would all be part owners of the enterprises.

In such a society, everyone would also have equal political rights and would participate in governance together. Theoretically, communism should entail some form of democracy.

### What is Marxism?

Throughout history, there have been many different views on what communism is, how it should be organized and how it might be achieved. The most famous theories about communism are probably the ones that were developed by a German philosopher named Karl Marx. His ideas are often called Marxism.

Marx studied history and observed that the way people produced goods and

services was closely related to who held power. For example, in farming societies, those who owned the land had more power than those who did not.

Marx also noticed that people with less power had often risen up, usually violently, to overthrow the powerful people. He called this concept class struggle. He believed this process was how societies developed from one system of government and economy to another. He claimed that class struggle led societies through a progression toward greater efficiency in the production of goods and services, higher levels of technology and wider distribution of social and political power.

When Marx was alive in the 1800s, an economic and political system called capitalism had developed in many countries. In capitalist societies, the economy centered on factories. Factory owners had significant political and economic influence.

Marx observed that in countries such as Germany, England and the United States, factory owners hired laborers who worked long hours producing goods such as shirts or tables. While the factory owners sold these products at high prices, they paid the workers very little. As a result, the factory owners became richer, while many workers struggled to afford the goods they produced or even to provide food for their families.

Marx believed that this inequality would eventually lead to a worker uprising. During their revolution, Marx predicted, the workers would seize control of the factories, begin running them more fairly, and this would lead to a new political system, known as socialism.

### Where does socialism fit in?

Of course, if the workers staged a revolution, the factory owners would fight back. Marx thought that, immediately after the revolution, the workers would first need to create a strong government to prevent the owners from reestablishing capitalism. During that phase, which Marx called socialism, the workers would run the government while they continued moving away from capitalism and trying to create a more equal society.

Marx thought people would eventually see that socialism was much better than capitalism because socialism would end exploitation while still allowing a society to continue moving toward better economic and political practices, but without inequality. Once that happened, a government would no longer be necessary.

The society would become communist. There would still be governance, but not a government that was separated from the people. Rather, in a communist society, the people would govern together, and everyone would do some of the work and receive what they needed.

There are Communist parties in many places, and many are currently working to move their countries toward communism. At this time, no country has yet made the transition to full communism, but many people still hope that transition will happen somewhere, sometime. Those people are communists. Communists are optimistic that humans can one day create a more fair and equal society.

**Aminda Smith**  
Associate Professor of History,  
Michigan State University



## A Mosquito's Love

**A male mosquito to his wife:** "Darling, I will hunt a lion for you."

**Female mosquito:** "Okay, fine. Now go to sleep."

**Male mosquito:** "I will bite an elephant and bring his blood for you."

**Female mosquito:** "Sure, love. Go to sleep."

**Male mosquito:** "I will drive you around Paris in a Mercedes."

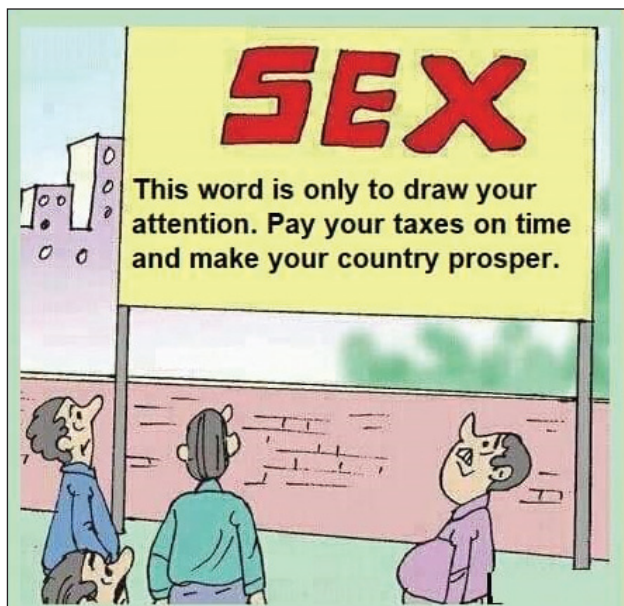
**Female mosquito:** "Hmmm... okay, go to sleep..."

**Male mosquito:** "You don't trust me? I will get you a 100-gram gold chain..."

**Female mosquito:** "You idiot, go to sleep..."

**Male mosquito:** "Honey, I'll do anything for you."

**Female mosquito:** "You idiot! How many times have I told you not to come home after biting a politician!!!"



\* \* \*

### Euro-English Announcement

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English."

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c." Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favor of "k." This should clear up konfusion, and keyboards can have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the second year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f." This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptance of the new spelling can be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will encourage the removal of double

letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al will agree that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the fourth year, people will be reseptiv to steps such as replacing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v."

During the fifth year, the unesesary "o" can be dropped from vords kontaining "ou," and after zis fifth year, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und after ze fifth year, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

If zis mad you smil, pleas pas on to oza pepl.

And congratulations, you have learned German within minutes!

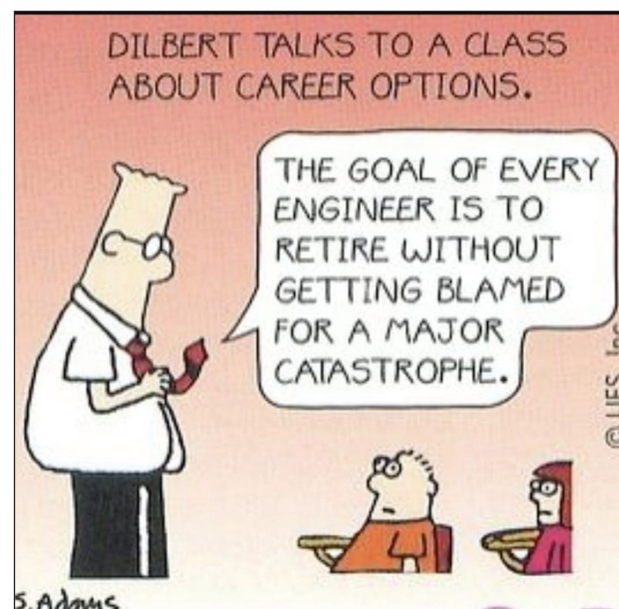
\* \* \*

### Dedicated to all the chicken lovers

Chicken Jokes

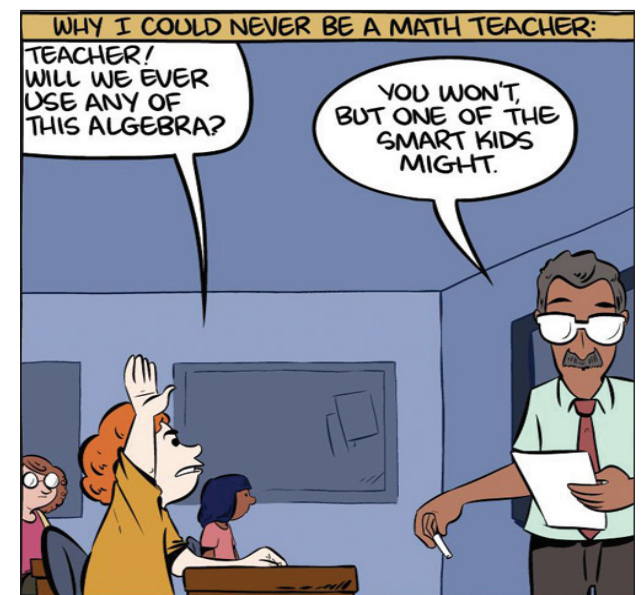
- Who is the father of chicken?**  
Chicken ka-bab.
- Who is the mother of chicken?**  
Chicken Keema.
- How do you tell a chicken to call you on your mobile?**  
Kalmi chicken.
- What happens when a chicken takes a bath?**  
Chicken showerma.
- Chicken in trouble?**  
Chicken soup.
- Chicken getting an injection?**  
Chicken teeka.
- Chicken doing flattery?**  
Butter chicken.
- Chicken on a winter night?**  
Chilly chicken.
- Chicken at retirement?**  
Chicken 65.
- Last one - Social distancing chicken:**  
Tan-Doori Chicken.

\* \* \*



### Dilbert's Famous One-liners

Dilbert is an American comic strip written and illustrated by Scott Adams, first published on April 16, 1989. It is known for its satirical office humor about a white-collar, micromanaged office with engineer Dilbert



as the title character. Here are few Dilbert's famous one-liners:

- I say no to alcohol, it just doesn't listen.
- Marriage is one of the chief causes of divorce.
- Work is fine if it doesn't take too much of your time.
- When everything comes your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- The light at the end of the tunnel may be an incoming train.
- Born free, taxed to death.
- Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- Life is unsure; always eat your dessert first.
- Smile, it makes people wonder what you are thinking.
- If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.
- It's not hard to meet expenses, they are every where.
- I love being a writer... what I can't stand is the paperwork.
- A printer consists of 3 main parts: the case, the jammed paper tray and the blinking red light.
- The guy who invented the first wheel was an idiot. The guy who invented the other three was the genius.
- The trouble with being punctual is that no one is there to appreciate it.
- In a country of free speech, why are there phone bills?
- If you cannot change your mind, are you sure you have one?
- If you can't convince them, confuse them.
- It's not the fall that kills you. It's the sudden stop at the end.
- I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
- The cigarette does the smoking you are just the sucker.
- Someday is not a day of the week
- Whenever I find the key to success, someone changes the lock.
- To Err is human, to forgive is not a Company policy.
- The road to success ....is always under construction.
- Alcohol doesn't solve any problems, but if you think again, neither does Tea, Coffee or Milk.
- In order to get a loan, you first need to prove that you don't need it.

Life's Lesson

## A Conversation with Rocket Man

By Juliette Jones

**S**o I had a very interesting conversation with a man the other day and I wanted to talk about it with you!

Basically, my friends and I were talking, and in the middle, we were joined by an older man (don't worry, it wasn't some random dude; he was another guest in the house we were in). He began to tell us about how the most powerful force in the world is... and I quote... "a man's rocket."

This over-80-year-old man went on and on to three young women in

their early 20s about this and much more. Other subjects included a man's instinct and how women can't blame men when they cheat because it's in their biological DNA (because, you know, women have never cheated before). According to him, the issue with women is that we aren't choosing the right men who can fight the urge to cheat. You heard it here first, ladies; happy to help, but don't thank me, I'm just the messenger, thank Rocket Man!

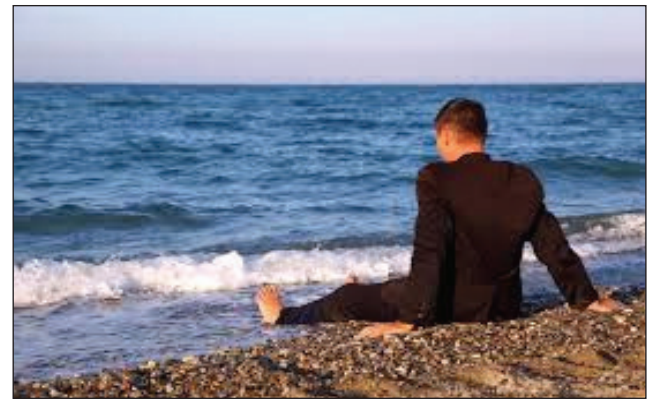
Also randomly, he spoke about how he dislikes Italian men because they don't have the capability to hold themselves back and will cheat on you no matter what. "There is a study on it," he says. Seems a bit personal -- why are you going on and on about your passionate hate against Italian men? Sounds like there may be a story there...

Anyway, look, this isn't a man-hating post. I just think this

story is really funny and I would love to hear your funny stories too in the comments if you have any!

I guess I just wanted to share my experience in the fact that sexism is still a very real reality today. I hear so many people on the more "right-wing" side say that we don't need feminism anymore. Even though I believe man-hating is never a legitimate way to solve the issue of gender equality, we still do need feminism!

I wish I spoke up to this guy, but I didn't, mostly because, what is there to say to that? Maybe that's what I should have said to him -- "There is nothing to say to you, dude." But instead, I kept my mouth shut because I was a guest at someone else's house, and I didn't want to cause a scene. I just wanted the conversation to be over.



## Men: Do They Really Benefit from Marriage?

1. He is 72 years old.
2. He has retired from active service.
3. He worked tirelessly all his life to provide for his children.
4. He deprived himself of life's pleasures to pay for expensive school fees and support their living expenses abroad.
5. Today, his children are well-off, living in Europe, Australia, and America.
6. His wife, now 62, has relocated to live with their children.
7. He remains alone back home.
8. His children barely call him.
9. He now finds himself starting life all over again, living like a bachelor.
10. He battles high blood pressure and other health issues common in old age.
11. How much longer can he survive alone?
12. This is the reality for many working-class, monogamous men: old age often brings loneliness, and in many cases, sadness.
13. No matter how good a man has been, women often tend to prioritize their children over their husbands. As men age, they seem to become less needed by their families.
14. So, what do men truly gain from marriage? They sacrifice so much but often receive little recognition for their efforts, while the woman seems to enjoy most of the rewards. They say it's a man's world, but in reality, it often seems to benefit women and children more.

*Dear men, this could be your future in a few decades. What are you doing about it? What is your retirement plan? Take care of yourself as much as you take care of your family. Love yourself. Plan for the future, when you may no longer be able to work.*



People with pure souls don't magically appear in our lives, you have to earn them. Once you begin your journey towards a higher vibrational lifestyle and let go of all things that are spiritually weighing you down. You'll naturally start aligning with them.

Living Better

## Essential Health Tips for Seniors

A Guide for Ages 45 to 100

**S**taying healthy as you age is crucial, and even the busiest of us can incorporate simple habits into our daily routines. Here are some essential tips to help maintain your well-being:

**Dietary Recommendations**

- **Tea:** Use less milk and try adding lemon or lime juice instead.
- **Hydration:** Drink more water during the day; limit intake at night.
- **Coffee:** Limit to 2 cups a day or consider quitting altogether.
- **Oily Foods:** Reduce consumption to promote better health

**Sleep Guidelines**

- **Optimal Sleep Hours:** Aim for sleep between 10 PM and 6 AM.

- **Evening Eating:** Limit food intake after 5 or 6 PM.

**Medication Tips**

- **Temperature Matters:** Take medications with warm water, and do not lie down immediately after taking them.
- **Timing:** Take your medicines half an hour before bedtime.

**Water Temperature**

- **Chilled Water:** As you age, switch to room temperature water for better digestion.

**Daily Habits**

- **Sleep Duration:** Aim for at least 8 hours of sleep per night.
- **Naps:** A 1.5-hour nap between noon and 3 PM can help reduce stress and rejuvenate your energy.

**Phone Usage Safety**

- **Mobile Radiation:** Avoid using your phone when the battery is low, as radiation levels increase. Use your left ear for calls or opt for ear phones to minimize risks.

**Health Monitoring**

- **Regular Checks:** Monitor your blood pressure and blood sugar regularly.

**Dietary Adjustments****Reduce These Foods:**

1. Salt
2. Sugar
3. Processed meats
4. Red meat (especially roasted)
5. Dairy products
6. Starchy foods

**Increase These Foods:**

1. Vegetables
2. Beans
3. Fruits
4. Nuts

**Mental Well-Being****Forget These Things:**

1. Your age
2. Your past
3. Worries or grievances

**Cultivate These Essentials:**

1. True friends
2. Caring family
3. Positive thoughts
4. A warm home

**Lifestyle Choices****Activities to Embrace:**

1. Singing
2. Dancing
3. Fasting
4. Smiling and laughing
5. Exercise
6. Weight management

**Things to Avoid:**

1. Waiting until hungry to eat
2. Waiting until thirsty to drink
3. Waiting until sleepy to sleep
4. Waiting until tired to rest
5. Postponing medical check-ups
6. Waiting until problems arise to pray

Well-being

## How to Relieve Stress and Feel Better Fast

Feeling overwhelmed? If you have just 15 minutes, try these quick strategies to shift your mindset and rejuvenate your body.

1. **Clear Your Mind** - Take a short meditation break. Sit quietly, close your eyes, and focus on your breath. When distractions arise, gently return your attention to your breathing. This practice can enhance positivity and patience.

2. **Get Outside** - Step outdoors for a few minutes. Enjoy the sunshine, breathe in fresh air, or pull some weeds. Nature has been shown to boost energy, memory, and reduce anxiety, even in urban settings.

3. **Have a Laugh** - Read a funny book, watch a comedy clip, or call a friend who always makes you laugh. Laughter stimulates endorphin release, enhances mood, and promotes relaxation.

4. **Count What's Good** - Write down a few things you're grateful for. Reflecting on positive aspects of your life can improve mood and reduce stress.

5. **Wish Someone Well** - Practice compassion by sending positive thoughts to someone in your life. Wishing others happiness can enhance your own sense



of well-being.

6. **Take a Walk** - Lace up your shoes and take a stroll. Walking can elevate your mood and stimulate creative thinking.

7. **Turn on Some Tunes** - Play your favorite songs to uplift your mood. Music has therapeutic benefits, including reducing anxiety and pain.

8. **Check a Chore Off Your List** - Tackle a small task that's been on your mind, like changing a light bulb or sending an email. Completing small chores can provide a

sense of accomplishment.

9. **Connect** - Reach out to a friend or family member. Strengthening social connections fosters support and happiness.

10. **Eat a Smart Snack** - Choose a healthy snack, such as:

- **Oranges** for vitamin C.
- **Nuts** for omega-3 fatty acids.
- **Whole grains** like oatmeal to boost serotonin production.

11. **Do a Good Deed** - Perform a small act of kindness, such as opening a door or volunteering. Kindness not only benefits others but also enhances your own mood.

12. **Stretch Yourself** - Take a few moments to stretch your neck, shoulders, and back. Stretching reduces tension and increases blood flow.

13. **Hug It Out** - Find someone to hug. A warm embrace can lift your spirits and even reduce stress.

14. **Give Yourself a Pep Talk** - Practice positive self-talk. Replace negative thoughts with affirmations like, "I can handle this."

15. **Write a Thank You Note** - Express gratitude by writing a note to someone who has supported you. This practice can enhance feelings of appreciation.

Incorporating these quick strategies into your day can help you manage stress and improve your overall well-being.

Travel Etiquette

## Don't make these common mistakes while travelling

A lot of people are frequent flyers these days, but their knowledge of air travel often pales in comparison to that of flight attendants. This is especially evident when crew members travel as passengers themselves.

"Working as a flight attendant changes your perspective on many things," says Francesco Lentini, a flight attendant with a major U.S. carrier. "You learn that many passengers are travelling for different reasons — be it vacation or a funeral — so empathy becomes essential. However, you also realize that some people can be inconsiderate and may not think about their fellow passengers."

To help travellers avoid common pitfalls, Lentini and other flight attendants shared with Huffpost the behaviours they always steer clear of when flying as passengers.

**1. Walking around without shoes**

"As a passenger, I never take off my shoes or walk barefoot," says Jay Robert, a former flight attendant and founder of A Fly Guy Travels. "I've seen what goes on behind the scenes and wouldn't expose my bare skin to the floors of an aircraft. Airplane carpets are often only spot-cleaned, if cleaned at all, and I've encountered all sorts of stains on those carpets."

**2. Intruding into the crew's space**

"I would never linger in the galley," Lentini says. "That's where flight attendants work and eat. The last thing we want is a passenger interrupting our meal



breaks."

Robert emphasizes the limited downtime cabin crew have during flights. "We often only have 15 minutes to eat during long flights," he explains. "As a passenger, I make a conscious effort to respect their space."

**3. Ringing the call button for non-emergencies**

"I would never ring the call light unless it's an emergency," says Christa Treat, another flight attendant. "Many passengers think it's for extra snacks, but it's meant for emergencies. Flight

attendants are usually busy, so it's better to ask for refreshments when they come around for safety checks."

**4. Handing trash to flight attendants while boarding**

"I never hand my trash to the flight attendant as I board," Lentini notes. "Passengers often bring trash from the terminal, which disrupts preflight checks. It's best to dispose of your trash before boarding."

**5. Using the lavatory during boarding**

"I would never use the lavatory during

the boarding process," Lentini adds. "There are plenty of restrooms in the terminal, and using the aircraft lavatory can delay departure."

**6. Trying to bring an overweight carry-on bag**

"Remember, if you can't lift your bag into the overhead bin, it's likely too heavy," Treat warns. "We're happy to check your bag for free, so you don't risk an injury trying to hoist it above you."

**7. Making demands about food and drinks**

"Don't rely on the airline for a filling meal," says Heather Poole, a flight attendant and author of *Cruising Attitude*. "I always bring my own snacks or buy something at the terminal. Airplane food can be disappointing, so it's best to be prepared."

**8. Acting unkindly toward crew members**

"Working as a flight attendant teaches you to treat others with respect," Poole explains. "Make eye contact, say hello, and remember that crew members are doing their best under pressure. We prioritize safety, and kindness from passengers makes a difference, especially during long workdays where much of our time is unpaid."

Flight attendants often have no control over issues like Wi-Fi connectivity or aircraft maintenance. "But they will go above and beyond for passengers who treat them with respect," Lentini says.

## Movie Release

# Kartik Aaryan sees *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* vs. *Singham Again* clash as a 'win-win' for all

**K**artik Aaryan discusses the box office clash of his upcoming film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* with *Singham Again* and shares insights on his acting approach. *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* is set to release on November 1, where it will face competition from Rohit Shetty's action-packed *Singham Again*.

In an exclusive interview with India Today Digital, Kartik expressed optimism about both films finding success at the box office. "I think it's a great date for releases; not just two films, but more can premiere during Diwali. It's a bonanza for the audience," he explained.

He emphasized the benefit of having multiple films to choose from, offering a variety of genres for viewers. "There might be some competition, but neither of our teams is getting caught up in that. We're just focusing on



our film and wishing for both to do well at the box office," Kartik said.

When asked about a potential crossover for his character Rooh Baba, Kartik humorously suggested that *Singham Again* would be a perfect fit: "I think *Stree* already has enough of Rooh Baba. He can team up with

the cops too!"

Kartik also opened up about his approach to securing roles in the industry. When asked if he aggressively pursues directors or producers for work, he replied, "Not really. Sometimes, when I know the person, I can joke around, but when I don't know someone, it feels awkward."

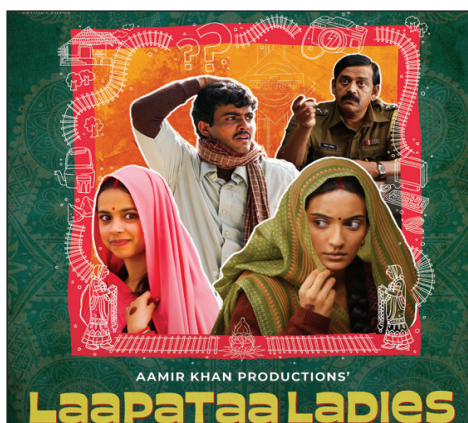
He acknowledged that while some actors are comfortable auditioning or reaching out for roles, he prefers to focus on delivering his best work rather than navigating the complexities of securing opportunities.

"A lot of actors are fine with auditioning and asking for work; there's nothing wrong with it. Personally, I feel awkward doing that; it's just part of my personality. It's not about right or wrong — it's simply who I am. I want to ensure that when I take on a role, I can give it my all. Navigating how to get a film isn't something I can manage," Kartik concluded.

Alongside Kartik, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* also stars Vidya Balan and Madhuri Dixit.

## 12 Bollywood movies packed with drama, romance, and thrills

**B**ollywood films offer an emotional rollercoaster from the very first frame, filled with joy, heartache, passion, and excitement. Whether you're a seasoned fan or new to the genre, these 12 Hindi films streaming on Netflix promise a captivating blend of drama, romance, and thrills:



### 1. Laapataa Ladies

In this comedic satire directed by Kiran Rao, two brides swap places on a crowded train, leading to unforeseen adventures in rural India. The film, featuring emerging talents Pratibha Ranta and Nitanshi Goel alongside Ravi Kishan, is a charming exploration of self-discovery.

### 2. Amar Singh Chamkila

This gritty drama, directed by Imtiaz Ali, chronicles the rise and tragic fall of Punjabi pop sensation Amar Singh Chamkila, known as Punjab's Elvis. Starring Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra, with a soundtrack by A.R. Rahman, it offers a compelling look at Chamkila's revolutionary music and its controversial impact.

### 3. 12th Fail

Based on the real-life story of IPS

officer Manoj Kumar Sharma, this film showcases the challenges of the UPSC exams. Directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and starring Vikrant Massey and Medha Shankr, it highlights Sharma's resilience and journey to success.

### 4. Darlings

Alia Bhatt stars as Badrunissa Sheikh, trapped in an abusive marriage. Directed by Jasmeet K Reen, the film combines dark comedy and powerful drama as Badru's determination to change her circumstances unfolds. Shefali Shah and Roshan Mathew also deliver strong performances.

### 5. Ludo

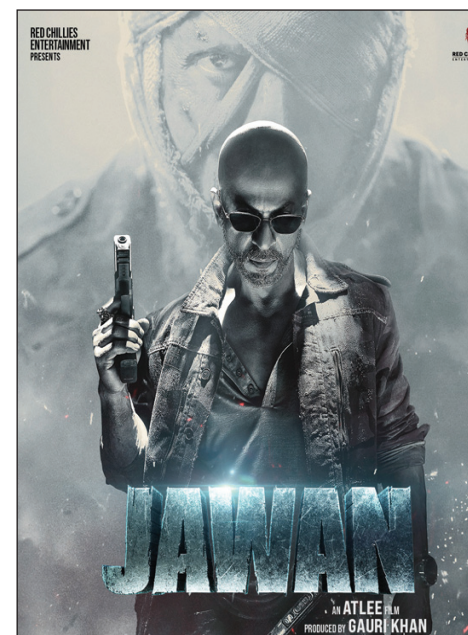
Anurag Basu's *Ludo* is a black comedy featuring a star-studded ensemble including Abhishek Bachchan, Pankaj Tripathi, and Rajkumar Rao. The film intertwines four stories with romance, drama, and humor, reflecting the unpredictability of the game of ludo.

### 6. Jaane Jaan



Set in Kalimpong, this thriller directed by Sujoy Ghosh stars Kareena Kapoor Khan as a single mother whose life turns chaotic with the return of her abusive ex-husband. The film, also featuring Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma, is a gripping narrative of crime and survival.

### 7. Jawan: Extended Cut



The highest-grossing Indian film of 2023, *Jawan*, directed by Atlee, features Shah Rukh Khan in a dual role as a prison warden and vigilante. With a stellar cast including Vijay Sethupathi, Nayanthara, and an extended cameo by Deepika Padukone, the film combines stylish action with societal commentary.

### 8. Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

Directed by Zoya Akhtar, this modern classic follows friends on a transformative road trip through Spain. Featuring Hrithik Roshan, Farhan Akhtar, and Katrina Kaif, the film is a feel-good journey of laughter,

tears, and unforgettable moments.

### 9. Haseen Dillruba

In this psychological thriller, Taapsee Pannu plays Rani, who becomes the prime suspect in her husband's murder. Directed by Vinil Mathew and written by Kanika Dhillon, the film unfolds layers of intrigue and deceit, making it a suspenseful watch.

### 10. Animal

Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, *Animal* stars Ranbir Kapoor as a troubled son seeking revenge after an assassination attempt on his father. With a supporting cast including Anil Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Tripti Dimri, the film delivers an action-packed tale of vengeance and redemption.

### 11. Gangubai Kathiawadi

Alia Bhatt shines as Gangubai, a young woman who rises to power after being sold into a brothel. Directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, this biographical drama is both a tribute and critique of Gangubai's resilience and ambition.



### 12. Ajeeb Daastaans

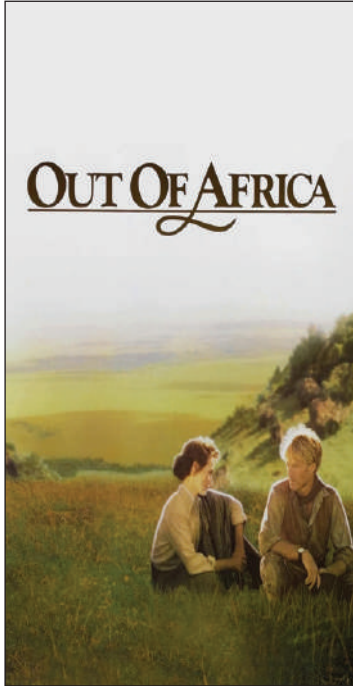
This anthology film explores various aspects of love through four interconnected stories. Directed by Shashank Khaitan, Raj Mehta, Neeraj Ghaywan, and Kayoze Irani, and featuring Jaideep Ahlawat, Konkona Sen Sharma, and Shefali Shah, it offers a nuanced look at relationships and societal norms.



Vendredi 25 octobre - 21.30



Samedi 26 octobre - 20.20



Dimanche 27 octobre - 20.30



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 25 Octobre

## MBC 1

- 07.35 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 08.41 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
- 09.35 Film: The Quake
- 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: Les Dents De La Mer
- 17.15 Mag: Red Carpet
- 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: Doree
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Triumph
- 22.05 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 22.55 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 23.30 Le Journal
- 00.15 Serial: Billions

## MBC 2

- 06.14 Les Grandes Lignes
- 06.56 Local: Mots & Ecrits
- 08.58 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
- 10.41 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
- 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 13.21 Rodrig: Sa Lavi La
- 14.52 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.49 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 16.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power
- 18.30 Les Riches Pleurent
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi...
- 19.30 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
- 20.05 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...
- 20.26 Local: Lir - Ekrire Kreol
- 22.00 Local: La Societe
- 23.20 Local: Meshiagare...
- 23.33 Rodrig Otantik
- 23.58 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
- 00.11 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 00.27 Local: Retrovizier

## MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Ayodhyadham
- 08.01 Local: Amrit Vani
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Chakkara
- Starring: Arjun Jadugar, K. Goba
- 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 Local: Hansini An Interpreta...
- 20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 21.00 Film: Uga Ho Suraj Dev Arag Ke
- Starring: Vinay R. Anand, Rinku Ghosh
- 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.22 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.44 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar

## Cine 12

- 06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 07.26 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 07.52 Mag: Planet A
- 08.04 Doc: Smart New World
- 09.34 Fear, Power, Remembrance
- 10.16 Doc: Adam And I
- 11.12 Mag: Eco India
- 11.38 Mag: Shift
- 11.51 Carnet De Sante
- 12.07 Mag: Border Crossing
- 12.38 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.16 Doc: Smart New World
- 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.36 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.41 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 15.56 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.15 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.38 D.Anime: The Treasure
- 21.05 Film: Cirque Du Freak

## Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.30 Film: Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi
- Starring: Sonakshi Sinha, Diana Penty, Jimmy Shergill
- 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: Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi
- 02.00 Kundali Bhagya

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- 03.06 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 04.37 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: Triumph
- 17.01 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
- 18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.35 Film: Out Of Africa
- Cast: Meryl Streep, Robert Redford
- 23.15 Mag: Red Carpet
- 23.35 Le Journal

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 07.03 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 07.38 Local: Lir - Ekrire Kreol
- 09.01 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 10.27 Rodrig Otantik
- 11.05 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.28 Local: Couleur Marine
- 15.03 Local: La Societe
- 15.53 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 16.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.02 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 18.05 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.45 Local: Divali... Partage
- 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.32 Local: Groov'in: Mama Jazz...
- 21.29 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 22.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 23.46 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 00.12 Rodrig: Promnad

- 08.00 Serial: Hamar Fitness
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 10.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 11.47 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.10 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 13.39 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 14.05 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 14.25 Mag: Talaash
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Gaddaar
- Starring: Sunil Chetty, Sonali Bendre
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 20.00 Local: Bollyworld Express
- 21.00 Film: Bhoot Police
- 23.12 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.38 Divali... A Melody Of Joy...
- 23.58 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 00.13 Finals National Sketch Competition 2024

- 06.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 07.24 D.Anime: Sissi
- 09.33 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 09.43 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 09.57 Serial: Lost & Found Music
- 10.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 11.10 When Night Falls in Chong...
- 14.49 Japan Video Topics
- 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.04 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.35 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.55 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.14 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter
- 16.37 D.Anime: The Treasure Island
- 17.03 Teen Serial: The Wish
- 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.50 Doc: Death By Plastic?
- 21.40 Film: The Wilderness
- 23.42 Doc: The Secret Of The Stone

- 08.00 Swaran Ghar
- 09.58 Mithai
- 11.42 Udaariyaan
- 13.54 Anupamaa
- 16.00 Fanaa
- 18.30 Film: Toh Baat Pakki



- 20.33 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 21.03 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Porus
- 22.15 Swaran Ghar

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- 04.31 The Gardener's Daughter
- 04.53 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 05.30 Film: Out Of Africa
- 08.15 Serial: Wanted
- 09.00 Film: Christina Noble
- 10.45 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: Les Dents De La Mer 2
- 14.30 Mag: Hollywood's Best Film
- 15.25 Film: Sea Fever
- 17.05 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: A Boy Called Po
- 22.00 Serial: Wanted
- 22.44 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
- 23.36 Le Journal
- 00.21 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

- 07.34 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 08.57 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 09.45 Rodrig Prog: Promnad
- 10.10 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 14.00 Elle: Shaheen Romjon
- 15.00 Les Grandes Lignes
- 15.30 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 17.07 Local: Saaver Kiltirel
- 17.28 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 18.03 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.20 Local: Info En Langue...
- 20.00 Local: Tita Tita Nou Avanse
- 20.45 Local: Les Klips
- 21.36 Rodrig Prog: Sa Lavi La
- 23.00 Local: Zournal
- 23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule
- 23.45 Local: Mangeons Veg
- 00.11 Rodrig Prog: Komanter
- 00.29 Local: Nu Rasinn

- 06.59 Mag: Sunehre Haath 2023
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 12.00 Film: Zamane Se Kya Darna
- Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 17.00 Local: Bollyworld Express
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish
- 19.56 Local: Yaadein
- 20.30 Serial: Porus
- 21.00 Serial: Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.25 Serial: Naagin
- 22.06 Serial: Bahubali
- 22.51 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna
- 23.48 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 01.28 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 01.42 Local: Tohar Farmaish

- 06.47 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
- 08.09 D.Anime: Earth To Luna
- 09.34 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 09.52 Les Nouvelles Aventures De...
- 10.06 Serial: The Wish
- 11.11 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 12.29 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 13.42 Doc: Green Shipping
- 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De...
- 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 15.24 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.36 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.56 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.38 D.Anime: The Treasure Island
- 17.04 Teen Serial: The Wish
- 17.40 Mag: In Good Shape
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: Greek Islands
- 21.35 Film: The Mustang

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.45 Udaariyaan
- 03.45 Anupamaa
- 05.41 Fanaa
- 07.34 Tenali Rama
- 08.24 Patiala Babes
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 11.49 Rajaa Betaa
- 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.38 Film: Paathshala
- Starring: Shahid Kapoor And Kareena Kapoor
- 20.31 Tenali Rama
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 21.46 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.38 Rajaa Betaa
- 00.46 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: Les Riches Pleurent
- 09.35 Film: Femme Ou Demon
- 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: A Boy Called Po
- 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: Nouveau Job Pour Une Nouvelle Vie
- Cast: James Lafferty, Danny Glover, Julie Gonzalo
- 21.50 Serial: Heartland

- 07.34 Local: Sa Lavi-La
- 09.59 Rodrig: Komanter
- 10.45 Local: Le Challenge
- 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 13.50 Local: Evasion
- 14.03 Local: Elle
- 14.25 Local: Arsiv MBC
- 15.13 Tita Tita Nou Avanse
- 15.54 Local: Les Klips
- 16.50 Local: Le Challenge
- 17.09 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi
- 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.00 Local: Tourism In Nepal
- 20.30 Belle et Mysterieuse
- 21.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa
- 21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 22.30 Lire - Ekrire Kreol
- 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard

- 05.00 Programme from Aastha TV
- 06.59 Devi Durga DDI
- 07.25 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood Hits
- 08.27 Tohar Rashi
- 08.41 Tohar Farmaish
- 09.07 Yaadein (Divali Songs)
- 10.00 Bahubali
- 10.39 Saaton Vachanwa (Final)
- 10.59 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad
- 11.41 Radha Krishna
- 12.02 Film: Naalayak
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.51 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Ved Ki Shikshahein
- 19.00 Deepotsav 2024
- 20.10 Divali Yam Deep Pooja
- 20.39 Ramayan
- 21.01 Film: Anpadh 23.18 Mere Sai

- 06.25 Doc: The Happy Worker
- 07.17 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 07.47 Doc: Europe Revealed...
- 10.04 Doc: The Science Of Good...
- 11.07 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 11.26 Doc: Riding The Rails...
- 12.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 13.21 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris
- 15.01 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.36 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.41 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 15.52 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.18 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter
- 16.40 D.Anime: The Treasure Island
- 17.02 Serial: The Wish
- 17.35 D.Oc: Us And Them
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 21.00 Film: Triumph

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Kyon Ki
- Starring: Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor
- 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 29 octobre - 20.30



Mercredi 30 octobre - 20.30



Jeudi 31 octobre - 21.00



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 29 octobre</b>	05.07 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.39 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.35 Film: Triumph 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 15.30 Film: Nouveau Job Pour Une Nouvelle Vie 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: The Descendants 22.10 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.03 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Treadstone	07.52 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 09.22 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.34 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 11.03 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei 12.28 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.22 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Tous Egaux 15.49 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 16.10 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 17.02 Local: Extrait Concert 18.26 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.56 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.45 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.10 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.25 Local: An Eta Dalert 20.55 Local: Priorite Sante 21.25 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.51 Local: The Magic Flute 23.21 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.46 Local: Music Tour 00.42 Local: Profil	05.00 Programme From Aastha Tv 06.59 Sadhguru Speaks 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.26 Deepotsav 2024 08.56 Excerpts - Shiv Abhishek 09.36 Divali Yam Deep Pooja 09.39 Charcha 10.05 Kundali Bhagya 11.29 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Parasmani 15.00 Samachar (Live) 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Galle Hamar 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki... 18.00 Samachar (Live) 18.31 Tark Vitark 1858 Samarpan 19.09 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 20.08 Divali Choti Divali 20.11 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey 20.39 Ramayan 21.02 Film: Dil Ka Raja	07.00 Mag: Africa 54 08.03 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.29 Mag: Washington Forum 11.06 Mag: Eco Africa 11.52 Doc: Africa 54 12.26 Mag: In Good Shape 13.28 Mag: Washington Forum 14.00 The Battle Of The Hurtgen... 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.36 D.Anime: Patamuse 16.07 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.15 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 17.03 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Mag: REV 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: The Quake	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Rocketery-The Nambi Effect Starring: Madhavan, Simran, Rajit Kapoor 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: Rocketery-The Nambi Effect 01.52 Kundali Bhagya
<b>mercredi 30 octobre</b>	07.31 Serial: The Equalizer 08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 08.39 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi 09.30 Film: The Descendants 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: The Boat Cast: Joe Azzopardi, Anubis Mud 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: The Day After Tomorrow 22.18 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.11 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	07.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles 08.28 Local: Profil 09.07 Local: The Magic Flute 10.37 Rodrig Prog: D'Jam 11.03 Local: Music Tour 2023 12.01 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 12.23 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.08 Local: Priorite Sante 14.29 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 16.46 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 16.51 Local: En Forme 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2023 18.07 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.20 Le Mag De L'emploi... 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.36 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.46 Local: Les Klips 22.38 Local: Proze Dime 23.01 La Journee Sous Le Regard	05.00 Aastha TV 06.59 Rangoli 08.00 Tark Vitark 08.26 Samarpan 08.38 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 09.37 Divali Choti Divali 09.40 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey 10.08 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani (1970) 14.59 Live Samachar 15.19 Sayings Radha Krishna 15.29 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.51 Radha Mohan 17.35 Radha Krishna 17.59 Samachar 18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.31 Yatra 12 Jyotirling 18.57 Deepon Ki Aвали - Deepavali 19.47 Divali Mithai 20.17 Virasat 20.33 Gyan Vigyan 20.49 Talaash 21.14 Parivaar (2021) 00.04 Mere Sai	08.30 Mag: Euromaxx 09.42 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 11.04 Mag: REVEN 11.56 Mag: Made In Germany 12.26 Mag: Global US 13.31 Mag: Euromaxx 14.05 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 14.43 Mag: Her: Women In Asia 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.11 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.40 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi 15.51 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.14 Serial: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 Serial: Polly Pocket 16.57 Serial: The Wish 17.30 Mag: REV 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: A Boy Called Po	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Housefull 1 Starring: Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Deshmukh Arjun Rampal, Lara Dutta Deepika Padukone, Jiah 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: Housefull 1 Starring: Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Deshmukh Arjun
<b>jeudi 31 octobre</b>	06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.16 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer 08.39 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.35 Film: A Boy Called Po 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: Heartland 15.25 Film: The Day After Tomorrow 17.22 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: Ram Setu Stars: Akshay Kumar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nushratt Bharuccha 23.06 Tele: Terra Nostra 00.18 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	06.51 Local: Aktiv 07.26 Local: Agir Ensemble 11.08 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.20 Local: En Forme 13.35 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.54 Local: Proze Dime 15.13 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.25 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.41 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Emotion En Avant... 22.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Journal Rediffusion 23.20 Rodrig: Lavi Fam	05.00 Aastha TV 08.00 Yatra 08.26 Deepon Ki Aвали - Deepavali 09.16 Virasat 09.32 Gyan Vigyan 09.47 Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Ram Tera Desh (1984) 14.59 Samachar 15.21 Pakwan 15.50 Yaadein 16.20 Amrit Vani 16.30 Deepanjali - Divali 17.30 Radha Krishna 17.51 Local Prod Amrit Vani 665 18.01 Live. Samachar 18.33 Dil Se Divali 20.03 Divali Deepak/Diya 20.06 Local Prod Hunarbaaz 41 20.32 Ramayan 21.02 Shiv Shakti 21.32 Yashomati Maiyya Ke 22.02 Dharam Yatra 14 22.28 Mere Sai 23.20 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.46 Dil Se Divali	07.00 Film: Caillou 07.54 Film: Jurassic Planet 08.57 Film: The Jungle Book 3 11.02 Mag: Motorweek 11.37 Doc: A World Without Bees? 12.24 Doc: Multi Tasking 13.07 Doc: Japan Video Topics 13.15 Film: The Enchanted Mountain 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc 15.56 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 17.04 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.00 Film: La Prophetie De L'Horloge	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.31 Film: Housefull 2 Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Riteish... 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 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Housefull 2 Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty...

**BTV** Jeudi 31 octobre - 15.30

Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Riteish...

**MBC 1** Jeudi 31 octobre - 20.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nushratt Bharuccha





Kul Bhushan

# Lord Raj Loomba: From Rural Punjab to the House of Lords

**H**aving led a privileged life, from growing up in the small town of Dhilwan in Punjab to becoming an active member of the House of Lords in London, Lord Raj Loomba has established an international charity helping widows worldwide and built a multi-million business.

Two traumatic events significantly impacted Lord Loomba, which he recounted at the launch of his autobiography, *Widows Warrior*, in New Delhi recently.

“On 23 June 1954, when I was only ten, my father passed away,” he recalled. “Although he had been ill with TB for some time, it was still a massive shock, as it transformed our lives instantly. That same day, my grandmother told my mother to remove her bindi (the mark on the forehead of a married woman) and to wear only plain clothes from then on.

“My mother had always worn beautiful clothes and jewellery, living a full life caring for seven children. In no way was my father’s death her fault, yet her standing in society changed forever that day. I was too young to understand what was happening, but I knew it was completely unfair.

“My father had left us sufficient resources to live on. Years later, I realized how fortunate we were, as many widows who lose their breadwinner are cast into abject poverty. Even in our position, we faced significant challenges.

“My mother had never been to school, but my father was educated. Their dream was for all their children to receive an education. After my father died, my mother resolved not to spend her money on luxuries but to devote herself to making that dream come true by ensuring all seven of us, boys and girls, received a good education.

For me, this meant moving to America to live with my eldest brother while studying at Iowa State University. Narendra, who had become an assistant professor there, opened my eyes to living without servants and working hard to make ends meet.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) meets with Cherie Blair (centre), President of the Loomba Foundation, and Raj Loomba, the organization’s Founder and Chairman in 2010.  
Pic - UN Photo

“In 1962, I joined my mother and other family members who had moved to England. A year later, I went north to Lancashire, where my uncle Sat Paul Jerath became my next mentor, helping me to set up a fashion textiles business.



Guest of Honour Sir Tony Blair joined over 300 attendees at The Loomba Foundation’s 25th Anniversary Gala, including Cherie Blair, President of The Loomba Foundation. The event raised over £60,000 to support women and their dependents fleeing Ukraine. Pic - Loomba Foundation

Starting small, the business grew into a multi-million, multi-national corporation as a major importer and distributor, achieved through sheer hard work despite numerous setbacks. After establishing myself in business, I returned to India in 1966 with my mother to find a bride.

The second major turning point in my life occurred during my wedding ceremony. Right in the middle, the priest asked my mother to move away from the altar, fearing her presence would bring bad luck to the new couple.

“I would not have it,” I said. “How could my mother, who dedicated her life to ensuring that we were educated and had a chance to succeed, bring us bad luck? It was a moment that inspired me years later in my campaign to eradicate discrimination against widows.

“After my mother, Shrimati Pushpawati Loomba, sadly passed away, I pondered how to pay tribute to her legacy. The idea was sparked by Mr Ajit Doval, now India’s National Security Adviser, who suggested I establish a charity for war widows. Dr Singhvi, the High Commissioner to whom I had grown close, became my mentor in setting up the Loomba Foundation and generating support from the Indian and British governments.

“We established the charity in 1997, initially focusing on educating the children of disadvantaged widows. We aimed to educate one hundred children in each state of India, and with the support of partners, including our Patron in Chief, Sir Richard Branson, we achieved that within eight years.

“However, it became clear that the plight of widows extended beyond India; it was a global issue. In 2005, we launched International Widows Day in the House of Lords to draw attention to it.”

Lord Raj Loomba paid special tribute to Ms Cherie Blair, who attended the official launch of the charity in London in 1998 with her husband, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and agreed to become the charity’s patron. “Cherie has been one of the most loyal, selfless supporters of this cause. In

2004, she agreed to become President of the Loomba Foundation, and after launching International Widows Day, we worked together to garner support from world leaders until, in 2010, the General Assembly unanimously adopted 23 June as an official UN day of action.

“It was a source of great pride for me, as 23 June was also the date my mother became a widow in 1954.

“In 2015, we published the World Widows Report, revealing the scale of the challenge: nearly a billion widows and dependents are affected by discrimination globally. Unless we address this issue effectively, we will never achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality and poverty eradication.

“It has been my privilege to bring this issue to the policy radar of the international community and to help transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of widows and their families.”

Throughout this journey, Lord Raj Loomba has received numerous accolades, including the Hind Ratna Award from the Lok Sabha Speaker, commendation from Prince Charles at the Golden Jubilee banquet in 1997, the Asian of the Year award, and praise from global leaders such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi for empowering widows in Varanasi.

His autobiography, *Widow Warrior*, details his journey, but the story is far from over. Next March, he will be at the UN in New York advocating for more global research on widows to drive effective policy interventions.

Despite all these achievements, Lord Loomba remains humble and approachable, often moved to tears when reflecting on the two traumatic events that uplifted the lives of thousands of widows globally.

“What is needed is happening.” – Osho

Anand Kul Bhushan is a writer, journalist, UN media consultant and workshop/meditation leader.