

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part. -- Thomas Jefferson



Interview: Milan Meetarbhan

## Given the challenges our nation faces...

there will be no time for our leaders to engage in “witch-hunting” or “une politique de vengeance”

- The ‘Missié Moustass’ leaks: **‘The reputation/careers of some individuals may have suffered irreparable harm’**

P 9

### Analyse

G15

Changement politique

## Les limites morales de la politique transactionnelle

P 3 Prakash Neerohoo

### Opinion

Dr R Neerunjun Gopee P7

## Money and Freebies Go only So Far

### Eclairages

## 60-0: opportunité ou défi ?

A. Bartleby P5

### Breakfast with Bwana

SAKA 2019

G20 2019 JAPAN

Anil Madan P8

## A Shifting Geopolitical Landscape



# The Change We All Need

The 2024 general elections in Mauritius have ushered in a new political era, marked by the sweeping victory of the 'Alliance du Changement,' an unexpected result that has sent shockwaves through the nation's political landscape. To truly grasp the reasons behind this outcome and what it portends for the future, it is necessary to take a step back and examine both the historical context and the dynamics that led to this political upheaval.

Looking into the rear-view mirror of Mauritian politics, the 'Alliance du Changement's victory can be understood as a repudiation of the ruling MSM-led government, whose credibility had been severely undermined in the final months leading up to the election. The dynamics of the final days of the election campaign, including the explosive 'Missié Moustass' leaks, played a crucial role in tipping the scales in favour of the opposition. These revelations, which confirmed what had long been suspected, exposed systemic corruption and unethical practices that had become ingrained under the previous administration. For many, the leaks were the final straw, an irrefutable sign that the ruling regime had outlived its usefulness. In the aftermath of the electoral result, calls for justice and retribution are to be expected. Victims of the previous regime's actions are entitled to seek justice, but there is a fine line between pursuing justice and engaging in politically motivated witch-hunts. For many, the desire for accountability should be rooted in fairness and objectivity, rather than in retribution.

But beyond the scandal, the Alliance du Changement's victory also represents a broader desire for a fresh political direction in Mauritius. Voters were disillusioned by the status quo and were eager for change. This electoral outcome speaks to a deep-seated yearning among the electorate for transparency, justice, and a political environment free from the taint of corruption. The lesson for the political establishment, across all factions, is clear: maintaining power through patronage and secrecy is no longer tenable. The electorate is demanding a more open and accountable government, and they will not tolerate the kinds of excesses that led to the downfall of the previous regime.

The new government will need careful political management to handle this situation. Overemphasizing retribution risks alienating a segment of the electorate eager to move on and embrace progress. The challenge lies in balancing accountability for past misdeeds with fostering an environment conducive to constructive political dialogue and meaningful reform. Allowing past grievances to dominate the national discourse could overshadow efforts to implement a forward-thinking agenda. To avoid this, the government must prioritize tangible reforms that directly benefit the people, ensuring the focus remains on building a better future rather than revisiting the past.



One of the questions that has emerged in the wake of the election is whether the victory of the 'Alliance du Changement' signifies a resurgence of "Mauritianism". Some have framed the election result as a return to the values of national unity and shared purpose that have historically defined Mauritius as a multiethnic society. However, it is important to ask whether this interpretation is more a form of wishful thinking or an attempt to sanitize the political realities of the past decade. Mauritius, as a nation, is often celebrated for its political stability and its ability to maintain harmony across its diverse communities. Yet, the regime that was in power for the past several years also left behind a deeply divisive legacy — one marked by nepotism, authoritarianism, and a growing disregard for democratic norms. The election result is not necessarily a victory for some idealized vision of Mauritian unity, but rather a repudiation of a system that many felt had lost its legitimacy.

The new government faces the daunting task of balancing long-term structural reforms with the public's demand for immediate results. The electorate, having ousted the previous government for its failure to deliver, will be expecting quick action on a range of issues — from economic recovery to public services. However, the depth of reform required across multiple sectors means that progress may be incremental. The government will need to communicate clearly with the public, setting realistic expectations while working towards long-term goals.

One of the most pressing areas for reform is the justice system. While constitutional reform will take time, the public expects swift action in tackling corruption, money laundering, and strengthening key institutions. Delivering progress in these areas is vital not only for ensuring justice but also for restoring faith in the country's governance structures. The consolidation of democracy and the protection of fundamental rights, including freedom of speech, must also remain a top priority. The new government must ensure that political

participation is not only preserved but expanded, and that civil liberties are respected across all levels of society.

Mauritius' diplomatic priorities are also at a crossroads. The issue of the Mauritius-UK deal, particularly in light of changing global dynamics and the election of Donald Trump, presents a significant challenge. The new government must carefully deal with this issue, balancing national interests with international relations.

The electoral manifesto of the Alliance du Changement outlines a clear blueprint for the government's future actions, but the road ahead will not be without its challenges. The leaders of the Labour Party and MMM are surely determined to leave a lasting legacy and avoid repeating the mistakes of past alliances. Whether they succeed will depend on their ability to deal with the complexities of governance, restore public trust, and create meaningful change for the people of Mauritius. Ultimately, the true measure of success will be how the new government delivers on its promises and addresses the long-standing issues that have plagued the country for years. The hope is that this new chapter will lead to a more transparent, inclusive, and democratic Mauritius. Only time will tell if this hope is realized.

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Prakash Neerohoo

## Changement politique

# Les limites morales de la politique transactionnelle

*On ne peut plus acheter les consciences par des carottes dérisoires pour faire oublier les inégalités profondes dans la société*

Les politologues et autres observateurs épilogueront pendant longtemps sur les raisons de la victoire absolue de l'Alliance du Changement aux élections du 10 novembre 2024. Chacun fera sa lecture selon son bord politique. En attendant un post-mortem objectif, le camp perdant (Alliance Lepep) est silencieux, abasourdi par le coup de grâce assené par l'électorat. Déjà un partenaire (le PMSD) a pris la porte de sortie de cette alliance, ne voulant sans doute pas partager la responsabilité de la défaite. Ce qui est indiscutable, c'est le ras-le-bol général qui a botté hors du pouvoir un gouvernement autoritaire. On a vu un sursaut moral du peuple mauricien le 10 novembre contre le dysfonctionnement de la société.

C'est un sursaut moral parce que le peuple, en transcendant les clivages ethniques ou communautaires, s'est levé dans sa grande majorité (63% des votants) pour dire non à la perpétuation du statu quo qui l'emprisonnait dans les carcans de la division, de l'inégalité, de la peur et de l'arbitraire. L'électorat a dit non à la continuation d'un système qui est un «régime inégalitaire», lequel est défini comme «un ensemble de discours et de dispositifs institutionnels visant à justifier et à structurer les inégalités économiques, sociales et politiques d'une société donnée» (Thomas Piketty,

auteur du livre «Capital et Idéologie»).

### Régime inégalitaire

Sous le vernis de la croissance, les **inégalités économiques** se sont approfondies entre les classes sociales. Parallèlement à l'enrichissement de la classe possédante permis par les rentes économiques du développement immobilier et la fiscalité directe légère, il y a eu un déclassement de la classe moyenne

écrasée par un pouvoir d'achat en chute libre et la paupérisation de la classe ouvrière, affectée par la précarité de l'emploi et la compétition des travailleurs étrangers.

Les **inégalités sociales** se sont manifestées dans les formes suivantes: l'accès inégal à l'éducation qui produit des milliers de recalés aux examens primaires et secondaires; l'accès non méritocratique à l'emploi dans le secteur public; et l'accès non démocratique à la propriété (terres et logements rendus inabordable pour des Mauriciens moyens faisant face à la concurrence des investisseurs étrangers).

Les **inégalités politiques** se sont cristallisées dans l'absence de démocratie marquée par le règne tyrannique d'un gouvernement élu par 37% des votants, contrôlant toutes les institutions publiques, capturant l'Etat et ses marchés publics à l'avantage d'une ploutocratie,

muselant le Parlement et neutralisant tous les contre-pouvoirs de la société (presse, syndicats, partis d'opposition).

L'autocratisation du système politique n'est pas une vue de l'esprit ou une vision dystopienne de la société propagée par des Cassandres. Elle est un fait comme établi par les agences VDem et Mo Ibrahim, deux entités internationales indépendantes, dans leur évaluation des pratiques de gouvernance à Maurice. Il est malheureux que des ex-militants du MMM qui disaient vouloir faire la politique autrement aient adopté des positions conservatrices par leur soutien actif à l'autocratie et à un capitalisme de proximité gourmand, corrompu et tentaculaire.

L'existence d'un État profond, un réseau de personnes non-élues qui tirent les ficelles du pouvoir et décident de tout en usurpant le rôle des représentants élus, est une déviance abominable dans les mœurs nationales.

En raison de toutes ces inégalités, il est absolument raisonnable de lutter pour une rupture avec le «régime inégalitaire» à travers des réformes structurelles de l'économie et des institutions publiques qui puissent permettre la démocratisation économique, sociale et politique du pays.

### Réponse aux inégalités

Comme réponse à la critique des inégalités, le gouvernement sortant a proposé une extension de l'État-Providence en distribuant des miettes à gauche et à droite avec toutes sortes d'allocations sociales aux divers segments de la population (retraités, travailleurs, femmes, enfants,

jeunes). Cette stratégie relève de la politique transactionnelle adoptée depuis 2014. Dans l'édition du 20 décembre 2019 de ce journal, j'avais écrit un article sous le titre «La politique transactionnelle prend le dessus sur les enjeux fondamentaux» pour analyser les résultats des élections du 7 novembre 2019.

J'avais alors fait le constat suivant:

«Ainsi, la politique, au lieu d'être le tremplin pour un projet de société, a pris une nature transactionnelle. Il s'agit d'utiliser les techniques du micro-marketing afin de cibler des couches spécifiques de l'électorat, évaluer leurs besoins prioritaires et formuler des promesses pour les attirer dans le bassin électoral. Le but est de fidéliser politiquement ces groupes d'électeurs en se mettant à leur écoute et en répondant à leurs demandes.

● Suite en page 4



“En attendant un post-mortem objectif, le camp perdant (Alliance Lepep) est silencieux, abasourdi par le coup de grâce assené par l'électorat. Déjà un partenaire (le PMSD) a pris la porte de sortie de cette alliance, ne voulant sans doute pas partager la responsabilité de la défaite. Ce qui est indiscutable, c'est le ras-le-bol général qui a botté hors du pouvoir un gouvernement autoritaire. On a vu un sursaut moral du peuple mauricien le 10 novembre contre le dysfonctionnement de la société. C'est un sursaut moral parce que le peuple, en transcendant les clivages ethniques ou communautaires, s'est levé dans sa grande majorité (63% des votants) pour dire non à la perpétuation du statu quo...”

“L'électorat a rejeté en grande majorité cette politique transactionnelle qui s'inspire d'une conception marchande du bien-être social et d'un matérialisme évident pour faire appel aux instincts de survie économique des groupes sociaux différents. En croyant pouvoir acheter les votes des électeurs, l'Alliance Lepep a sous-estimé le caractère moral d'un peuple qui était davantage attaché à ses libertés et ses droits civils qu'aux carottes électorales.

L'électorat veut d'une politique redistributive qui réduit les inégalités socio-économiques à travers un Etat-Providence viable et soutenable à long terme par une politique fiscale plus juste, équilibrée et progressive...”



## Changement politique

# Les limites morales de la politique transactionnelle

● Suite de la page 3

Le MSM, en premier, a ciblé des groupes entiers: les personnes retraitées (augmentation de la pension de vieillesse), les fonctionnaires (application par anticipation du rapport du PRB), les chauffeurs de taxi (promesse d'un versement de Rs 100,00. pour l'achat d'une voiture) et les contribuables urbains (suppression de la taxe immobilière sur une maison). L'agrégation de ces groupes ciblés fut importante et elle produisit des dividendes électoralistes certains pour le MSM.»

### Promesses monétaires

En 2024, le gouvernement sortant nous a offert une version plus audacieuse de sa politique transactionnelle avec toute une gamme de promesses monétaires destinées à des groupes spécifiques, notamment:

- L'accès gratuit à l'Internet pour les jeunes de 18-25 ans;
- La pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 par mois;
- La gratuité des médicaments achetés dans les pharmacies privées pour tous;
- Le prêt hypothécaire sans intérêt pour les jeunes de 18-35 ans pour l'achat ou la construction d'une maison;
- Une allocation de Rs 5 000 pour chaque enfant de 0-18 ans dans une famille;
- La suppression de la redevance de télévision de Rs 150 par mois;
- Le paiement d'un boni de 14e mois en décembre 2024 aux employés des secteurs public et privé ainsi qu'aux bénéficiaires de prestations sociales;
- La baisse du taux de la Taxe sur la Valeur Ajoutée (TVA) de 15% à 10% sur certains produits essentiels ; et
- Une allocation de Rs 2 000 pour la femme au foyer.

L'électorat a rejeté en grande majorité cette politique transactionnelle qui s'inspire d'une conception marchande du bien-être social et d'un matérialisme évident pour faire appel aux instincts de survie économique des groupes sociaux différents. En croyant pouvoir acheter les votes des électeurs, l'Alliance Lepep a sous-estimé le caractère moral d'un peuple qui était davantage attaché à ses libertés et ses droits civils qu'aux carottes électorales.

L'électorat veut d'une politique redistributive qui réduit les inégalités socio-économiques à travers un État-Providence viable et soutenable à long terme par une politique fiscale plus juste, équilibrée et progressive. Il veut une école publique performante, un service de santé efficace, l'égalité des chances, un logement social abordable et un environnement sain.

### Prix et dignité

L'électorat dans sa diversité a démontré que sa dignité comptait davantage que le prix mis sur sa tête (une pension accrue ou une nouvelle allocation sociale). Comme le philosophe Emmanuel Kant le dit pertinemment, la dignité est supérieure au prix. «Dans le règne des fins, tout a un prix ou une dignité. Ce qui a un prix peut être aussi bien remplacé par quelque chose d'autre, à titre d'équivalent ; au contraire, ce qui est supérieur à tout prix, ce qui par suite n'admet pas d'équivalent, c'est ce qui a une dignité.» (Voir «Fondements de la métaphysique des mœurs», page 47).



“On ne peut plus acheter les consciences par des carottes dérisoires pour faire oublier les inégalités profondes dans la société... Le peuple ne se nourrit pas que du pain. L'immoralité des mœurs (le trafic de drogue tuant la jeunesse, la corruption institutionnalisée, le népotisme ambiant, le dévergondage de l'Etat de droit) et la mauvaise gouvernance générale (abus de pouvoirs, opacité des marchés publics, malversations financières, détournement de fonds publics, projets grandioses) sont les traits fondamentaux du gouvernement sortant. Elles sont des tares visibles qui agressent la conscience publique...”

La politique transactionnelle a montré ses limites morales en 2024. On ne peut plus acheter les consciences par des carottes dérisoires pour faire oublier les inégalités profondes dans la société. C'est sous-estimer le peuple que de croire que son besoin de survie économique est un impératif qui l'emporte sur toute autre considération. Le peuple ne se nourrit pas que du pain. L'immoralité des mœurs (le trafic de drogue tuant la jeunesse, la corruption institutionnalisée, le népotisme ambiant, le dévergondage de l'Etat de droit) et la mauvaise gouvernance générale (abus de pouvoirs, opacité des marchés publics, malversations financières, détournement de fonds publics, projets grandioses) sont les traits fondamentaux du gouvernement sortant. Elles sont des tares visibles qui agressent la conscience publique.

Jean Tirole, Prix Nobel d'Économie, parle des limites morales de l'économie de marché (“Economie du Bien Commun”, chapitre 2) qui imposent la réglementation des marchés, la taxation des externalités environnementales et la politique de redistribution des richesses, entre autres politiques publiques. Dans le même souffle, il faut imposer des limites morales sur la politique financière de tout gouvernement par le truchement d'une loi sur la responsabilité fiscale qui l'oblige à pratiquer la vérité économique (notamment sur les déficits budgétaires, l'inflation et la dette publique), et surtout à s'empêcher de faire des promesses en dehors des paramètres de la capacité fiscale du pays. C'est le défi majeur du nouveau gouvernement.

Prakash Neerhoo

### We Are Moving!

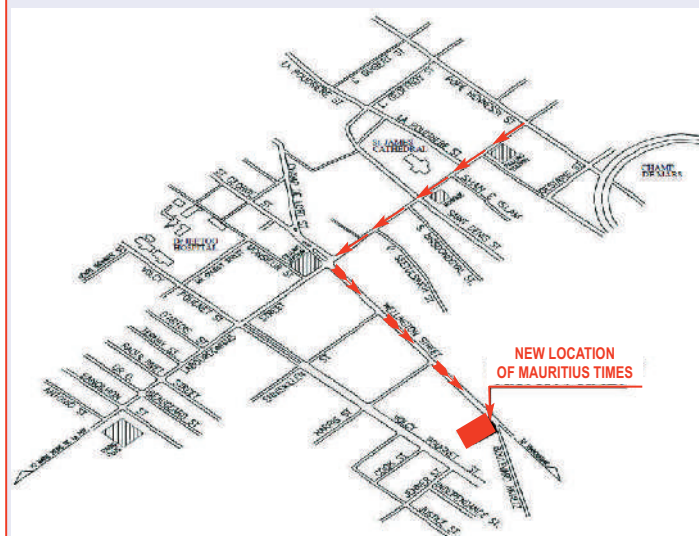
We would like to inform all our patrons and well-wishers that starting Monday, November 4th, 2024, Mauritius Times will be relocating to our new office at 28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street), Port Louis.

You are welcome to visit us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at our new office. Please note that we work from home on Thursdays and Fridays.

We kindly advise visitors to contact us at the following mobile numbers **BEFORE** making the trip to Port Louis: 5 2929 301, 5 817 4037, or 5 782 9861.

You may also reach us via email at [mtimes@intnet.mu](mailto:mtimes@intnet.mu).

Thank you!



### LEGAL / COURT NOTICE:

In The Court of  
**MS. RIFFAT MAHMOOD KHAN,**  
 Senior Civil Judge III,  
 East-Islamabad, Pakistan,  
 Suit Title, Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majeed V/S  
 Nasser Abdulla Hussain Lootah  
 and Others, (SUIT FOR RECOVERY),  
 Messrs Suroor Investment Ltd, having  
 registered office, Consilex, 4th Floor,  
 Les Jamalacs Building, Vieux Conseil Street,  
 Port Louis, Mauritius.

Whereas the abovenamed defendant cannot be served in ordinary manner. It is proclaimed if the said defendant does not appear personally or through duly authorized counsel or pleader in the Court on 18-12-2024 at 9 a.m, ex parte proceedings will be taken against said defendant.



# 60-0: opportunité ou défi?

Par A. Bartleby

**N**ous venons de vivre le troisième 60-0 de notre histoire politique. Après 1982 et 1995, c'est en effet la troisième fois que les Mauriciens envoient un signal clair et fort pour faire tabula rasa des pratiques précédentes, mais également pour que des changements profonds de notre système de gouvernance soient poussés de l'avant.

De ce point de vue, un 60-0 est un couteau à double tranchant. D'un côté, il s'agit d'un vote sanction contre un gouvernement sortant. Et de l'autre, il s'agit d'un vote exprimant une volonté de changement. Ce sont les deux à la fois et cela explique le désenchantement rapide qui a suivi les deux précédents 60-0. Mais chaque 60-0 s'est également inscrit dans des moments particuliers.

Celui de 1982 portait en lui les germes d'un projet de transformation sociétale profond. Il était le signal clair et net qu'une jeune génération de Mauriciens était prête à prendre son destin en main, et de passer à une autre phase du développement de leur pays.

La scission de 1983 était d'ailleurs fondée sur une différence fondamentale de vision pour le pays. D'un côté, la branche du MMM qui souhaitait voir se développer un modèle de type soviétique, avec une économie planifiée autour de l'insularité et de l'autonomie alimentaire. Et de l'autre, la branche libérale - qui devint le MSM - qui misait sur un moment très particulier de l'histoire mondiale: celui de la fin de la guerre froide et du triomphe de la globalisation et de son extension à toutes les parties du monde.

Nous savons qui a gagné les élections de 1983, ce qui a permis à notre pays de prendre le train de la libéralisation, ce qui a porté une transformation rapide et soutenue de notre économie avec la consolidation ou l'ouverture de secteurs qui sont encore porteurs, comme celui du tourisme.

**L**e 60-0 de 1995, lui, fut différent. Il fut, selon nous, la réponse des classes ouvrières et des petites classes moyennes à la poussée libérale allant de 1983 à 1995. Cette période, marquée par une croissance économique soutenue, a vu l'apparition d'une classe moyenne puissante dont le pouvoir d'achat a permis une élévation importante du niveau de vie. Mais cette période a également vu l'apparition d'une distance entre les gagnants et les perdants de la libéralisation économique, ainsi que l'apparition d'une corruption qui deviendra quasi institutionnelle au fur et à mesure des années. C'est cela qui fut rejeté en 1995.

Ainsi, ces deux précédents résultats démontrent un certain nombre de faits. Tout d'abord, que les 60-0 apparaissent à des moments particuliers, moments qui allient un ras-le-bol et une expectative. Les 60-0



60-0, un couteau à double tranchant : d'un côté, un vote sanction contre le gouvernement sortant ; de l'autre, une expression de la volonté de changement. P - Défi Media

apparaissent également à des moments de basculement, où certaines directions économiques ou sociales doivent être changées. Et enfin, les 60-0 ne tiennent pas car ils portent trop d'attentes et trop d'euphorie. Aucun gouvernement ne peut plaire à tout le monde, ce qui fait qu'un 60-0 tend à vaciller.

Ce dernier point découle également du fait qu'aucun parti politique n'est capable de gagner un 60-0 seul. Il faut forcément une alliance de plusieurs partis afin de pouvoir gagner avec un tel score. Et une alliance comprend forcément des sensibilités différentes, sensibilités qui peuvent ne plus pouvoir cohabiter à un moment donné. Qu'en est-il de ce 60-0 donc? Seule l'avenir le dira.

## Rejet de "La Kwizinn"

Déjà, il est clair qu'il s'agit d'un rejet massif et sans ambiguïté du système dit de "La Kwizinn". Les enquêtes qui viendront sans doute nous démontreront le fonctionnement de cet "État dans l'État", chose dont les Mauriciens ont entrevu quelques bribes dans les fameuses "Moustass Leaks". En effet, la perception de favoritisme et de corruption avait atteint un point de non-retour pour le gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth, et les "leaks" ont enfoncé un gouvernement déjà extrêmement affaibli.

En face, le PTa a dû composer avec non seulement le MMM mais également avec ReA et les ex-PMSD afin de former un front de plusieurs oppositions. Ce front réunit diverses sensibilités politiques, qui avaient en commun le désir de renverser le gouvernement sortant. Maintenant que cela est fait, il faudra travailler ensemble sur des dossiers où ils ne seront pas tous d'accord.

Est-ce que le PTa sera d'accord de réformer la question des identités politiques

dans une réforme électorale?

Est-ce que ReA acceptera que la démilitarisation de l'océan Indien n'aura pas lieu sous ce gouvernement?

Est-ce que le MMM acceptera de réconcilier les impératifs industriels et économiques avec sa volonté de porter un projet écologique pas forcément compatible avec le capitalisme libéral à la mauricienne?



P - Défi Media

Nous le saurons bien assez tôt.

## Pravind Jugnauth en situation délicate

En face, Pravind Jugnauth se trouve dans une situation extrêmement délicate. Il est possible que le nouveau Premier ministre ait à cœur de rétablir sa dignité et de réparer les torts que lui a causés le gouvernement précédent. En réalité, Navin Ramgoolam aura raison de mener des enquêtes et de comprendre le système de "La Kwizinn" et ses dérives. Il a également été élu pour cela. Et les Mauriciens doivent savoir ce qu'il en ressort. Mais Navin Ramgoolam est également dans une situation où il a l'impératif d'être objectif par rapport à ces enquêtes. Il se doit de laisser la police et les institutions enquêter de manière neutre afin que les dérives et les irrégularités soient traitées comme il se doit et que la justice puisse suivre son cours naturel.

Cette objectivité et cette neutralité du nouveau PM sont également nécessaires car, malgré le 60-0, le pays est actuellement profondément divisé en réalité. Une analyse objective des résultats démontre clairement que le MSM n'est pas un parti qui a disparu de l'échiquier politique actuel. Le système du "First Past The Post" fonctionne de manière à tout donner au gagnant et à tout enlever au perdant, mais la réalité des bases politiques est différente.

**E**n effet, le MSM a obtenu un score national d'environ 30%, avec une moyenne variant entre 30% et 35% dans les villages (ce fameux 4 à 14). Ainsi, il aura fallu à l'Alliance du Changement de regrouper toutes les forces de l'opposition, d'avoir le soutien des "leaks" de "Moustass" et de bénéficier de l'immense gaffe du gouvernement de bloquer les réseaux sociaux afin de réaliser ce score de 60-0.

Mais l'Alliance du Changement ferait bien de comprendre que le MSM dispose aujourd'hui d'une base de presque 30% dans les villages. Il faudra attendre pour voir si le phénomène de "vases communicants" se produira, ce qui pourrait entraîner un éventuel basculement significatif de l'électorat rural en faveur du camp victorieux, c'est-à-dire du Parti Travailleurs, après les résultats des élections de 2024.

Pravind Jugnauth, en réalité, fait face à un champ de ruines et sa carrière politique pourrait être terminée si certains liens directs sont établis de manière irréfutable entre sa personne et des milieux mafieux. Mais il sait qu'il bénéficie pour l'instant d'une base solide dans les villages. Il faudra ainsi que le nouveau gouvernement fasse très attention à ne pas faire de Pravind Jugnauth un martyr, car c'est exactement ce qui lui donnera le sérum politique dont il aura besoin pour revenir.

Ce qui est certain, c'est que le nouveau gouvernement fera face à des défis importants. Le rejet du précédent gouvernement s'accompagne également de l'expectative de réformes importantes qu'il faudra mener à bien. Le passé a montré la fragilité du 60-0, car les attentes étaient trop élevées et le désenchantement s'est rapidement installé. Peut-être que ce 60-0 prouvera le contraire.

➔ Voir plus en page 6



# Biden autorise Zelenski à utiliser les missiles ATACMS

Le président sortant Joe Biden vient, dans un acte surprenant, d'autoriser le gouvernement ukrainien à utiliser les missiles de longue portée ATACMS de fabrication américaine. Cela fait un moment que le président Zelenski demandait cette autorisation, mais il ne l'avait jamais reçue jusqu'à présent.

Ces missiles, les fameux ATACMS, ont une portée de 300 km et sont très difficiles à détecter et à intercepter, car ils se déplacent à une vitesse pouvant atteindre près de trois fois celle du son. De plus, les ATACMS ne dépendent pas du géopositionnement par satellite (GPS). Ils sont également dotés d'un système de guidage inertiel par gyroscopes, ce qui les rend moins vulnérables aux techniques de brouillage GPS, que les Russes ont su utiliser avec succès.

Enfin, leur charge utile, pouvant atteindre 225 kg, est suffisamment puissante pour créer un énorme cratère à l'impact. Leur portée, leur vitesse terminale et leur charge destructrice peuvent donc faire une différence majeure.

Pour la première fois depuis le début de la guerre, l'Ukraine aura la capacité de frapper très loin derrière les lignes russes. Cette capacité change radicalement la donne, car l'armée ukrainienne pourra enfin viser les sites militaires stratégiques de l'armée russe, notamment ceux qui approvisionnent le front ukrainien et qui sont essentiels



Les experts craignent que l'utilisation par l'Ukraine de missiles américains à longue portée ne suffise pas pour contrer la Russie. P - AOL.com

pour soutenir l'effort de guerre russe en Ukraine.

Mais pourquoi les États-Unis ont-ils attendu si longtemps avant de donner cette autorisation au gouvernement ukrainien? Il semble que la situation ait changé ces dernières semaines avec le déploiement de près de 10 000 troupes nord-coréennes, qui devraient venir en renfort de l'armée russe.

Cette situation coïncide avec le regroupement de 50 000 soldats russes près de Koursk, un territoire clé que

l'Ukraine a pris au début de l'année. Depuis quelques jours, la Russie mène des incursions dans cette région, annonçant probablement une contre-offensive pour reprendre ce territoire.

En vue de cet assaut, les troupes nord-coréennes et russes devront se rassembler loin derrière les lignes avant de monter au front. L'objectif serait donc de désorganiser sérieusement l'opération russe en frappant ces troupes en profondeur. Or, la taille, la vitesse et la portée des ATACMS en font l'instrument parfait pour ce type d'attaque.

L'armée ukrainienne pourra ainsi utiliser ces missiles pour frapper les zones de rassemblement, les sites de munitions et les aérodromes, afin d'empêcher la mise en place de l'offensive avant qu'elle ne commence.

Le timing de cette décision est également significatif. Alors que Donald Trump s'apprête à revenir à la Maison Blanche en janvier, il s'agit clairement de l'une des dernières décisions de Joe Biden. Nous savons que Trump avait promis de tout mettre en œuvre pour mettre fin au conflit en Ukraine, et cette décision semble être un piège laissé sous le pied du président élu. À moins, bien sûr, que les deux hommes se soient concertés avant que Joe Biden n'approuve cette décision, et qu'il s'agisse d'une première étape pour forcer la main de Vladimir Poutine et l'amener rapidement à la table des négociations. L'avenir nous le dira.

Le Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi, en visite depuis deux jours en Guyane, petit État du Nord de l'Amérique du Sud, a proposé mercredi sa coopération aux pays de la Communauté Caraïbienne (Caricom).

Lors de ce deuxième sommet Inde-Caricom, le Premier ministre Modi a notamment rappelé le lancement par l'Inde d'un nouveau satellite en 2027 tout en évoquant la question des sargasses (algues brunes qui ont envahi une partie des côtes et plages caraïbéennes) indiquant que celles-ci pourraient être transformées en engrais.

Narendra Modi a également insisté sur le renforcement de la coopération dans un certain nombre d'autres domaines comme le transport maritime, l'agriculture ou la lutte contre la pêche illégale et les trafics de drogue ou d'être humains, entre autres.

L'Inde et les 15 pays de la Caricom, dont le siège est à Georgetown, avaient en effet convenu en 2023 d'organiser un sommet commercial chaque année.

Précédemment, l'Inde et la Guyane avaient signé plusieurs accords de coopération portant notamment sur l'agriculture, la défense mais aussi les "hydrocarbures", alors que la Guyane - comprenant 800 000 habitants - dispose des plus grandes réserves de pétrole per capita de la planète et est appelée à devenir un acteur important sur le marché international du brut.

Il est ainsi clair que cette visite de Modi dans les Caraïbes relève d'une importance capitale pour la Grande Péninsule. En effet, il est essentiel pour le gouvernement indien de sécuriser ses approvisionnements en énergies, et notamment en hydrocarbures. La rapide expansion économique et industrielle de l'Inde requiert d'importants imports

## Modi poursuit l'expansion géopolitique indienne dans les Caraïbes



Le gouvernement de Narendra Modi poursuit des intérêts géostratégiques axés sur l'expansion économique, la sécurisation des ressources, la sécurité de l'océan Indien et le "soft power" indien. - Times Now

en énergies et en matières premières. Et tout comme la Chine, l'Inde se trouve aujourd'hui dans l'impératif de sécuriser certains de ces approvisionnements si elle veut se donner les moyens d'une croissance soutenue sur les prochaines décennies.

Ce qui est particulièrement intéressant ici, c'est que nous voyons se jouer un "shift" dans l'approche indienne à sa diplomatie et à sa stratégie géopolitique. L'Inde a historiquement construit son assise géostratégique sur ce que Shashi Tharoor nomme le "soft power" indien. Ce dernier est un mixte de produits culturels indiens - allant de Bollywood à des articles de mode, en passant par la cuisine indienne - que l'Inde uti-

lisait comme le fer de lance de sa pénétration dans la globalisation.

L'arrivée de Modi et du BJP au pouvoir, il y a un peu plus de 10 ans, a radicalement changé cette approche, qui avait été développée sous Nehru, en adoptant un pragmatisme froid inspiré des Chinois. Ainsi, le gouvernement de Narendra Modi n'a eu de cesse de rechercher et de construire ses intérêts géostratégiques selon les impératifs pragmatiques liés à l'expansion économique, à la sécurisation des ressources et à la sécurité de l'océan Indien, le tout, en continuant à jouer sur le "soft power" à l'indienne.

Or, nous voyons ici les fruits de cette

approche renouvelée, avec d'un côté la projection des intérêts indiens par-delà l'océan Indien, et de l'autre, leur extension dans une région du monde où la diaspora indienne est particulièrement nombreuse. En effet, 40% de la population de la Guyane est d'origine indienne, et la diaspora indienne issue des processus de l'engagement constitue une part importante des populations des îles des Caraïbes.

Encore une fois, nous voyons une stratégie proche que celle adoptée par la Chine, il y a plusieurs décennies, lorsque le gouvernement chinois avait misé sa capacité d'expansion sur le rôle critique que la diaspora chinoise pouvait avoir à travers le monde. Et cette approche fut essentielle et a permis à la Chine de non seulement bénéficier d'une assise solide en matière de lobbies dans un certain nombre de pays, mais également de bénéficier d'investissements et de transferts de technologies vers la Chine à travers sa diaspora globalisée.

À bien des égards, l'Inde joue une partition similaire. La diaspora indienne joue un rôle clé dans la transformation de l'Inde en superpuissance mondiale. Lors de sa visite en Guyane, Narendra Modi a envoyé un signal clair : l'Inde dépasse désormais les frontières de l'océan qui porte son nom, affirmant encore davantage sa globalisation.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 16



# Money and Freebies Go only So Far

*'There is no such thing as public money, there is only taxpayers money'*



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Sometime during the recent pre-election period, I received a forwarded post showing late UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher speaking. This is what she said: 'One of the great debates of our times is about how much of your money should be spent by the State and how much you should keep to spend on your family. Let us never forget this fundamental truth: the State has no source of money other than the money people earn themselves. If the State wants to spend more, it can do so only by borrowing your savings or by taxing you more, and it's no good thinking that someone else will pay. That someone else is you. There is no such thing as public money, there is only taxpayers money.'

During the recent campaigning one frequently heard it being said by people across the social spectrum that prospective candidates were distributing money to individuals on the ground, or in households as they were allowed entry to canvass votes. The amounts cited were from Rs 1000 – 10,000. There were some first-hand testimonies too.

This was not new to me. Such financial inducements were part of the scene in the by-election in the No. 7 constituency in 2003. It will be recalled that, following the arrangement between the MSM, led by Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ), and the MMM, led by Paul Bérenger, the former would step down as Prime Minister mid-term to become President, while the latter would assume the role of Prime Minister. SAJ resigned as a Member of Parliament to fulfill his new role, necessitating a by-election to elect a replacement candidate.

I was to be that candidate, but LP chose

**“According to some political analysts the magnitude of the victory is to be accounted for by some other factors, to wit that the landslide was not necessarily a vote for the Alliance du Changement as one against the Alliance Lelep: the people in their vast majority were so disgusted with the outgoing regime that they voted with rage! No doubt more analytical ink will likely be spilt in the future on this and other electoral outcomes; However, what we can deduce is that unknowingly people may be subscribing to Margaret Thatcher's assertion that after all it is only their taxpayer money that is being doled out ...”**



**“Let us never forget this fundamental truth: the State has no source of money other than the money people earn themselves. If the State wants to spend more, it can do so only by borrowing your savings or by taxing you more, and it's no good thinking that someone else will pay. That someone else is you. There is no such thing as public money, there is only taxpayers money.” — Margaret Thatcher**

Rajesh Jeetah, and I was present when this was announced at the Labourdonnais Hotel in late November. From the next day onwards LP got going with the month-long campaign in which I participated with Dr Rihun Hawoldar who was a sitting MP.

It was the first and last time ever that I was involved in political campaigning. It was an eye-opening experience, revealing as it did many of the social ills and inequalities that existed in the country, some of which have worsened. I also learnt about people's attitude and behaviour towards political parties and candidates. As elections have succeeded one another, the one constant that I have 'diagnosed' – no apologies for this professional bias! – is that the people cannot be fooled, or perhaps should I say that people are not that naïve as politicians seem to think. Especially when it comes to accepting money or freebies.

One example that has stuck in my mind concerns a young man who was manning a container used as "baz". He was well-known to the local person who was accompanying us to introduce families, etc., and also that he was a traditional LP supporter. When asked why he was doing that, that is, helping the MSM-MMM Alliance, his reply was, 'what can I do, I have not worked for three months and there is no money at home. They gave me x-thousand rupees to be in charge here. Of course I took the money, but don't worry I know what to do

on election day!'

Coming straight from the heart and the mind as it were! It may also be mentioned that this was the first time that containers were used as "baz", about 20 them I believe.

On another evening as we were doing door-to-door campaigning, we approached a house festooned in orange and mauve colours. My childhood friend Motee Ramdass was walking away after meeting the family. Of course, we stopped and exchanged warm greetings. As we came close to the entrance, the family welcomed us and said, 'Don't bother about the festoons and don't waste your precious time here. We have to be polite to all candidates, but we know who to vote for. Go to X-house, they are the ones who need your convincing.' And sent us off with warm wishes.

Then, as in the concluded recent general election, the outcome repeated the lesson that doesn't seem to have been learnt: that money and freebies go only so far. However, according to some political analysts the magnitude of the victory is to be accounted for by some other factors, to wit that the landslide was not necessarily a vote for the Alliance du Changement as one against the Alliance Lelep: the people in their vast majority were so disgusted with the outgoing regime that

they voted with rage!

No doubt more analytical ink will likely be spilt in the future on this and other electoral outcomes; However, what we can deduce is that unknowingly people may be subscribing to Margaret Thatcher's assertion that after all it is only their taxpayer money that is being doled out – and so it is fair game that they take what is theirs and then do as their mind and conscience tell them.

**“Though the context and stakes are vastly different, the election in the US that preceded ours by a week offers a useful comparison. There, it was public knowledge that Presidential candidate Kamala Harris was supported by campaign financing to the tune of almost 1.5 billion dollars and received the backing of all the mainstream press and media as well as Big Tech, the Metaverse, Corporate Giants, Hollywood celebrities and so on. Her rival Donald Trump campaigned with his own resources, lesser in dollar terms, but as happened in our own country, won an overwhelming victory. He obtained comfortable majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and well as winning what is called the Popular Vote...”**

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When I was in HSC, I remember reading a line that didn't at that time mean much to me, but which I think I understand better now. It was that 'human behaviour changes very slowly, if at all, it does.' It will perhaps be worth remembering in future electoral campaigns...



# A Shifting Geopolitical Landscape



Anil Madan

*It is difficult to tell if Trump as President is going to cause more chaos at home than turmoil abroad. But it seems we are all in for an interesting ride*

President Xi Jinping of China, speaking through an interpreter in Lima, Peru last Saturday said: "China's goal of a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship remains unchanged." The Wall Street Journal reports that China "stressed the sentiment in a series of dispatches quoting Xi published by the government's official Xinhua News Agency that reiterated the phrase "has not changed" four times in relation to bilateral ties." One might think that President Xi was speaking to President-elect Donald Trump when he stressed that the US and China should interject certainty and positive energy into a turbulent world. But of course, Trump is not yet the next President although he soon will be. So, President Xi was speaking indirectly to Trump.

In April of this year, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen made these remarks in a detailed speech on US-China relations: "During conversations this week, I underscored again that the United States does not seek to decouple from China. Our two economies are deeply integrated, and a wholesale separation would be disastrous for both of our economies. Even as we take actions to diversify our supply chains, we seek to preserve the broader trade and investment relationship that can benefit American workers and firms. China is a key market for American products and services. And competition between our firms can spur greater dynamism and innovation in American industries. The American businesses that I spoke to in Guangzhou underscored the significant benefits of a healthy economic relationship."

She went on to speak of managing China's overcapacity in supplying the world with manufactured goods.

President Xi and Secretary Yellen, on behalf of President Biden were sending the same message.

It is significant that President Xi should have repeated it to an outgoing President who will soon have no influence whatever on US policy towards China.

It is well known that President-elect Trump has proposed massive new tariffs on goods imported from China into the US. Already, there are reports of Chinese companies finishing their products in south Asian countries to avoid US tariffs. China's exports to the US remain a significant portion of its overall exports, but trade with southeast Asia, Latin America, and Europe continues to grow.

It is significant, therefore, that President Xi has attempted to send a signal of cooperation clearly intended for Trump.

## Russia-Ukraine war & Putin's threat

Trump has said that he would end the war between Russia and Ukraine in one day. Notwithstanding the fear that Trump will pressure Ukraine to cede the Ukrainian territory that Putin has seized, annexed, or controls, it appears that Europeans are now much less resistant to a negotiated peace now than they were when they believed that with sheer determination, Ukraine would prevail.

The harsh reality is that Ukraine's forces have fought a brave battle of attrition. But they continue to have their own



**“Ukraine's forces have fought a brave battle of attrition. But they continue to have their own struggle with a large chunk of its population displaced, a reluctant citizenry unwilling to join the armed forces, and short supplies of aircraft, arms, ammunition and missiles to fend off a relentless enemy. And now that enemy is bolstered by troops from North Korea, thus giving Putin more fodder...”**

Pic - Financial Express

struggle with a large chunk of its population displaced, a reluctant citizenry unwilling to join the armed forces, and short supplies of aircraft, arms, ammunition and missiles to fend off a relentless enemy. And now that enemy is bolstered by troops from North Korea, thus giving Putin more fodder.

In marking the 1000th day of the start of Putin's war against Ukraine, western media outlets did not mention President Biden's words that all but invited Putin to attack when he declared that the US would defend every inch of NATO territory. The message was clear: Ukraine is not NATO territory. The message was also clear that the US and NATO did not want to engage with Russia's nuclear arsenal.

It is somewhat surprising that Biden and his counterparts in NATO and Europe did not recognize Putin's then and subsequent saber-rattling as bluster.

Now, as President Biden has finally authorized the use of US Atacms missiles deep inside Russia, Putin has released a revised Russian nuclear doctrine.

Although the revision has been in the works for some time, the frenzied western media was quick to link the announcement of the new doctrine to Ukraine's first use of the Atacms missiles to strike inside Russian territory. The western media have suggested that Putin's actions are a thinly veiled attempt to intimidate the US and NATO countries from increasing their support of Ukraine and an attempt to limit the kind of weapons they should provide to President Zelenskiy.

Moscow's new nuclear doctrine allows for Russia to respond with nuclear assets if it is a nuclear state that attacks it directly or aids an attack by a non-nuclear country.

How seriously should this "threat" be taken? Putin has long been rattling his nuclear saber. So far, it has emphatically been an attempt to intimidate and deter the US, NATO, and the rest of Europe from coming to Ukraine's aid. Until now, the level of aid supplied by the US, NATO and European countries, while expensive for them, has not assured Ukraine of victory. But it has significantly set Russia

back even though a war of attrition favours Russia's forces and assets that vastly outnumber Ukraine's.

One can never rule out a crazy or desperate move by Putin. Indeed, Putin does not need a new nuclear doctrine to justify his actions. But in a curious way, he seems to need the imprimatur of legal legitimacy, even if manufactured, for his actions. Thus, he goes to great lengths to have sham and rigged elections, sham and rigged trials of his opponents and detractors, and a general need to convince the world that he is acting in accordance with the law. Therefore, discounting his promulgation of a new doctrine is not wise.

What is Putin up to? There have been reports that Putin is open to negotiations suggested by Trump to end the war. President Zelensky suggests that Putin merely seeks legitimacy on the international stage and is willing to seek that legitimacy by sitting at the negotiating table with the likes of Trump and other negotiators. But, in the end, Zelensky says that

Putin is not to be trusted.

Whom to believe? Unfortunately, it may not matter. Trump will soon be in a position to cut aid to Ukraine and to pressure Zelensky to accept a ceasefire leading to a peace, however ephemeral that may be, to save his nation. The quid pro quo will likely be giving up NATO membership forever, and perhaps even cession of part of its wheat fields.

But, if one thinks that Putin is ready to capitulate to Trump, think again. President-elect Trump's call for restraint by Putin was met with a heavy missile barrage sent into Ukraine.

## The Middle East & Taiwan

In the Middle East, news came that Qatar had asked Hamas leaders to leave the Gulf state. There is also news that Iran and Hezbollah are ready to accept a ceasefire. Israel, as one might expect, shows little interest, but that is the posture they must take. After all, the idea that any ceasefire would simply allow Iran to replenish its proxies and from them to reconstitute and rearm has to be anathema to Israel.

One can be sure there is change afoot. Expect Trump to tighten sanctions on Iran and squeeze as much as he can of its revenue. Saudi Arabia faces the prospect of dwindling cash reserves as the price of oil has dropped dramatically. Expect to see more pressure on Saudi Arabia to establish formal relations with Israel.

Taiwan remains a dangerous spot in the world. No one knows what President Xi will attempt in terms of isolating, or simply conquering the island. President-elect Trump has expressed disdain for Taiwan's expectations of American support, even accusing the island nation of stealing America's chips business.

At this point, it is difficult to tell if Trump as President is going to cause more chaos at home than turmoil abroad. But it seems we are all in for an interesting ride.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



Milan Meetarbhan

# Given the challenges our nation faces... there will be no time for our leaders to engage in “witch-hunting” or “une politique de vengeance”

**T**he recent general elections in Mauritius, culminating in a sweeping victory for the *Alliance du Changement*, have sparked widespread discussions about their implications for the nation's political landscape. The unexpected scale of the alliance's triumph has raised pressing questions about the factors that influenced this outcome and the lessons it holds for the political establishment moving forward.

To delve deeper into these issues, we sought the insights of Milan Meetarbhan, who offers in this candid interview, a nuanced analysis of the electoral dynamics, the implications of controversial revelations, and the challenges facing the newly elected government as it seeks to address pressing economic, institutional, and democratic challenges.

This interview not only sheds light on the key takeaways from the 2024 elections but also examines broader issues such as governance, accountability, and Mauritius' place in the global arena...

**Mauritius Times:** It might be necessary to look into the rear-view mirror to better understand the reasons behind the largely unexpected sweeping victory of the 'Alliance du Changement' in the 2024 general elections and the lessons it holds for the political establishment across the board moving forward. What is your opinion on these two aspects

**Milan Meetarbhan:** I am not sure that anyone can dispassionately assess so early after the elections the reasons why there was such a massive swing from one election to another.

«When voters are unhappy with a government's performance, no matter what promises are made, allowances are granted, however much the opposition is vilified and freedom of expression is stifled, voters will bring down the government. In fact, the last-ditch efforts of a government that has lost the trust of the people can only make matters worse for that government as such moves are seen by the people as acts of desperation and acts of oppression...»

However, objectively at this stage the fact that this time there was a two-cornered fight whereas in 2019 it was a three-cornered fight might be one partial explanation. But then in 2014 there was a similar two-cornered fight with more or less the same protagonists and the result was very different. Another objective fact is that the MSM was reported to have obtained 37% of the vote at the last election but about 10% less this time round.



So, in spite of all the freebies, the use of government machinery, the perversion of the role of the MBC, and so on, the MSM has lost 10% of its voters (maybe even more as it did not have the PMSD as its ally at the 2019 election and the PMSD may have its own share of the vote in the

Alliance Lepep's score in 2024).

The main lesson that the political class as a whole must draw from the results is that when voters are unhappy with a government's performance, no matter what promises are made, allowances are granted, however much

the opposition is vilified and freedom of expression is stifled, voters will bring down the government. In fact, the last-ditch efforts of a government that has lost the trust of the people can only make matters worse for that government as such moves are seen by the people as acts of desperation and acts of oppression.

\* In hindsight, it's clear that the last-minute dynamics in the final days leading up to election day, coupled with the evidence in the 'Missié Moustass' leaks which confirmed what were long suspected, played a crucial role in bringing down the MSM government. Do you think these revelations will have a lasting impact on the political landscape, or will they eventually fade into the background?

«It must be stressed that the proper conduct of polling and counting is not sufficient to declare that an election was free and fair. What happens before polling is also very important. If in the weeks and months preceding the elections, there is an abuse of the government machinery, misuse of public funds by a ruling party, gross manipulation of the state broadcaster, these are crucial in determining whether elections anywhere meet global norms governing elections...»

I am not sure that these revelations played a crucial role or not. The tide had swung against the government before the 'Missié Moustass' leaks. Whether these leaks amplified the swing is another matter — which time will tell.

But what these leaks did were to confirm what many people suspected, expose corrupt practices, expose the vulgarity, racism and manoeuvring of those in power - officially or unofficially. People were shocked at what they heard.

I do not believe that the shock and awe will fade so soon, and the reputation and/or careers of some individuals may have suffered irreparable harm.



# 'When voters are unhappy with a government's performance, no matter what promises are made, they will bring down the government'

☞ Cont. from page 9

**\* However, whether they fade or not, such illegal recordings of conversations — or phone tapping, to be more precise — could become a double-edged sword in the months and years ahead, potentially creating challenges not only for the new government but for any government, don't you think?**

It must also be said that the leaks raised serious issues about unlawful acts, which expose facts about those in power and enable voters to make informed decisions at elections. This is a debate which other nations have had before. We talk about protection for whistle blowers because we believe that at times exposing malpractices, albeit through unlawful means, may serve the public good. Where should the line be drawn? Certainly, exposing private lives may be a red line. But, on the other hand, should exposing corruption, abuse of power, or the condoning and concealing of criminal acts justify granting protection to whistleblowers?

The recent events will serve as a stark reminder to those in positions of power at any point in time that corrupt practices and abuse of power may come to the surface at any time. People in power may feel that they have immunity because they control the system. But tools available with modern technology and greater awareness of the population at large, mean that they can still be held accountable at any time.

**\* There's been a lot of debate in recent years about how far elections in Mauritius are free and fair. Would you say that the 2024 elections were free and fair?**

There is no doubt that the extent to which there was "vigilance" with respect to both polling and counting for the 2024 elections is unprecedented. This occurred as a result of the awareness created specially by Navin Ramgoolam over the years with regard to the electoral process.

A team set up by Dr Ramgoolam examined each and every step of the process over several months and recommendations were made to the Electoral Commissioner. In addition, training was organised for agents in every constituency since the beginning of the year. The extent to which people were sufficiently aware of risks to spontaneously gather around polling/counting centres in various constituencies, the day before polling was really surprising.

Did the enhanced "vigilance" of agents and citizens ensure that the results of the 2024 elections reflected the

☞ **It is amazing how after some pundits had divided the country into two distinct political zones, the urban and rural zones and the notorious "4 à 14" with all its undertones, voters in every constituency across the island irrespective of demographic or other consideration voted in exactly the same way. The share of the vote in every constituency is almost the same and the margin between the Alliance du Changement and the Alliance Lepep is almost the same in every constituency...»**



will of the people is something that will no doubt be studied by scholars and others in future.

However, it must be stressed that the proper conduct of polling and counting is not sufficient to declare that an election was free and fair. What happens before polling is also very important. If in the weeks and months preceding the elections, there is an abuse of the government machinery, misuse of public funds by a ruling party, gross manipulation of the state broadcaster, these are crucial in determining whether elections anywhere meet global norms governing elections.

**\* What about the view that the electoral outcome reflects a resurgence of "Mauritianism", as some have suggested? Or could this be merely wishful political correctness, masking what was simply a rejection of the abusive and autocratic system established and maintained by the former regime?**

I believe it is amazing how after some pundits had divided the country into two distinct political zones, the urban and rural zones and the notorious "4 à 14" with all its undertones, voters in every constituency across the island irrespective of demographic or other consideration voted in exactly the same way. The share of the vote in every constituency is almost the same and the margin between the Alliance du Changement and the Alliance Lepep is almost the same in every constituency.

This is remarkable. It shows that when it comes to certain core issues, which were canvassed in the last electoral campaign, there is far wider consensus across the

board than some may think.

**\* With a new team in power, the issues of retribution and witch-hunting are bound to arise. While victims of the former regime are justified in seeking justice for past wrongs, it is likely that many who voted the MSM-led alliance out of power would prefer to focus on building a better future rather than revisiting the wrongs of the past decade through another cycle of political vendettas. What are your thoughts on balancing the pursuit of justice with the need to move forward?**

I believe that the challenges facing our nation right now, whether it's on the economic front or rebuilding institutions and confidence, are such that there will be no time for our leaders to engage in what you call "witch-hunting" or what has been described as "une politique de vengeance."

☞ **The tide had swung against the government before the 'Missié Moustass' leaks. Whether these leaks amplified the swing is another matter — which time will tell. But what these leaks did were to confirm what many people suspected, expose corrupt practices, expose the vulgarity, racism and manoeuvring of those in power — officially or unofficially. People were shocked at what they heard. I do not believe that the shock and awe will fade so soon, and the reputation and/or careers of some individuals may have suffered irreparable harm...»**

However, these same leaders should not intervene in the work being carried out by professional, independent and impartial officials at the helm of enforcement agencies. They should not either instigate inquiries or stop inquiries. They have to allow justice to follow its course. This is what democracy and rule of law are all about.

If criminal offences have been committed and these meet the criteria which the Office of the DPP have always applied to decide on whether to prosecute or not, then the prosecution should proceed without any political interference.

Politicians should let revamped enforcement agencies do their work, and they should focus on addressing the serious challenges which our country is facing.

**\* There is clearly much work to be done across various sectors and at multiple levels, including assessing the current state of the economy and other key areas, redefining goals and objectives, and building effective teams, among other priorities. However, the public would expect to see tangible changes and results quickly. Do you see the government able to balance the need for restructuring and reform with the public's demand for immediate results?**

In any country when the people give such a substantial majority to a government, the expectations are very high.

☞ Cont. on page 11



# The 'Missié Moustass' leaks: 'The reputation/careers of some individuals may have suffered irreparable harm'

☞ Cont. from page 10

Concerns about cost of living, law and order and institutions are such that the people will expect immediate measures. In some cases, a change in personnel can on its own have a significant impact. In other cases, legislative reforms may be needed and will take some time.

On the economic front, some measures may be taken within a relatively short lapse of time, but they will not yield immediate results. It will be for the government to come clean and explain to the people what measures are being taken, what are their implications and what time it will take for positive outcomes.

**\* Constitutional reform will take some time, but one would expect quick results in the justice system, as well as in the fight against corruption and money laundering as well as the level of other major institutions. Do you think the new government can deliver tangible progress in these areas within the expected timeframe?**

Many reforms will require prior consultations with the people, and these are then followed by policy formulation and, where necessary, legal drafting. These will take time. The Government manifesto proposes major new pillars of development.

The manifesto also acknowledges that establishing these ambitious new sectors of the economy will take time. The necessary legal frameworks have to be put in place, the skill sets required will have to be available through proper training, the investments required will have to be secured.

All these will take time, but the government will have to be candid with the people, explain what is being done and periodically report on progress.

**\* There is also much to be done in terms of consolidating our democracy, protecting freedom of speech, and ensuring broader political participation. How do you think the new government can effectively address these challenges while maintaining stability?**



«The two seasoned leaders at the helm of government would no doubt also want to reconstruct what has been destroyed and make sure that the country can restore its reputation and the confidence of investors. But, as you

rightly say, the challenges and constraints that lie ahead cannot be ascertained yet. As the new government unravels what may have been concealed from the people, it may have to overcome several obstacles on its path to implement its policies...»

It is common knowledge that Mauritius has performed less well on various global indices on democracy over the last few years. The country expects that the new government will work to restore our image and performance in terms of respect for fundamental rights and democratic norms.

The new government's manifesto promised wider consultations with stakeholders, civil society and the public at large. I believe that the motto has to be **Participative and Inclusive Democracy**.

The government also undertook in its manifesto to introduce protection of new fundamental rights to include the new generation of rights. I hope that these will considerably improve enforceable constitutional rights in the country.

**\* The issue of the Mauritius-UK deal has resurfaced — possibly for review or even rejection — following the election of Donald Trump. Mauritius' diplomacy will face significant challenges in salvaging the deal if the new government wishes to pursue it. What are your thoughts on this matter?**

«The challenges facing our nation right now, whether it's on the economic front or rebuilding institutions and confidence, are such that there will be no time for our leaders to engage in what you call "witch-hunting" or what has been described as "une politique de vengeance." However, these same leaders should not intervene in the work being carried out by professional, independent and impartial officials at the helm of enforcement agencies. They should not either instigate inquiries or stop inquiries...»

The UK government has publicly stated that the "agreement" on Chagos announced before the Mauritian elections was a political statement and that negotiations on a future treaty will start after the elections. In the meantime there is a new President who has been elected in the US.

Though any future treaty will formally be one between the UK and Mauritius, we know that in fact it will in essence be a trilateral one. The new US administration may take a different view or at the very least may require more time to study the terms of any agreement. Of course, we have a new government as well and the Mauritian government may need time to take stock of what has happened so far and decide on the way forward.

We know that, following the election of President Trump, conservative forces in the UK and the US have been forceful in advocating the status quo regarding the Chagos. Their scaremongering tactics may influence the stance taken by the new US administration after January 20.

**\* Do you anticipate any shift in the diplomatic**

«Many observers have said that Mauritius has not had a proper foreign policy for some time now.

We have to modernise and upgrade our foreign service and better equip our professionals to deal with both conventional diplomacy and economic diplomacy. Whilst we need to

consolidate our relations with our traditional partners, it is also important that we take our relations with coastal states of the Indian Ocean and with the African continent to another level...»



approach taken by the previous government, particularly regarding relations with the Western world and Asia?

I believe that the country expects the new government to redefine the role of the foreign service as it has promised to do in its manifesto. Many observers have said that Mauritius has not had a proper foreign policy for some time now. We have to modernise and upgrade our foreign service and better equip our professionals to deal with both conventional diplomacy and economic diplomacy.

Whilst we need to consolidate our relations with our traditional partners, it is also important that we take our relations with coastal states of the Indian Ocean and with the African continent to another level. Climate change and climate finance are crucial issues for us as a small island state and these are issues which require domestic policies and measures, but which rely extensively on regional and international cooperation.

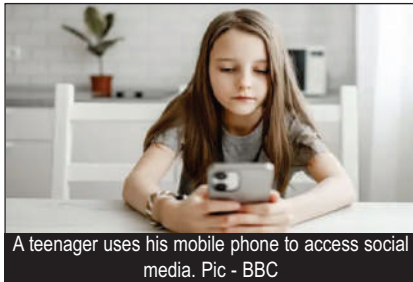
**\* The 'Manifeste Électoral' of the Alliance du Changement will serve as a roadmap for the new government's intended actions. While it is impossible to predict or judge the challenges that may arise, it is likely that the leaders of the LP and MMM will want to leave a lasting legacy, ensuring there is no repeat of their earlier unsuccessful alliance, don't you think?**

I believe the leadership of the Alliance partners and the parliamentary group as a whole will be fully aware of the immense responsibility, they have towards the nation which has given them such a clear and decisive mandate. In addition, as you say, the two seasoned leaders at the helm of government would no doubt also want to reconstruct what has been destroyed and make sure that the country can restore its reputation and the confidence of investors.

But, as you rightly say, the challenges and constraints that lie ahead cannot be ascertained yet. As the new government unravels what may have been concealed from the people, it may have to overcome several obstacles on its path to implement its policies.



## Australia tables bill; UK plans to block social media for children under 16



A teenager uses his mobile phone to access social media. Pic - BBC

The UK government is contemplating a ban on social media for children under 16, following in Australia's footsteps.

UK Technology Secretary Peter Kyle stated that he would "do what it takes" to ensure online safety, especially for children, according to reports from Hindustan Times. Referring to the Australian move, Kyle said, "Everything is on the table with me," but added that he wanted to see more evidence before taking action.

Kyle also announced plans for further research into the effects of smartphones and social media on young people, admitting there is currently "no firm, peer-reviewed evidence."

In a "letter of strategic intent" to media regulator Ofcom, Kyle outlined his priorities as the regulator takes on

new powers under the Online Safety Act (OSA).

### Australia introduces world-first law to block social media for under-16s

Australia's Communications Minister Michelle Rowland introduced a world-first law in Parliament on Thursday, aiming to block children under 16 from using social media. The bill seeks to address growing concerns over online safety, particularly for parents.

"This bill establishes a new societal norm that social media access should not define growing up in Australia," Rowland said, pointing to the risks of unfiltered and endless content exposure for young users.

The proposal has garnered wide political support, and if passed, platforms will have a year to implement the restrictions. Australia is also working on measures to block access to online pornography for users under 18.

### Social media giants face \$33 million fines under Australia's ban

Platforms like TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X, and Instagram could face fines of up to USD 33

million for failing to prevent young children from creating accounts.

"The legislation places the onus on social media platforms, not parents or children, to ensure protections are in place," Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said in a statement. "Ultimately, this is about supporting a safer and healthier online environment for young Australians."

Rowland highlighted the dangers of social media for teenagers, noting that nearly two-thirds of 14- to 17-year-olds are exposed to harmful content, including drug abuse, self-harm, and violent material. A quarter have encountered content promoting unsafe eating habits.

### Some Online Apps Excluded from Ban

The ban excludes messaging apps, online games, and platforms focused on health and education. Rowland explained that these services do not rely on algorithms that curate harmful content or manipulate users for endless engagement.

Experts have raised concerns about isolating teenagers aged 14 and 15 from their online social circles. Rowland acknowledged these concerns but emphasized the need for safety.

## Russia fires intercontinental ballistic missile at Ukraine, claims Kyiv

Ukraine's use of US-British missiles on Russian targets earlier this week prompted Moscow to warn of escalation in the 33-month conflict before the ICBM launch.

Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during an attack on Ukraine, marking the first use of such a powerful, nuclear-capable weapon in the ongoing conflict, Reuters quoted Ukraine's air force.

The air force said the missile targeted the city of Dnipro in an early morning strike on Thursday. A source confirmed to AFP that this was the first deployment of this weapon by Russia since the war began in 2022, reports Hindustan Times.

The launch followed Ukraine's use of US and British missiles against targets inside Russia earlier in the week, which Moscow had warned would be seen as a significant escalation in the 33-month conflict.

Russia, which started the war in February 2022, has not yet responded to the Ukrainian air force's statement.



Firefighters at the site of a missile strike in Dnipro, Ukraine, on Thursday. Pic - Reuters

### Russian missile attack

Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are strategic weapons primarily designed to carry nuclear warheads and form a key part of Russia's nuclear deterrent.

However, Ukraine did not specify the missile type or the warhead it carried, but there was no indication it was nuclear-armed.

The Russian attack targeted critical infrastructure and industrial sites in Dnipro, a city in central-eastern Ukraine, according to the air force.

The air force did not clarify the missile's specific target or the extent of damage caused. However, the regional governor confirmed that the strike damaged an industrial facility and triggered fires in Dnipro, injuring two people.

Russia also launched a Kinzhal hypersonic missile and seven Kh-101 cruise missiles during the attack, with six of the cruise missiles intercepted, according to Ukraine's air force.

The air force said, "In particular, an intercontinental ballistic missile was launched from the Astrakhan region of the Russian Federation," but did not specify the type of ICBM used.

### Russia-Ukraine war

Tensions escalated this week as the war reached its 1,000th day. On Wednesday, Russian war correspondents on Telegram and an anonymous official claimed that Kyiv launched British Storm Shadow cruise missiles into Russia's Kursk region, which borders Ukraine.

A spokesperson for Ukraine's General Staff said he had no information about the incident, and Russia did not immediately confirm the strikes. The extent of any resulting damage remains unclear.

On Tuesday, Ukraine used US-supplied ATACMS missiles against Russia, following approval from US President Joe Biden. This decision comes just two months before Biden leaves office, with Donald Trump preparing to return to the White House.

\* Contd on page 13

## International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant against Netanyahu

The International Criminal Court on Thursday issued arrest warrants against Israel prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former defence minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leader Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, Reuters reported.

The move comes after the ICC prosecutor Karim Khan on May 20 announced that he was seeking arrest warrants for alleged crimes linked to the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and Tel Aviv's military action in Gaza, reports Hindustan Times.

"The Chamber considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that both individuals intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, and medicine and medical supplies, as well as fuel and electricity," the three-judge panel wrote in its unanimous decision to issue warrants.

The ICC said Israel's acceptance of the court's jurisdiction was not



Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Pic -Reuters

required.

Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the ICC and has denied war crimes in Gaza. It has claimed to have killed Al-Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif, in airstrike but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied the claims.

Israel is not a member state of the court. The country has struggled to investigate itself in the past, rights groups say.

### Israel-Hamas conflict

At least 44,056 people have been killed in the conflict in Gaza since October 7 last year, Hamas regime's

health ministry said.

The toll includes 71 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry, which said 104,268 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip.

The war began when Hamas stormed into southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250.

Dozens of people were killed or unaccounted for after Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip, said a hospital director and the civil defence agency.



## Bracing for Trump tariffs, China's Xi makes diplomatic push at global summits

In the wake of Donald Trump's reelection, Chinese President Xi Jinping has embarked on an ambitious diplomatic offensive, anticipating new trade tariffs and positioning China to take advantage of potential rifts between the U.S. and its allies. At several high-profile international summits, including the EC meeting in Peru and the G20 in Brazil, Xi sought to present himself as a stable, multilateral champion in stark contrast to Trump's "America First" policy.

Trump has already pledged to impose tariffs on Chinese imports exceeding 60%, and economists expect tariffs to rise to nearly 40%, potentially cutting 1% from China's GDP growth. These anticipated tariffs come on top of existing economic pressures, such as a severe property crisis that has slowed China's economy.

### A shift in China's diplomacy

During recent global gatherings, there was a noticeable shift in China's approach to diplomacy. Diplomats and negotiators from various countries observed that Chinese officials were engaging in more constructive dialogue and focusing on broader international consensus rather than pursuing narrow national interests. This change in posture is seen as part of

China's strategy to hedge against U.S. protectionism while reinforcing its position as a global leader.

In particular, China has focused much of its outreach on the Global South, positioning itself as a defender of globalization. This messaging is likely aimed at countering growing fears in developing countries about the resurgence of trade tariffs, particularly under Trump's influence. China's state-run media has praised the inclusion of the African Union in the G20, underscoring the importance of giving voice to the Global South. As China expands its influence in developing economies, it has been able to offer the kind of investment and trade deals that the U.S. has struggled to match, largely due to China's state-driven economic model.

### Seeking cooperation with Europe and the Global South

China's diplomatic push has extended to European nations, many of which have also felt the sting of Trump's tariffs. European leaders, facing the threat of U.S. tariffs, have been more open to cooperating with China. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed interest in resolving the ongoing dispute between the EU and China over Chinese electric



Xi Jinping and Donald Trump. Pic - Reuters

vehicles, signalling a willingness to work toward a mediated solution. Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer emphasized a desire for broader engagement with China, particularly in areas such as trade, climate change, and scientific cooperation.

Shen Dingli, an international relations scholar from Shanghai, noted that while European countries may not fully embrace China in the face of Trump's protectionist policies, they are nonetheless more inclined to cooperate with Beijing. This marks a shift in the global diplomatic landscape, where China is increasingly seen as a potential counterbalance to U.S. trade aggression.

### Limits to China's Diplomacy

While China has made significant strides in expanding its influence through

initiatives like the Belt and Road, its relationships in its neighborhood remain fraught with tension. In particular, ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea have strained relations with the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations, undermining Beijing's efforts to position itself as a unifying global force.

"China's outreach could face significant obstacles," said Shi Yinong, a professor at Renmin University in Beijing. He pointed to the many conflicts involving China, including the war in Ukraine and tensions over Taiwan, as areas where China's diplomacy is unlikely to result in meaningful concessions from the West.

Moreover, China's economic challenges, including a slowing growth rate, may limit its ability to provide the same level of investment and influence in the Global South as it has in the past. Despite offering billions of dollars in infrastructure projects, some countries in the developing world are wary of becoming too dependent on China. For example, Brazil has expressed concerns over the unequal nature of its trade relationship with China and has resisted joining China's Belt and Road Initiative, highlighting a desire for a more balanced partnership.

## Spain to grant residency and work permits to hundreds of thousands of migrants

Spain is set to grant residency and work permits to approximately 300,000 migrants currently residing in the country illegally, with the policy slated to take effect in May next year. This initiative, announced by Spain's Migration Minister Elma Saiz, is expected to run for three years and aims to address the country's labor shortages, particularly in light of its aging population.

The new policy will simplify visa procedures for both short- and long-term migrants, allowing more seamless integration into the legal workforce. It will also provide additional protections to workers, particularly those in vulnerable positions. Previously, migrants had access to a temporary three-month visa, but under the new policy, they will be granted work permits for up to one year.

Spain has long maintained an open stance towards migration, especially compared to other European nations that have increasingly sought to tighten borders in response to illegal crossings and asylum seekers. According to Saiz, the new measure is not only about enriching Spain's cultural landscape but also a necessary step for its economic prosperity. "Today, we can say



African migrants from the Las Raíces camp in La Laguna watch a plane take off at Tenerife North Airport, on the island of Tenerife, Spain. Pic - Reuters

Spain is a better country," she told Radio Nacional de España.

The country faces a significant demographic challenge due to its low birthrate, which has led to a workforce shortage. To sustain its welfare state, Spain needs around 250,000 registered foreign workers annually, and the new policy is aimed at meeting this demand. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has framed his government's immigration policies as a response to this issue, recognizing that migrant labor is critical to Spain's economic growth.

The new immigration reform also comes in response to the growing number of migrants arriving through Spain's Canary Islands, a key entry point for people fleeing conflict or seeking better economic opportunities. In August, Sánchez visited three West African nations to address irregular migration, particularly from countries such as

Mali, Senegal, and Mauritania. Many young migrants make perilous sea voyages to the Canary Islands, hoping to find work or escape political instability.

In 2023, around 54,000 migrants reached Spain by land or sea by mid-November. Though the exact number of undocumented migrants is unclear, many of them work in Spain's underground economy, taking on low-paying yet essential jobs such as fruit picking, caregiving, and delivery driving. These workers often face exploitation and lack legal protections, making them vulnerable to abuse.

The new policy is designed to combat such exploitation by giving migrants legal status, thereby preventing abuse by criminal organizations and fraudulent employers. It is also seen as a step towards reducing the influence of human trafficking mafias.

Spain's economy has experienced significant growth in 2023, partly driven by immigration and a rebound in tourism. The country issued 1.3 million visas to foreign nationals this year, highlighting the vital role of migrants in Spain's economic recovery and its ongoing prosperity.

## Sharon Stone to Cher, celebs planning to leave US under Donald Trump's presidency

Many A-list celebrities have expressed their wish to leave the United States with Donald Trump in office. A number of celebrities have vowed to leave the country rather than stay while Trump rules.

Several celebrities have said that they would want to leave America and look for a new life overseas ahead of Trump being sworn in as the 47th US president. In fact, many of these celebs made their intentions clear before the election, reports Hindustan Times.

Sharon Stone has revealed that she is considering a house in Italy, and Cher, too, revealed she would take drastic steps. Both Raven-Symoné and Miranda Maday also said they would leave if Trump won again, with Raven-Symoné saying Canada would be their choice of refuge.

America Ferrera is also planning to live away from the US, with reports suggesting she may be considering the UK as her new home. Minnie Driver expressed her desire to return to the UK after living in Los Angeles for nearly three decades.

Whoopi Goldberg has repeatedly said on her show that she would want to leave the US, and even Cardi B hinted in a recent post that she considers moving out. Despite Elon Musk's support for Trump, his transgender daughter, Vivian Wilson, joined the crowd of people who are willing to relocate outside of the US.

People looking to move out might want to relocate to countries that offer low housing rates, easy ways to gain residency, a strong economy and more. Moreover, they would possibly want to go to a place where the politics are better aligned with their personal views.

There are several ways Americans can secure entry into another country. They can use different means, such as securing a visa, procuring a golden visa, or relying on ancestry links.



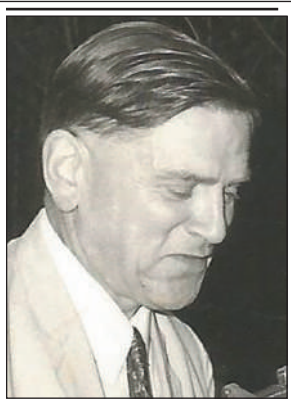
From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 289

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 11 March, 1960

• "It is no such heinous matter to fall afflicted, as being down, to lie dejected." — Saint Chrysostom



Peter Ibbotson

Bit by bit, news of the widespread destruction wrought by Carol has leaked through despite the disruption to normal channels of communication. Truly was Carol a terrible ordeal, especially coming as it did on the heels of Alix, before in fact the disruption of the first cyclone had been repaired.

At the time at which I write, the total of the destruction, in lives, in property, in agricultural production, is

unknown. Certainly, the effect of the two cyclones together.

- indeed, of Carol alone — is the most terrible disaster which Mauritius has faced, "The worst since 1892" is the commonest description of the second cyclone; but in view of the greatly increased population and the present economic state of Mauritius, I would suggest that in its effect Carol outstrips the 1892 cyclone as a disaster.

Sympathy for Mauritius is widespread. It is of course well-known by now that the Colonial Office had agreed to grant £2 million in respect of the first cyclone; this will be greatly augmented, of course, now that Carol has struck.

Mr Wilson has described the grant of £2 million as "most generous" — I agree. For once I do not agree with the attitude of the British Labour Party as expressed in Parliament, that the Government has been niggardly over the grant. If no further grant would be forthcoming, there would be cause for grumbles; but further grants will assuredly be made. The whole cost of the two cyclones is far too much for one small territory to bear. I should hazard a guess that another £3 million will be forthcoming.

The British press has given widespread publicity to the ordeal and plight of Mauritius in its successive calamities.

## Let Us Pray



Pic - Vintage Mauritius

The *Daily Telegraph* front-paged the news on February 29 and followed this with a long report and a leading article on March 1. The *Daily Mail* was able to print, on March 1, a letter describing the first cyclone; a letter from Mrs Sonia Manton (of Hamstead, now living in Mauritius with her husband) to her mother. Mrs Manton graphically described the night-long terror of Alix; and this description will do much to bring home to readers of the *Daily Mail* the ordeal which all Mauritians have gone through.

When I telephoned all the national dailies to ask that they publicise the Governor's Relief Fund, I met everywhere with sympathetic hearing; and in the *News-Chronicle*, *Daily Herald*, and *Daily Mirror* I saw the fund (with the address for donations from the UK) referred to. On February 29, the news stories referred to the fact of the cyclone and its effects; on March 1, the fact common to all

was the chronic food shortage. Typical was this headline in the *Daily Mail*: 'Homeless Roam City Without Bread'.

As well as the *Daily Telegraph* the *Daily Express* had a brief editorial comment, headed 'Proud to Help'. It referred

to the grant of £2 million and the cruiser *Gambia* and said, "Mauritius is far away, but it is British".

The extent of the damage is not yet fully known. But it can be said that Mauritius, having pulled itself up by its bootstraps during the last 15 years, is now — because of natural causes — once again on its beam-ends. Hard work and privation are the immediate prospect for the whole island; everyone must now sink his differences and pull together for the sake of the common weal. Master and man; employer and employee; labourer, Etat major

and plantocracy — all have but one task: the rebuilding of Mauritius out of the ruins of Alix and Carol.

"We sink or swim together" is the choice facing everyone. Political differences must be sunk until the task of rebuilding is well under way. It looks as though the plans for long-term development must be postponed — though I hope not. But for a while there will inevitably have to be a period of marking time in the progress of Mauritius. But just as after the decade of disasters in the 1890s Mauritius grew prosperous once again, then assuredly after these two disasters and the lean year ahead Mauritius will once again progress and prosper anew.

Let us all hope and pray that such will indeed be the case.

## Destruction... Hope and Reconstruction

Cyclone Carol spared nothing: Its wrath was let loose as if to destroy and where that was not possible to paralyse everything. Together with the hundred thousands victims the *Mauritius Times* had a fair share of disaster; that is why we are appearing today after fifteen days. We have no doubt that our readers and advertisers will appreciate our difficulties. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we renew our weekly contact with our readers. Although belatedly we wish to tender, today, our heartfelt sympathies to all those who have suffered either through the loss of relatives or through loss of all their belongings. The tragedy of Pointe aux Sables, a man's whole family was drowned, has saddened the country as a whole.

So, here we are today surrounded by ruins and deep in the grasp of a corroding despair. Death and destruction came in all their ghastliness bringing demoralisation in

their wake. Forty-one persons have died, more than 100,000 are homeless, our industry has been shaken: this is the result of a ten-hour cyclone, the kind of which the country has never witnessed before. Had this prosperous, sweet little Island which has been struggling to improve its conditions and claim its rightful place in the world become the envy of the Gods? Why should we be made to bear so brutally the wrath of nature? There is no use setting ourselves this type of question. It's futile. Indeed, it is a sheer waste of time to quarrel with happenings beyond human control. We all well know that the sight around us is enough to make us despair, but we can't afford to cry over spilt milk. We have to reconstruct; we must rise out of the ruins in which we are. At the bar of history, we shall be judged not by the extent of the damage we have suffered or by the amount of help we shall receive from friends and benefactors: we shall be judged by the efforts we shall put in to rebuild our country.

We had not yet recovered from the losses of cyclone Alix when we were so severely hit by cyclone Carol. The problems facing the Government are therefore complex. In view of a disaster of such magnitude two sets of problems cropped up. First, emergency measures had to be taken to restore normal life and, second, the decision had to be taken to reorient the Government's housing policy.

The Government, in conjunction with one or two charitable institutions, have taken excellent measures to allay the sufferings of the refugees. Shelter was provided in every village, and in places where there were no refugee centres camps were put up immediately. The flow of rice and bread to refugee centres was continuous. The health authorities were alert, there is no danger of epidemics breaking out. Large scale vaccination has been started. The idea of putting up temporary shelters to house the refugees is praiseworthy but it

must be done as quickly as possible. Also, no shelters should be built on school premises. There is one point which we feel must be taken up immediately by the Government: steps must be taken to provide work for the people. There should be less reliance on charity. The Government's motto should be: Let's help the people to earn their living.

Regarding the long-term policy it seems that we'll have to wait till the arrival of the housing experts. However, we must make it clear right from now that we must have a comprehensive housing programme — a programme which will fit in with our present standard of living.

In conclusion we would like to make the following suggestion to Government: Government workers should be given a month's salary in advance. Whether we like it or not, Government servants are entitled to this sympathy from Government. They have worked selflessly during the cyclone and they too have suffered losses in one way or the other. Given the present circumstances they are bound to run into debts.



# An Outstanding Victory

By Feroze Bundhun  
London

“Revenge is a dish best served cold,” says the proverb. The new PM has plenty of time to let it chill properly before exacting his retributions for all the indignities he endured over the past ten years at the hands of a regime that, as we now know, bordered on fascism, reminiscent of the North Korean model — nothing less! Appropriately enough, the party of the Jugnauths was named ‘MSM’ or “*Mouvement Sans Moralité*.” Dr Ramgoolam faced no fewer than ten criminal charges after the 2014 elections; all were

The new government has clearly stated its aims of restoring democracy, liberty, and personal freedom, beginning with the immediate dismantling of phone tapping. Undoubtedly, our new leaders face the enormous task of repairing the economy, which will take time. However, for those guilty of serious crimes, the reckoning has already begun. The new Prime Minister will not engage in petty matters but is firmly committed to repairing the damage done to our institutions. He is not driven by vengeance — only a determination to restore trust and respect in these institutions.

His long experience at the head of government suggests he is fully capable of



dismissed by the courts, one after another. It takes significant moral strength to survive such immense political pressure, endure imprisonment, and still live to fight another day — even if it is a decade later.

The new PM is not a petty politician who would waste time on vendettas against yesterday's opponents. He has more important work in hand, for instance: reforming the Constitution by abolishing the Vice-Presidency, the best loser system, and introducing proportional representation to avoid a repeat of the 60-0 outcome, where the winner takes all in a First-Past-The-Post system. He greatly admires the Constitution and the country's institutions. He will surely erase all remnants of fascism — a political ideology marked by a dictatorial leader who suppresses opposition and dissent, subordinating individual interests to his own or his cronies' benefit.

The PM should also seriously consider abolishing all forms of discrimination in public life, whether based on religion, gender, caste, or ethnicity — not least because he won the election on a mandate of unity. The best loser system is an anachronistic remnant of the colonial era, and now is the perfect time to restore equality of opportunity in all walks of life.

achieving his goals with relative ease, especially in partnership with Paul Bérenger, with whom he ran the election on a “dream ticket.” His reforms will likely consign opposition parties such as PMSD, Linion Reform, etc., to the dustbin of history — if not voluntarily, then forcibly — thus ending the solipsistic approach to politics in our country once and for all.

We wish the new government every success in its efforts to end the climate of fear we have endured for the past decade.

## BUILDING & LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that I, **Mr Kevin Gooljar** will apply to the District Council of Rivière Du Rempart for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed Hydroponic Construction of Bottling Plant Plan at Jootun Lane, Roche Noires.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 15 days as from the date of this publication.

22 November 2024



## Tree of Knowledge

### The Wisdom of Surrender

**Resistance tends to strengthen the energies it attempts to oppose by giving them power and energy**

**W**e all know the feeling of being haunted by an issue, no matter how hard we try to ignore it, avoid it, or run away from it. Sometimes it seems that we can get rid of something we don't want by simply pushing it away. Most of the time, though, the more we push, the more we get pushed back. There are laws of physics and metaphysics that explain this phenomenon, which is often summed up in this pithy phrase: that which you resist persists.

Resistance can even strengthen the thoughts and feelings it is attempting to fight by giving them power and energy. Additionally, resistance keeps us from learning more about what we are trying to avoid. In order to fully understand something, we must be open to receive some of its energy. Otherwise, we remain ignorant of its lessons. There is a Tibetan story of a monk who retreats to meditate in a cave only to be plagued by demons. He tries everything — chasing, fighting, hiding — to

get the demons out of his cave, but the thing that finally works is surrender. He simply lets them have their way and only then do they disappear.

Now, this wisdom must be applied practically. We are not meant to get ourselves physically injured. Instead, this story speaks to our inner demons. What plagues and pursues us in our minds has a way of manifesting itself in our environment, in the form of people, events, and issues that appear to be beyond our control. But all these external expressions are reflections of our insides, and it is inside ourselves that we can safely experiment with surrendering to what we fear and dislike. It may feel scary, and we may find ourselves in the company of a lot of resistance as we begin the process of opening up to what we fear. But the more we learn to surrender, the more the demons that plague us disappear in the process and the more courageous we will become.

DailyOM

## Mauritius Times

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## Prix Nobel d'économie

# Pourquoi certaines nations prospèrent-elles et d'autres stagnent-elles dans la pauvreté?

**L**e 14 octobre, le prix Nobel d'économie a été attribué à Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson et James A. Robinson pour leurs recherches sur le rôle des institutions dans la prospérité des nations. Leurs travaux, combinant analyses historiques et données empiriques, offrent des éclairages précieux sur les écarts de richesses entre les pays et les défis auxquels ils sont confrontés, souvent enracinés dans l'histoire de la colonisation.

### Des institutions inclusives versus extractives

Les chercheurs montrent que la prospérité d'une nation dépend largement du type d'institutions qu'elle adopte. Les institutions inclusives, qui protègent les droits de propriété, favorisent l'État de droit et encouragent la participation économique, créent un environnement propice à la croissance. À l'inverse, les institutions extractives, conçues pour concentrer le pouvoir et les richesses entre les mains d'une élite, freinent le développement économique à long terme.

Leur analyse des expériences coloniales illustre cette dynamique. Dans les colonies où les colons européens s'installaient durablement, des institutions inclusives furent établies, jetant les bases d'un développement économique durable. En revanche, dans les régions où les conditions étaient hostiles (maladies, forte densité de population indi-



La prospérité d'une nation dépend largement du type d'institutions qu'elle adopte. P - UN

gène), des institutions extractives furent imposées, souvent marquées par l'exploitation et l'exclusion, avec des conséquences désastreuses sur la prospérité future.

### Rompre avec les institutions extractives

Un autre apport majeur des lauréats réside dans leur cadre théorique pour expliquer pourquoi certaines nations restent piégées dans des systèmes d'institutions extractives. Les élites dirigeantes, bénéficiant du statu quo, n'ont que peu d'incitations à promouvoir des réformes qui pourraient redistribuer le pouvoir et la

richesse. En revanche, la population, privée de droits politiques, manque des moyens nécessaires pour obliger les dirigeants à tenir leurs promesses de changement.

**C**ependant, lorsque les pressions sociales augmentent – souvent sous la forme de menaces révolutionnaires – les élites peuvent choisir de céder du pouvoir en introduisant des institutions démocratiques. Cela permet de rétablir une gouvernance plus équitable et de mettre en œuvre des politiques économiques plus inclusives, évitant ainsi les risques de violence ou de bouleverse-

ments sociaux.

### Enseignements pour Maurice

Ces travaux offrent des enseignements précieux pour des nations comme Maurice, où la confiance dans les institutions publiques a été mise à l'épreuve durant les dix dernières années. Le rôle des institutions comme le judiciaire, la police, la commission anti-corruption ou encore les mécanismes électoraux doit être renforcé pour garantir transparence, responsabilité et équité.

**D**es scandales récents, allant des affaires de corruption aux pertes inexplicables d'entreprises publiques, ont érodé cette confiance. Pourtant, l'histoire montre que des institutions inclusives et responsables sont essentielles pour maintenir la stabilité et promouvoir le développement.

Avec le nouveau gouvernement en place, Maurice doit donc réaffirmer son engagement envers un système institutionnel solide, où la justice et l'équité priment sur les intérêts partisans. Cela inclut non seulement une meilleure gestion des ressources publiques, mais aussi une réforme des processus démocratiques pour garantir des élections libres, transparentes et crédibles.

En s'inspirant des leçons mises en lumière par les lauréats du prix Nobel, Maurice peut tracer une voie vers un avenir où ses institutions serviront de piliers solides pour le progrès et la prospérité partagée.

A. Bartleby

#### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Your adventurous spirit craves excitement, but plan trips or activities carefully. Networking events may lead to career opportunities. Honest communication strengthens personal relationships. Stay focused on long-term goals.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 8, 14, 22, 28, 39

#### CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Your hard work begins to show results, bringing recognition. Family and close friends provide encouragement during challenges. Prioritize self-care to maintain your energy. Stay disciplined with finances for stability.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 15, 20, 27, 33

#### AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Innovation is your strength this week. Explore unconventional solutions to problems at work. Social interactions bring fresh perspectives. A slower pace in personal projects teaches patience and perseverance.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 16, 25, 31, 38

## YOUR STARS

#### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Your intuition is heightened, guiding you through decisions. Creative projects bring fulfillment and a sense of purpose. Don't let minor setbacks derail your progress. Focus on maintaining harmony in relationships.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 9, 11, 19, 26, 40

#### ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

This week brings renewed energy for tackling challenges. Focus on setting clear goals, especially at work. Personal relationships benefit from open communication. Avoid being overly assertive, and balance action with reflection.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 12, 18, 27, 33

#### TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Patience and persistence are your allies. Financial matters improve, but curb impulsive spending. Romantic connections grow stronger through small but meaningful gestures. Ground yourself with nature or a creative activity.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 6, 14, 20, 28, 36

#### GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Opportunities arise for creative expression and collaboration. Stay flexible, as plans may shift unexpectedly. A conversation with a friend or mentor could offer valuable insights. Keep an eye on your health; rest if needed.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 9, 15, 22, 30, 38

#### CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Focus on home and family this week. Resolving conflicts with compassion will bring emotional relief. Professional life shows promise but avoid taking on too much at once. A surprise event may spark joy.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 8, 16, 24, 32, 40

#### LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Your charisma shines, drawing attention and opportunities. Work projects benefit from your leadership, but teamwork is essential. Be mindful of overspending on luxury. A thoughtful gesture strengthens a close relationship.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 11, 13, 19, 25, 31

#### VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Organizing your priorities helps you achieve clarity. A career opportunity could come your way; trust your instincts when deciding. Health improves with disciplined routines. Share your thoughts with loved ones to deepen bonds.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 10, 17, 26, 34

#### LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Harmony returns to your relationships. Work on maintaining balance between personal and professional commitments. Creative endeavours flourish, making this a good time to explore new hobbies. Stay confident in negotiations.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 6, 12, 21, 29, 35

#### SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Transformation is a theme this week. Financial gains are possible but avoid risky decisions. Focus on self-awareness through journaling or meditation. Deep conversations bring clarity in close relationships.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 9, 18, 23, 30, 37



## Personality traits may influence daily physical activity and sedentary behavior

A study conducted at the Gerontology Research Centre and the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä found associations between personality traits and physical activity or sedentary behavior. The study revealed that individuals with high conscientiousness and extraversion tend to accumulate longer periods of both physical activity and sedentary behavior. Meanwhile, those with higher levels of neuroticism tend to interrupt their sedentary behavior more frequently.

The study followed participants' personality traits at ages 33, 42, 50, and 61. It formed personality profiles representing unique combinations of the traits neuroticism, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness, and agreeableness.

"We identified five personality trait profiles: resilient, brittle, overcontrolled, undercontrolled, and ordinary," says research director Katja Kokko.

In previous research based on the same data, these personality profiles were linked to self-assessed health. "Individuals who belonged to the resilient profile had the highest level of self-assessed health, while those with a brittle profile had the lowest level," Kokko adds.

This recent study is the first to combine personality trait profiles with device-based measurements of daily physical activity and sedentary behavior at age 61. It



found that personality profiles were associated with the amount of time spent in physical activity and sedentary behavior.

Individuals with a resilient profile accumulated both physical activity and sedentary behavior in longer periods, while those with a brittle profile interrupted their sedentary behavior more frequently. "The findings suggest that individuals with a resilient profile, characterized by high conscientiousness and extraversion, are more likely to engage in scheduled sports activities," says

doctoral researcher Johanna Ahola. "In contrast, people with a brittle profile, who score higher in neuroticism, may feel uncomfortable staying sedentary for long periods and prefer light activities."

Although neuroticism is often linked to higher levels of sedentary behavior, those in the brittle profile tended to interrupt their sedentary behavior more often, which can be beneficial for health.

The study also explored the relationship between personality profiles and the ratio of physical activity to sedentary behavior, which has been shown to affect mortality risk among individuals over 50. In a previous study by other researchers, the risk of mortality decreased more steeply when moderate-to-vigorous physical activity made up more than one-tenth of the time spent sedentary.

"Although there were no statistically significant differences between personality profiles in terms of the amounts of physical activity or sedentary behavior, or the ratios between the two, the results remain interesting," Ahola concludes. "In light of existing research, the ratios of individuals with resilient and ordinary profiles were particularly favorable in our study."



## Why does everything look flat even though the Earth is round?

*It's all about perspective: The higher you go, the more you can see the curve.*

Ever since the ancient Greeks first made observations of the circular Moon and the skies, scientists have known that the Earth is a sphere. We've all seen beautiful images of the Earth from space, some photographed by astronauts and others collected remotely by orbiting satellites. So why doesn't our planet look round when we're standing in a park or looking out a window?

The answer is all about perspective. Humans are pretty tiny creatures living on a really large sphere.

An average adult is between 5 feet and 6 feet 6 inches tall (1.5 to 2 meters), and kids are smaller. Imagine you're a circus acrobat standing on a ball that's about 3 feet (1 meter) wide. From on top of the ball, you would see it curving away from your feet in all directions.

Now picture a tiny fly on that circus ball. Its viewpoint would probably be a millimeter or less above the surface. Since the fly is much smaller than the ball, and its view is close to the surface, it can't see the whole ball.

The Earth is about 42 million feet (12.8 million meters) wide, and even a tall adult's viewpoint is just 6 feet (about 2 meters) above its surface. There is no way our eyes can take in the size of the spherical Earth when we are standing on it. You couldn't tell the Earth was a sphere even if you hiked to the top of Mount Everest, which is 29,035 feet (8,850 meters) above sea level.

The only way to see the curve of the Earth is to fly more than 6 miles (10 kilo-



This 2014 image of a tropical storm from the International Space Station clearly shows Earth's curvature. NOAA/Getty Images

meters) above its surface. This is because the length of the horizon that we see depends on how high we are above Earth's surface.

Standing on the ground with nothing blocking our vision, our eyes can see about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) of the horizon. That's not enough of the planet's circumference to see the horizon line begin to show off its curve. Like a fly on a circus ball, we just can't see enough of the edge where the Earth meets the sky.

To see the whole spherical planet, you would need to hitch a ride with an astronaut or on a satellite. This would give you a full view of Earth from a much greater distance.

Big commercial airliners also can fly

high enough to give glimpses of Earth's curvature, although pilots have a much better view from the front of the plane than passengers get from side windows.

### Not quite a sphere

Even from space, you wouldn't detect something important about Earth's shape: It's not perfectly round. It's actually a slightly oblate spheroid, or an ellipsoid. This means it is a little bit wider around the equator than it is tall, like a sphere that someone sat on and squashed a little bit.

This is caused by Earth's rotation, which creates centrifugal force – the same force that would cause you to fly off a spinning merry-go-round if you didn't hold on. This force produces a slight bulge at the planet's waistline.

Topographic features on Earth's surface, such as mountains and deep-sea trenches, also distort its shape slightly. They cause small variations in the strength of Earth's gravitational field – the force that pulls all objects on Earth downward, toward the planet's center.

Earth science, the field that I study, has a branch called geodesy that's devoted to studying Earth's shape and how it's positioned in space. Geodesy informs everything from building sewers and making accurate maps of sea level rise to launching and tracking spacecraft. It's an important area of current scientific research and a reminder that we are still learning about this amazing planet we call home.

**Kelly R. MacGregor**

Professor of Geology, Macalester College



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## Senior Laughs

An elderly man had serious hearing problems for a few years. His ENT doctor fitted him with a set of hearing aids that enabled him to hear very well.

A month later, the elderly gentleman returned to the doctor, who said, "Your family must be pleased that you can hear again."

The man replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I've just changed my will three times already!"

\* \* \*

Two men from a retirement home were sitting on a bench in a park. One turned to the other and said, "John, I'm eighty-two years old now and I suffer from aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?"

John replied, "I feel just like a newborn baby."

"Really? Like a newborn baby?"

"Yep, no hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants."

\* \* \*

A senior citizen said to his 83-year-old buddy, "So, I hear you're getting married."

"Yep!"

"Have I met her?"

"No."

"Is she good-looking?"

"Not really."

"Is she a good cook?"

"No, average."

"Is she rich?"

"Nope, poor as a church mouse."

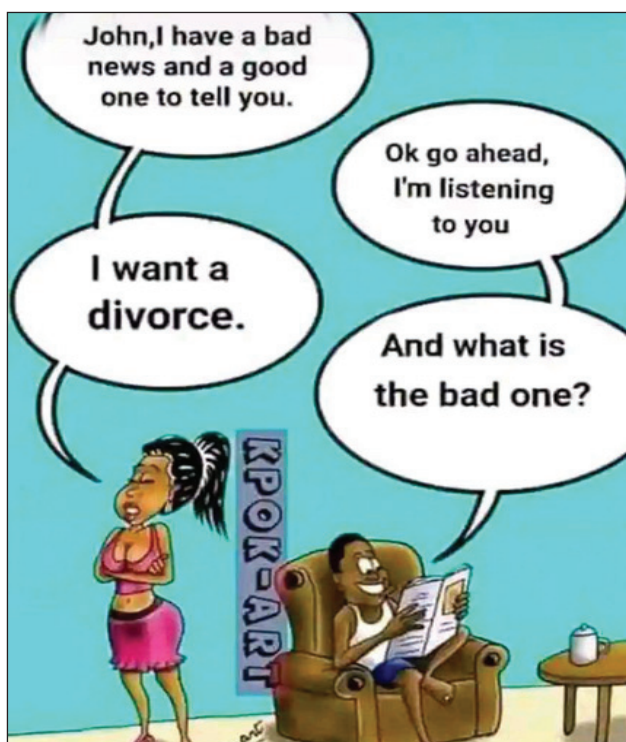
"Well, is she good in bed?"

"I really don't know."

"Why in the world do you want to marry her, then?"

"Because she can still drive."

\* \* \*



## Humour Over Lunch and Downing Street

Two old ladies, Ruby and Rose, meet every week for a light lunch at their favourite café. One day, Ruby says to Rose, "All we do is talk about petty things. Today, for example, we've talked about the rudeness of our local bakery owner and our vicar's recent poor health. At our next meeting, we could have a serious discussion about world affairs."

"An excellent idea," says Rose.

So, the following week, while they're waiting for their lunch to be served, Rose says, "Let us talk about world affairs."

Ruby replies, "Okay, what do you think of the situation with Red China?"

Rose responds, "Not much — it won't go with your green tablecloth."

\* \* \*

One day, an old man walked over to Downing Street



from Whitehall, where he'd been sitting on a bench. He spoke to the policeman on guard and said, "I would like to go in and meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher."

The policeman replied, "Sir, Mrs Thatcher is not the Prime Minister and does not stay here."

The old man thanked him and walked away.

The following day, the same man returned to meet the same policeman and told him he'd like to go in to meet Prime Minister Thatcher. The constable gave him the same answer.

The man thanked him again and walked away.

On the third day, the old man approached Downing Street once more and told the same policeman he'd like to meet Prime Minister Thatcher.

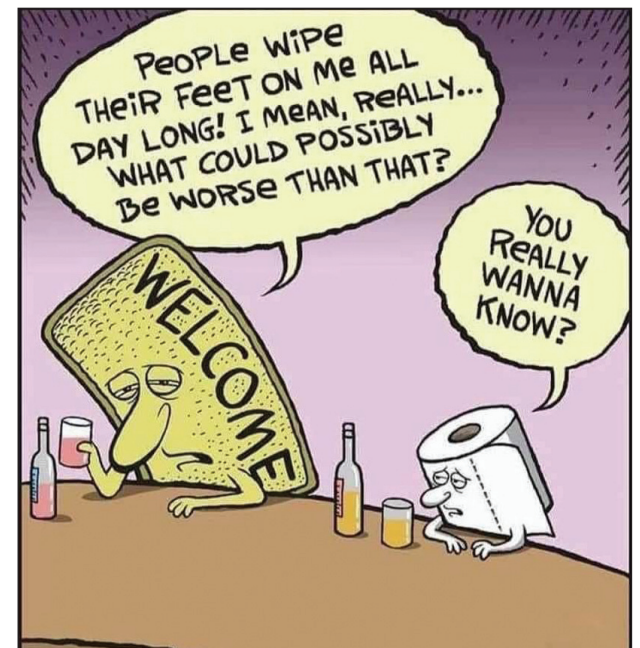
The constable, irritated, looked at the man and said, "Sir, this is the third day in a row you've come here asking to meet Mrs Thatcher. I've told you several times she is not the Prime Minister and doesn't live here. Don't you understand?"

The old man replied, "Oh, I understand very well. I just love hearing that she's no longer the Prime Minister."

\* \* \*

## The Inspection

A small farmer received a visit from the labour inspectorate. The department had reasons to believe he was not paying proper wages to his staff. The inspector



requested the farmer to provide him with a list of his staff and their pay sheets.

"Well, there's my farmhand who's been with me for two years; I pay him £400 per week plus board and lodging," replied the farmer. "The cook has been with me for fifteen months, and he receives £300 per week plus board and lodging. Then there's the halfwit -- he works at least eighteen hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He takes about £10 per week, pays his own board and lodging, and receives a bottle of whisky every Saturday. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally."

"That's the person I want to talk to -- the halfwit," says the official.

"That's me," replied the farmer.

\* \* \*

## The Will

Two brothers were sitting in the solicitor's office waiting for their father's will to be read.

An argument started as to which of them was the favourite son, and the discussion was getting heated when they were invited into the solicitor's room.

After a few preliminaries, including the disposal of some small items to cousins and old friends, the important item came -- who would inherit the farm. The solicitor took a deep breath, looked at the eldest brother, and said, "Well, Marc, the farm is yours."

Marc turned to his brother and said, "I told you you were the favourite."

\* \* \*

## The Farmer's Wisdom

A farmer was whittling a stick as a tourist approached him.

"How long to get to the nearest town, my friend?" the American asked. The farmer continued to whittle and started to whistle too. The tourist inquired again about the time to reach the nearest town. The farmer did not reply but continued whistling and whittling.

"I've been walking a long distance; couldn't you just tell me?" the American said, and he walked away from the farmer in disgust. He had made a hundred yards when the farmer called him back. Exasperated, the tourist returned.

"It'll take you about half an hour," said the farmer.

"Gee, thanks. But why didn't you tell me that the first time?" asked the tourist.

"I had to find out how fast you could walk first," said the farmer.



Let's Talk Success

## The Twelve Universal Laws of Success

By Herbert Harris

“The Twelve Universal Laws of Success” by Herbert Harris is a motivational guide that outlines fundamental principles for achieving personal and professional success. Here are ten key lessons from the book:

**1. The Law of Purpose**

Harris emphasizes that having a clear purpose is essential for success. Understanding one's purpose provides direction and motivation. The author encourages readers to identify their passions and align their goals with their deeper values, as a strong sense of purpose fuels persistence and resilience.

**2. The Law of Belief**

This law underscores the power of belief in shaping our reality. Harris explains that what we believe about ourselves and our capabilities directly influences our experiences and outcomes. Cultivating a positive belief system and eliminating limiting beliefs are crucial for achieving success.

**3. The Law of Expectation**

According to Harris, our expectations shape our reality. By setting high expectations for ourselves and believing that we can achieve our goals, we create a mindset conducive to success. This law highlights the importance of maintaining a positive outlook and visualizing success.



Universal Laws of Success - Herbert Harris

**4. The Law of Action**

Harris stresses that action is a critical component of success. Having goals and intentions is not enough; individuals must take consistent and deliberate action toward their objectives. This law encourages readers to develop a proactive mindset and break down goals into manageable steps for implementation.

**5. The Law of Focus**

The author emphasizes the importance of focus in achieving success. Concentrating on specific goals and avoiding distractions allows individuals to channel their energy effectively. Harris suggests that prioritizing tasks and maintaining clarity about what truly matters can enhance productivity and results.

**6. The Law of Balance**

Harris discusses the significance of balance in life. Success is not solely about professional achievements; it also includes personal well-being, relationships, and

health. Striving for balance in various aspects of life promotes overall fulfillment and sustained success.

**7. The Law of Gratitude**

This law highlights the transformative power of gratitude. Harris explains that cultivating a grateful mindset helps individuals appreciate their achievements and experiences, fostering a positive attitude. Gratitude also attracts more positive outcomes and enhances emotional well-being.

**8. The Law of Giving**

Harris emphasizes the importance of generosity and giving back to others. Contributing to the well-being of others not only creates a sense of fulfillment but also establishes a positive cycle of reciprocity. This law encourages readers to find ways to help others and engage in acts of kindness.

**9. The Law of Personal Responsibility**

The author discusses the significance of taking responsibility for one's life and choices. Success is largely influenced by the decisions individuals make. By accepting accountability for their actions and outcomes, individuals empower themselves to create the life they desire.

**10. The Law of Persistence**

Finally, Harris underscores the importance of persistence in overcoming obstacles on the path to success. Challenges and failures are inevitable, but maintaining determination and resilience is key to achieving goals. This law encourages readers to stay committed and keep pushing forward, even when faced with difficulties.

## Everything we hear is an opinion

**"Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth."**

— Marcus Aurelius

This profound quote by Marcus Aurelius is a reminder that we should not take everything we hear or see at face value.

The word "opinion" means a belief or judgment that is not based on fact or knowledge. The word "fact" means something that is known to be true. The word "perspective" means a way of looking at



something. The word "truth" means something that is true or in accordance with fact.

The quote suggests that we should be critical of the information that we receive. We should not simply accept what we

hear or see as truth. We should question it and try to understand the perspective of the person who is sharing it.

This can be a difficult concept to grasp, especially if we have been conditioned to believe that everything we hear or see is true. But it's important to remember that our perception of reality is shaped by our own experiences, beliefs, and biases.

If we want to see the world more clearly, we need to be open to different perspectives. We need to be willing to question our own beliefs and to learn from others.

This mindset fosters clarity, critical thinking, and a deeper connection to truth.

**Critical Thinking**

## The Art of War

*Ten Lessons from Sun Tzu*

1. Know yourself and your enemy. This is the first principle of warfare, and it is essential for success.
2. Engage only on your terms. Don't fight a battle that you cannot win.
3. Use deception to your advantage. Keep your enemy guessing and off balance.
4. Be flexible and adaptable. Don't be afraid to change your plans if the situation demands it.
5. Strike at the enemy's weakness. Don't waste your time and resources attacking their strengths.
6. Use surprise to your advantage. Catch your enemy off guard and they will be more likely to lose.
7. Conserve your strength. Don't waste your resources on unnecessary battles.
8. Be patient and persistent. Don't give up easily, even if you are losing.
9. Use your intelligence and cunning. Don't rely on brute force to win.
10. Win without fighting. This is the highest form of victory.

These are just a few of the many lessons that can be learned from 'The Art of War'. If you are interested in learning more about the art of war, I recommend reading the book.

Life's Lesson

## Loving the wrong person

By Cody Bret

So many people are suffering in relationships today because they refuse to let go of the person they are currently in a relationship with.

They know the relationship isn't working, but they refuse to leave because they feel they might be able to change the person.

They believe they are willing to go to any length to ensure that the person continues to "love them".

The hardest aspect is that they are doing everything in the hopes that the person would change, even when the person has no intention of changing in the first place.

If you're in a relationship right now where the person is causing you more grief than happiness, then it's time to let them

go.

Accepting that things aren't working is the best approach to avoid getting hurt more in this type of relationship.

It's crucial to admit to yourself that the relationship is in disrepair.

I see so many people that are suffering in their current relationships because they refuse to face the reality of its true nature.

If your current relationship isn't working, do me a favour and don't force it, the more you force it, the more you will end up hurting yourself in the long run.

Nobody can take your happiness away if you don't want it taken away. Your happiness is in your hands; your happiness is dependent on you.

If you don't want others to continue to mistreat you... you have the power to stop them.

Take my advice and have the courage to leave the table when respect is no longer being served.



# Top 10 Preventive Health Checks You Need After Age 50

One of the best ways to maintain your health as you age is through preventive care. Regular screenings can help detect health issues early, before they develop into serious conditions. As you approach or pass the age of 50, it's important to stay on top of these essential health checks to ensure you're staying healthy and active.

Don't let cost be a barrier. Most health plans, including Medicare, cover these preventive tests. If you're concerned about cost, speak with your doctor — they may be able to help you find free or low-cost programs for certain screenings.

## 1. Blood Pressure Check

High blood pressure (hypertension) is a leading cause of heart disease, stroke, kidney problems, and eye issues. Many people with high blood pressure don't even know they have it, so it's important to have your blood pressure checked regularly. If your reading is under 120/80 mmHg, yearly checks are typically sufficient. If it's higher, your doctor may want to monitor it more frequently.

## 2. Cholesterol Screening

Heart disease remains one of the top causes of death in the U.S., and high cholesterol is a major risk factor. Starting at age 20, you should have your cholesterol tested at least every 4-6 years. A simple blood test can reveal your cholesterol levels and your risk for heart disease.

## 3. Mammogram

A mammogram is the most effective way to detect breast cancer early. The frequency of this test is debated, but the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that women aged 50-74 get a mammogram every two years. The American Cancer Society suggests annual mammograms starting at age 40. Discuss with your doctor to determine the best schedule based on your family history and risk factors.

## 4. Colon Cancer Screening

Colon cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S., and the risk increases after age 50. Your doctor will likely recommend screenings starting at



age 50 unless you're at higher-than-average risk. Common screening options include:

- **Colonoscopy:** Typically done every 10 years.
- **Fecal occult blood test:** Usually done annually.
- **Sigmoidoscopy:** Every 5 years, combined with a fecal occult blood test every 3 years.
- **Multi-target stool DNA test:** A stool test that looks for DNA mutations associated with colon cancer.
- **CT Colonography:** A non-invasive test that uses X-rays to create images of the colon.

Colonoscopies can also detect and remove precancerous polyps, helping prevent cancer before it develops.

## 5. Pap Smear and HPV Test

A Pap smear screens for cervical cancer, a disease that is highly treatable when detected early. Although the risk of cervical cancer decreases with age, regular screenings are still important. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends Pap tests every 3 years for women aged 21-65. For women over 30, you may opt for a Pap test every 5 years combined with an HPV test if both are negative. If you have a higher risk of cervical cancer, your doctor may recommend more frequent testing.

## 6. Bone Mineral Density Scan

Bone health becomes a major concern as you age, particularly for women. A bone mineral density (BMD) scan is recommended for all women aged 65 and older to

check for osteoporosis, a condition that weakens bones and increases fracture risk. If you're at high risk for osteoporosis, your doctor may suggest testing earlier.

## 7. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

If you're a man aged 65-75 who has smoked at any point in your life, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening. This ultrasound test looks for an enlarged blood vessel in the abdomen, which could rupture and cause life-threatening bleeding. Surgery can often correct an enlarged aneurysm before it ruptures. If you have a family history of AAA, talk to your doctor about getting screened.

## 8. Depression Screening

Depression is a common condition, especially as we age, and it can lead to disability if left untreated. It's important to talk to your doctor if you're feeling sad, hopeless, or losing interest in activities you once enjoyed. Depression can be managed with treatment, and your doctor may ask you to fill out a questionnaire or have a simple discussion to screen for the condition.

## 9. Diabetes Screening

Approximately 10% of Americans have diabetes, and nearly 28% of those are undiagnosed. Diabetes can lead to serious complications, including kidney disease, blindness, and amputations, if not properly managed. Ask your doctor how often you should be screened for diabetes, especially if you have risk factors such as obesity, a family history, or high blood pressure.

## 10. Immunizations

As you age, it's important to stay up to date on vaccines that help protect against serious illnesses. Key immunizations for those over 50 include:

- **Flu Vaccine:** Recommended for everyone aged 6 months and older, especially during flu season.
- **Pneumonia Vaccine:** A series of two different pneumonia vaccines is recommended for adults aged 65 and older. Talk to your doctor about the timing and whether you need them earlier based on your health history.

## Home

# Things You're Not Cleaning Enough

Here's how frequently you should clean your phone, TV remote, dishwasher (yes, your dishwasher!), and other often-neglected items, as advised by Nayana Ambardekar, MD of WebMD

### Smartphone: Daily

You touch your phone countless times a day, and the fingerprints you leave on the screen are a trap for gunk and germs. Get in the habit of wiping it clean at least once a day. Studies show that alcohol is best for killing bacteria, but check with your device's manufacturer for recommendations to avoid damage. Don't forget to clean the case, too!

### Kitchen Counters: Daily

Dirty counters aren't just about what

you can see. Wiping down and sanitizing kitchen surfaces after each use ensures stray germs from last night's dinner prep don't end up in your next meal.

### Dishwasher: Monthly

Over time, buildup in your dishwasher can prevent your dishes from getting the clean they need. Once a month, toss in a cup of baking soda on the bottom and place ½ cup of white vinegar on the top rack, then run a regular cycle.

### Refrigerator: Quarterly

Funky forgotten leftovers can leave behind mould spores. To keep germs at bay, empty your refrigerator every 3-4 months and clean the shelves and walls with a tablespoon of baking soda dissolved in a quart of water. Rinse and let dry before replacing food.

### Kitchen Floor: Weekly

If you have kids, you probably need to sweep after every meal. Unless there's a sticky spill, the mop and bucket can go a week between cleanings.

### Carpets: Weekly

Vacuum large carpets and toss small area rugs and mats in the wash once a

week. Keeping your floor coverings clean is key to reducing allergy triggers in your home.

### Furniture: Monthly

Spills should be spot-cleaned immediately. For general upkeep, vacuum your upholstery monthly and consider steam cleaning once a year to extend its life.

### TV Remote: Weekly

Take the batteries out first! Use cotton swabs dipped in mild soapy water to clean the buttons. Wipe down the entire remote with a solution of one part vinegar to two parts water to kill bacteria. Ensure the battery compartment is dry before reinserting the batteries.

### Ceiling Fans: Quarterly

These dust collectors also gather grease in the kitchen. Wipe them down whenever you notice buildup, but do a thorough clean every few months with a damp cloth and all-purpose cleaner.

### Window Treatments: Quarterly

Dust blinds and shutters during your weekly dusting. Clean the slats every 3-4 months with warm, soapy water, and take down curtains once a season to wash

them.

### Toilets: Daily

The more use your toilet sees, the more often it should be cleaned. Squirt your cleaner of choice into the bowl and give it a swish with a long-handled brush. Save the deep clean for your weekly round-up.

### Bath Towels: Every Few Uses

Wash your towels after three or four showers, more often if you work out. Hang damp towels to air out and prevent mildew and bacteria growth.

### Shower Curtain: Monthly

Plastic curtains or liners should be cleaned with warm water and baking soda once a month to remove soap scum and prevent mildew. You can stretch this to once a quarter if the shower is not used frequently. Spray with cleaner after each shower and wipe down weekly.

### Toothbrush: Quarterly

Replace your toothbrush every 3-4 months, or sooner if the bristles become frayed.



## Ajay Devgn on the changing face of Bollywood: "It's filled with Boys, not Men"

Veteran Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn recently sparked a thought-provoking discussion on the evolution of male characters in the Indian film industry. In an interview on *The Ranveer Show*, Devgn shared his perspective on how the archetype of the "dominant male personality" has faded, making way for a new generation of actors he described as "boys."

### A shift in masculinity

Reflecting on iconic actors like Amitabh Bachchan, Sunny Deol, and Jackie Shroff, Devgn noted how they embodied a rugged, larger-than-life masculinity that resonated with audiences, reports Hindustan Times. He explained, "In my generation, we saw men. Jackie Shroff, Sunny Deol, Amitabh Bachchan - they were men-men. Today, you don't see that kind of dominating male personality."

Devgn emphasized that masculinity isn't defined by physical appearance or a chiselled physique but by attitude and presence. Citing examples from the past, he recalled, "When Akshay Kumar was thrashing ten people or Sunny Deol was pulling out a hand pump, we clapped because we believed they could actually do



it."

According to Devgn, the shift in how male actors are perceived stems from broader societal changes. He attributed this evolution to differences in upbringing, which he believes have influenced attitudes and approaches to life. This change, he suggested, is

reflected on-screen, where the raw, commanding energy of yesteryear's stars has given way to subtler portrayals by today's actors.

### Success of *Singham Again*

Devgn's comments come on the heels of the success of *Singham Again*, the latest instalment in Rohit Shetty's action-packed *Singham* franchise. Reprising his role as the formidable cop Bajirao Singham, Devgn delivered yet another larger-than-life performance, embodying the kind of masculine energy he celebrates.

The film, which was released on November 1, has been performing well at the box office. With an ensemble cast including Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, and a host of stars like Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, and Tiger Shroff, the movie offers a blend of action, drama, and nostalgia.

Ajay Devgn continues to push boundaries with an exciting lineup of films. From the suspense thriller *Naam - The Missing Identity* to sequels like *Raid 2*, *Son of Sardaar 2*, and *De De Pyaar De 2*, the actor remains a powerhouse in the industry.

## Ranveer Singh celebrates fatherhood: "Infinite happiness" after daughter Dua's birth



Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone recently stepped into a new chapter of their lives, embracing parenthood with the arrival of their daughter, Dua Padukone Singh. Born on September 8, baby Dua has already brought "infinite happiness" into their lives, as Ranveer shared during a recent public event.

### Ranveer's joyful take on parenthood

Reflecting on his journey as a new father, Ranveer expressed his immense joy and sense of fulfilment. "That infinite happiness I'm experiencing right now. Bro, I have been on daddy duty for a long time now. I am ready to let loose with you all," he said, radiating excitement about this life-changing experience.

He also credited Deepika as a steadfast partner in this new phase, reports

NDTV. "There is nothing like it when you have a partner with you to share this journey," he said, adding that shared joys and challenges have deepened their bond. Using a heartfelt analogy, Ranveer explained, "Dukh hota hai na, if you share it woh kam hojata hai (if you share sadness, it reduces). And if you are happy, if you share it, woh dohgini hojate hai (it doubles)."

On Diwali, the couple introduced their daughter to the world with a heart-warming post. Sharing a picture of Dua's tiny feet, they revealed her full name: Dua Padukone Singh. The announcement was met with a flood of congratulations from friends, colleagues, and fans across the globe.

### Balancing parenthood and professional life

While Deepika Padukone is taking a step back from her professional commitments for maternity leave, Ranveer continues to balance work and family life. On the work front, Ranveer has an exciting lineup, including Aditya Dhar's upcoming espionage thriller and the highly anticipated *Don 3*.

The couple was last seen together in *Singham Again*, which has been a box-office success. As Deepika and Ranveer navigate their roles as new parents, they remain a beloved pair, capturing the hearts of fans with their personal and professional milestones.

## R Balki recalls Amitabh Bachchan's fiery outburst during his debut film *Cheeni Kum*

R Balki, the acclaimed director behind films like *Paa* and *Pad Man*, recently opened up about a dramatic and nerve-racking moment from the first day of shooting his debut film *Cheeni Kum*. The 2007 romantic dramedy, which starred Amitabh Bachchan and Tabu in lead roles, marked Balki's entry into Bollywood. However, his collaboration with Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan began on a tense note due to a creative disagreement, reports Hindustan Times.

### The clash on day one

During a session at MIT World Peace University, Balki reminisced about the harrowing first shot of *Cheeni Kum*, which involved Bachchan's character, Buddha-dev Gupta, firing a group of chefs in the kitchen. Balki, a self-professed fan of the legendary actor, struggled to convey his directorial vision during the scene.

"I kept requesting retakes to adjust the tone of the performance. Amit ji executed the scene perfectly -- exactly how anyone would expect. But I wanted something different, a toned-down delivery, more subtle. When I asked for another take, he was visibly irritated. After the third request, he snapped and shouted at me in front of everyone, 'What do you want me to do, yaar? Just stand there and say things with no expression?'" Balki recounted.

### A turning point

Despite the heated moment, Bachchan eventually understood Balki's vision. "When I said, 'yes, no expressions,' he went back and delivered the scene exactly as I envisioned -- completely deadpan. It was perfect," Balki shared.

The breakthrough came when Bachchan returned to his trailer, reflected



on the interaction, and called Balki after 10 minutes. "He told me, 'I got the film.' That was the moment we both understood the tone of the character and the movie itself -- a man who expresses emotions through subtle, almost expressionless actions."

### 'Cheeni Kum': A critical and commercial success

The tension-filled start ultimately set the foundation for a film that was both critically acclaimed and commercially successful. *Cheeni Kum* revolved around an unconventional romance between an arrogant, middle-aged chef (Bachchan) and a much younger woman (Tabu). The film's nuanced storytelling, paired with its understated humour, resonated with audiences and critics alike.

With an ensemble cast featuring Paresh Rawal, Zohra Sehgal, and Swini Khara, *Cheeni Kum* also premiered at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, further solidifying its legacy. The film's cinematography by PC Sreeram, editing by Chandan Arora, and music by the legendary Ilaiyaraaja added to its charm.





Vendredi 22 novembre - 21.05



Samedi 23 novembre - 20.30



Dimanche 24 novembre - 15.20



# Programme TV



vendredi 22 novembre

## MBC 1

- 07.30 Serial: Under Pressure
- 08.38 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
- 09.35 Film: Hell Bent For Leather
- 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
- 15.21 Film: Stan The Man
- 16.57 Mag: Meet The Costume...
- 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: Doree
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Affliction
- 22.05 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 22.55 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 23.30 Le Journal
- 00.15 Serial: The Bionic Woman
- 01.11 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin

## MBC 2

- 06.10 Les Grandes Lignes
- 06.36 Local: En Forme
- 07.56 Local: Metie
- 10.40 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
- 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 13.10 Rodrig: Sa Lavi La
- 14.04 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.50 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 16.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.03 Local: La Sosiete
- 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...
- 20.30 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol
- 21.44 Local: La Sosiete
- 23.20 Local: Meshiagare...
- 23.33 Rodrig Otantik
- 00.04 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 00.27 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif

## MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Eco India
- 08.01 Talk By Mahamandleshwar
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Do Phool
- Starring: Ashok Kumar, Vinod Mehra, Aruna Irani
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
- 16.46 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
- 21.00 Film: Benam Badshah
- Starring: Priya Sharma, Rakesh Chaturbedi, Abhilasha, Sanjay Pandey, Anjani Kumar
- 23.01 Serial: Mere Sai

## Cine 12

- 08.16 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 08.32 D.Anime: Zoonicorn
- 10.32 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 10.34 Serial: Lost & Found Music...
- 11.25 Mag: Eco India
- 11.51 Mag: Shift
- 12.50 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.16 Doc: Glacier Express
- 13.59 A Mediterranean Journey
- 14.30 D.Anime: Apple Tree House
- 14.58 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneeze
- 15.26 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 15.38 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.50 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic...
- 16.00 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 16.15 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 16.38 D.Anime: The Deep
- 18.00 Doc: The Secret Of The Stone
- 19.28 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 21.05 Film: Alien Vs Predator: Requiem

## Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.01 Film: Jhund
- Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Ankush Gedam, Babu Kshatriya
- 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 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
- 23.30 Film: Jhund
- Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Ankush Gedam, Babu Kshatriya

samedi 23 novembre

- 03.26 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 04.49 Serial: Treadstone
- 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 07.00 Serial: Heartland
- 08.30 Serial: Ultimate Countdown
- 09.15 Serial: Under Pressure
- 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: Affliction
- 17.15 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
- 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: The Games Maker
- 21.15 Serial: Treadstone
- 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge
- 01.59 Serial: Under Pressure

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 07.05 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 07.36 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol
- 09.35 Local: La Sosiete
- 10.57 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 12.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.17 Local: Couleur Marine
- 14.42 Local: La Sosiete
- 15.40 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 16.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.02 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 18.05 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.45 Rodrig: Kot Nou
- 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.33 Local: Groove'in
- 21.25 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 21.58 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 23.51 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 00.13 Rodrig Prog: Promnad

- 06.59 Mag: Eco India
- 07.30 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 09.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 10.27 Loca Khel Khiladi
- 10.53 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.17 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Singh Saab The Great
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 19.15 Local: Virasat
- 20.00 Local: Bollywood Express
- 21.00 Film: I Proud To Be An Indian
- Cast: Sohail Khan, Tim Lawrence, Mona Ambegaonkar
- 23.08 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.34 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 23.49 Local: Virasat

- 06.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 06.58 Film: For This Reason
- 09.35 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 09.50 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 10.43 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 10.46 Film: La Legende De Manolo
- 13.08 The Secrets Of Wetlands
- 15.00 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
- 15.38 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.50 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic
- 16.03 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 16.16 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 17.01 Serial: The Avatars
- 17.30 The Expanding Desert
- 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.40 Serial: The Equalizer
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.50 Elementary Particles
- 21.40 Film: Glass
- 23.49 Doc: Charlotte Knobloch
- 00.31 Doc: Smart Insects

- 08.00 Dharam Patni
- 10.22 Mithai
- 12.00 Udaariyaan
- 14.10 Anupamaa
- 16.10 Fanaa
- 18.30 Film: Dishoom
- With: John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez
- 20.25 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.22 Porus
- 21.42 Dharam Patni

dimanche 24 novembre

- 02.56 Film: Glass
- 05.31 Serial: Gout De L'amour
- 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 07.00 Film: The Games Maker
- 08.47 Serial: Pearson
- 09.30 Film: Life Gets In The Way
- 10.45 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: Hell Bent For Leather
- 14.10 Japan Video Topics
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Film: Independence Day
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 19.30 Le Journal Television
- 20.30 Film: MBC CINEME
- 21.59 Serial: Pearson
- 22.42 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
- 23.51 Le Journal
- 01.11 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 01.53 Mag: Red Carpet

- 07.33 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 08.51 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 09.21 Rodrig Prog: Promnad
- 10.00 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 10.43 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 13.29 Local: Elle
- 14.46 Local: Nos Aines
- 15.39 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 16.25 Local: Tous Egaux
- 17.28 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 18.03 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.24 Local: Info En Langue...
- 20.27 Festival Bouze Ocean Indien
- 20.53 Local: Les Klips
- 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Journal Rediffusion
- 23.20 Local: Arshiv MBC - Fer Roule
- 00.38 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 01.30 Local: Elle

- 06.59 Mag: Y Factor
- 07.29 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 09.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 09.49 Bollywood Express
- 12.00 Film: I Am 24
- 15.00 Samachar
- 16.00 Local: Excerpts From "The World Bindi Tilak Diwas Day"
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 20.00 Local: Yaadein
- 20.31 Serial: Porus
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Naagin
- 22.12 Serial: Bahubali
- 22.59 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 00.40 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 01.07 Local: Tohar Rashi

- 08.09 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
- 08.38 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 09.34 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 09.53 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 10.00 Film: The Peanuts
- 11.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 11.56 Mag: Travel
- 13.00 Film: La Princesse Enchantée
- 15.00 Serial: Apple Tree House
- 15.42 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 15.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix
- 16.24 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.36 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 16.58 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 16.59 D.Anime: The Deep
- 18.30 By Train Through Vietnam
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: The Baobab
- 21.40 Film: The Dead Don't Die

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.45 Udaariyaan
- 03.45 Anupamaa
- 05.55 Fanaa
- 10.00 Film: The Peanuts
- 11.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 11.56 Mag: Travel
- 13.00 Film: La Princesse Enchantée
- 15.00 Serial: Apple Tree House
- 15.42 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 15.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix
- 16.24 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.36 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 16.58 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 16.59 D.Anime: The Deep
- 18.30 By Train Through Vietnam
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: The Baobab
- 21.40 Film: The Dead Don't Die

lundi 25 Octobre

- 02.45 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 03.43 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 05.16 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
- 06.46 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
- 07.30 Serial: The Equalizer
- 08.43 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 09.40 Film: The great Northfield Minnesota Raid
- 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 14.10 Serial: The Equalizer
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.25 Film: Blood, Sweat And Cheer
- 17.00 Mag: Meet The Costume Designers
- 18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.07 Serial: Doree
- 20.30 Serial: Belgravia
- 21.57 Serial: Heartland
- 22.40 Tele: Terra Nostra

- 07.40 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 09.15 Local: Elle
- 10.34 Local: Tous Egaux
- 11.40 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 12.42 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 14.44 Rodrig: Komanter
- 15.00 The Dodo And The Pirate...
- 15.35 Local: Les Klips
- 16.24 Local: Tous Egaux
- 16.40 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
- 19.30 Le Magazine De L'emploi
- 19.25 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.00 Voyage Au Feminin
- 20.30 Local: Metie
- 20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 22.03 Local: Tous Egaux
- 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Local: Nournal Rediffusion

- 07.00 Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 08.27 Tohar Rashi
- 08.44 Tohar Farmaish
- 09.07 Local: Yaadein
- 09.40 Bahubali
- 10.37 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 11.42 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Chararon Ki Saugandh
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.56 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.57 Local: Darshan
- 20.30 Serial: Ramayan
- 20.55 Film: Sone Ke Haath
- With: Sanjay Khan, Babita Kapoor, Om Prakash
- 23.04 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.56 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.21 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein

- 06.25 Doc: Beneath The Waves
- 07.21 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 07.35 D.Anime: Yo Yo
- 08.46 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little Sorceress
- 10.05 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 10.34 Doc: Recipes For Kids
- 11.25 Doc: Bee-Keeping
- 11.51 Doc: By Train Through...
- 12.37 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 13.03 Doc: The Baobab: A Universe
- 15.22 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 15.21 D.Anime: Zoonicorn
- 15.38 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix
- 16.04 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.16 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 16.39 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 17.35 Doc: Beneath The Waves
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 21.05 Film: Affliction

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Satranjee Parachute
- Starring: Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain
- 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





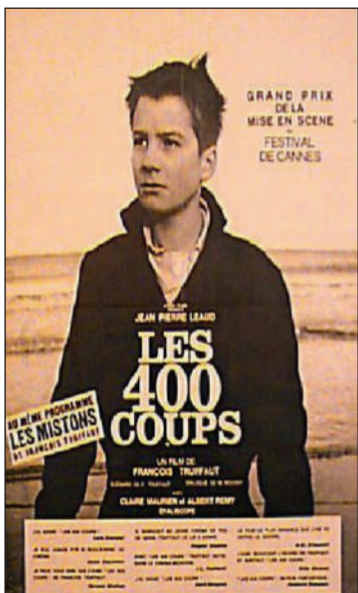
Mardi 26 Novembre - 20.30



Mercredi 27 Novembre - 20.30



Jeudi 28 Novembre - 21.00



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 26 novembre</b>	05.11 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.14 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.30 Film: Affliction 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 15.21 Film: Mes Autres Vies De Chien 17.00 Mag: Hollywood's Best Film 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.58 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Oblivion 22.30 Tele: Terra Nostra 00.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 00.41 Serial: Treadstone 01.25 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	07.28 Local: Tous Egaux 10.51 Local: Lir - Ekkrir Kreol... 11.18 Rodrig Mo Pei 11.54 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 12.19 Voyage Au Feminin 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 12.52 Local: Metie 15.16 Rodrig Mo Pei 15.59 Local: Metie 17.07 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.27 Local: Les Grands Moments 20.41 Local: Priorite Sante 21.35 Local: Le Mag 22.27 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Music Tour 00.15 Local: Profil	07.37 Serial: Kisna 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein 09.59 Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Ghar Ek Mandir 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Tark Vitark 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Gaban Cast: Sunil Dutt, Sadhana 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai 00.24 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.47 Local: Tark Vitark 01.25 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 02.19 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey 02.47 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar	07.21 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 07.36 D.Anime: Yo Yo 07.51 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 08.16 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 10.06 Teen Serial: N*Gen 12.45 Mag: In Good Shape 13.36 Doc: Chile: The Land Of All... 14.44 D.Anime: Apple Tree House 15.00 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze 15.23 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.37 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.03 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 16.10 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 16.32 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 17.03 Serial: The Avatars 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: Hollow In The Land With: Dianna Agron, Shawn Ashmore	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Operation Romeo 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: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Operation Romeo 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan 03.00 Dharam Patni 03.30 Mithai
<b>mercredi 27 novembre</b>	06.00 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.26 Serial: Airwolf 08.38 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi 09.35 Film: Oblivion 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: Airwolf 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: 90 Feet From Home Cast: Shawn Michaels, Eric Roberts, Adam Hampton 17.30 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: Night School 22.16 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.40 Local: Priorite Sante 08.33 Local: Mots & Ecrits 09.15 Rodrig: Rod'Art 10.58 Local: Music Tour 12.00 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.15 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.36 Local: Priorite Sante 13.58 Local: Paroles Agricole 15.12 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.46 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.51 Local: En Forme 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 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.22 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.23 Local: Proze Dime 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.18 Local: Come On Let's Dance	07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Tark Vitark 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Ram Aur Shyam Cast: Dilip Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Mumtaz Askari 15.00 Samachar 15.33 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.53 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Radha Krishna 20.30 Mag: Talaash 21.00 Film: Hum Hai Rahi Pyaar Ke With: Pawan Singh, Harshika Punaacha, Deepak Sinha 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai 00.07 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous... 09.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 11.22 Mag: REV 11.48 Mag: Healthy Living 12.48 Mag: Global US 13.35 Doc: Multi Tasking 14.30 Mag: Animal DNA 14.58 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze 15.13 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.39 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic... 15.48 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 16.01 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 16.38 D.Anime: The Deep 16.46 Serial: The Avatars 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: Mapped Out 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Arts Unveiled 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: Blood, Sweat And Cheer	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan Starring: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati 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 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan Starring: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati
<b>jeudi 28 novembre</b>	06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.11 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer 08.37 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.30 Film: Blood, Sweat And Cheer 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: Night School 17.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.56 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.21 Film: Dabangg Stars: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Sonu Sood 22.33 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.31 Le Journal 00.16 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	06.54 Local: Aktiv 07.19 Local: Toc Toc Doc 11.43 Rodrig Spor 12.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 12.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.12 Local: Agir Ensemble 13.43 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion 14.28 Local: Proze Dime 14.54 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.15 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan 22.02 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion	07.00 Tenali Rama 08.00 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Patthar Aur Payal Cast: Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Vinod Khanna 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.56 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.46 Talk By Mahamandleshwar 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.01 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.57 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.57 Mere Sai 23.49 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.28 Local: Amrit Vani	07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous... 07.50 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 08.57 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles 10.30 Mag: Recipes For Kids 11.20 Mag: Afrimaxx 13.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.31 Doc: Climate Ahoy 13.54 A Mediterranean Journey 14.30 Mag: Animal DNA 14.49 D.Anime: Apple Tree House 15.14 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.23 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.51 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.01 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 16.23 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 17.04 Serial: The Avatars 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.00 Film: Les 400 Coups	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: Rangeela Stars: Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff 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 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.05 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Rangeela Stars: Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff

**BTV** Jeudi 28 Novembre - 15.30 Stars: Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff

**MBC 1** Jeudi 28 Novembre - 20.21 Stars: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Sonu Sood







Kul Bhushan

# Humungous Hindu Weddings in Full Swing

*Elaborate preparations, unlimited shopping, and numerous events add up to grand Hindu weddings*

**L**oud music. Blinking decorations. Swanky crowds. Vast banquets. Designer wear. Glittering jewellery. All this means the annual Hindu marriage season is in full swing from 12 November until 16 December in North India.

## No Escape

You can't escape it. Massive hoardings showcasing the latest jewellery worn by savvy models confront you at many traffic lights. Newspapers bulge with full-page ads promoting luxury watches, jewellery, high-end cars, and a host of other products and services targeting the wedding splurge. TV channels and social media sites are flooded with wedding ads, repeating almost non-stop.

## Six Trillion

An estimated 45,000 weddings are expected this season, with around 20,000 a day. On an auspicious day, 20 November, around 50,000 weddings are expected. Police have deputed over 4,000 personnel for traffic and crowd control. All this shopping and spending will pump almost six trillion rupees as wedding budgets range from Rs 300,000 to ten million and beyond for the super-rich. Not BIG FAT but humungous and obese events. India's richest family, the Ambanis, set a record with their son's wedding, hosting billionaires, top global CEOs, showbiz celebrities, film stars, politicians, and the global elite, estimated to have cost around 1,000 crores (approximately 5,506,030,000 MUR, or 11,834,100 USD)!

## Why Splurge

Why do Hindus go crazy splurging on family weddings? Those at the top of the social ladder want to secure their prime positions. Social climbers assert their arrival. Businesspeople and professionals aim to impress clients with wealth and style. The middle class wants to showcase aspirations for the high life, while the poor enjoy a break from bleak lives.

## Perfect Match

It all starts with searching for a 'suitable' marriage partner either on online sites or with Marriage Bureaus. With high registration fees for bureaus, costing rupees one lakh (Rs100,000) or more, you are introduced to one candidate at a time. With few introductions, finding a perfect match takes many months. Online searches mean trial and error as you are on your own to decide and commit. This is a long-drawn trial and error process which is a tough test of patience before the partner is finalised.

## Home or Abroad

One of the first decisions for the wedding is its location at home or a banquet

hall or abroad. Traditionally, weddings were performed at the homes of the bride by erecting a tent outside the house and employing a cook. Now major hotels and wedding halls cater for hundreds of guests and getting a booking at the top halls or hotels during the season is never easy.

So, some families hold their weddings out of town in India. The guests pay their own fare to reach the destination, and the rest is borne by the hosts. Popular Indian destinations include: *Beaches* - Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala; *Palaces* - Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Hyderabad; *Hill Stations* - Mussoorie, Rishikesh, Darjeeling Coorg, Ooty, Palampur, Kodikanal. Preference for weddings in India has grown after PM Modi's campaign for a self-reliant Bharat.

A select number go abroad. Again, the guests pay their airfare, the host pays for all the rest until the wedding. Top locales are: Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Bali, Dubai, Paris, Greece, Italy (Tuscany), Turkey, Portugal among others

## Planning Extravaganza

The Hindu wedding is most elaborate with many events. It takes off with musical evenings when the close relatives of the bride and the groom start off the celebrations at their respective homes. It ranges from professional singers to DJs to bands. Both families engage a professional choreographer to train the relatives in the latest dance numbers and the steps to make the evenings memorable.

**M**ost big weddings are managed by professional wedding planners who provide the complete package after discussing the needs and preferences of the clients.

Meanwhile the couple gets busy shooting photos and videos of their courtship in romantic locales, travelling to hill stations, beaches or tourist destinations. Conservative families send an escort with the would-be bride for overnight stays. Some love birds want to act like their favourite pop star and lip-synch the hit song which involves other dancers as well.

The formal wedding gets underway with the 'mehndi' ceremony when the bride and her relatives get beauty treatment with henna designs on her hands and feet. The groom has a similar 'haldi' ceremony when turmeric is applied to his face for glowing skin, this ceremony means everyone



should wear yellow clothes. In between, the groom has a bachelors' party with his close friends and these days the bride too has her bachelorette's party with her dears.

## Decking Up

The top two items for weddings are clothing and jewellery. The first stop is not the neighbourhood tailor. No, it a designer these days charging lakhs for one garment. For the bride, the *Lengha*, an ankle length billowing skirt with elaborate embroidery and decoration for the major ceremony can cost over one million rupees if bought from top designers; and different outfits for different functions makes the total rocket to millions. The groom needs a *Sherwani*, a knee length overcoat of silver or golden fabric with pants and a turban; and other outfits for other events. Again, clothes for parents and siblings and close relatives mean high spending.

## Gold and Bling

**T**he bride and her relatives must have a number of different jewellery sets for major events to match the garments, usually in gold but now diamonds are favoured by the rich and the super-rich. The groom also gets jewellery like necklaces, ear rings and brooches.

With gold prices rocketing and diamonds out of reach, some smart people rent costume jewellery for the ceremonies

and the same goes for *Lenghas*. After all, these items are just needed for one evening and they look real in photos so why not save a good amount.

## Endless Spending

The shopping spree goes on with luxury watches, top end mobiles, furniture, electronics *et al*. After all, the bride needs a new double bed, a dressing table, a TV for the bedroom and so on. If the couple wants to start their new life by themselves, then a flat has to be provided or if they need a new or a second car, it has to be provided. Then gifts for the relatives and close friends must not be overlooked. These are selected and purchased in bulk for cars, gifts and decorations to become memories for the major invitees.

## Banqueting Booms

Lavish is an understatement for wedding banquets: Starters are almost unlimited. On stalls for street food, many guests gorge on it so much that they leave before dinner! Then dinner has a number of cuisines, starting with North Indian, South Indian, Chinese, Italian and other delicacies, desserts are equally mouthwatering with Indian sweets, ice creams, western desserts *et all*.

## Click and Shoot

**D**espite selfies, wedding photography has become a well-paid profession as still shots and videos are a must. These professionals provide the complete package after discussing the needs and preferences of the clients. Starting with court-ship shots when the couple travel to scenic locales for classic shots to remind them of their favourite movie scenes or pop stars, some brides rent dance teams to recreate the hit numbers of their favourite icons. Then come the formal events with the main ceremony involving airborne drone shots. The coverage involves more than one cameraman.

## Honeymoon Bonding

When all the ceremonies are over, the couple needs to get to know each other better and proceeds on their honeymoon. Not to the old-fashioned Kashmir or Goa, nor the trip to hill station temples but overseas tours to exotic locations, ranging from Caribbean beaches to African safaris, European tour to Brazilian Sambas. And don't forget Mauritius! After all, a honeymoon is the best start for a marriage. Remember the famous saying, "A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."

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