

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• To safeguard democracy the people must have a keen sense of independence, self-respect, and their oneness. -- Mohandas K. Gandhi

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

## “Le MMM doit pleinement jouer le jeu d’un pouvoir Ramgoolam

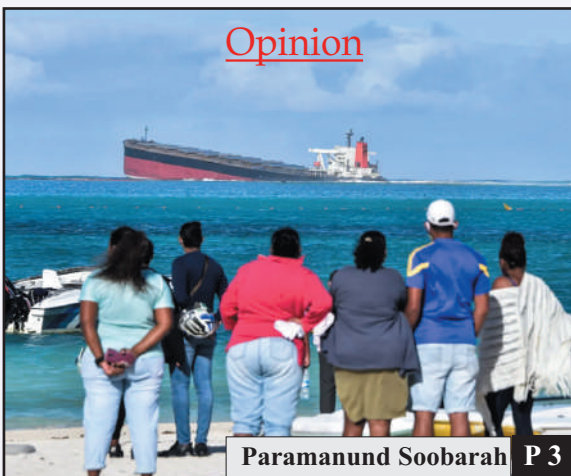
que Navin n’aime pas voir contesté, et le PTr doit pleinement respecter Bérenger”

- ‘Le MSM n’aura aucun espoir de retour tant qu’il ne réglera pas cette question de ‘Lakwizin’



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# Politics as a Reflection of Shared Values

The recent elections in Mauritius have provided an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of local politics and Mauritian society as a whole. If one were to assert that the massive failure of the Alliance Lepep is primarily the result of rejecting a political culture incompatible with the values shared by Mauritians for decades, it is essential to explore the deeper implications of this state of affairs.

The defeat of the Alliance Lepep, while multifaceted, highlights a crucial reality: a significant portion of the population rejected a form of politics that seemed disconnected from daily realities and the core values that should underpin a democratic state. The political approach of the previous regime seemed to focus on “state capture” of key institutions, image-building and electoral promises that lacked substance in the eyes of a population weary of hyper-political marketing. Concepts such as transparency, accountability, and fairness, at the heart of democratic life, were overshadowed by practices and institutional communication that prioritized form over substance.

This disconnection also reflects a rejection of political practices perceived as authoritarian, at odds with a society that, despite its multicultural makeup, has evolved towards stronger demands for inclusive and transparent governance. Mauritians, regardless of their backgrounds or political affiliations, share a history of coexistence, solidarity and dialogue, compromise, and adaptability. Thus, a politics focused on division, control, and manipulation failed to capture the attention of the majority of voters.

Mauritius is a multicultural and multi-ethnic society marked by remarkable diversity. However, despite its growing openness to the world, it would be premature to claim that the country has fully abandoned its traditional conservatism. This conservatism is evident in a strong adherence to family values, social stability, and respect for time-honoured norms and institutions. These elements are particularly visible in the management of inter-ethnic conflicts, the roles traditionally assigned to women, and intergenerational relationships. While Mauritius has modernized in many ways — particularly in governance, economy, and foreign policy — parts of society remain attached to an established order that privileges the respect for traditional values and structures.

The conservatism present in Mauritian society can be seen as a force of stability. One may see that quest in the constitutional safeguards for certain key posts (CP, DPP for example) or in the Best Loser seats in the National Assembly to compensate for minority under-representation. It acts as a safeguard against political, social and economic turbulence, particularly in times of crisis. However, it assumes that those key posts are manned with integrity and moral values, while the Best Losers, forces candidates to declare their sub-group identity. Excessive conservatism may also hinder progress, especially when it becomes an obstacle to political or social reforms necessary to ensure fairness and justice for all citizens, regardless of their group affiliation.

## New technologies and social media

On the other hand, the advent of new technologies and social media has profoundly reshaped the political land-



scape worldwide. In Mauritius, the “Missié Moustass” videos have embodied this shift, representing a disruptive force that undermined the political marketing strategies relying primarily on the MBC-TV and other technological tools used in recent years by the past regime with allegedly help from outside the country. The “Moustass” videos proved far more effective and, not surprisingly, outclassed and outflanked the MBC-TV’s daily electoral propaganda. While the public broadcaster focused on classic electoral marketing, the “Missié Moustass” videos offered a sharp critique of the outgoing government, highlighting the failure of certain attempts to manipulate public opinion. Whoever was behind the ‘Moustass’ videos, which revealed tapped phone conversations among senior figures within the MSM establishment, both inside and outside its ‘Kitchen Cabinet,’ leveraged this powerful tool to challenge the established order and, crucially, present evidence of wrongdoing that had long been suspected but never proven. What remains to be seen is whether such evidence, obtained through illegal means, will be considered admissible in a court of law.

This phenomenon raises questions about the role of MBC-TV and traditional media in political communication. In an era where social media dominates, MBC-TV, with its monopoly on public broadcasting, seems increasingly irrelevant. A liberalization of the audiovisual space, although supported by some, could introduce new political and commercial actors, each with their own agenda. The question is whether the role of MBC-TV should be revisited, and whether increased pluralism, with private and independent actors, would benefit democratic discourse.

## Governance Issues

Regarding governance, PM Navin Ramgoolam has succeeded in forming a government that represents the various sensitivities of Mauritian society. However, the challenges ahead are immense, particularly after the “scorched earth” policies of the previous regime. While this effort to form a “social pact” among different communities may provide political stability, it will likely not be enough to resolve the underlying issues related to economic management, social justice, and education. The discourse on inclusivity must go beyond words and translate into concrete actions that address equity and fairness.

As for the Opposition, with the MSM securing around 27% of the vote in the last elections, it is still premature to declare the party’s political demise. However, the future of Pravind Jugnauth and some of his associates will largely depend on the outcome of forthcoming audits of the financial issues left behind and legal developments. On the other hand, Xavier Duval, by jumping aboard the MSM ship, appears to be one of the biggest losers of these elec-

tions. Under his leadership, the PMSD has seen its influence weaken, making it difficult to envision a viable political future for the party in its current form. The PMSD’s failure to broaden its appeal beyond its traditional support base suggests a political deadlock. It remains to be seen whether Xavier Duval has the resilience and vision to engineer a revival of the Gaetan Duval legacy

The evolution of the Mauritian political landscape

over the next five years will undoubtedly be marked by multiple challenges: a need for deep economic and social reforms, while attending to immediate campaign pledges, and a political game being reinvented through the impact of new technologies. Political parties will have to adapt to this new reality by revising their communication strategies and, reconsidering their alliances. But beyond electoral battles, it is essential that political leaders recognize the need for a more inclusive and responsible approach, far from the old clientelist and populist practices.

Among the many pressing “chantiers” that the new government has to attend to, all parties may have their own opinion. But certainly, a full Audit of the real financials of Mauritius, its external debt burden, its yet unpaid infrastructure projects (eg the Metro line), the commitments and guarantees the previous government may have undertaken, and, of course, the billions forked through the MIC to now healthy conglomerates, including the Maradiva as well as to a motley collection of cronies. How to prevent such financial mismanagement, forcing ordinary taxpayers to foot the bill of largesses through the VAT and custom duties, particularly on fuel prices, may be one area government should look at through a Fiscal Responsibility Act and/or a strengthening of audit mechanisms.

If the financials are a priority, so is the necessary revamp within the Mauritius Police Force, with a new Police and Criminal Procedures Bill, to make sure that opponents are not hounded, phones and internet are not blithely tapped without judicial supervision, to ensure that CCTV surveillance systems fall under broader quasi-judiciary monitoring, and to ensure that abuses are severely dealt with. The general population recognizes the immense difficulties and challenges faced by officers on the beat who are trying to do an honest job and ensure law and order on the streets, despite the higher ranks contributing to the institution’s tarnished reputation. Related to this is the equally vital need to take strong action against drug peddlers, importers, and their financial backers. It is understood that the long-recommended reorganization of the ADSU is now underway.

Mauritius appears to be at a crossroads: a nation that is globally connected, yet firmly grounded in its history and values. The crucial question is whether, beyond electoral victories, political parties will be able to fulfill the evolving expectations of Mauritian society, which may be undergoing gradual transformation through the rising generations, without undermining its unity. The coming years will determine whether today’s leaders can rise to this challenge and foster a more cohesive, just, and inclusive society for all Mauritians.





Prakash Neerohoo

## Nomination du nouveau Speaker

# Une occasion de réforme parlementaire ratée

*On aura beau parler de changement, certaines institutions semblent être intactes et immuables...*

La nomination du Speaker de la nouvelle Assemblée législative issue des élections du 10 novembre fait l'objet d'un certain débat sur les réseaux sociaux, dont la presse écrite s'est fait l'écho. Il paraît qu'il n'y ait pas de consensus dans l'opinion publique sur le choix de Mme Shirin

Aumeeruddy-Cziffra comme la titulaire de ce poste constitutionnel pour la prochaine mandature. Cependant, à moins d'un revirement à la dernière heure, il est clair que l'on s'achemine vers sa nomination avec l'accord officiel des quatre partis du gouvernement (PTR-MMM-ND-ReA).

La nomination de Mme Cziffra est une proposition du MMM que le Parti travailliste et d'autres alliés ont acceptée. Elle est présentée comme une démarche «féministe» visant à mettre une femme sur le perchoir au moment où la parité de genre est absente au Parlement (seulement dix femmes sur 60 députés). Mais au-delà du symbolisme frappant de la démarche, il y a une question de fond à considérer, notamment le mode de nomination du Speaker dans le contexte d'une meilleure gouvernance des affaires de l'Etat.

D'abord, il faut dire que ceux qui contestent cette nomination ne placent pas le débat sur un plan personnel. Ils reconnaissent à la personne en question certaines compétences. Elle a été députée, ministre de la Justice, ambassadrice en France, «Ombudsman for Children» et président d'un tribunal (Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal) sous différents gouvernements d'obédience MMM ou MSM entre 1982 et 2021. Elle a donc l'expérience parlementaire et les compétences légales nécessaires pour assumer les fonctions de présidente du Parlement. En revanche, certains trouveraient à redire au parcours politique tumultueux de la personne qui a été marqué par des allégeances partisans en mutation au fil des années. Est-ce un retour de la vieille garde? se demandent-ils.

### Speaker élu ou non-élu?

La question fondamentale est de savoir si l'on veut d'un Speaker élu (député) qui soit indépendant et comptable de ses actes au public ou d'un Speaker non-élu (non-député) nommé par le Premier ministre qui ne soit redevable qu'au gouvernement du jour. La majorité absolue de l'alliance au pouvoir après le scrutin du 10 novembre offrirait l'occasion de réformer le mode de nomination du Speaker en vue d'assurer l'impartialité et

l'indépendance du (de la) titulaire du poste. L'article 32 de la Constitution de Maurice prévoit que le Speaker soit choisi parmi les députés élus ou autrement, et ce, sur une motion soutenue par la majorité des membres du Parlement. (Voir la référence ci-dessous).

Comme d'autres pays du Commonwealth à démocratie parlementaire, Maurice avait une tradition de choisir le Speaker parmi les députés élus, ce qui imposait sur le (la) titulaire du poste l'obligation de rendre compte de ses actes à l'électorat s'il (elle) devait briguer de nouveau le suffrage populaire. Pour garder une bonne image, il (elle) devait se montrer impartial(e) et indépendant(e) dans la conduite des travaux parlementaires.

La plupart de nos Speakers depuis l'indépendance ont été des hommes de loi ou des élus (Sir Harilal Vaghjee, Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, Alan Ganoo, Ajay Daby, Razack Peeroo, Premnath Ramnah, Kailash Purryag) et certains d'entre eux avaient les deux qualités, ce qui rehaussait leur statut. Ils s'étaient tous acquittés de leur tâche honorablement. Toutefois, dans les années 1990, le gouvernement MSM a rompu avec cette tradition pour nommer une personne non élue à ce poste et, dans certains cas, le (la) titulaire n'avait aucune formation légale (exemples: Maya Hanoomanjee et Iswardeo Seetaram). Ce changement s'est accompagné d'une dégradation du niveau des débats au Parlement.

### Foire d'empoigne

Les frasques de l'ancien Speaker Phokeer, un individu non élu, ont laissé de mauvais souvenirs chez la majorité des Mauriciens. Au lieu d'être un haut lieu du débat national, le Parlement était devenu une foire d'empoigne où la partisanerie, les railleries et autres remarques désobligeantes prenaient le dessus sur les règles de conduite honorables. L'expulsion de certains députés de l'opposition de la séance parlementaire du jour et leur suspension pour plusieurs séances procédaient d'un acte arbitraire qui a été même contesté par



6 avril 1965 - Harilal Vaghjee, Président de l'Assemblée, procédant à la pose de la pierre angulaire du 'Government Centre'

“La plupart de nos Speakers depuis l'indépendance ont été des hommes de loi ou des élus (Sir Harilal Vaghjee, Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, Alan Ganoo, Ajay Daby, Razack Peeroo, Premnath Ramnah, Kailash Purryag) et certains d'entre eux avaient les deux qualités, ce qui rehaussait leur statut. Ils s'étaient tous acquittés de leur tâche honorablement. Toutefois, dans les années 1990, le gouvernement MSM a rompu avec cette tradition pour nommer une personne non élue à ce poste et, dans certains cas, le (la) titulaire n'avait aucune formation légale. Ce changement s'est accompagné d'une dégradation du niveau des débats au Parlement...”

voie de motion devant la Cour suprême.

Cependant, le judiciaire ne s'est pas prononcé sur ces plaintes déposées par plusieurs députés, lesquelles ont été rendues caduques par l'élection d'un nouveau Parlement. On ne saura donc jamais si le Speaker est sujet à un contrôle quelconque de la part d'une autorité supérieure ou s'il est entièrement souverain dans l'exercice de ses fonctions avec tous les abus imaginables.

En raison de l'expérience amère de la dernière législature, on souhaitait un changement dans le mode de nomination du Speaker. Le gouvernement aurait pu choisir un Speaker parmi les 60 députés élus avec l'accord de tous les partis de la majorité. Il y a assez de députés légistes avec les compétences requises pour occuper ce poste. Or, en choisissant une personne non élue comme Speaker, le gouvernement a

raté une opportunité de réforme parlementaire, ce qui engagera le pays pour les années à venir.

### Election du Speaker

L'idéal serait de choisir le Speaker parmi des députés élus qui posent leur candidature à ce poste dans une élection qui est décidée par le vote secret de tous les parlementaires. C'est la pratique dans certains pays du Commonwealth (par exemple, la Grande Bretagne et le Canada) où le Speaker, une fois élu par la Chambre des Communes, renonce à ses activités partisans pour s'acquitter de ses devoirs avec impartialité.

Elle s'appuie sur le principe que le Speaker - éludes rangs des députés - est redevable de ses décisions non seulement à la Chambre, mais aussi au public. Le Speaker est toujours issu des rangs de la majorité bien que l'opposition puisse proposer son candidat lors de l'élection du Speaker dans la Chambre. Dans tous les cas, le Speaker choisi s'engage à démontrer un esprit d'équité dans la performance de ses fonctions. Le fait d'avoir un Speaker non-élu (non-député) comporte le risque qu'il soutienne la majorité en toutes circonstances et ne se croit pas obligé de rendre compte de ses décisions au public. Il est grand temps que le pays retourne à l'ancienne tradition qui nous a bien servis dans le passé.

Quand on voit les débats à la Chambre des Communes en Angleterre ou au Canada, on est impressionné par l'indépendance visible du Speaker durant les travaux parlementaires, et surtout par son souci d'être respectueux et équitable envers tous les partis lors de la tranche horaire consacrée aux questions parlementaires. C'est un plaisir d'assister à ces débats en direct.

Si un gouvernement de 60-0 n'est pas prêt à se servir de son

capital politique pour faire une réforme parlementaire digne de ce nom, alors aucun autre gouvernement ne le fera. On aura beau parler de changement, certaines institutions semblent être intactes et immuables.

Alors pour la rupture, il faudra repasser!

\* \* \*

### Election of Speaker & Deputy Speaker

Constitution of Mauritius

32. Speaker and Deputy Speaker

(1) (a) The Assembly shall, at its first sitting after any general election, on motion supported by the votes of a majority of all the members of the Assembly elect (i) from among its members or otherwise, a Speaker; (ii) from among its members, a Deputy Speaker.



# The Geo-Politics of Adani Indictment

Jan Arden

A few days ago, Gautam Adani, founder-chairman of the powerful Adani conglomerate, active on many fronts (ports, airports, energy amongst other sectors), faced his biggest challenge yet. The world learned that he was being charged by US attorneys in a federal Brooklyn court, along with seven others, over alleged bribery of US\$ 250 m by some Indian state officials in Indian tenders related to renewable power supply deals. The fifty-plus page indictment charges filed by US federal attorneys (appointed by President Joe Biden) linked their case to US citizens and interests by stating that such a potential unproved scam in India should have been brought to the attention of US investors where the Group was raising billions for its green energy and solar projects.

This was obviously a far greater predicament than the previous short-seller assault in the US, known as the Hindenburg affair, from which the Adani group was just recovering. In the wake of the abrupt if not shocking indictment that quickly made headlines around the globe, Adani Green and Adani Group shares plunged some 20%, US rating agencies announced that they might downgrade the Group standing and some countries like Kenya or Bangladesh froze or cancelled planned Adani investments. Leader of the Indian Opposition Rahul Gandhi, ever quick to castigate the Adani group, associating its rise with the Modi regime, pounced and bull-charged into the political arena,

demanding immediate arrests, Indian investigations or a JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee).

Responding quickly to the US indictment, Adani Green Energy Ltd said group founder chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and senior executive Vneet Jaain have not been charged with any violations of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) over bribery, nor is the civil complaint filed by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) based on this but rather of non-disclosure of pertinent information.

Following this much-needed clarification, Adani shares rose in Indian markets and recouped 10-13% of their early losses, reflecting India Inc confidence in the Group's standing and reputation, but the fuse lit in the US is still incandescent and pregnant with many unknowns. Reputable independent Indian lawyers have since been busy untangling US charge sheet documents in this unusual case where US federal attorneys have tried hard to bring Indian chairman and global tycoon Adani under the US scanner for alleged misdeeds that would have taken place inside India.

They did not miss the geopolitical angle and, even the BBC recognised that "US Attorney positions in the US are appointed by the president. The filing comes just weeks after Donald Trump won election to the White House, pledging to overhaul the US Justice Department. After Trump won, Mr Adani had congratulated him on social media and pledged last week to invest \$10bn in the US". Was this a sudden Democrat deep state (just as there is a



Billionaire Indian industrialist Gautam Adani has been charged with paying hundreds of millions of dollars of bribes and hiding the payments from investors, US prosecutors say. Pic - AFP

Republican deep state) assault on a conglomerate whose various ventures are disturbing to some occult global interests, particularly US and Chinese, in mega solar power investments and operations?

Geopolitical analysts ask whether the Biden administration's relations with Modi and India Inc have soured since about 2022 and remained in the doldrums since. That coincides with Russia and Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February of that year, with massive international pressures to boycott Russia and its oil/gas products, a line which PM Modi steadfastly failed to kow-tow. In January 2023 came the first salvo against the targeted Adani group with the Hindenburg allegations in the US. In March 2023, the US, ditching the importance of the Quad or India's long-standing wishes, agreed a historic AUCKUS deal to sell nuclear-powered submarines to Australia with later technology transfer. A miffed India had to turn to France and Russia for strategic alternatives and partners that would help its Make-in-India and autonomy thrust in advanced military technologies.

Towards the end of 2023, we recall that

both Canada and the US entered cases against Indian operatives accused of working with Indian government to eliminate

Khalistani terrorists (Nijjar and Pannum) who found easy refuge in both countries although the cases have yet to come to court. In August this year, Hindenburg extended its prior allegations against Adani to the SEBI CEO, and now, observers ask if the timing of Democratic attorneys springing to action in a Democratic state, two months from President Joe Biden's exit from the White House, is mere coincidence or part of a larger pattern of a soured relationship.

Certainly, neither PM Modi nor India Inc can condone actual bribery or corruption, and the case has to be answered before President Trump takes over. However, no evidence of corruption of Indian officials have been produced and, quite honestly, the idea that more than US\$ 250 m would be extended to officials in several states, most run by Congress administrations, defies belief. No democratic country and no respected independent judiciary can simply jump into action merely on vague allegations or allusions to some corrupt conspiracy under tropical skies.

In matters of high finance, where geopolitical considerations cannot be excluded, it would be prudent to await the unfolding of the narrative launched from the US against a formidable Indian businessman and his conglomerate. This includes determining whether the shift in the Indo-Pacific narrative reflects a broader Pentagon reassessment of India-US security ties, or if it represents a political shift that may not endure beyond Biden's final days in office, until President-elect Trump takes full control.

## Elections in India's richest state: Maharashtra

Congress, which had planned to use the Adani indictment in the US on alleged but unsubstantiated corruption charges, as mainstay of its attack on the BJP-led central government, may have to revisit its strategies after the colossal electoral drubbing it suffered in state elections in Maharashtra, the country's financial capital and richest state.

Coming hard on the heels of the 2024 general elections, where the BJP-led NDA alliance secured a historic third term but with reduced majorities, many in Opposition circles considered that the BJP was a faltering party suffering from anti-incumbency, a weakening of the Modi brand or the effectiveness of Congress broadsides under the INDI bloc alliance banner. According to reports, the BJP had fared well with all castes and communities during the 2014 and 2019 general elections but not in 2024, when Muslim votes went en masse to the INDI opposition parties and Congress, campaigning hard at the caste census and "crony capitalism", chipped away at BJP votes. It must also be reminded that the grassroots organisation and strength of the RSS had been left on the sidelines in those 2024 Lok Sabha elections and these factors showed in the results.



Maharashtra: Narendra Modi's wins crucial state election. Pic - BBC

Yet, with the winds in the sails and confidence oozing from every pro-Congress media analyst, results in straight contests between the Congress and BJP in a succession of state elections: Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana in October, failed to deliver the punch that was predicted for Congress. The loss in Haryana was particularly humiliating for a breezy and still overconfident Congress backed by pollsters who were left with some egg on their face. The interest in the larger and richer

Maharashtra state was therefore at a pitch for all parties and could hold key decoders for the future of India's politics and direction at the national level.

The voters spoke a few days ago and handed the victorious BJP-led alliance an astounding 233 out of 288 seats, with the BJP on its own bagging 132 of the 149 seats it had contested, a remarkable strike rate of near 90%. The grassroots RSS organisation, after its hands-off approach to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, mobilised its full network around the "Sajag Raho" theme, matching the BJP theme of unity in the "Ek Hai To Safe Hai". While not asking directly for BJP votes, the RSS contribution to the consolidation of votes was undeniable and may be replicated elsewhere in the future.

As for the shaky and unwieldy assemblage of Opposition parties in the INDI bloc, the spats and divides after the Haryana loss were already gnawing; they now look set to grow into ravines. With deeper introspection warranted and a dumping of Congress or Rahul Gandhi as natural leader not excluded, they might not have much appetite for brazen and open defiance in the Lok Sabha or for dragging Adani over the embers.





Paramanund  
Soobarah

# Should the New Government be Indulging in Witch-Hunting?

*The new government has a duty to identify wrongdoers from the outgoing administration and ensure they face legal consequences, including exemplary punishment*

I have read with great interest the articles on this and related subjects in last week's *Mauritius Times*. To me the electorate's mandate is crystal-clear. They do not want a government that treats national assets (including assets of parastatal bodies and government-established companies) like personal property, a government that fools people with exaggerated freebies to get their votes, and that loots pension funds, and in the process devaluing our currency and also increasing the national debt and the load on generations yet unborn.

They do not want a government that spies on the public, that uses information gathered by spying to inflict its biases on the population in the way it appoints people into government and parastatal bodies (based on their assessment of people's party-affiliations, which may be correct but also often incorrect, and also often based on caste and community considerations, all regardless of personal merit. They do not want a government that stifles free speech indirectly by falsely implicating people who do not share views in crimes they have not committed. More importantly they do not want a government that plants false evidence on citizens, that arrests people on fabricated charges (and protects criminals), that inflicts physical pain, mental anguish and totally undeserved and unnecessary harassment on people.

It is yet to be determined whether any politician or politically-protected person is involved in the infamous drug trade. The electorate also wants to be assured that no passing ships can approach our shores, exchange contraband goods including illegal drugs, and that measures are in place to detect such malpractices in the high seas in our vicinity.

Were the public of Quatre Bornes consulted before inflicting such an ugly and calamitous contraption as a railway track in

the middle of their favourite St Jean Road? In other cities endowed with tramways both the tramcars and ordinary vehicles live peaceably alongside one another. Why should they be segregated in such a narrow space here? And why St Jean Road? And if segregation is a must, then why not the old railway track at least up to Hillcrest Road?

These matters concern not just the outgoing politicians. Their tools are most often the political appointees who head other government-owned or government-controlled institutions. And sadly also, some regular civil servants who throw all considerations of ethics to the wind. They include some members of the Police Force.

The electorate have emphatically said they do not want such a government. They couldn't be clearer. They certainly do not want the new government to indulge in the same practices. Assuming that the present government has learnt from the mistakes of the previous one, how can any future governments be dissuaded from engaging in similar evil malpractices? In my view the only way is to identify all wrongdoers in the outgoing government and subject them to the processes of the law, seeking exemplary punishment for them. The only people who can do that are the new government. They have a duty to do so, unless of course they want to prepare the ground for their own future similar actions. So much for witch-hunting.

Civil servants owe allegiance and respect to the elected government of the day. They also have to abide by a code of ethics – which in the colonial days used to be set out in the General Orders (Establishment) (GOE). I am not aware whether it has

been replaced and by what. If nothing of the sort exists today, it is vital for the sake of good governance that something similar be brought out urgently.

**“The electorate does not want a government that plants false evidence on citizens, that arrests people on fabricated charges (and protects criminals), that inflicts physical pain, mental anguish and totally undeserved and unnecessary harassment on people. It is yet to be determined whether any politician or politically-protected person is involved in the infamous drug trade. The electorate also wants to be assured that no passing ships can approach our shores, exchange contraband goods including illegal drugs...” Pic - The Sun**

**“Civil servants are often assigned special tasks which, in the view of their superiors, they are competent to carry out – whether these fall within their scheme of duties or not. Competent people never say no to a task, even if it is difficult and outside their scheme of service. Sadly, such people often come to be regarded as “favourites”. That is a cross that they have to bear. But incoming governments must be careful not to mistreat all those who were regarded as “favourites” with the previous administration because of their competence. Sadly, there are some people who will tell fabricated stories about colleagues. Ministers must be slow in accepting such stories...”**

been replaced and by what. If nothing of the sort exists today, it is vital for the sake of good governance that something similar be brought out urgently.

Civil servants who work well and are competent at their jobs are bound to be noticed by their superiors. Consequently, they are often assigned special tasks which, in the view of their superiors, they are competent to carry out – whether these fall within their scheme of duties or not. Competent people never say no to a task, even if it is difficult and outside their scheme of service. Sadly, such people often come to be regarded as “favourites”. That is a cross that they have to bear. But incoming governments must be careful not to mistreat all those who were regarded as “favourites” with the previous administration because of their competence. Sadly, there are some people who will tell fabricated stories about colleagues. Ministers must be slow in accepting such stories.

Civil servants must always give ethically correct advice to their ministers. If a civil servant is asked to do something unethical, he

must point out what is not correct about it. If his boss insists, he must first of all ensure that his own opinions are based on strong and absolutely valid grounds. That something has never been done before is not a valid reason for opposing any request. In the final analysis, a civil servant can carry out the desired action under protest or resign. He can also comply as required, at his own risk.

Governments often have to appoint people into places when such appointments are outside the remit of the Public Service Commission. Of course they will appoint people they trust. But that does not mean they should appoint square pegs in round holes just because they are pliant or as a reward for past political support – such as, for instance, a fishmonger onto the board of some important parastatal body or some partially state-owned company. The new government has already started making new appointments. We are relieved that the Bank of Mauritius will be in safe hands. We shall be watching about others.

☞ See more on page 24



# La Croisette: L'incident tragique qui expose les défaillances de sécurité dans les malls

Par A. Bartleby

**U**ne jeune femme de 21 ans a été victime d'un horrible accident à La Croisette cette semaine. En effet, la jambe de la jeune Fatimah a été prise dans un « travelator » défilant alors qu'elle se trouvait dessus. Sa jambe a été engloutie par l'escalator et a été broyée. Il a fallu aux secours plusieurs heures pour pouvoir la dégager, et elle a dû être amputée de sa jambe dont la cheville était complètement broyée.

Cet accident n'a pas manqué de susciter l'émoi des Mauriciens. La nature même de l'accident, d'une rare violence, et la manière dont cela s'est produit n'ont pas manqué de choquer. Un grand élan de solidarité s'est tout de suite mis en place, et plusieurs membres du nouveau Gouvernement n'ont pas manqué de marquer leur présence et de témoigner leur solidarité de manière très publique. Le Gouvernement a agi avec rapidité pour trouver une solution afin que Fatimah puisse bénéficier de traitements adéquats, et cette dernière a pu être envoyée dans un centre spécialisé dans la chirurgie reconstructive en Inde.

Certains cyniques observeront que le Gouvernement a saisi l'occasion de mettre en avant son action et de tirer parti de cette situation sur le plan politique. D'ailleurs, nous avons été témoins d'un Premier ministre délaissant son bureau afin de s'afficher au chevet de la jeune Fatimah, son épouse enlaçant même la mère de cette dernière pour une image qui fera date.

Mais cet accident pose de sérieuses questions sur la sécurité dans les espaces publics et les malls. Nous



Il y a là un travail à faire en concert entre les responsables des malls et les responsables politiques afin que ces espaces deviennent des lieux mieux sécurisés. P - mopays.moris

voyons depuis deux décennies se multiplier les malls, qui sont devenus tout autant des lieux de shopping et de divertissements que des espaces de loisirs pour les Mauriciens qui ne peuvent pas se permettre le luxe des weekends getaways dans les hôtels. Et La Croisette ne fait pas

exception à cela. Il s'agit même d'un mall précurseur dans ce domaine, car le management a su allier la partie utilitaire du shopping avec un hypermarché, un foodcourt, des restaurants, un cinéma et une multiplicité d'activités divertissantes comme des concerts, des activités ludiques et des festivals des cuisines du monde et de l'artisanat.

La Croisette était ainsi devenue un lieu de vie important pour les habitants du nord. Mais à parler à certaines personnes qui y travaillent, ce lieu devenait également délabré. Les escalators et les ascenseurs étaient constamment en panne selon certains dires, et les équipements du mall avaient mal vieilli. Certains disent même qu'il était grand temps pour une rénovation. Nous laissons ce jugement à ceux qui s'y connaissent, mais il est certain que la réputation du mall a pris un sérieux coup, et ce ne sera pas simple de la reconstruire sans que le management du mall ne donne des garanties sur le sérieux de leur démarche.

**I**l y aura bien évidemment les enquêtes qui devront déterminer les torts et les responsabilités, s'ils existent. Et nous devons reconnaître que ces enquêtes et les procédures légales qui pourraient en découler prendront du temps. Mais finalement, il serait judicieux que ce drame mène à une réflexion plus approfondie sur la sécurité dans les malls et dans les lieux publics.

Il y a un travail de concertation à entreprendre entre les responsables des malls et les responsables politiques afin que ces espaces, qui ne désemplissent jamais de monde, deviennent des lieux mieux sécurisés. Espérons donc que les différents acteurs impliqués prennent leur responsabilité et viennent de l'avant avec des solutions concrètes afin que ce qui est arrivé à Fatimah ne se reproduise plus.

## Le PM forme son équipe au PMO

**N**avin Ramgoolam n'a pas tardé à constituer son équipe de conseillers et de nominés autour de lui. Après avoir fait l'annonce que Rama Sithanen serait le nouveau gouverneur de la BOM et que le ministère des Finances serait sous la responsabilité du PMO, avec Dhaneshwar Damryen Junior Minister, il est maintenant pressenti que Gilbert Gnany (l'ex Chief Economic Strategist de la MCB) soit nommé au poste de Senior Economic Advisor du PMO.

Il y a plusieurs choses à dire sur ces nominations.

Tout d'abord, politiquement, nombreux étaient ceux qui attendaient de voir qui occuperait le ministère des Finances afin d'avoir une meilleure visibilité sur la ligne de succession qui se mettrait en place au sein du PTR. Il n'est un secret pour personne que les deux personnes positionnées pour succéder à Navin Ramgoolam sont Ritesh Ramphul et Dhaneshwar Damry. Ils ont tous les deux le profil requis mais divergent sur plusieurs plans. Ritesh Ramphul est un travailliste pur-sang, issu d'une famille historiquement proche du PTR et marié à la fille de Kailash Purryag.

Danesh Damry est, lui, une recrue récente

du PTR. Il a su se rapprocher de Navin Ramgoolam en s'affichant même comme son poulain, comme l'a démontré le fait que Damry l'avait accompagné en Inde lors de son déplacement médical.

Beaucoup attendaient de voir comment NCR allait jongler avec les portefeuilles ministériels pour envoyer les signaux requis. Le fait que Ritesh Ramphul soit dépêché aux Affaires Étrangères et que Damry soit au PMO, sous l'aile de NCR, dit absolument tout ce qu'il faut savoir des plans de Navin Ramgoolam pour l'avenir du PTR. Mais le fait que NCR ait choisi d'avoir la main mise sur le ministère des Finances et de faire de Damry «seulement» un Junior Minister veut également beaucoup dire.

**E**n tout cas, cette configuration semble révéler les intentions stratégiques probables de Navin Ramgoolam, qui semble mettre en place une ligne de succession claire tout en consolidant son pouvoir au sein du Gouvernement. Il sera intéressant de suivre l'évolution de cette dynamique, car elle pourrait avoir des répercussions importantes sur l'avenir du Parti Travailleuse, sur la transition politique qui pourrait se dessiner dans les années à venir, ainsi que sur la manière dont le Gouvernement abordera les défis économiques qui se profilent.

## L'Europe se prépare à une Troisième Guerre mondiale

**A**lors que la Grande-Bretagne annonce une révision de ses dépenses de défense, une grande partie de l'Europe s'active à se préparer à un acte de guerre qui nécessiterait une réponse de l'OTAN. Dans ce contexte, l'expert en défense, Francis Tusa, explique ce qui est en train d'être planifié.

À plus de 1 500 km de Londres, une activité frénétique se déploie dans les campagnes de la Pologne, de la Finlande et des États baltes: bulldozers et pelleteuses construisent des défenses de terrain. Fossés anti-chars, pièges à tanks et casemates sont en construction. Dans ces pays, la pose de champs de mines – y compris les controversés champs de mines antipersonnel – est même activement envisagée.

La Pologne investit au moins 2,5 milliards d'euros dans son système de défense des frontières, y compris la construction d'un «dôme de fer» similaire à celui d'Israël, destiné à protéger sa frontière orientale d'une menace croissante en provenance de la Russie.

**L**ors d'une réunion avec les dirigeants européens en mai, le Premier ministre polonais Donald Tusk a affirmé: «Créer un dôme de fer contre les missiles et les drones est nécessaire... Il n'y a aucune raison que l'Europe n'ait pas son propre bouclier antimissile», confirmant ainsi que les travaux sur ce projet avaient débuté. Il a ajouté qu'il ne fallait pas beaucoup d'imagination pour comprendre que l'Europe, tout comme Israël, se trouve également en zone de danger.

Le projet de défense de la Pologne inclut des obstacles physiques anti-chars, des bunkers et des technologies anti-drones alimentées par l'intelligence artificielle pour créer des systèmes de détection précoce et de surveillance.

➔ Suite en page 16



# A Casino in Every Pocket - Gambling with The Future



Anil Madan

*Governments have a duty to protect their citizens from harmful and addictive products and to adopt a public health response to gambling.*

Shortly after the attempted assassination attempt on candidate Trump in July, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Polymarket, a crypto-based prediction market, had seen a surge of interest in its betting markets tied to the presidential election. That article reported on a 20-year-old college student in Canada who bought thousands of contracts on the prospect of Trump's winning the election and making \$700 in less than one hour.

\$700 is a trifling sum, but perhaps not to a college student. And if the short time he spent on the trade, or gamble if you will, is indicative of anything, it is that there is more to the story. Sure enough, the *WSJ* reported that in the preceding month, trading volumes on Polymarket had hit \$112 million, but by July 18, that month's volume had exceeded the prior month's number.

One might be tempted to think that Polymarket's system simply reflects market wisdom. There is something to that. Here is how it works. Contracts are based on a binary selection of yes-or-no to a specific question. So, in the past, the questions included Biden would drop out of the running. Each trader (or better or gambler) can purchase a "yes" or "no" contract. The price of the contract will range from zero to \$1. When the question is definitively answered, everyone who holds a contract that got the answer right is paid \$1 and everyone who bet the wrong way gets nothing, i.e., loses his stake. In a sense, the price reflects the collective wisdom of all those participating in this particular market, about the probability of the outcome.

The *WSJ* article went on to point out that Polymarket's website showed that the college student had made over \$150,000 since 2021.

About two and one-half weeks before the November 5 election, the *WSJ* reported that although polls across the nation showed the Trump-Harris race was neck-and-neck, the betting market, namely Polymarket was telling a vastly different story. There is Trump who had been even with Harris two weeks earlier at 50-50, now had a decided edge of 60% to 40% on the Polymarket platform.

This may have been an artifact caused by a \$30 million bet on Trump by four account holders on the Polymarket site. Or, it was, just market wisdom. There was no serious charge that betting on Polymarket influenced the election.

A day after the election, the *New York Post* reported that the \$30 million in bets were placed by a still anonymous French whale who raked in \$48 million in profits. In all, the *Post* reported \$3.7 billion worth of bets were placed on the Polymarket platform on the presidential election.

The so-called whale told the *WSJ* that he placed his bets simply to make money and he had no political agenda.

While this anecdotal evidence of betting on the presidential election is interesting, it appears to be only a small

**“The commercial ecosystem supporting gambling has been transformed by its digitization. The Lancet Public Health Commission warns governments and policymakers to treat gambling as a public health issue with harms on a par with and exceeding those of alcohol and smoking. The gambling industry sees a highly profitable market that is rapidly expanding with much room to grow. The Commission warns that we are on the precipice of an epidemiological landscape...”**



**“Evolving online gambling products are designed to present engaging rapid and intensive wagering opportunities. These characteristics create a greater risk of harm for consumers. In-game betting during live matches that is available to those attending in person and also those watching on TV, cable, streaming or online, has placed a casino in every pocket and made online sports betting instantaneous...”** Pic - NPR

part of the surge in gambling worldwide.

The *Lancet Public Health* touts itself as the world-leading public health journal. The journal commissioned a study of gambling and published an article titled: *'Time for a public health response to gambling'*.

The *Lancet* article minces no words: "Gambling is not an ordinary kind of leisure; it can be a health-harming, addictive behavior. The harms associated with gambling are wide-ranging, affecting not only an individual's health and wellbeing, but also their wealth and relationships, families and communities, and deepening health and societal inequalities."

The commercial ecosystem supporting gambling has been transformed by its digitization. The *Lancet Public Health* Commission warns governments and policymakers to treat gambling as a public health issue with harms on a par with and exceeding those of alcohol and smoking.

The gambling industry sees a highly profitable market that is rapidly expanding with much room to grow. The Commission warns that we are on the precipice of an epidemiological landscape,

The numbers are staggering. In 2023, the Commission estimates that almost half (46.2%) of adults and 18% of adolescents had engaged in gambling. Whereas only 1.4%, a small proportion, of this represents problematic gambling, the number of women and men experiencing risk gambling is growing rapidly.

The ecosystem enabling and supporting gambling is complex and the capabilities of digital platforms provide new and innovative opportunities for targeting potential customers and victims. The outreach via social media, collection of user data, and the momentum provided by sports and media sponsorships and advertising outreach make what seems like harmless social gambling acceptable. All this masks a multibillion-dollar market.

For those hoping that government can and should do more to address this problem, is the sorry realization that

governments are often conflicted, Governments in general have paid little attention to the harms that addictive gambling causes. They are instead more focused on the revenue generated by taxes on gambling revenues. And when it comes to state-run lotteries, governments promote gambling while paying lip-service to problem gambling and oversimplifications such as blaming individuals for their behaviour.

The Commission takes note of the gambling industry's claims that their products offer enjoyment to millions and the overwhelming majority of participants do not suffer the adverse effects claims and therefore, government should not encroach on the freedom of individuals. The Commission's response is that these industry assertions are deeply misleading. The Commission emphasizes that governments have a duty to protect their citizens from harmful and addictive products and to adopt a public health response to gambling.

The Commission estimates that the gambling industry's growth will result in consumers losing \$700 billion per year by 2028. More than 80% of countries permit gambling and online gambling is essentially borderless and available everywhere with an internet connection.

Commercial gambling would not have grown as fast and penetrated society as deeply as it has without digitization and access via smartphones. The consequences of the shift to new platforms offering easy access to betting has not been recognized or studied. Modern technology houses a gambling ecosystem of software-controlled information technology and financial services that is

supported and endorsed by strong and profitable partnerships among media, social media, professional sports teams. These partnerships and alliances provide gambling platforms with marketing access to huge new audiences.

The Commission recognizes that this far-reaching and interdependent corporate ecosystem collectively wields substantial influence over policy and also the ability to manage, manipulate and leverage the behaviour of consumers.

Evolving online gambling products are designed to present engaging rapid and intensive wagering opportunities. These characteristics create a greater risk of harm for consumers. In-game betting during live matches that is available to those attending in person and also those watching on TV, cable, streaming or online, has placed a casino in every pocket and made online sports betting instantaneous and increased both its frequency and prevalence.

The success of these approaches have led states to offer faster cycles and more betting opportunities for traditional lottery games. And these are increasingly accessible through smartphone apps.

The Commission's summary is worth reading in full: "Regulating an increasingly global gambling industry presents substantial challenges, but they are not insurmountable. The global nature of the industry necessitates strong international regulatory collaboration. Additionally, increased levels of research and improved monitoring systems are required to produce credible, independent, non-industry-driven, and therefore reliable, evidence on gambling harms and the efficacy of various control methods."

"Without adequate oversight, profit-driven corporate behaviours in the gambling industry will pose ever greater risks to a widening circle of consumers and to public health worldwide.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



# The North prepares for war: Global South for peace & development



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*I would like to see an end to global wars and conflicts. And all the children of the world having a better and more hopeful future. — Dr Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana*

The war between Ukraine and Russia has now crossed its 1000th day, and it is still the case that there is as yet no end in view. In fact, there is an escalation. On November 18, CNN Politics wrote that 'President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine to use powerful long-range American weapons inside Russia, according to two US officials familiar with the decision.'

It went on to note that 'the decision to allow the use of the Army Tactical Missile Systems, or ATACMS, inside Russia had been under consideration for months... American officials had been divided on the wisdom of allowing the new capability. Some had concerns about escalating the war, while others worried about dwindling stockpiles of the weapons.'

Ukraine lost no time in deploying these weapons, firing six of them, with Russia claiming that it had downed five and only one managed to get through but caused little damage. It soon retaliated by responding with what has been described as intermediate range hypersonic ballistic missiles, which it appears have caused considerable



**“World Wars 1 and 2 both started in Europe, and if we go by what we are hearing and reading in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia confrontation, World War 3 if it happens, will also start in Europe. Earlier, when World War 3 was mentioned, the reference was to cyberwarfare and such events. Now, it's not about 'soft' war of this nature, it is about conventional war using physical violence to destroy territories and people...” Pic - Vox**

damage to the missile production capacity of Ukraine.

A few months after the start of the war, the spectre of nuclear brinkmanship raised its head, and it is still 'alive.' In its wake have come discussions about the

possible consequences if nuclear weapons were to be used. And since this new development of the use of long-range missiles, there are daily discussions in several European news channels - such as France 23/24, DW, LCI - about war, and war, and

war. The tone and perceptible animation of these exchanges leave one with the impression that the European powers are raring to fight! Indeed, as of Nov. 25, LCI reports that Ukraine has launched more missiles, and some NATO countries are contemplating to send both war equipment and troops to Ukraine, besides providing more funding to support its warring efforts.

Before that, there had been talk about a possible World War 3. World Wars 1 and 2 both started in Europe, and if we go by what we are hearing and reading in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia confrontation, World War 3 if it happens, will also start in Europe. Earlier, when World War 3 was mentioned, the reference was to cyberwarfare and such events. Now, it's not about 'soft' war of this nature, it is about conventional war using physical violence to destroy territories and people.

Physicist Albert Einstein is often quoted as saying: 'I do not know with what weapons World War 3 will be fought, but World 4 will be fought with spears and stones.' The implication is that the devastation will be so complete that there won't even be any man-made weapons left to fight against each other. Nuclear holocaust followed by a nuclear winter most likely...

The hope, and expectation, is that President-elect Donald Trump will fulfil the pledge he has taken both before the election and in several addresses after it, that he will push for a negotiated end to the war and restore peace between these two parties, and besides he will not start any new war. As the Americans are fond of saying, 'sounds good' - but we have to wait for January 20, 2025, at the earliest, when Donald Trump will be installed as President.

## 'We must choose peace and development instead...'

A group of countries belonging to the Global South, on the other hand, is playing on a different chord: peace and development through dialogue and diplomacy, and broad-based cooperation among the member countries. This was spelt out in broad outline - but nevertheless with a fair amount of detail - by PM Narendra Modi during his address at the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit which was held at its headquarters in Guyana last week. He had first completed his official visits to Brazil and Guyana before the summit.

In the wake of this visit, Dr Mohamad Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, was interviewed by Ramesh Ramachandran of Doordarshan India, and his words cited at the top of this article were in response to a question put to him at the end of the interview, whether he had a message for the world. At the beginning of the interview, when asked for preliminary remarks about the impending visit of PM Modi to Guyana, Dr Irfaan Ali was not shy in his praise of the latter as 'providing exceptional leadership in India and globally.'

Dr Irfaan Ali has a doctorate in Urban Planning and had served as parliamentarian and minister before becoming President of Guyana. He had studied under the ITech scheme in India, and over the past 20 years had visited the country several times, the last time being in 2023 when he attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. He expanded on the 'tremendous bilateral relationship' that exists between India and

Guyana, covering several diverse sectors, and gave an account of the invaluable contribution made by the descendants of the Indian immigrants, who form about 40% of the total population of 800,000, to the economic, social, cultural and political life of their adopted country. He himself traces his ancestry to Uttar Pradesh.

He was especially grateful to India for the donation of Covid vaccines to his and the CARICOM countries, at a time when India itself was 'in need of them, and yet thought of the brothers and sisters' who were not able to source them from the rich countries. This was reiterated by the Premier of CARICOM during the Summit. India's gesture appears to have touched them deeply, and the genuine respect and affection with which they welcomed and listened to PM Modi testifies to that.

In his opening remark at the Summit, PM Modi emphasized how 'India has always strived to work together with CARICOM to address shared challenges: Be it Covid, natural disasters, capacity building, or development initiatives, India has stood shoulder to shoulder with all of you as a reliable partner.'

He expressed his pleasure that progress has been made on several new and positive initiatives that had been identified at the first India-CARICOM Summit in 2019 and went on to present his 'proposals to strengthen further cooperation.' These proposals are based on seven main pillars, and these pillars are: C,A,R,I,C,O,M, — 'C' stands for

Capacity Building; 'A' for Agriculture and Food Security; 'R' for Renewable Energy and Climate Change; 'I' for Innovation, Technology, and Trade; 'C' for Cricket and Culture; 'O' for Ocean Economy and Maritime Security, adding that 'for India, you are not Small Island States but Large Ocean Countries'; 'M' for Medicine and Healthcare.

His complete address is available online and gives a comprehensive outline of the projects, etc., under each heading. He concluded by saying that 'the seven pillars of "CARICOM" have one thing in common - they are all based on your priorities and needs. This is the fundamental principle of our cooperation. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these subjects.'

Dr Irfaan Ali was keen that India develop agri-business and industrial manufacturing platforms in the CARICOM region, which includes Brazil, pointing out that it represents a population of over 600 million people. The CARICOM countries saw in India not only a valued friend but a reliable partner with capacities and skills that would take them forward.

The important point here is that it is eminently possible to choose a path other than war and that in these precarious and uncertain times it is only peaceful coexistence that can save the planet and ensure our collective welfare. This is the example that these Global South countries are showing to the world, and the North had better let go of its beligerent mindset and make a turnaround for peace.



Lindsay Rivière

# “Le MMM doit pleinement jouer le jeu d’un pouvoir Ramgoolam

que Navin n’aime pas voir contesté, et le PTr doit pleinement respecter Bérenger”

**L**indsay Rivière, journaliste et analyste politique, livre un examen incisif des bouleversements récents de la politique mauricienne. Dans une interview accordée au *Mauritius Times*, il explore les raisons profondes de la défaite de l’Alliance Lepep et de la dérive du gouvernement du MSM, soulignant un changement radical dans la culture politique du pays. Selon lui, ce changement, marqué par une centralisation excessive du pouvoir et des pratiques politiques autoritaires, a profondément perturbé les valeurs démocratiques et républicaines que les Mauriciens chérissent.

Lindsay Rivière met également en lumière les défis actuels auxquels le pays fait face, notamment la nécessité de rétablir un équilibre démocratique, de restaurer la crédibilité des institutions et de naviguer dans un paysage médiatique en mutation avec l’essor des nouvelles technologies. Par son analyse, il invite à réfléchir sur l’avenir politique de Maurice, en soulignant l’importance d’un retour aux valeurs fondamentales, au «mauricianisme» et à une politique inclusive, loin des clivages ethniques et partisans.

**Mauritius Times: Si l’on vous affirmait que la défaite de l’Alliance Lepep résulte avant tout du rejet d’une culture politique incompatible avec les valeurs et les expériences que les Mauriciens partagent depuis des décennies, que répondriez-vous?**

**Lindsay Rivière:** Ce serait absolument correct, même s’il y a d’autres facteurs

ment partisan et hystérique, (iii) la volonté pernicieuse d’affaiblir systématiquement tous les contre-pouvoirs (Presse, DPP, Judiciaire, Société civile), (iv) une stratégie de ‘State capture’ pour mettre sous la botte du MSM toutes les institutions de l’Etat au moyen de nominations ciblées, (v) un mensonge officiel inadmissible où on ne sait plus quoi croire, et enfin (vi) un autoritarisme



## ‘Paul Bérenger peut toujours continuer à servir très bien sans portefeuille, comme mentor pour les jeunes, loyal second de Navin Ramgoolam’

importants à considérer. J’ai constamment tenté d’attirer l’attention, ces dernières années (y compris dans *Mauritius Times*), sur le fait qu’avec le gouvernement MSM sortant, Maurice était en train de changer dramatiquement de culture politique, et ce, pour le pire.

Comment? En glissant rapidement d’un modèle de démocratie de type européen auquel nous sommes effectivement habitués et attachés (le système Westminster, dont nos concitoyens partagent depuis des décennies les valeurs et les comportements) vers de nouvelles pratiques politiques hautement condamnables qu’on retrouve plus aisément en Afrique, en Amérique du Sud ou en Asie.

Ce glissement s’illustrait par (i) un Exécutif hypercentralisé et accapareur, s’octroyant sans cesse plus de pouvoirs, politisant tout, (ii) un Parlement représentatif de la nation régulièrement bafoué, diminué et paralysé par un Speaker grossière-

ment partisan et hystérique, (iii) la volonté pernicieuse d’affaiblir systématiquement tous les contre-pouvoirs (Presse, DPP, Judiciaire, Société civile), (iv) une stratégie de ‘State capture’ pour mettre sous la botte du MSM toutes les institutions de l’Etat au moyen de nominations ciblées, (v) un mensonge officiel inadmissible où on ne sait plus quoi croire, et enfin (vi) un autoritarisme

Or, ce n’est pas cela l’île Maurice que nous aimons, dont nous rêvons et où nous voulons voir grandir nos enfants. Il y avait, ces dernières années, une perversion, une pollution de tout. Nous sommes, comme le disait souvent Sir Gaëtan Duval, «un peuple gentil», et, au-delà de nos différences, très attaché au ‘fairplay’, à la tolérance, à une démocratie vivante, à la justice, à une certaine idée de la méritocratie et de l’égalité des chances. Notre long passé colonial nous a transmis, pendant deux siècles, un ensemble de valeurs, de convictions et d’expériences vécues qui sont profondément ancrées dans le psyche mauricien et qui perdurent toujours.

**\* Quand le MSM a-t-il commencé cette dérive?**

Depuis que Sir Anerood n’est plus là! Il y a deux MSM en réalité. Le MSM de Sir

« Nous sommes, comme le disait souvent Sir Gaëtan Duval, ‘un peuple gentil’, et, au-delà de nos différences, très attaché au ‘fairplay’, à la tolérance, à une démocratie vivante, à la justice, à une certaine idée de la méritocratie et de l’égalité des chances. Notre long passé colonial nous a transmis, pendant deux siècles, un ensemble de valeurs, de convictions et d’expériences vécues qui sont profondément ancrées dans le psyche mauricien et qui perdurent toujours... »

Anerood Jugnauth, souvent au Pouvoir entre 1983 et 2014, avait quelques grands ministres et (malgré quelques excès) respectait encore la plupart de ces valeurs.

La nouvelle génération MSM post-2014, venue au Pouvoir avec l’ascension de Pravind Jugnauth, à partir de 2017 n’incarnerait plus celles-ci et s’est dévoyée dans le copinage et l’esprit de clan. Jamais Sir Anerood n’aurait permis un pouvoir parallèle (Lakwizin) qui aurait eu son mot à dire dans les affaires de l’Etat.

Si Pravind Jugnauth veut encore avoir un avenir politique, il lui faudra un grand coup de barre à Droite et un grand nettoyage pour revenir à l’essentiel des comportements de ce qui fait la beauté de notre peuple.

**\* Que nous révèle tout cela sur la société mauricienne, à la fois multiculturelle et multiethnique? Est-elle encore profondément conservatrice, malgré son ouverture croissante sur le monde? Ce conservatisme est-il une force de stabilité?**

J’ai toujours pensé, pour ma part, que la société mauricienne est l’une des plus conservatrices au monde.

☞ Suite en page 10



# 'Jamais Sir Anerood n'aurait permis un pouvoir parallèle (Lakwizin) qui aurait eu son mot à dire dans les affaires de l'Etat'

☞ Suite de la page 9

On peut le déplorer par certains côtés, mais il faut aussi le saluer et s'en réjouir, car cela nous met à l'abri de bien des dérives, fréquentes à travers le monde.

Sans doute nous faut-il embrasser la modernité, les nouvelles technologies, l'ouverture au monde, etc., mais tout en gardant notre âme de Mauriciens, nos traditions, nos cultures, nos valeurs ancestrales. Il existe un 'caractère mauricien' qui ne doit pas changer.

Personnellement, j'aime l'esprit de famille des Mauriciens, leur simplicité naturelle, leur attachement à la religion, leur solidarité envers leurs vieux, leurs voisins, leur extrême affection pour leurs enfants, leur volonté que chaque génération vive mieux que la précédente. J'aime aussi leur faculté de s'indigner, leur sens de la justice.

Oui, ce conservatisme est source de stabilité, et il ne faut pas le perdre juste pour paraître plus 'in' que nous ne le sommes. N'allons pas bien loin: Je suis, moi-même, un solide conservateur, pas dans le sens de faire obstruction à ce qui doit changer mais dans le sens de 'conserver' toujours ce qui mérite de l'être.



« Sans doute nous faut-il embrasser la modernité, les nouvelles technologies, l'ouverture au monde, etc., mais tout en gardant notre âme de Mauriciens, nos traditions, nos cultures, nos valeurs ancestrales. Il existe un 'caractère mauricien' qui ne doit pas changer. Personnellement, j'aime l'esprit de famille des Mauriciens, leur simplicité naturelle, leur attachement à la religion, leur solidarité envers leurs vieux, leurs voisins... »

**veaux acteurs, mais chacun avec son propre agenda - commercial, mais aussi politique, non ?**

Il faut d'abord lui enlever le monopole dont elle jouit pour l'obliger à se repenser et à se battre loyalement contre la télévision privée. La MBC, comme toujours, a été au-dessous de tout, une véritable descente de lit du Pouvoir et une honte nationale qui nous ridiculise aux yeux du monde.

Pendant des années, la MBC a fonctionné comme un outil de propagande (inefficace, comme on l'a vu) en contournement de la "MBC Act" qui lui impose d'être objective, sous le regard impuissant d'un Board totalement complaisant et d'une ancienne Opposition PTR-MMM qui n'a jamais choisi de la traîner en Cour suprême pour l'obliger à fonctionner selon les dispositions de la "MBC Act". Comme d'habitude, 'All talk and no action!'

« "Mr Moustass" a montré à quel point l'Hôtel du gouvernement était sous l'influence du Sun Trust, à quel point il existait une espèce de gouvernement parallèle et de dualité de pouvoirs et d'influence administrative. Ceci restera comme une arête de poisson dans la gorge du MSM à l'avenir. La tornade "Mr Moustass" a tout emporté: le bilan sur lequel le gouvernement espérait se faire réélire, les promesses sociales, les ambitions des uns et des autres... »

Il est incroyable qu'un nommé politique puisse, pendant cinq ans, imposer à un million de Mauriciens de la pure propagande, de surcroît en leur faisant payer (Rs 600m. annuellement).

La MBC est un dossier prioritaire du nouveau gouvernement. Il faut rechercher, pour la faire repartir, des professionnels des médias de haut calibre et un Board véritablement attaché à son rôle.

\* **L'exercice n'a visiblement pas été simple, mais Navin Ramgoolam semble avoir réussi à constituer un Conseil des ministres reflétant, autant que possible, les diverses sensibilités de la société mauricienne. Cela suffira-t-il pour permettre au pays de surmonter les conséquences de la politique de terre brûlée menée par le précédent régime ?**

La nomination des membres du gouvernement a été lente mais, finalement, cela a été un exercice plutôt réussi.

☞ Suite en page 11

« Le MSM de Sir Anerood Jugnauth, souvent au Pouvoir entre 1983 et 2014, avait quelques grands ministres et (malgré quelques excès) respectait encore la plupart de ces valeurs. La nouvelle génération MSM post-2014, venue au Pouvoir avec l'ascension de Pravind Jugnauth, à partir de 2017 s'est dévoyée dans le copinage et l'esprit de clan... »

\* Par ailleurs, à y regarder de plus près, ce qui s'est très probablement passé, c'est que les vidéos de "Missié Moustass" ont constitué le "trump card" qui a mis en échec l'opération de marketing politique menée par la MBC-TV ces dernières années, et qui visait à convaincre différents segments de l'électorat des promesses électorales, telles que l'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse, les allocations pour les jeunes, entre autres. Quelles leçons tirez-vous de tout cela ?

Tout le monde à Maurice dit que "Missié Moustass" mérite une médaille pour avoir permis d'ouvrir les yeux des Mauriciens sur bien des aspects inconnus de la vie publique, même si espionner est une pratique hautement illégale.

Cet épisode de révélation d'espionnage a pourtant été absolument décisif dans le désastre électoral du MSM et dans la perte de Pravind Jugnauth. "Mr Moustass" a confirmé ce que chacun pressentait confusément mais sans pouvoir le prouver. Il a montré à quel point l'Hôtel du gouvernement était sous l'influence du Sun Trust, à quel point il existait une espèce de gouvernement parallèle et de dualité de pouvoirs et d'influence administrative.

Ceci restera comme un souvenir impérissable pour les Mauriciens et comme une arête de poisson dans la gorge

du MSM à l'avenir. La tornade "Mr Moustass" a tout emporté : le bilan sur lequel le gouvernement espérait se faire réélire, les promesses sociales, les ambitions des uns et des autres, alliés, partisans et candidats. Le MSM n'aura aucun espoir de retour tant qu'il ne réglera pas cette question de 'Lakwizin'. Tout ceci viendra le hanter constamment.

L'autre enseignement est qu'il y a une limite à ce qu'on peut faire avaler au peuple, en brandissant de l'argent facile. L'argent et la rapacité des gens ne sont pas tout. C'est même très réducteur que de croire qu'il suffit de distribuer des bonbons à l'occasion du Budget et des élections pour acheter la dignité et la loyauté d'un peuple.

\* **Les règles du jeu électoral ont aussi été profondément transformées par l'apport des nouvelles technologies, réduisant l'influence de la presse traditionnelle. Les réseaux sociaux occupent désormais une place centrale dans la communication politique à l'échelle mondiale, tandis que l'intelligence artificielle vient accentuer cette dynamique, soulevant de nouvelles problématiques. Nous pénétrons ainsi sur un terrain miné. Qu'en pensez-vous ?**

Effectivement ! Il faudra, à partir d'aujourd'hui, compter en tout premier lieu sur les nouvelles technologies de l'information. La presse écrite se meurt lentement. Quiconque souhaite impacter sur la politique devra désormais avoir une maîtrise totale sur les réseaux sociaux, n'en déplaise à Xavier Duval. Nous avons franchi en novembre 2024 une ligne. Rien ne sera plus comme avant.

\* **Que faire concernant la MBC-TV, qui détient jusqu'à présent le monopole de la diffusion audiovisuelle publique et joue un rôle central dans la communication médiatique, particulièrement en période électorale ? Une libéralisation pourrait certes introduire de nou-**



# 'Le MSM n'aura aucun espoir de retour tant qu'il ne réglera pas cette question de 'Lakwizin'.

## Tout ceci viendra le hanter constamment

☞ Suite de la page 10

Il va être renforcé par des nominations de personnalités type Sithanen dans de nombreuses institutions publiques, ce qui va accentuer le sentiment d'une certaine restauration de la compétence.

Il est intéressant que 15 des 24 ministres soient des nouveaux venus, apportant un regard neuf sur les affaires publiques. On voit ces jours-ci des compétences récompensées et un bon 'mix' d'expérience et de jeunesse.

**\* Au-delà des grands défis économiques, quels sont, selon vous, les principaux chantiers que le gouvernement nouvellement élu devra prioriser à court et moyen termes?**

D'abord il devra rétablir une certaine normalité démocratique, en faisant bien fonctionner le Parlement. Je pense que Shireen Aumeeruddy-Cziffra saura le faire. "We must get value for money" car, au-delà de leur rôle dans l'Etat, rappelons-nous qu'un ministre touche Rs 350,000 mensuellement et un député Rs 157,000 par mois, soit Rs 22,750,000 sur un mandat de 5 ans pour un ministre et Rs 10,205,000 pour un député!

Ensuite, il devra s'occuper de l'économie qui vacille. Il faut revenir à la vérité des chiffres, repenser les politiques, repartir à l'essentiel: la stabilité des comptes publics; le besoin d'importer moins et d'exporter plus; une croissance menée par une plus grande productivité et non pas une consommation obsessionnelle; réduire l'endettement national; stabiliser la roupie face à un dollar qui ne cesse de monter. Il faut juguler l'inflation, autant que faire se peut. Il faut cesser de ne faire que du social, et songer aussi à l'avenir. La nouvelle équipe Ramgoolam/Sithanen/Damry/Jyoti Jeetun/Gnany me semble être de très bon augure!

Enfin, il devra restaurer l'image et la crédibilité de la police pour que l'atmosphère de Maurice sur le plan de la sécurité change. Le peuple doit cesser de vivre dans la peur.

**\* Avec un score national d'au moins 27 % lors des dernières élections, serait-il prématuré de "write off" le MSM, sauf si des développements judiciaires influencent lourdement le futur de Pravind Jugnauth et de certains de ses proches collaborateurs?**

N'oublions pas que le MSM, malgré sa lourde défaite, représente quand même 27% du pays, ce qui est un chiffre très important. Il faut respecter ce fait et ces 27%. Pravind

☞ Les dernières divisions PTr-MMM avaient eu lieu sur fond de susceptibilités et de manque de respect les uns envers les autres, pas sur des conflits idéologiques ou programmatiques. C'est une question d'attitude : Le MMM doit pleinement



jouer le jeu d'un pouvoir Ramgoolam que Navin n'aime pas voir contesté, et le PTr doit pleinement respecter Bérenger et ne pas rééditer 1995 en allant toujours voir Ramgoolam dans le dos de Bérenger...»

Jugnauth doit regretter amèrement d'avoir refusé hier la proposition de réforme électorale formulée par Paul Bérenger. Il aurait eu une dizaine de sièges au lieu d'un seul aujourd'hui. Il faut cesser de différer cette réforme.

Le MSM, d'après moi, n'a d'avenir que s'il change complètement sa stratégie d'ensemble pour devenir un parti entièrement national et multi-ethnique. Son obsession avec les circonscriptions 4-14 et ses calculs d'invincibilité dans les régions rurales doit cesser. Il lui faut intérioriser deux faits, selon moi, indéniables.

On ne peut pas gagner le pouvoir et le retenir sans gagner les minorités. Et, il n'y a que cinq circonscriptions (et non 10) où il y a une majorité absolue d'Hindous. Toutes les autres ont de fortes composantes de minorités, où il faut pouvoir puiser.

Le PTr peut, lui, compter sur des renforts importants dans les 15 autres circonscriptions. Le MSM doit donc devenir un parti plus 'national', multiethnique et changer ses méthodes de concevoir la politique, en ne se concentrant que sur une partie du pays. S'il ne peut pas se transformer radicalement dans cette optique, le PTr (qui a déjà près de la moitié du milieu hindou) le battra systématiquement à compter de maintenant. Le MSM doit changer de nature même.

☞ Le leader du PMSD s'est trompé sur toute la ligne. Le PMSD a joué le mauvais cheval et en paie les conséquences. Grosse bêtise! Sur le long terme, le PMSD devra lui aussi changer de nature et devenir plus 'national' au lieu de n'être qu'un 'fan club' des Duval et une béquille pour les autres partis...»

**\* Xavier Duval semble être l'un des grands perdants de ces élections, et il paraît difficile à ce stade d'imaginer un avenir politique serein pour le PMSD sous sa direction. Partagez-vous cette analyse?**

Le leader du PMSD s'est trompé sur toute la ligne. Le PMSD a joué le mauvais cheval et en paie les conséquences. Grosse bêtise ! Sur le long terme, le PMSD devra lui aussi changer de nature et devenir plus 'national' au lieu de n'être qu'un 'fan club' des Duval et une béquille pour les autres partis.

**\* Paul Bérenger n'occupe aucun portefeuille spécifique dans le gouvernement, si ce n'est celui de "Deputy Prime Minister". Quelle lecture faites-vous de cette situation?**

Bérenger demeure un géant politique dans le pays, mais il est clair qu'il décline et connaît des problèmes de santé, ce qui explique selon moi qu'il ne veuille pas prendre de lourdes responsabilités ministérielles.

Il peut toujours continuer à servir très bien sans portefeuille, comme mentor pour les jeunes, loyal second de Navin Ramgoolam et facteur de progressisme dans les politiques du gouvernement. Il faut respecter son choix.

**\* Ramgoolam et Bérenger, deux personnalités fortes à la tête de l'alliance gouvernementale. D'un côté, Ramgoolam a réussi à repositionner le PTr comme le premier grand parti national. De l'autre, Bérenger, grâce à cette alliance, a ramené le MMM au**

☞ Pendant des années, la MBC a fonctionné comme un outil de propagande (inefficient, comme on l'a vu) en contravention de la "MBC Act" qui lui impose d'être objective, sous le regard impuissant d'un Board



totalemment complaisant et d'une ancienne Opposition PTr-MMM qui n'a jamais choisi de la traîner en Cour suprême pour l'obliger à fonctionner selon les dispositions de la "MBC Act". Comme d'habitude, 'All talk and no action!'

**pouvoir après près de 20 ans. Selon vous, la cohabitation entre ces deux leaders a-t-elle des chances d'être plus productive et durable cette fois-ci?**

Effectivement, les deux leaders ont gagné leur pari et repositionné leur parti respectif. Il faut maintenant une cohabitation sereine et franche pour éviter toute rupture jusqu'en 2029. Je pense qu'ils sont conscients des attentes du pays et ils 'se tiendront' bien, compte tenu de leur âge et de leur expérience. Le pays ne comprendrait pas une nouvelle fracture.

Les dernières divisions PTr-MMM avaient eu lieu sur fond de susceptibilités et de manque de respect les uns envers les autres, pas sur des conflits idéologiques ou programmatiques. C'est une question d'attitude : Le MMM doit pleinement jouer le jeu d'un pouvoir Ramgoolam que Navin n'aime pas voir contesté, et le PTr doit pleinement respecter Bérenger et ne pas rééditer 1995 en allant toujours voir Ramgoolam dans le dos de Bérenger.

**\* À l'issue de ces élections, chaque leader, de manière générale, devra sans doute repenser l'avenir de son parti. Quels enseignements pensez-vous que ces résultats apporteront à la classe politique dans son ensemble?**

D'abord que l'esprit du mauricianisme gagne de plus en plus de terrain à Maurice. C'est la carte qu'il faut jouer, plus celle de la jeunesse. Il est temps que chacun se rende compte qu'on ne peut pas gagner le pouvoir sans partage de ce pouvoir. Maurice ne peut être gouverné qu'avec cette attitude-là.

Il faut en finir avec ces représentations ethniques qui font qu'il faut toujours composer. Tous les partis doivent devenir des partis nationaux et, à long terme, former des alliances dans un système de deux blocs avec des considérations de programmes et d'idéologies au lieu de coalitions grossièrement ethniques.

**\* Enfin, dans un contexte de défis complexes et d'une société polarisée, comment voyez-vous l'évolution du paysage politique mauricien au cours des cinq prochaines années?**

Attendons voir. Il est très tôt dans le jeu. Cinq ans, en politique, c'est une éternité ! Contentons-nous, pour l'heure, de bien gérer cette transition vers quelque chose de meilleur. Souhaitons que ce gouvernement ait bien compris le message envoyé le 10 novembre par la population.



## Oil spill still contaminating sensitive Mauritius mangroves three years on

Three years after bulk carrier MV Wakashio ran aground on a coral reef off Mauritius, spilling 1000 tonnes of a new type of marine fuel oil, Curtin University-led research has confirmed the oil is still present in an environmentally sensitive mangrove forest close to important Ramsar conservation sites.

Lead researcher Dr Alan Scarlett, from Curtin's WA Organic and Isotope Geochemistry Centre in the School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, said the chemical 'fingerprint' of the oil found in the mangrove sediments was a near-perfect match for the Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) spilled by the Wakashio in 2020 - the first recorded spill involving this type of fuel.

"Local communities in Mauritius have been aware of oil contamination in the mangrove wetlands since the Wakashio spill, but no official confirmation had been made regarding the source," Dr Scarlett said.

"Identifying and acknowledging this



MV Wakashio, a Japanese owned Panama-flagged bulk carrier ship leaks oil after drifting ashore over coral reefs. Pic - Yo Nature

contamination is crucial, both for the people of Mauritius and for global understanding, as little is known about how this new marine fuel behaves once spilled."

\* \* \*

### Huawei to debut homegrown software

Huawei's latest smartphone will feature a new, made-in-China operating system — a first for a Chinese company,

signaling the country's tech progress despite US sanctions. Huawei hopes the system can compete with the dominant incumbents, Apple's iOS and Google's Android, the latter of which powered Huawei's previous phones.

"This is a significant turning point for China, it's being driven by the fear that the US could cut off everything," one tech expert said. Huawei has been a focus of the US crackdown on Chinese tech, and will likely remain in Washington's sights

during Donald Trump's second term, experts said, given his nomination of China hawks to several high-profile posts.

\* \* \*

### Adani indictment fallout widens

The US bribery charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani could lead to a broader fallout for India's solar sector. Industry officials are worried that the indictment against Adani, which centres around alleged corruption related to a solar power project, could make financing more difficult through higher scrutiny and interest rates, the Business Standard reported.

India's state-run renewable energy company has paused one upcoming auction, and a French energy firm suspended new investments in Adani's conglomerate. India's solar sector is also facing other challenges, putting the country's ambitious expansion of renewables at risk: Industry leaders are grappling with inadequate government funding and a shortage of skilled workers, Reuters reported.

## France says Israel's Netanyahu has immunity, will continue working with him



France says Israel's Netanyahu has immunity, will continue working with him. Pic- The Jerusalem Post

France said on Wednesday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had immunity given his country was not party to the statutes of the International Criminal Court that has sought his arrest, and Paris would continue working closely with him.

France has taken almost a week to come up with a clear position on the matter, after the court in The Hague issued arrest warrants on Nov. 21 for Netanyahu, his former defence chief and a leader of the Hamas Palestinian militant group.

After initially saying it would adhere to the ICC statutes, France's foreign ministry fine-tuned that in a second statement on Nov. 22 amid concerns that Israel could scupper efforts for a ceasefire in Lebanon, saying it noted that the court's decision merely formalised an accusation, reports Reuters.

On Wednesday, the ministry said France would respect its international

obligations, it being understood that the Rome Statute that established the ICC provided that a country cannot be required to act in a manner incompatible with its obligations "with respect to the immunities of States not party to the ICC".

"Such immunities apply to Prime Minister Netanyahu and other relevant ministers and will have to be taken into consideration should the ICC request their arrest and surrender."

A ceasefire between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot spoke to his counterpart in the aftermath of the ICC arrest warrant on Thursday and President Emmanuel Macron spoke with Netanyahu on Friday to outline Paris' position, diplomatic sources said.

The French ministry statement, referring to what it called the historic friendship between two democracies committed to the rule of law, said France intended to continue to work closely with Netanyahu and other Israeli authorities "to achieve peace and security for all in the Middle East."

## China urges 'utmost caution' by US ahead of Taiwan president's Hawaii trip

China urges 'utmost caution' by US ahead of Taiwan president's Hawaii trip

China urged the United States on Friday to exercise the "utmost caution" on relations with democratically-governed Taiwan, ahead of a sensitive trip its President Lai Ching-te starts this week to both Hawaii and Guam, as part of a Pacific tour, reports Reuters.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, opposes any foreign interactions or visits by the island's leaders, especially those involving the United States.

Lai's week-long trip begins on Saturday, making what is officially called a stopover first in Hawaii before going to Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau, three of the 12 countries which have formal ties with Taiwan. He will also stopover in the US territory of Guam.

Mao Ning, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, reiterated comments made by President Xi Jinping to US President Joe Biden at an Asia Pacific summit in Peru this month, in which he said "separatist acts" were incompatible with peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

"If the United States wants to maintain peace in the Taiwan Straits, it is crucial for it to recognise the independence nature of Lai Ching-te and the Democratic Progressive Party authorities," she said, referring to the ruling party.

The United States must "handle the Taiwan issue with utmost caution, unequivocally oppose Taiwan independence of Taiwan, and support the peaceful reunification of China", Mao added at a daily news briefing in the Chinese capital.

China opposes any "scurrying to the United States" of Taiwan's leaders, in any form, or any US support for separatist activities, she said.



Taiwan president plans Hawaii visit on sensitive trip to Pacific, sources say. Pic - Reuters

"China's determination to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity and oppose interference in its internal affairs by external forces is unwavering."

Lai and his government reject Beijing's sovereignty claims, saying only the island's people can decide their future.

Visiting a temple in New Taipei on Friday, Lai said he was looking forward to visiting Taiwan's three Pacific allies on his first overseas visit since assuming office in May.

Lai said he would keep deepening partnership with other countries and "keep Taiwan going out into the world", the presidential office said in a statement that did not mention the US stop overs.

China is likely to launch military drills in the coming days near Taiwan, using Lai's trip to the Pacific and scheduled stopovers in the United States as a pretext, according to assessments by Taiwan and regional security officials.

Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung told lawmakers on Thursday that Chinese war games in response to the trip were one of the possible scenarios.

\* Contd on page 13



## NASA scans discover abandoned Cold War-era 'secret city' under Greenland's ice sheet; Here's what scientists expect next



Nasa scientist Chad Greene informed that individual structures in the hidden metropolis can be seen in the new data in a way that has never been seen before.

An abandoned "city" from the Cold War has been discovered beneath the ice in a radar image captured by NASA scientists in Greenland.

In April 2024, the radar image was captured when scientists and engineers were flying over northern Greenland in NASA's Gulfstream III jet.

The deserted city belongs to Camp Century, a military installation constructed in 1959 after excavating a network of tunnels below the Greenland ice sheet's near-surface layer, reports HT.

The camp, which was abandoned in 1967, was fully covered with snow and ice, enabling the concrete buildings of the complex to lie at least 30 meters (100 feet) below the surface.

Speaking on the development, Alex Gardner, who works at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), said: "We were looking for the bed of the ice and out pops Camp Century. We didn't know what it was at first."

Researchers employed NASA's UAVSAR instrument, which is positioned on the aircraft's belly and can create "maps with more dimensionality," during the April flyby, he added.

Meanwhile, NASA scientist Chad Greene informed that individual structures in the hidden metropolis can be seen in the new data in a way that has never been seen before.

Conventional radar maps were utilised to confirm the depth estimates of Camp Century. Moreover, this computation aids in figuring out whether the camp and any leftover chemical, biological, and radioactive waste buried with it could be exposed again in case of ice melting.

### Here's what researchers expect next with NASA discovery

The goal of this strategy, according to researchers, is to constrain projections of projected increases in sea levels and assist scientists in measuring the degree of thickness of ice sheets in conditions that are similar to Antarctica.

According to Greene, their objective "was to map the ice-bed interface" and the internal strata of the ice sheet after calibrating, validating, and comprehending the capabilities and limitations of UAVSAR.

"Without detailed knowledge of ice thickness, it is impossible to know how the ice sheets will respond to rapidly warming oceans and atmosphere, greatly limiting our ability to project rates of sea level rise," the NASA scientist said.

Scientists believe the current test survey findings will enable the next phase of aerial mapping in Greenland, Antarctica, and beyond.



## Chinmoy Krishna Das unjustly arrested, says ousted ex Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina

Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday backed the arrested Hindu monk, Chinmoy Krishna Das, saying he was "unjustly arrested" and must immediately be released. She asked the Bangladesh government to protect religious and ethnic minorities that have braved violence since her ouster from power in August.

"A top leader of the Sanatan Dharma community has been unjustly arrested, he must be released immediately. Temples have been burned in Chittagong. In the past, mosques, shrines, churches, monasteries and houses of the Ahmadiyya community have been attacked, vandalized, looted and set on fire. Religious freedom and security of life and property of people of all communities must be ensured," the Awami League posted Hasina's statement on X, reports HT.

Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee Bangladesh after weeks of widespread violence during students' protests against reservations in government jobs. She fled Dhaka in a military aircraft after resigning as the prime minister of Bangladesh and sought refuge in New Delhi.

"After the killing of countless Awami League leaders, activists, students, the public and members of the law enforcement agencies, harassment through attacks, cases and arrests is going on. I strongly condemn and protest these anarchist actions," she added.

Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist, has been heading the interim government in the country since August 8.

"A lawyer was killed in Chittagong, I strongly protest this murder. Those involved in this murder must be found and punished quickly. Human rights have been grossly violated through this incident. A lawyer went to perform his professional duties, and those who beat him to death in this way are terrorists. Whoever they are, they must be punished," she said.

Chinmoy Krishna Das was arrested on Monday after a person filed a case against him and 18 others for hoisting a saffron flag above the Bangladesh national flag during a rally in October.

According to the Bangladesh Flag Rules, 1972, no other flag can be flown above the national flag.

India on Tuesday condemned the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das.

## UK net migration hits record of over 900,000 in 2023



UK net migration hit record of more than 900,000 in 2023. Pic - Arab News Pakistan

Immigration remains a major political issue in Britain, with concerns that already strained public services may struggle to cope with such large influxes. At the same time, sectors like healthcare argue they cannot function without foreign workers.

Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released on Thursday revealed net migration of 906,000 for the year ending June 2023, a revision from the previous estimate of 740,000. The ONS described this as "unprecedented levels"

of migration since 2021, reports HT.

While migration numbers dropped 20% to 728,000 for the year ending June 2024, the ONS attributed this decrease to fewer dependants arriving with those on study visas following changes in immigration rules.

The record surge in 2023 occurred under the previous Conservative government, which had pledged to reduce immigration and introduced measures to limit family members accompanying students

and care workers.

The current Labour government, elected in July, has also expressed a desire to reduce migration numbers by training domestic workers to fill skills gaps.

The significant rise in 2023 was largely attributed to improved data collection, including more information on Ukrainian visas, and enhancements in migration estimation methods, the ONS explained.

High levels of legal migration in 2016 were a key factor behind the UK's vote to leave the European Union.

Although post-Brexit visa changes led to a sharp decline in EU migrants to Britain, new work visa regulations have triggered a surge in immigration from countries like India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, primarily to fill vacancies in health and social care.

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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

# "Carol" Rivets British Public Opinion on Our Island

**W**e have often complained that Mauritius and Mauritian affairs have little publicity in Great Britain. Until ten days ago, Mauritius was known by the British public primarily because of the famous blue penny stamp. The visit of Princess Margaret in 1956 drew some attention to us. And that was all. But cyclone Carol seems to have done the trick.

Mauritius has been highlighted by the British Press. Leading papers like *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mail*, and *The Daily Telegraph* devoted much space to accounts of the passage of Carol over here. Several of them printed maps of Mauritius, and some others front-paged the news. We used to think that British journalists were not interested in Mauritius; the British public had very little news about Mauritius. But there is no doubt now that the British people have been apprised of our

existence and also of our problems.

We hope that this interest, created by a tragedy, will be kept alive. Mauritian writers should now write not only for the British press but for other foreign papers as well. This is one of the best ways of making Mauritius known. The more we are known in the outside world, the more it will help us.

In the UK, some friends of Mauritius, particularly Sir Hilary Blood and Peter Ibbotson, never miss any opportunity to give publicity to Mauritius. Reverend R. Simon, who is doing missionary work in London, has started an association with the aim of publicising Mauritius. We would like to see our students and settlers in England as active as their West Indian counterparts. The Ministerial delegation to London has certainly done a great deal to put Mauritius on the world map.

Below are extracts from some London dailies:

Government had reached a point at which an announcement was imminent of substantial financial assistance towards a programme of reconstruction arising from last month's cyclone. It went on:

The intention was to announce grants and loans from Her Majesty's Government totalling up to £2m, subject to parliamentary approval as necessary.

In view of the second disaster which has now struck the island, Her Majesty's Government is giving urgent consideration, in consultation with the Mauritius Government, to what further measures of financial assistance may now be needed. The Governor has been asked what emergency supplies are most needed...

## Offers of Help

The British Red Cross has cabled to its branch in Mauritius offering money to buy relief supplies locally and also offering experienced personnel from Britain and any special goods required. The Red Cross said this was to supplement the work of a number of British Red Cross detachments on the island.

The Order of St. John has cabled £500 to the Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade on the island for relief purposes and is arranging for immediate supplies of blankets and other materials to be flown out.

Mr V. Ringadoo, Minister of Labour and Social Security for the Mauritius Government, who is a member of the deputation in London, said last night that he and his colleagues had planned to fly from London Airport to Paris today and on to Mauritius tomorrow. At the moment, they would go ahead with these plans unless they heard that the airport in Mauritius was out of use. "We had completed our talks in London," said Mr Ringadoo. "We are anxious to get back to assist in the relief work."

## Last Month's Toll

He said that six people were killed in last month's cyclone. About 20,000 houses — one in six on the island — were destroyed. The la-

test cyclone must be "grim" in view of the fact that it was the worst since 1892. Then the capital, Port Louis, was flattened. Mauritius has been a British possession since it was taken from the French in 1810. It has a mixed population of about 500,000.

### The Times 29 Feb 1960

#### Britain to Increase £2M Disaster Aid

**T**en people are reported to have died in a cyclone which hit the island of Mauritius on Saturday night and raged for 14 hours, with gusts reaching 160 miles an hour. The Colonial Office described the cyclone as the worst experienced by the island since 1892 — and Mauritius lies in the part of the Indian Ocean where cyclones are frequent and severe.

The Colonial Office spokesman said last night that the cyclone had blown itself out but "damage on the island is pretty extensive." The cruiser *Gambia* was being ordered from Trincomalee (Ceylon) as a precautionary measure, and the RAF was standing by. The Admiralty said later that the *Gambia* was sailing first thing this morning with provisions and medical supplies.

A deputation of Ministers from Mauritius is already in London seeking financial help after a cyclone last month. The British Government, it was stated last night, were intending to offer £2m out in view of the new disaster and



are "urgently considering what further measures of financial assistance may be needed."

#### Substantial Grants

Last night's Colonial Office statement said that talks between the delegation from Mauritius and the

### News Chronicle 29 Feb 1960

#### Cyclone Isle will get £2m aid

**B**ritain's island colony, Mauritius, counted its dead for the second time in a month yesterday as a 14-hour hurricane blew itself out in the Indian Ocean.

First reports said that 10 people died and widespread damage was caused as gusts up to 160 mph swept the island. It lies 550 miles from Madagascar and 2,500 miles from the naval base at Trincomalee, Ceylon.

#### Warship Going

The cruiser *Gambia* will sail from Trincomalee, with relief supplies today. RAF planes are standing by in Kenya, 2,000 miles from the stricken island.

The Colonial Office said that Saturday night's cyclone was the worst to hit the island since 1892.

News of it was received in London yesterday while a deputation of Ministers from Mauritius was seeking financial aid after last month's cyclone.

To help the island recover from the disaster, the Government was about to announce grants and loans up to £2 million.

\* \* \*

### The Guardian 29 Feb 1960

#### Ten Killed in Cyclone

**H**elp worth at least £2 million is proposed for the island of Mauritius, which was struck by its worst cyclone since 1892 on Saturday. Ten people are reported killed, and units of the Royal Navy and RAF have been asked to stand by.

The cyclone is the second to hit the island in six

weeks, and a delegation of Ministers is already in Britain seeking help. The Colonial Office said last night that the Government had intended to offer £2 million, but as a result of this latest disaster, it was considering further help.

#### 160-MPH Gusts

According to a telegram from the Mauritius authorities, which was received at the Colonial Office yesterday morning, gusts of over 160 mph were recorded in the cyclone, which raged at "great strength" for fourteen hours during Saturday night. Serious damage was caused and communications disrupted. For all six hours, the cyclone blew at 100 mph, but when the telegram arrived in London, the storm appeared to have "pretty well blown itself out," according to a Colonial Office spokesman...



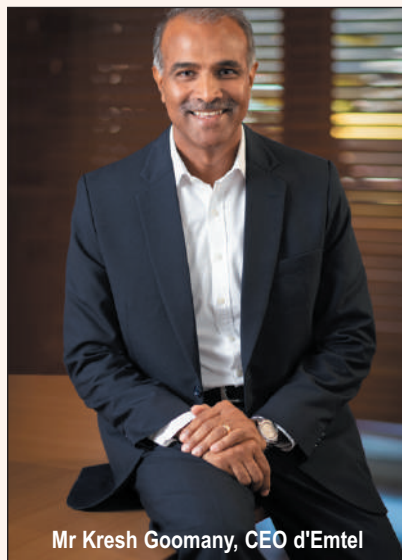
## Telecommunications

## Emtel Pays Rs 570 Million Dividend to Shareholders in December 2024

**E**mtel, a leader in the telecommunications industry in Mauritius and the only listed telecommunications company on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, has announced a remarkable dividend payment of Rs 570 million to its shareholders for December 2024. This payment reflects a dividend of Rs 1.25 per share and is the result of the company's strong financial performance during the third quarter of 2024.

Emtel's revenue for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2024, amounted to Rs 2.72 billion, marking an impressive year-on-year growth of 9.1%. The company also experienced increases in both EBITDA (up by 15.8%) and service revenue (up by 12.3%). Additionally, the normalized profit before tax rose by 20%, reaching Rs 421 million. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of Emtel's business model, which focuses on customer-centric services and sustainable growth strategies.

The company's continued investment in infrastructure and customer service, including the expansion of its 5G network, has played a pivotal role in its success. Emtel's network was



Mr Kresh Goomany, CEO d'Emtel

recognized by Ookla as the fastest mobile network in East Africa for 2024 and the fastest in Mauritius for the second consecutive year.

Emtel's Chief Executive Officer, Kresh Goomany, commented on the dividend payout, saying, "The various strategic initiatives we've implemented in terms of our offerings and operational efficiency have allowed us to enhance our performance while optimizing costs. The growth of our customer base, the enrichment of our

product offerings, the expansion of our network, and the increased capacity of our submarine cable have all contributed to the strength of our financial results. Today, we are proud to have fulfilled our promise to distribute Rs 570 million to our shareholders post-IPO, bringing the total dividend payout for 2024 to Rs 700 million. We aim to continue our growth trajectory while creating value for all our stakeholders."

Looking ahead, Emtel plans to continue strengthening its B2C (Business-to-Consumer) and B2B (Business-to-Business) segments, as well as its ongoing investments in infrastructure development and innovative products. The company remains committed to meeting the needs of both the population and businesses in Mauritius, with a continued focus on enhancing its customer service and delivering value to its shareholders.

With its resilient business model, strong growth in customer numbers, and successful expansion into new technologies, Emtel is poised to remain a dominant player in the Mauritian telecommunications industry.



## Higher Education

## JSS Academy, Mauritius hosts its 1st Convocation Ceremony

**T**he JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius (JSSAHERM) celebrated last month a significant milestone with its first-ever Convocation Ceremony at the MITD Lecture Theatre, in Phoenix. The event marked the culmination of years of hard work and academic achievements for the institution's pioneering batch of students, signifying the end of one academic chapter and the exciting beginning of another.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr Eddy Boissézon, Vice President of the Republic, who served as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished figures present at the event included Prof Praveen Mohadeb, the CEO and Vice Chancellor of JSSAHERM, along with members of the Board of Management, Academic Council, and various faculty heads and members.

The graduates, representing the faculties of Health Sciences, Life Sciences, and Management Studies, were conferred degrees in various programs. These included Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm), Masters of Business Administration (Hospital Administration), Masters of Science in Microbiology, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Cosmetic Sciences, and Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Environmental Sciences. In total, 16 students received their degrees, with 14 earning distinction certificates and two receiving merit awards. Among the graduates, Haajra Bibi Umaira Oodally was honoured with the Academic Excellence Award for her outstanding academic performance throughout her studies.

In his address, Prof Mohadeb congratulated the graduates on their success and emphasized that the institution was proud to have equipped them with not only academic knowledge but also industry and practice-ready skills. He noted that the graduates were prepared to step into their respective professional fields with the right expertise and confidence.

JSSAHERM, established in 2018, is a relatively young but rapidly growing institution. It holds degree-awarding powers and is an approved and registered institution with the Higher Education Commission of Mauritius. The first batch of students was enrolled in 2020, and since then, the academy has expanded its offerings. Today, JSSAHERM offers a range of 15 academic programs, including undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral degrees. All of its programs are accredited by the HEC, ensuring that they meet the highest academic standards.

Notably, JSSAHERM's Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) of the United States, placing the institution's curriculum on a par with international educational standards and reinforcing its commitment to global quality.

With a strong foundation and a focus on excellence, JSSAHERM is poised to continue its journey as a leading institution in higher education.

## Banking

## ABC Banking Corporation: Restructuring and Creation of ABCB Holdings

**A**BC Banking Corporation has reached another significant milestone in its ongoing structural reorganization. Early this month, the bank secured shareholder approval for the creation of ABCB Holdings, which will oversee both its banking and non-banking divisions. This restructuring initiative is part of ABC Banking Corporation's efforts to streamline its operations and improve its overall efficiency.

In addition to the creation of ABCB Holdings, the bank also sought approval for its integration into the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM) through a Scheme of Arrangement under the Companies Act 2001. As part of this move, the bank's ordinary shares will be exchanged on a 1:1 basis for new shares in ABCB Holdings, thus ensuring that shareholder interests are maintained during the transition. This shift will also lead to the delisting of ABC Banking Corporation from the Development and Enterprise Market (DEM) of the SEM, a step that has already been endorsed by the Listing Executive Committee of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius.

This move marks a major step forward in ABC Banking Corporation's strategy to reinforce its position on the market, and it is expected to enhance the bank's ability to compete more effectively within the financial sector. The



approval of this restructuring plan comes on the heels of impressive financial results, with the bank reporting over one billion rupees in Interest Income for the first time in its history.

Operating since 2010 through four primary divisions — International Banking, Treasury, Private Banking, and Domestic Banking — ABC Banking Corporation has built a solid financial foundation and a reputation for providing efficient and professional services. The bank's international presence includes two Representative Offices in Hong Kong and Dubai, and its financial expertise has been recognized globally with awards from renowned publications like Euromoney, Capital Finance International Magazine, and Global Banking & Finance Review.

By taking steps to reorganize its structure and increase its financial and operational agility, ABC Banking Corporation is well-positioned to meet the challenges of an evolving financial landscape and continue to support Mauritius' economic growth.



# L'Europe se prépare à une Troisième Guerre mondiale

☞ Suite de la page 6

Cela pourrait bien être l'investissement en matière de sécurité nationale le plus significatif dans l'histoire post-guerre du pays, propulsant la Pologne en tant que leader de la défense européenne.

Aujourd'hui, la Pologne dépense 37 milliards d'euros pour la défense, soit 4,7 % de son PIB, avec des augmentations supplémentaires en discussion. Pendant ce temps, en réponse aux tactiques de guerre hybride sur plusieurs fronts baltes, les États baltes investissent des centaines de millions d'euros pour renforcer leurs lignes de défense, avec un autre projet majeur prévu pour 2025, et piloté par les membres de l'OTAN que sont l'Estonie, la Lettonie et la Lituanie.

## L'accélération de la production militaire en Europe du Nord

À travers une grande partie de l'Europe du Nord, plus d'un milliard d'euros est investi – à grande vitesse – dans la construction de nouvelles usines de munitions, notamment pour les obus d'artillerie de 155 mm, que l'Ukraine tire à un rythme jamais vu depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Les États à travers l'Europe du Nord s'accordent sur un point: si l'Ukraine perd sa lutte contre la Russie, cette dernière pourrait être encouragée à prendre des mesures militaires contre les États baltes, la Finlande, voire la Pologne.

La majorité des experts conviennent que ce scénario pourrait se réaliser dans un délai de trois à cinq ans. En termes de planification de défense, cela revient à dire que cet événement pourrait survenir demain. Même à grande vitesse, il faut 28 à 30 mois pour commander et livrer un avion de chasse, 18 à 24 mois pour un char, et 30 mois pour une frégate.

Plus loin des actions immédiates de l'Europe de l'Ouest, les budgets de défense sont également en hausse. Les dépenses militaires de la France ont augmenté depuis huit ans et devraient dépasser celles du Royaume-Uni sur une base comparable d'ici 2027. Les Pays-Bas ont inversé des décennies de réductions

de défense il y a deux ans et prévoient de doubler leur budget dans les cinq prochaines années. La Suède, la Norvège et le Danemark augmentent également leurs dépenses de défense, souvent avec des hausses à deux chiffres d'année en année.

Le géant de la défense européen a également émergé: l'Allemagne, parmi les premiers à réduire considérablement ses dépenses militaires après la guerre froide, a augmenté son budget militaire de deux tiers depuis l'invasion de la Crimée par la Russie en 2014.

Ce qui est crucial, c'est que l'invasion de l'Ukraine en 2022 a marqué un véritable tournant pour Berlin, avec le chancelier Olaf Scholz promettant un investissement immédiat de 100 milliards d'euros pour combler les lacunes en matière de munitions et d'équipements.

## L'OTAN en ligne de mire

Pour ces pays d'Europe de l'Est, la défense n'est pas considérée comme une « option » mais comme une nécessité absolue. Les dépenses de défense ont doublé, voire triplé, dans ces pays au cours des cinq dernières années. Pourquoi alors le Royaume-Uni semble-t-il désormais

moins être un leader européen et plus un retardataire?

Une des raisons clés réside dans ce que l'on pourrait appeler le «duvet de 1 700 km». Pour atteindre le Royaume-Uni, la Russie devrait d'abord traverser les États baltes et la Finlande, franchir la mer Baltique, affronter l'Allemagne, la Suède, le Danemark et la Norvège, puis naviguer en mer du Nord.

Quand on interrogeait l'ex-secrétaire à la Défense, Grant Shapps, sur la menace d'attaque par missile sur le Royaume-Uni, il a remarqué que les alliés de l'OTAN s'occuperaient de telles menaces étant donné qu'ils se trouvent entre le Royaume-Uni et la Russie, suggérant qu'il croyait lui aussi en ce «duvet de 1 700 km», sous lequel le Royaume-Uni continue de se lover.

**C**ependant, la menace se rapproche. Cette semaine, des incidents impliquant des câbles sous-marins endommagés en mer Baltique ont ravivé les craintes de sabotage russe. Des complots russes visant à placer des dispositifs incendiaires sur des avions de transport en Europe ont été évoqués, tandis que des responsables occidentaux suspectent la Russie d'être responsable des incendies dans des centres logistiques en Grande-Bretagne et en Allemagne cet été.

Il est donc de plus en plus probable que le Royaume-Uni devienne vulnérable à ces menaces modernes. Le chef d'état-major de la défense, l'amiral Sir Tony Radakin, l'a admis récemment lors d'une conférence à Berlin, où il a souligné la nécessité de suivre l'exemple des pays nordiques et baltes pour renforcer à la fois la défense et la préparation civile face à la guerre.

En dépit des discours audacieux, la Royal Navy ne peut déployer un groupe porte-avions sans compter sur des navires et avions alliés. L'Armée ne peut déployer une division complète de 15 000 soldats à partir de ses 70 000 militaires et manque de munitions pour combattre plus d'un mois. La RAF ne dispose que d'une vingtaine de Typhoons prêts au combat parmi une flotte de plus de 100.

Le principe de l'OTAN, selon lequel «une attaque contre un est une attaque contre tous», obligera le Royaume-Uni à se rendre sur le terrain des combats – une situation pour laquelle il est tristement mal préparé par rapport à ses voisins européens.

A. Bartleby



À travers une grande partie de l'Europe du Nord, plus d'un milliard d'euros est investi – à grande vitesse – dans la construction de nouvelles usines de munitions... P - RTS

## YOUR STARS

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Your social calendar fills up as networking opportunities abound. Career prospects align with your long-term goals, especially toward the weekend. Financial stability remains steady, with the potential for small gains. Romantic surprises bring joy—whether it's meeting someone new or strengthening your current bond.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 7, 14, 21, 29, 36

**Capricorn:** Dec 22 - Jan 19

Professional life takes center stage with opportunities to showcase your leadership skills. Financial improvements are likely through careful planning and disciplined saving.

While work may demand your time, don't neglect personal relationships—they need your attention and balance to thrive.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 5, 11, 18, 27, 30

**AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18**

This is the perfect week to expand your horizons through travel or learning new skills. Your innovative ideas at work gain recognition and set you apart. Financially, you'll find stability. Romantic life feels exciting and adventurous as you explore new ways to connect.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 6, 13, 22, 26, 34

**PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20**

Focus on shared resources and collaborations this week. Trust your intuition—it will guide you toward the right decisions, especially in financial matters. Emotional connections grow deeper as you embrace vulnerability. Self-reflection helps you gain clarity on personal goals and relationships.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 6, 13, 22, 26, 34

**ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19**

This week, collaboration is key. Working closely with others will bring career breakthroughs. A financial issue could arise, but it's manageable with caution. In relationships, deeper emotional connections develop as you express your feelings honestly.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 12, 18, 25, 33

**TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20**

Patience and persistence will be your greatest assets. Professionally, you're making steady progress, even if it feels slow. Focus on prioritizing tasks to avoid burnout. Financially, there's potential for growth, especially toward the weekend. Personal relationships may need your

nurturing touch; listening more and reacting less will help.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 8, 11, 19, 24, 36

**GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20**

Networking pays off, bringing new alliances and opportunities. Financial matters stabilize after a brief period of uncertainty. On the romantic front, singles might find themselves drawn to someone new, while couples deepen their bond through shared activities.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 6, 14, 21, 27, 34

**CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22**

This week centers on family and home life. In your career, steady progress is on the horizon, but don't overanalyze minor setbacks. Emotionally, you'll feel more connected to loved ones as you open up about your feelings.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 6, 13, 20, 29, 37

**LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22**

Your communication skills shine this week, making it an excellent time to clear misunderstandings. Professionally, new opportunities may come through short trips or interactions. Be cautious with impulsive spending, as financial surprises—positive or negative—are likely. Romance is in the air, especially during weekend outings.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 8, 16, 22, 28, 30

**VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22**

This is a week of financial breakthroughs. A long-awaited deal or payment might finally come through, bringing relief. Health-wise, focus on stress management and self-care to maintain balance. Professionally, opportunities for learning new skills will surface. Relationships improve as honest conversations foster trust and intimacy.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 10, 17, 23, 26, 35

**LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22**

Your charm and diplomacy take the spotlight, helping you navigate both professional and personal challenges. Recognition for your hard work boosts your confidence midweek. Financially, avoid risks and focus on saving. Relationships thrive when you take time to listen and show appreciation to loved ones.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 9, 15, 19, 25, 31

**SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV**

This week encourages introspection and personal growth. Professionally, strategic thinking will set the stage for future success. Financially, it's time to avoid impulsive decisions. Relationships feel more profound as emotional connections deepen. A surprise gesture from someone close may warm your heart.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 12, 20, 24, 33



# Restricting sugar in utero and early childhood reduces midlife chronic disease risk

A new study reveals that limiting sugar intake during pregnancy and early childhood can significantly reduce the risk of chronic diseases like Type 2 diabetes and hypertension later in life. Children who experienced sugar restrictions during their first 1,000 days had up to 35% lower risk of developing diabetes and up to 20% less risk of hypertension as adults. The study, published in *Science*, highlights the lasting health benefits of early-life sugar restrictions.

Researchers from USC, McGill University, and UC Berkeley took advantage of the natural experiment provided by wartime sugar rationing in the U.K. from 1942 to 1953. They used data from the U.K. Biobank, which tracks medical, genetic, and lifestyle data, to study the health outcomes of individuals conceived before and after the end of sugar rationing. The study found that those born into sugar-scarce conditions had significantly lower risks of chronic diseases decades later.

The rationing period saw average daily sugar intake at around 8 teaspoons, which doubled after rationing ended. This allowed the researchers to compare health out-



comes of two groups: those born during sugar scarcity and those born when sugar was more abundant. The results showed that early-life sugar restrictions, including maternal sugar intake during pregnancy, were enough to reduce disease risk, with additional benefits when sugar intake remained low after birth.

The study found that those exposed to sugar restrictions had a delayed onset of chronic diseases — by four years for diabetes and two years for hypertension — underscoring the importance of early interventions. The study also suggests that reducing sugar intake early in life can improve long-term health outcomes, potentially saving healthcare costs and improving quality of life.

Experts warn that excessive sugar consumption in early childhood, a critical period for development, continues to be a growing concern. Despite this, adjusting children's sugar intake is challenging, given the widespread presence of added sugars in foods and beverages marketed to children. The researchers argue for stronger regulation and accountability in the food industry to protect children's health.

Co-author Claire Boone of McGill University emphasizes that reducing sugar early in life is a powerful step toward improving lifelong health. Co-author Paul Gertler of UC Berkeley compares sugar consumption in childhood to tobacco use, urging greater accountability in food production and marketing.



## Why do I feel better when I wake myself up instead of relying on an alarm? A neurologist explains the science of a restful night's sleep

*You can train your brain to wake up on time naturally.*

We've all experienced this: You're in the middle of a lovely dream. Perhaps you're flying. As you're soaring through the air, you meet an eagle. The eagle looks at you, opens its beak and — BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Your alarm goes off. Dream over, time to get up.

Many people — kids and adults alike — notice that when they wake up naturally from sleep, they feel more alert than if an alarm or another person, like a parent, wakes them up. Why is that?

I'm a neurologist who studies the brain, specifically what happens in the brain when you're asleep. I also take care of children and adults who don't sleep well and want to sleep better. My research involves working with parents to help them teach their children good sleep habits.

To understand how to sleep better, and why waking up naturally from sleep helps you feel more alert, you need to start by understanding sleep cycles.

### The sleep cycle

The sleep cycle consists of four stages. One of these is REM, which stands for rapid eye movements. The other three are non-REM stages. When you fall asleep, you first go into a state of drowsiness called non-REM Stage 1.

This is followed by deeper stages of sleep, called non-REM stages 2 and 3. Each stage of non-REM is deeper than the one before. Then, about 90 minutes after you first fall asleep, you enter the fourth stage, which is REM sleep. This is a stage of lighter sleep where you do much of your dreaming. After a few minutes, you return to non-REM sleep again.



Your internal body clock can help wake you up without an alarm.  
Riska/E+ via Getty Images

These cycles repeat themselves throughout the night, with most people having four to six cycles of non-REM sleep alternating with REM sleep each night. As the night goes on, the cycles contain less non-REM sleep and more REM sleep. This is why it's important to get enough sleep, so that the body can get enough of both REM sleep and non-REM sleep.

### REM vs. non-REM sleep

How do researchers like me know that a person is in non-REM vs. REM sleep? In the sleep lab, we can tell from their brain waves, eye movements and the tension in their muscles, like in the chin. These are measured by putting sensors called electrodes on the scalp, around the eyes and on the chin.

These electrodes pick up brain activity, which varies from waves that are low in amplitude (the height of the wave) and relatively fast to waves that are high in

amplitude (a taller wave) and relatively slow. When we are awake, the height of the waves is low and the waves are relatively fast. In contrast, during sleep, the waves get higher and slower.

Non-REM Stage 3 has the tallest and slowest waves of all the sleep stages. In REM sleep, brain waves are low in amplitude and relatively fast, and the eye movements are rapid, too. People need both non-REM and REM stages for a healthy brain, so they can learn and remember.

### Waking up naturally

When you wake up in the morning on your own, it's usually as you come to the end of whatever stage of sleep you were in. Think of it like getting off the train when it comes to a stop at the station. But when an alarm or someone else wakes you up, it's like jumping off the train between stops, which can feel jolting. That's why it's good to wake up naturally whenever possible.

People can actually train their brains to wake up at a consistent time each day that is a natural stopping point. Brains have an internal 24-hour clock that dictates when you first start to feel sleepy and when you wake up. This is related to our circadian rhythms.

### Training the brain to wake up at a consistent time

First, it's important to go to bed at a consistent time that allows you to get enough sleep. If you stay up too late doing homework or looking at your phone, that

can interfere with getting enough sleep and make you dependent on an alarm — or your parents — to wake you up.

Other things that can help you fall asleep at a healthy time include getting physical activity during the day and avoiding coffee, soda or other drinks or foods that contain caffeine. Physical activity increases brain chemicals that make it easier to fall asleep, while caffeine does the opposite and keeps you awake.

Second, you need to be aware of light in your environment. Light too late in the evening, including from screens, can interfere with your brain's production of a chemical called melatonin that promotes sleep. But in the morning when you wake up, you need to be exposed to light.

Morning light helps you synchronize, or align, your circadian rhythms with the outside world and makes it easier to fall asleep at night. The easiest way to do this is to open up your shades or curtains in your room. In the winter, some people use light boxes to simulate sunlight, which helps them align their rhythms.

### Benefits of a good night's sleep

A good sleep routine entails both a consistent bedtime and wake time and regularly getting enough sleep. That usually means 9-11 hours for school-age kids who are not yet teens, and 8-10 hours for teens.

This will help you be at your best to learn at school, boost your mood, help you maintain a healthy weight and promote many other aspects of health.

**Beth Ann Malow**

Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics,  
Vanderbilt University





## The Remote Control Ruse

A woman went shopping. At the cash counter, she opened her purse to pay. The cashier noticed a TV remote in her purse and, unable to contain his curiosity, asked, "Do you always carry your TV remote with you?" She replied, "No, not always, but my husband refused to accompany me shopping today because of a football match, so I took the remote."



**Moral:** Accompany and support your wife in her hobbies.

The story continues...

The cashier laughed and then returned all the items the lady had purchased. Shocked, she asked what was happening. He said, "Your husband has blocked your credit card."

**Moral:** Always respect the hobbies of your husband.

The story continues...

The wife took out her husband's credit card from her purse and swiped it. Unfortunately, he hadn't blocked his own card.

**Moral:** Don't underestimate the power and wisdom of your wife.

The story continues...

After swiping, the machine indicated, "Enter The Pin Sent To Your Mobile Phone."

**Moral:** When a man tends to lose, the machine is smart enough to save him!

The story continues...

She smiled to herself and reached for the mobile, which rang in her purse. It was her husband's phone showing the forwarded SMS. She had taken it with the remote control so he wouldn't call her during her shopping. She bought her items and returned home happily.

**Moral:** Don't underestimate a desperate woman!

The story continues...

Upon getting home, his car was gone. A note was pasted on the door: "Couldn't find the remote. Gone out with the boys to watch the premiership match. Will be home late. Call me on my phone if you need something."

Dawn... He left with the house key too.

**Moral:** Don't try to control your husband. You will always lose.

\* \* \*

### Maths vs. Logic

There were two nuns: Sister Mathematical (SM) and Sister Logical (SL). Both were returning to the convent, and as it was getting dark, they were still far from home.

SM: "Have you noticed? A man has been following us for the past 38 ½ minutes. I wonder what he wants."

SL: "It's logical. He wants to violate us."

SM: "Oh no! At this rate, he will reach us in 15 minutes at the most! What can we do?"

SL: "The only logical thing to do is to walk faster."

A little while later...

SM: "It's not working."

SL: "Of course it's not working. The man did the only logical thing. He is walking faster."

SM: "So, what shall we do? At this rate, he will reach us in 1 minute."

SL: "The only logical thing we can do is split. You go that way, and I'll go this way. He cannot follow us both."

And they did that. The man followed Sister Logical.

Sister Mathematical arrived at the convent and was worried about Sister Logical.

Then Sister Logical arrived.

SM: "Sister Logical! Thank God you are here! Tell me what happened!"

SL: "The only logical thing happened. The man couldn't follow us both, so he followed me. I ran as fast as I could, and he started to run as fast as he could."

SM: "And?"

SL: "The logical thing happened. He reached me."

SM: "Oh, dear! What did you do?"

SL: "The only logical thing. I lifted up my dress."

SM: "Oh, Sister! What did the man do?"

SL: "The only logical thing. He pulled down his pants."

SM: "Oh no! What happened then?"

SL: "Isn't it logical, Sister? A nun with her dress up can run faster than a man with his pants down."

And for those who thought it would be a dirty story...

**Moral of the Story:** Logic beats Maths anytime. And Maths cannot survive without Logic.

\* \* \*

### The Sign of a Clever Farmer

Farmer John once lived on a quiet rural highway, but as time went by, traffic built up, and eventually, it got so



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heavy and fast that his free-range chickens were being run over at a rate of three to six a week.

So Farmer John called the local police station to complain, "You've got to do something about all these people driving so fast and killing all my chickens," he said to the local police officer.

"What do you want me to do?" asked the policeman.

"I don't care, just do something about those crazy drivers!"

The next day, the policeman had the Council erect a sign that said: SCHOOL CROSSING.

Three days later, Farmer John called the policeman and said, "You've still got to do something about these drivers. The 'school crossing' sign seems to make them go even faster!"

So again, they put up a new sign: SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY.

That really sped them up. So Farmer John called and said, "Your signs are no good. Can I put up my own sign?"

To get Farmer John off his back, the officer said, "Sure. Put up your own sign."

The phone calls to the Police Station stopped, but curiosity got the better of the officer, so he drove out to Farmer John's house to see the sign for himself.

His jaw dropped the moment he saw the sign.

**Moral:** Sometimes, creativity in problem-solving can be surprisingly effective.

\* \* \*

### The Dog Walk

A small girl requested her mother if she could take the dog for a walk.

"No," says the mother, "because the dog is in heat."

"What's that mean?" asked the child.

"Go and ask your dad; I think he is in the garage."

The little girl proceeds to the garage and says, "Dad, can I take Snoopy for a walk around the block? I had asked Mum, but she said the dog is in heat and asked you to explain."

The father said, "Bring Snoopy over here." He took a rag, soaked it with petrol, scrubbed the dog's rear with it, and said, "OK, you can take her, but keep Snoopy on the lead and only go one time around the block."

The little girl left. However, she returned a short while later without Snoopy. The father asked her, "Where's the dog?"

The little girl replied, "Snoopy ran out of petrol about halfway down the street, and there's another dog pushing her home."



## Life's Lessons

## Welcome to Tomorrow

The following are insights into the transformative changes likely to occur in the next 10–20 years. While many of us may not witness all of these developments, our children and grandchildren surely will:

1. **Auto Repair Evolution:** Traditional repair shops will vanish as electric vehicles (EVs) dominate. With only 20 parts compared to 20,000 in internal combustion engines, EV motors can be replaced within minutes by dealers. Faulty motors are sent to robotic regional repair centers.

2. **Recharging Infrastructure:** Petrol pumps will disappear, replaced by ubiquitous electric meters and recharging stations already emerging globally.

3. **Energy Independence:** Homes will generate surplus energy, selling it back to the grid. Tesla roofs and similar innovations are paving the way.

4. **End of Fossil Fuels:** The coal and oil industries will become obsolete, sidelining OPEC and transforming the Middle East.

5. **Transportation Revolution:** Personal car ownership



will fade as autonomous vehicles offer on-demand rides. Cities will redesign parking spaces into parks. Fewer cars will mean cleaner air and quieter streets.

6. **Industry Disruption:** Like Kodak, many industries will face obsolescence. AI, 3D printing, autonomous cars, and software will revolutionize sectors like law, education, healthcare, and agriculture.

7. **Healthcare Advances:** AI-powered tools like IBM's Watson already outperform humans in cancer diagnosis. Devices such as the Tricorder X will analyze biomarkers to detect diseases instantly.

8. **Insurance Overhaul:** With fewer accidents due to autonomous driving, car insurance costs will plummet, threatening traditional business models.

9. **Work and Real Estate:** Remote work and productive commuting will shift people from cities to scenic, affordable areas.

10. **AI Dominance:** From facial recognition to legal advice, AI capabilities are advancing exponentially, outpacing human skills.

11. **New Business Models:** Companies like Uber and Airbnb have disrupted their sectors without owning cars or properties. Expect similar disruptions in other fields.

12. **Environmental Gains:** Clean, inexpensive energy from solar and other renewable sources will eliminate fossil fuel dependence and transform urban environments.

The 4th Industrial Revolution is here, reshaping industries and lifestyles faster than we can imagine.

## The Veblen Effect

At 23, Julius Caesar was a rising junior politician with substantial advantages: confidence and intelligence. While sailing across the Aegean Sea, he was captured by Sicilian pirates, who demanded a ransom of 20 talents of silver — approximately 620 kg or \$600,000 today.

Caesar dismissed their demand as absurd, declaring he couldn't allow himself to be ransomed so cheaply. He insisted the ransom be raised to 50 talents of silver — about 1,550 kg or \$1.5 million. The pirates, perplexed, agreed.

They allowed Caesar's men to return to Rome to raise the money. In Caesar's absence, his inflated ransom made him a sensation. No one had ever been ransomed for such an astronomical sum. This extraordinary valuation elevated Caesar's status, making him famous and politically significant.

Caesar had just invented what we now call the **Veblen Effect**, though the term wouldn't be coined by economist Thorstein Veblen for another 2,000 years.

## What Is the Veblen Effect?

The Veblen Effect describes how consumers perceive higher-priced goods as more valuable and desirable — purely because they cost more. Despite technological advancement and consumer awareness, the phenomenon persists.

## Examples:

- **Luxury brands:** Rolex, Louis Vuitton, Bentley, and Rolls-Royce.
- **Retailers:** Harrods.
- **Products:** Cristal Champagne, Christian Louboutin shoes.

These items may not outperform cheaper alternatives functionally, yet their high prices alone confer a sense of exclusivity and superiority.

## Caesar as a Veblen Brand

By inflating his ransom, Caesar positioned himself as exceptionally



valuable. The people of Rome assumed this valuation was independent and authentic, reinforcing his credibility. Consequently, his men raised the ransom with ease.

After securing his release, Caesar hunted down the pirates, reclaimed the ransom (and more), and executed them. This act cemented his wealth and fame, setting the stage for his eventual rule over Rome.

## Lessons from Caesar

Caesar's success hinged on an understanding that reality begins in the mind.

1. **Stake a claim in the mind:** Create a perception of value.
2. **Control the context:** Shape the narrative to reinforce that perception.

3. **Control the mind, control reality:** Once a perception takes root, it becomes self-fulfilling.

## Modern Example: Johnnie Walker Double Black

The Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch whisky is aged at least 12 years, yet its pricier counterpart, Double Black, has no age statement.

Double Black's higher price suggests it is superior, even though there's no explicit claim that it's smoother or better than Black. The label merely implies it's "very smooth." This marketing ploy capitalizes on the Veblen Effect, persuading consumers to pay more for perceived exclusivity.

## The Veblen Effect in Action

When executed effectively, the Veblen Effect becomes a profitable marketing strategy. It not only persuades consumers to spend more but also leaves them feeling satisfied with their purchase — ensuring they come back for more.

By controlling perception, Caesar and modern marketers alike demonstrate how the Veblen Effect can turn intangible value into tangible success.

"Life Consists Of Two Days,  
One Day For You,  
& One Day Against You.  
So, When It is For You,  
Don't Be Proud Or Reckless,  
& When It is Against You,  
Be Patient. For,  
Both Days Are A Test."

- Hazrat Ali (A.S)

What an *astounding* thing a book is.

It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles.

But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head — directly to you.

Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time.

A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.



Home

# Things You're Not Cleaning Enough

**H**ere'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 gener-



al 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.

**Makeup Brushes: Weekly and Monthly**

Wash sponges and wet makeup brushes weekly. Clean dry brushes monthly with mild soap and warm water, followed by an overnight drying session.

**Bras: Every Few Uses**

Wash bras after about three wears, or sooner if they become sweaty.

**Sheets: Weekly**

Wash bed linens weekly in hot water (around 140°F) to kill bacteria. Pets, night sweats, and mid-night snacks may necessitate more frequent washing.

**Pillows: 2-4 Times a Year**

Wash pillows every 3-6 months to eliminate dust mites. The same goes for your comforter or duvet. If it's too large for your home machine, take it to a laundromat or have it professionally cleaned.

**Mattress: Twice a Year**

Vacuum your mattress every 6 months to help eliminate dust mites and dead skin cells.

**Washing Machine: Quarterly**

Wipe down the door and rubber gasket of a front-loader after every load. Deep clean every 3-4 months by adding 1 cup of bleach and running a hot cycle (without clothes).

**Humidifier: Every 3 Days**

Replace the water daily and clean with a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution every 3 days to prevent buildup. Change the filter regularly as per the manufacturer's instructions.

**Air Filters: Monthly**

Replace air filters in central heating and cooling systems once a month to maintain their air-purifying capabilities. This also applies to in-room air conditioners.

Health Tips

## Top Foods with Probiotics



**W**hile yogurt is widely known as a source of probiotics, Christine Mikstas, RD, LD of WebMD says that many other foods — including some exotic dishes — can provide your gut with this beneficial bacteria.

**Yogurt**

A well-known source of probiotics, yogurt helps maintain a healthy gut balance. It can aid in managing lactose intolerance and alleviating digestive issues like gas and diarrhea. Look for "live

and active cultures" on labels to ensure you're getting the beneficial bacteria.

**Soft Cheeses**

Some soft cheeses, such as Gouda, contain probiotics that can survive digestion and support gut health.

**Kefir**

Originating from the Caucasus Mountains, kefir is a tangy, creamy beverage made from fermented milk. It's packed with probiotic bacteria and beneficial yeasts, offering digestive benefits.

**Sourdough Bread**

This iconic bread, especially the San Francisco variety, contains probiotics that can aid in digestion, making it a better choice than conventional bread.

**Acidophilus Milk**

This fermented milk, sometimes labeled as sweet acidophilus milk, is a simple way to add probiotics to your diet. Buttermilk is another great option rich in

probiotics.

**Sour Pickles**

Choose naturally fermented pickles, as they're made without vinegar and instead use a saltwater solution that encourages the growth of beneficial bacteria for digestion.

**Supplements**

Probiotics aren't limited to foods. Available in capsules, tablets, powders, and liquids, supplements are a convenient option for those seeking probiotics, but it's important to consult your doctor before using them, especially if you have any health concerns.

**Prebiotics vs. Probiotics**

Prebiotics are foods that nourish the beneficial bacteria already in your gut. Examples include asparagus, bananas, oatmeal, red wine, and honey. Combining prebiotic foods with probiotic-rich ones can amplify the benefits to your gut health.



## Bollywood's richest family

### Bhushan Kumar's T-Series empire now worth \$1.2 billion

When one thinks of Bollywood's richest families, names like the Kapoors, Khans, Chopras, or Johars often come to mind. However, the title of Bollywood's wealthiest family now belongs to the Kumars, helmed by Bhushan Kumar of T-Series, with a staggering net worth of 10,000 crore (over \$1.2 billion), reports Hindustan Times.

The T-Series group, originally founded by Gulshan Kumar, has grown from modest beginnings into a media empire under Bhushan Kumar's leadership. Gulshan Kumar, the family patriarch, famously started his career selling fruit juice before establishing T-Series as a music company in the 1980s. What began with cassette recordings has now expanded into one of the world's largest music labels and a dominant Bollywood film production house.

#### The Rich List rankings

According to the *Hurun India Rich List 2024*, the Kumar family's combined wealth places them firmly at the top among Bollywood families. Bhushan Kumar himself is credited with contributing the majority of the family's wealth, thanks to his leadership in expanding T-Series into digital music streaming, film production, and global ventures.

Comparatively, other prominent



Bollywood families, such as:

- **The Chopras:** Owners of Yash Raj Films, led by Aditya Chopra, are worth an estimated \$965 million.

- **Shah Rukh Khan's family:** Boasts a net worth of \$904 million, driven by his acting career, production company Red Chillies Entertainment, and endorsements.

- **The Khans (Salman Khan and family):** Sit much lower on the list at \$422 million.

Notably, some families from the South Indian film industry, like the Akkinenis and the Allu-Konidela clan, are reportedly richer than Salman Khan's family.

While Bhushan Kumar contributes the lion's share of the family fortune, his sisters Tulsi Kumar and Khushali Kumar have also made their mark. Tulsi, a renowned playback singer, and Khushali, a designer and actress, are worth \$30.1 million and \$12.05 million, respectively, according to industry estimates. Bhushan's uncle, Kishan Kumar, co-owns T-Series and adds further to the family's wealth.

#### T-Series: A Powerhouse in Entertainment

T-Series' dominance in the global music industry is unparalleled. It boasts the most-subscribed YouTube channel in the world, with billions of monthly views. Additionally, the company has cemented its place in Bollywood by producing blockbuster films and maintaining its legacy as a music label powerhouse.

#### The Rise of the Kumar Dynasty

The Kumar family's rise reflects a shift in Bollywood, where corporate growth and digital transformation have outpaced traditional family-run studios. Bhushan Kumar's leadership and ability to adapt to the changing entertainment landscape have propelled the T-Series empire to unprecedented heights, making it a global symbol of Bollywood's commercial prowess.



## Celebrating Bengali tigresses who ruled Bollywood on Sushmita Sen's Birthday

Bengali actresses have left an indelible mark on Bollywood, commanding attention with their exceptional talent and captivating screen presence. From the golden era of Suchitra Sen and Sharmila Tagore to modern icons like Sushmita Sen, these "Bengali tigresses" have consistently played central roles, redefining the concept of the Bollywood heroine, writes Subhash K Jha in Times of India

Suchitra Sen's masterpieces like *Mamta* and *Aandhi* showcased her dominance, with leading men like Ashok Kumar and Sanjeev Kumar stepping into supporting roles to highlight her brilliance. Sharmila Tagore followed suit, leading films such as *Aradhana* and *Amar Prem*, where even the superstar Rajesh Khanna played second fiddle to her nuanced performances.

Jaya Bachchan's career further exemplifies this trend. In *Guddi*, her debut film, and socially conscious dramas like *Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa*, Jaya was the nucleus around which the narrative revolved. Similarly, Raakhee, in films like *Sharmilee* and *Kabhi Kabhie*, delivered memorable performances that showcased her as more than a co-star but a driving force of the story.

#### The legacy continues with Sushmita Sen

Sushmita Sen, India's first Miss Universe, seamlessly extended this legacy. From her debut in *Dastak*, a role written specifically for her by Mahesh Bhatt, to her iconic turn in *Main Hoon Na*, Sushmita has epitomized grace, confidence, and versatility. Her choices reflect her individuality, embracing complex roles while maintaining her enigmatic allure.

Sushmita's ability to balance her personal life with a thriving career has often set her apart. As a global figure with achievements beyond Bollywood, she embodies the modern, multifaceted woman. Despite facing skepticism in a film industry that often undervalues actresses with independent lives, Sushmita has consistently proven her mettle as a professional.

What makes Bengali actresses so compelling in Bollywood is their ability to blend warmth with mystique. From Suchitra Sen to Aparna Sen and Sushmita, they have brought an unparalleled depth to their characters, creating unforgettable cinematic moments.

## Madhuri Dixit on marrying Shriram Nene and living her dream beyond Bollywood

Madhuri Dixit, the iconic Bollywood actress known for her grace and talent, stunned fans in 1999 when she chose to step away from her flourishing career to marry Dr. Shriram Nene and relocate to Colorado. Recently, the actress opened up about her decision, emphasizing that it was driven by a personal dream she had always cherished, reports Indian Express.

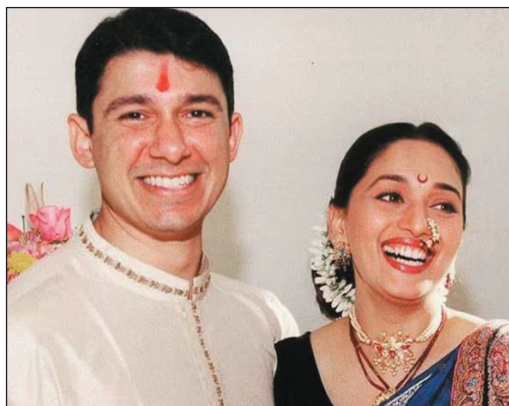
#### Leaving Bollywood for Love

Speaking with *Galatta India*, Madhuri shared that leaving Bollywood at the peak of her career wasn't a sacrifice but a fulfilment of a different dream. "I loved acting and dancing, but the glitz and glamour were never the defining aspects of my life. For me, meeting Shriram was like finding the right person to share my life with," she said.

She explained that her priorities extended beyond her professional achievements. "I've always dreamed of having a home, a husband, and children. I love kids, and having them was a big part of that dream. When people ask me, 'Didn't you miss Bollywood?' my answer is always, 'No, I didn't miss it because I was living my dream.'"

#### A Life in Colorado

Madhuri and Shriram embraced a quieter life in



Colorado, where they raised their two sons, Arin and Ryan. While her Bollywood absence left fans longing for her presence, Madhuri stayed content in her role as a wife and mother. "It was never about being in the public eye for me," she said. "I was happy creating a life with my family."

Her husband, Dr Shriram Nene, reflected on their relationship during a podcast with Ranveer Allahbadia. "I never

saw her as a superstar. To me, she's my wife and partner. We support each other in everything. Our connection transcends what we did professionally before we met," he said.

Despite stepping away, Madhuri didn't sever ties with her passion for acting and dancing. While in the U.S., she worked on films like *Devdas* and *Aaja Nachle*, balancing her artistic interests with her family life. In 2011, the family returned to India, and Madhuri re-entered Bollywood with memorable projects, including her dazzling *Ghagra* performance in *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani*.

Since then, she has starred in films like *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* and judged reality TV shows like *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*. Her transition back into the industry showcased her versatility and enduring appeal.





Vendredi 29 novembre - 21.05



Samedi 30 novembre - 20.30



Dimanche 1 decembre - 15.20



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 29 novembre

## MBC 1

- 07.30 Serial: Under Pressure
- 08.38 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
- 09.35 Film: Au Mepris Des Lois
- 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: Three Doors From Paradise
- 16.46 Mag: Hollywood On Set
- 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: Doree
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Kingsman
- 22.32 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 00.16 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 00.42 Serial: The Bionic Woman
- 01.30 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin

## MBC 2

- 06.10 Les Grandes Lignes
- 06.43 Local: En Forme
- 07.40 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 10.53 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
- 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 13.10 Rodrig: Sa Lavi La
- 15.09 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.59 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 16.44 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 - Ekrire Kreol
- 21.44 Local: La Sosiete
- 23.20 Local: Meshiagare...
- 23.33 Rodrig Otantik
- 00.04 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 00.49 Local: Retrovizor

## MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama
- 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 08.15 Talk By Mahamandleshwar
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Hoon Diwano Tara
- Starring: Jeet Upendra, Nishant Pandya
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
- 16.40 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: Farz
- Starring: Ritesh Pandey, Mani Bhattacharya, Umesh Singh
- 23.26 Serial: Mere Sai

## Cine 12

- 08.16 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 08.32 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
- 10.24 Serial: Lost & Found Music...
- 10.50 Mag: Eco India
- 11.16 Mag: Shift
- 11.29 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 12.58 Doc: By Train Along The...
- 13.45 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 14.11 Mag: Shift
- 14.30 Mag: Animal DNA
- 14.49 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneeze
- 15.13 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 15.19 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.28 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.35 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic...
- 15.48 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.00 Film: Li'l Santa
- 16.22 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 18.00 Doc: The Secret Of The Stone
- 19.28 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 21.05 Film: 47 Metres Down

## Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.30 Film: Antim: The Final Truth
- 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
- 15.19 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
- 23.30 Film: Antim: The Final Truth

samedi 30 novembre

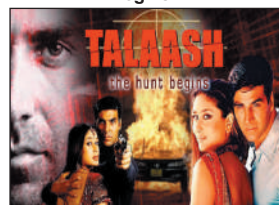
- 03.26 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 05.02 Serial: Treadstone
- 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 07.00 Serial: Heartland
- 08.30 Serial: Blue Lights
- 09.15 Serial: Under Pressure
- 10.00 Serial: Treadstone
- 10.49 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Serial: Seal Team
- 13.25 Tele: Barbarita...
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: Kingsman: Services...
- 17.22 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
- 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Independence Day
- 22.49 Serial: Treadstone
- 00.18 Serial: Sublime Mensonge
- 01.59 Serial: Under Pressure

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 06.24 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
- 07.05 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 08.02 Local: Lir - Ekrire Kreol
- 09.30 Local: La Sosiete
- 10.22 Rodrig Otantik
- 12.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.17 Local: Couleur Marine
- 15.01 Local: La Sosiete
- 16.08 Local: Retrovizor
- 16.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 18.05 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.20 Mag De L'emploi Et Des Metiers
- 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.33 Local: Upclose And Personal
- 21.25 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 22.00 Local Production MBC 2
- 23.00 Journal Rediffusion
- 23.20 MBC Production

- 06.59 Mag: Sadhguru Speaks
- 07.26 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 09.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 10.27 Loca Khel Khiladi
- 10.45 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: Drona
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 19.15 Local: Virasat
- 20.00 Local: Bollywood Express
- 21.00 Film: Rashtra Kavach
- Cast: Aditya Roy Kapoor, Sanjaya Sanghai
- 23.08 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.34 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 23.49 Local: Virasat

- 06.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 06.58 Film: Strange Magic
- 09.35 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 09.46 Serial: The Wish
- 10.32 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 10.36 Film: Denis Et Moi
- 13.30 Film La Sorciere De Noel
- 15.00 Serial: Animal DNA
- 15.24 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
- 16.08 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic
- 16.21 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.33 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 17.17 Serial: The Avatars
- 17.45 Mag: Shift
- 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: Top Div Sites
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.50 Doc: Heat Waves
- 21.40 Film: The Haunting Of Hythe House
- 23.09 Doc: Hot Times
- 23.52 Doc: Europe Revealed

- 08.00 Dharam Patni
- 10.15 Mithai
- 12.00 Udaariyaan
- 14.10 Anupamaa
- 15.41 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 18.30 Film: Talaash - The Hunt Begins



With: Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor

- 21.01 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.23 Porus

dimanche 1 decembre

- 03.25 Film: The Haunting Of Hythe...
- 04.54 Serial: Gout De L'amour
- 05.45 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 03.12 Film: Independence Day
- 08.31 Serial: Pearson
- 09.15 Film: Backtrack
- 10.45 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: Les Affameurs
- 14.10 Serial: Zoo
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Film: Independence Day
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 19.30 Le Journal Television
- 20.30 Film: Le Village
- 22.13 Serial: Pearson
- 22.56 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
- 23.47 Le Journal
- 01.24 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 02.06 Mag: Red Carpet

- 06.00 Rodrig Prog: Coin Zen
- 07.33 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 09.15 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 09.41 Rodrig Prog: Promnad
- 10.07 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.26 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 14.03 Local: En Forme
- 14.46 Local: Les Grands Moments
- 14.58 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 16.42 Local: Tous Egaux
- 17.35 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 18.03 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.24 Local: Info En Langue...
- 20.05 Local: Les Klips
- 21.49 Local Production
- 23.00 Journal Rediffusion
- 23.20 Rodrig Prog: Sa Lavi La
- 00.24 Local: Clin D'Oeil
- 00.38 Local: Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule

- 06.59 Mag: Zarkash
- 07.25 Serial: Popular Hindi Songs
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 09.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 09.49 Bollywood Express
- 12.00 Film: Ek Hi Raasta
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.21 Serial: Puranya Pakwan
- 16.00 Local: Excerpts From Bhojpuri Mahotsav 2024
- 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
- 02.19 Local: Tohar Rashi

- 08.26 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 08.38 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 09.34 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 09.59 Serial: Superstore
- 10.39 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 10.44 Film: For This Reason
- 12.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 13.30 Film: A.R.I./The Adventres Of...
- 14.56 Mag: Animal DNA
- 15.15 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
- 15.39 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 16.13 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.46 Serial: The Avatars
- 17.15 Doc: Heat Waves
- 18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens
- 18.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: The CO2 Lie
- 21.40 Film: Christina Noble

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.45 Udaariyaan
- 03.45 Anupamaa
- 05.37 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 07.55 Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 10.13 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.00 Rajaa Betaa
- 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.38 Film: Mili
- 20.32 Tenali Rama
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 21.47 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.35 Rajaa Betaa
- 00.21 Patiala Babes

lundi 2 decembre

- 02.55 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 03.48 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 05.10 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
- 06.46 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
- 07.30 Serial: Supercopier
- 08.43 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 09.40 Film: Christina Noble
- 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: Supercopier
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.25 Film: Le Village
- 17.00 Mag: Hollywood's Best Film
- 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.07 Serial: Doree
- 20.30 Serial: Belgravia
- 21.57 Serial: Heartland
- 22.40 Tele: Terra Nostra

- 07.54 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 09.19 Local: Fer Roule
- 10.31 Local: Mangeons
- 11.55 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.47 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 12.53 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 14.18 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 15.10 Rodrig Prog: Komanter
- 16.15 Local: Les Klips
- 17.07 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 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse
- 20.15 Local: Metie
- 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux
- 20.50 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 21.50 Le Grandes Lignes
- 22.20 Local Production
- 22.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard

- 07.00 Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 08.27 Tohar Rashi
- 08.44 Tohar Farmaish
- 09.07 Local: Yaadein
- 09.40 Bahubali
- 10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 11.30 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Bewaqoof
- 15.21 Serial: Kisma
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.56 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.57 Local: MBC Production
- 20.30 Serial: Ramayan
- 20.55 Film: Blackmail
- With: Dharmendra, Rakhee Gulzar, Shatrughan Sinha
- 23.18 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.16 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

- 06.25 Doc: Bee-Keeping
- 07.22 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 07.35 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 08.41 D.Anime: Idefix Et Les Irreductibles
- 10.05 Film: Max Et Moi
- 10.23 Doc: Recipes For Kids
- 11.35 Doc: Ageless Gardens
- 11.51 Doc: The Co2 Life
- 12.37 Doc: Bee-Keeping
- 13.03 Film: Miraculous World
- 15.15 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.24 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix
- 15.38 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic...
- 15.49 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.01 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
- 16.23 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 16.45 Serial: The Avatars
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 21.05 Film: Happy Death Day

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Barsaat
- Starring: Bobby Deol, Bipasha Basu, Priyanka Chopra



- 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

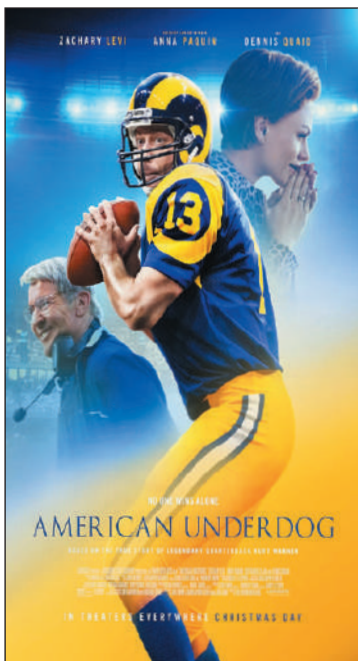




Mardi 3 decembre - 20.30



Mercredi 4 decembre - 20.30



Jeudi 5 decembre - 21.00



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 3 decembre</b>	05.11 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.10 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.30 Film: Happy Death Day 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: Three Doors From Paradise 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: Spider In The Web 22.19 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.12 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 00.23 Serial: Treadstone 01.07 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	07.28 Local: Tous Egaux 10.40 Local: Metie 11.25 Rodrig Mo Pei 11.54 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 12.35 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 12.52 Local: Metie 15.24 Rodrig Mo Pei 16.16 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: Paroles Agricole 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	07.30 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 MBC Production 09.59 Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Shriman Shrimati 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: MBC Production 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Ghar Basake Dekho Cast: Manoj Kumar, Sudesh Kumar, Randhir 23.18 Serial: Mere Sai 00.24 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.47 Local: MBC Production 02.44 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 03.05 MBC Production	07.21 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 07.36 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 07.47 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 08.19 Messy Goes To Okido 10.06 Film: The Big Slime 12.28 Mag: In Good Shape 13.00 Film: La Legende De Manolo 14.32 D.Anime: Animal DNA 15.00 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 15.19 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.28 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.53 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.05 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 16.27 D.Anime: Miraculous... 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: The Pleasant Valley War With: Cat Roberts, Travis Mills...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: My Angel My teacher 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: My Angel My Teacher 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan 03.00 Dharam Patni 03.30 Mithai
<b>mercredi 4 decembre</b>	06.00 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.26 Serial: Airwolf 08.42 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi 09.35 Film: The Pleasant Valley War 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 14.15 Serial: Airwolf 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Tom Sawyer Et Huckleberry Cast: Joel Courtney, Jake T. Austin, Katherine McNamara 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: American Underdog 22.16 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.15 Local: Priorite Sante 08.33 Local: Profil 09.00 Rodrig: Rod'Art 10.58 Local: Music Tour 12.00 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.15 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.05 Local: Priorite Sante 13.30 Local: Paroles Agricole 14.47 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.27 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.45 Local: Profil 18.07 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.20 Le Mag De L'emploi... 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.30 Local: Proze Dime 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.18 Local: Dance Fever	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 MBC Production 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Ab Kya Hoga Cast: Shatrughan Sinha, Neetu Singh, Govardhan Asrani 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Serial: Kisma 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: Nirahu Ke Love Story 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai 00.07 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous... 09.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 10.02 Film: M. Popper Et Ses Pingouins 11.40 Mag: REV 12.06 Mag: Healthy Living 13.00 Film: Anastasia 14.30 Mag: Animal DNA 14.58 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 15.13 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.39 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic... 15.52 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.01 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 16.48 Serial: The Avatars 17.15 Doc: Elementary Particles 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Transforming Business 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Arts Unveiled 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: Gladiator	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Dhuntaaraa Starring: Zaidan Khan, Mradul Ojha, Muskaan Ojha 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: Dhuntaaraa Starring: Zaidan Khan, Mradul Ojha, Muskaan Ojha
<b>jeudi 5 decembre</b>	06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.11 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer 08.37 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.30 Film: Last Rampage: The Escape Of Gary Tison 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 14.15 Serial: Heartland 15.25 Film: American Underdog 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: Cirkus Stars: Ranveer Singh, Varun Sharma, Pooja Hegde 22.29 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.31 Le Journal	07.10 Local: Aktiv 07.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 11.55 Rodrig Spor 12.25 Local: Saver Kiltirel 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.30 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.41 Local: Proze Dime 15.01 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.36 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.45 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 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.02 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Rodrig: Lavi Fam	07.00 Tenali Rama 08.00 Local: MBC Production 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Nadaan Cast: Navin Nischol, Asha Parekh 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.56 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.46 MBC Production 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 00.13 Local: MBC Production	07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous... 07.47 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 08.43 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles 10.00 Film: Le Dernier Des Dinosauries 11.34 Mag: Recipes For Kids 12.28 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.00 Film: The Peanuts 14.30 Mag: Animal DNA 14.49 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneezee 15.16 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: Miraculous... 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: High Plains Drifter	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: Lingaa Stars: Rajinikanth, Anushka Shetty, Sonakshi Sinha 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: Lingaa Stars: Rajinikanth, Anushka Shetty, Sonakshi Sinha



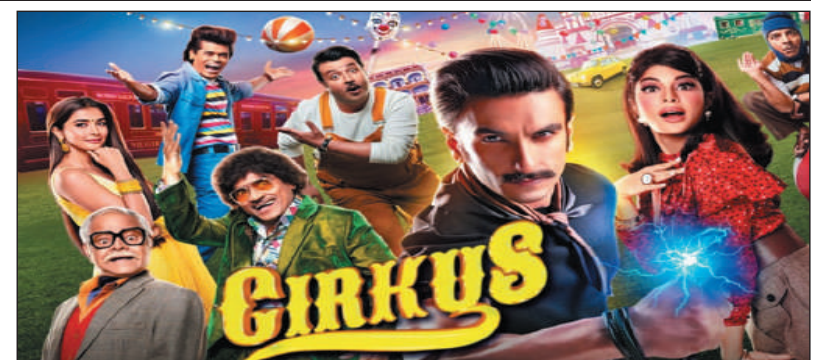
Jeudi 5 decembre - 15.30

Stars: Rajinikanth, Anushka Shetty, Sonakshi Sinha



Jeudi 5 decembre - 20.21

Stars: Ranveer Singh, Varun Sharma, Pooja Hegde







Paramanund  
Soobarah

# The Sphericity of Planet Earth and its effects on Earthlings

In last week's edition of this paper, Prof Kelly R. MacGregor dealt with the subject admirably, and I have little to add to what he said in his article 'Why does everything look flat even though the Earth is round?' But I think readers may like to know about a curious real-life situation that actually occurred in Mauritius in 1978 concerning the matters he has spoken about. That was during our process of setting out a procedure for the use of an electronic guidance system for aircraft we had just installed at the airport.

Using the methods provided in the guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), we determined that the descent guidance beam (called the Glide Path) would be passing above Bigara Station at a height of 3950 ft. above sea-level. The normal height to which aircraft had to descend above Mauritius was (and still is) 4000 ft. If they popped up at that height at Bigara, then by our calculation they would be far too much above the Glide Path. I was Director of Civil Aviation at the time, and so I prescribed the figure of 3900 ft. for their approach from Flic-en-Flac. That would then help them capture the Glide Path satisfactorily at Bigara.

I remained in touch with aircraft crews who were using the system. Some of them felt they were too low when passing over the first mountain in their path, namely the Montagne du Rempart on the west coast just off Flic-en-Flac. To help them I provided an alternative approach path at 5000 ft. from Flic-en-Flac. At this new level they would intercept the Glide Path further away from Bigara, actually just above Henrietta. Descending from 5000 ft. at Henrietta, they would of course have to pass over Bigara. One and all declared that while passing over Bigara on the Glide Path, they were above 4000 ft, and not below it as our calculations had shown. We were puzzled, but after further discussions with airlines, we reset the horizontal approach path from Flic-en-Flac at 4000 ft., with Bigara as the Glide Path interception point.

I pondered over the puzzle for some time. Some thought that the Glide Path might have an upward bend,



Pic - Scientific American

but this was set aside as theodolite trackings of descending aircraft indicated a strictly rectilinear descent path without any bend. If the beam did not bend upwards, then the only other possibility was for the Earth to bend downwards – as would indeed be the case with a spherical Earth.

Further collateral reading indicated that this was a well-known feature and was called the Earth's Curvature effect. By the application of some elementary geometry and basic trigonometry, it is easy to show that for short distances (up to about 100 km say) discrepancy

**“Governments often have to appoint people into places when such appointments are outside the remit of the Public Service Commission. Of course they will appoint people they trust. But that does not mean they should appoint square pegs in round holes just because they are pliant or as a reward for past political support – such as, for instance, a fish-monger onto the board of some important parastatal body or some partially state-owned company...”**

between the calculated flat-Earth height and the real height above the spherical Earth (the Curvature Effect) is approximately  $0.883d^2$  ft., where the distance is measured in Nautical Miles.

Using his formula, it can be shown that the Curvature Effect at the end of one kilometre is only about three inches and therefore hardly noticeable. But as the effect varies as the square of the distance, at the end of 10 Km it is 100 times 3 inches, and after 20 kms it is 400 times three inches, i.e. all of 100 ft. In the case of our Glide Path, the Effect is  $(0.883 \times 100)$  or 88.3 ft. Therefore, our calculated height of 3950 ft. at Bigara had to be increased by 88.3 ft. to obtain the real Glide Path height there. The correct height at Bigara is therefore 4038.3 ft., and so very satisfactory for aircraft approaching at 4000 ft. to catch.

ICAO maintained its calculation methods until after the year 2000. In 1986 an ICAO expert examined our procedure and obviously found it wrong. I had already left the Government Service at the time. He rearranged the procedure to comply strictly with the applicable ICAO guidelines, using the flat-Earth figures he was bound by. One of the consequences was that our Glide Path could not be used over the two-mile stretch between Bigara and Curepipe Point. As far as I am aware, that is still the case. I find it galling that, over that 2-mile stretch, our flight-checked Glide Path, which at every point is above the so-called new “compliant” path decreed by the expert and therefore further away from the ground, is considered less safe than the new path.

I returned to the country in the year 2000 and offered my services to the Government. The Ministry of Communications wrote back very kindly, telling me that my letter had been noted, and I would be advised if my services were required. I have never heard anything further. In sharp contrast, ICAO, which organization I was earlier privileged to serve for three years, recently renewed their invitation to me to be on their Experts List. Given my age and my less than perfect health, I had to decline. I am already ninety.



## Tree of Knowledge

# How We Age Matters

*We know in our hearts that it isn't just about the quantity or number of years; it's the quality of how we live*

We get a lot of information about how to live longer — from infomercials and ads touting miracle supplements and serums to the medical establishment striving to discover innovative medicines and procedures. It's incredible to witness all the human advancements we've made through history, and it's truly something

to applaud and appreciate. In today's world, more people have access to care and the resources to live longer than ever before.

But we know in our hearts that it isn't just about the quantity or number of years; it's the quality of how we live. How do we make living longer worthwhile and meaningful?

On one end of the spectrum is our physical well-being and staying fit and healthy. On the other side, which may not always take priority, is our mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness. There are many studies and real-life stories from those who have lived long that what made life mea-

ningful and worth savouring was the fact that they lived with purpose and with a deep connection to their values — such as the importance of family and community and a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves.

Another shared quality that longevity experts talk about is: lifelong learning. Having a mindset that is curious keeps the brain agile and healthy — and it keeps life interesting. We not only enrich ourselves, but we also avoid stagnation or dissatisfaction that might come as we age. Embracing new learning opportunities is also a wonderful way to broaden your community and to meet other like-minded people. So engage in activities that feed your soul and spark your creativity. Give yourself permission to pursue new interests or devote time to beloved hobbies. Fulfilment is a vital ingredient in living joyfully, and nurturing your passions is integral to sustaining your zest for life.

DailyOM