

MAURITIUS TIMES

• *It's not the voting that's democracy; it's the counting. -- Tom Stoppard*



Interview: Dharam Gokhool

“The winds of change are blowing even stronger”

‘People have rightly come to value their freedom over money, and money-driven politics is likely to have little impact on their voting behaviour’

• ‘Missié Moustass’ audio recordings:

‘What we are witnessing may be only the tip of an iceberg of a criminal surveillance system’

P 9

Analyse

La carotte électorale du boni de 14e mois



P 3 Prakash Neerohoo

Pic - Sunday Times

Eclairages

Analyse: Les élections présidentielles aux États-Unis

Trump en 2024: Un triomphe similaire à ceux de Modi en 2014 et 2019



A. Bartleby P6

Opinion



Pic - Dén Media

Dr R Neerunjun Gopee P5

Of 60-0 and Appeasement Politics

Breakfast with Bwana



Anil Madan P8

What does Trump's win mean for American foreign policy?

Elections 2024: The Crucial Test for Mauritius' Political Future



Mauritius, once hailed as a beacon of stability and democracy in the Indian Ocean, now finds itself at a pivotal moment in its political history. With elections looming, the nation is grappling with political turbulence of unprecedented proportions. What was once a routine electoral process is now overshadowed by a scandal of extraordinary scale. The leaked “Missié Moustass” audio recordings, allegedly capturing conversations between the Prime Minister, government ministers, political appointees, and others in power, have spread rapidly through viral video clips. After initial attempts to dismiss them as fabrications or cyberattacks failed, many have authenticated both the voices and, in some cases, the content of the conversations.

Shocked and disillusioned, Mauritians discovered not only that their phone calls were being wiretapped, but also that the content of these leaks was filled with profanity, vulgarity, and shocking revelations. The conversations exposed a disturbing undercurrent of political manipulation, intimidation, and even threats of violence. The content of these videos offers a rare and unsettling glimpse into the darker sides of power that most Mauritians could never have imagined. These revelations have sent shockwaves through the political landscape, detailing plans to undermine the opposition, influence civil service appointments, intimidate dissenters, and engage in acts of political thuggery — actions that have no place in a democratic nation. Perhaps the most jarring element is the realization that these activities were being carried out by individuals entrusted with the nation’s stewardship. This is a profound betrayal of public trust on an unprecedented scale.

As the crisis unfolds, the key question remains: Will the “Missié Moustass” revelations erode the electoral support that the MSM-led government has garnered through its financial promises and handouts? The answer is far from clear. On one hand, the “Changement” alliance has gained significant momentum, attracting large crowds to rallies across the island, from Vacoas to Stanley, Bel Air, Baie du Tombeau, Lalmatie, and beyond. Caught off guard by this unexpected surge in opposition support, the ruling government has re-

sorted to leveraging state resources and financial incentives — such as promises of a 14th-month salary — to shore up its electoral base. The real question is whether these measures will be enough to counter the damage caused by the leaked videos or whether the electorate will demand a change in the leadership of the country.

The growing support for the “Changement” alliance signals a desire for a fresh political direction. A shift appears to be underway, but whether it will culminate in a decisive victory for the opposition or allow the current government to cling to power remains uncertain. The government may still deploy various strategies to regain control of the narrative. With resources at their disposal and a history of political manoeuvring, it’s possible that they could stem the tide of dissent. However, the viral spread of the leaked videos has inflicted lasting damage to their reputation, and it may be too great to overcome.

As election day draws near, there is the feeling that while some Mauritians may be growing weary of the ongoing revelations from the “Missié Moustass” tapes, many are deeply troubled by their contents. These revelations seem to have prompted the government to make desperate promises of immediate financial relief, such as the 14th-month salary. The opposition, not to be outdone, has matched these promises. For some voters, the immediate financial relief promised by the government may outweigh the moral and ethical implications of the political scandals, especially in times of economic uncertainty. For others, the videos represent an undeniable abuse of power and a breach of public trust that cannot be ignored. The ultimate question will be whether voters prioritize monetary gains over democratic values and good governance.

Moreover, the “Missié Moustass” videos have exposed deep-rooted problems within the Mauritian political system — issues that go beyond any single election. The recordings have revealed the inner workings of the state apparatus and highlighted its vulnerability to political manipulation. Once regarded as a pillar of impartiality, the civil service now appears susceptible to influence by political leaders and their appointees. This revelation may have long-lasting con-

sequences for how Mauritians view their institutions, potentially prompting calls for stronger safeguards against political interference.

These leaks should serve as a wake-up call for all involved in public service. The blatant disregard for institutional autonomy and the erosion of the separation of powers are deeply troubling. Whatever the outcome of this election, the next government must take immediate steps to reform the system, ensuring that such abuses of power do not persist. There must be a renewed focus on institutional independence, the restoration of public confidence, and the assurance that the civil service is immune to political manipulation. The next Prime Minister, regardless of party affiliation, will bear the weighty responsibility of healing the fractured trust in the nation’s institutions.

Furthermore, the revelations also underline the need for constitutional reforms. The videos expose the dangers of prolonged political dominance. The longer a leader remains in power, the more susceptible they become to corruption and manipulation. This moment may be the right time for Mauritians to consider limiting the tenure of the Prime Minister. A system that concentrates power in one individual over extended periods can lead to complacency, corruption, and the erosion of democratic norms. Limiting the Prime Minister’s tenure would not only prevent the concentration of power but also inject fresh ideas and perspectives into governance.

If the “Changement” alliance secures a comfortable majority, the next challenge will be to restore trust in the electoral process. Transparency must be a top priority. With widespread scepticism about the fairness of the 2019 elections, strengthening the Electoral Commission and ensuring a truly impartial process will be critical. A new government should also work to dismantle the system of patronage that has long undermined democratic processes. The politicization of public institutions must be addressed, and reforms aimed at restoring the independence of the judiciary, police, financial regulators, and key institutions must be prioritized.

Mauritius is at a crossroads. The upcoming elections will not only determine the future leadership of the country but also shape the nation’s political trajectory for years to come. As voters head to the polls, they face a difficult decision: one that weighs immediate financial promises against the long-term need for democratic values and good governance. The revelations from the “Missié Moustass” videos have brought deep-seated issues within the political system into the light. Now, it is up to the people of Mauritius to decide whether these revelations will become a turning point in the nation’s history or simply a passing scandal. The stakes are high, and the future of the nation depends on the choices made in the coming days.

Mauritius Times
Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
 Aug 1954-Sept 2000
Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah
Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee
This paper has been produced with the assistance of
K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally & Kersley Ramsamy
 28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),
 Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301
 Tel/Fax: 212 1313
 mtimes@intnet.mu ; www.mauritiustimes.com; facebook.com/mauritius.times

Elections générales

La carotte électorale du boni de 14e mois



Prakash Neerohoo

Les nouvelles promesses électorales creusent un déficit de Rs 106,4 milliards pour 2024-25, et même Rs 100 milliards de Diego Garcia ne suffiraient pas à combler ce trou

L'Alliance Lepep (gouvernementale) joue son va-tout en vue des élections générales du 10 novembre. Elle ne lésine pas sur les moyens de séduire les différents segments de l'électorat (jeunes, retraités, femmes, employés) en leur faisant miroiter des carottes électorales. Elle a joué ses dernières cartes la semaine dernière en annonçant trois nouvelles promesses:

- le paiement d'un boni de 14e mois en décembre 2024 aux employés des secteurs public et privé ainsi qu'aux bénéficiaires de prestations sociales;
- la baisse du taux de la Taxe sur la Valeur Ajoutée (TVA) de 15% à 10% sur certains produits essentiels; et
- une allocation de Rs 2 000 pour la femme au foyer.

Pour ne pas se laisser devancer, l'Alliance du Changement (Opposition) a annoncé cette semaine qu'elle accorderait le boni de 14e mois en cas de victoire aux élections générales.

Ces trois dernières promesses de l'Alliance Lepep s'ajoutent à une liste de six promesses monétaires qu'elle avait annoncées auparavant, notamment:

- l'accès gratuit à l'Internet pour les jeunes de 18-25 ans, ce qui est déjà en vigueur;
- la pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 par mois, à payer lors d'un prochain mandat (2025-2029);
- la gratuité des médicaments achetés dans les pharmacies privées pour tous les Mauriciens;
- le prêt hypothécaire sans intérêt pour les jeunes de 18-35 ans pour l'achat ou la construction d'une maison;
- une allocation de Rs 5 000 pour chaque enfant de 0-18 ans dans une famille; et
- la suppression de la redevance de télévision de Rs 150 par mois.

Nouvelles promesses

Dans une analyse intitulée «L'illusion monétaire des promesses mirobolantes», parue dans notre édition du 25 octobre 2024, nous avons estimé que les six premières promesses coûteraient Rs 43 milliards durant la première année du mandat 2025-2029 si elles devaient être réalisées par un prochain gouvernement de l'Alliance Lepep. Avec les trois nouvelles promesses, il y a donc neuf promesses à financer, dont une en 2024 (le boni de 14e mois) et huit en 2025, ce qui pousserait la facture totale à Rs 53,4 milliards (voir le tableau 1).

Le coût des trois dernières promesses est estimé selon les hypothèses suivantes:

Le boni de 14e mois coûtera Rs 3, 2 milliards dans la fonction publique (gouvernement central) sur la base d'une extrapolation à partir du budget salarial de Rs 42 milliards pour 2024-25. Evidemment les corps paraétatiques, les collectivités locales et les entreprises d'Etat auront la même charge financière supplémentaire.

Le boni de 14e mois sera aussi accordé aux pensionnés de 60 ans et plus ainsi qu'aux bénéficiaires de la pension d'invalidité, d'orphelin et de veuve. Pour 310 643 bénéficiaires, le boni de 14e mois coûtera Rs 4,9 milliards.

L'allocation de Rs 2 000 par mois à la femme au foyer



“Le paiement éventuel du 14e mois, en sus d'autres allocations sociales promises, injecterait beaucoup de milliards de roupies dans la masse monétaire en circulation en cette fin d'année, ce qui donnerait un coup de fouet à la consommation et l'inflation. Déjà certains commerçants augmentent leurs prix de vente en anticipation des augmentations de salaires et de pensions. La spirale inflationniste des prix-salaires semble ne pas s'estomper...”

sera accordée à 50,000 femmes à partir de janvier 2025.

La baisse de la TVA de 15% à 10% pour une liste de produits essentiels, laquelle n'est pas définie encore, pour alléger la cherté du coût de la vie sera appliquée à partir de janvier 2025.

Baisse de la TVA

La baisse de la TVA causerait un manque à gagner de Rs 1 milliard au moins en recettes fiscales indirectes. Les recettes de la TVA étaient estimées à Rs 65 milliards dans le budget 2024-25, en juin dernier. Certains produits essentiels sont déjà non-taxables avec un taux zéro de TVA sous l'Annexe 5 de la loi sur la TVA, notamment les produits de base comme le riz, la farine, les huiles comestibles, le lait, le sucre, le thé, le poulet, la viande, etc. Les produits qui seraient éventuellement exemptés de la TVA seraient sans doute des produits non-comestibles de première nécessité tels que les vêtements et les chaussures.

“Le concept du boni de 14e mois est lui-même mauvais en théorie comme dans la pratique. Il n'y a aucun autre pays au monde qui paie un boni de fin d'année sans aucun rapport avec la productivité. Le boni de 13e mois est déjà un droit acquis sous la loi du travail à Maurice. Introduire un boni de 14e mois pour des raisons électorales fait fi de toute rationalité économique. C'est un moyen arbitraire de déterminer la politique salariale d'une entreprise sans commune mesure avec ses résultats financiers ou son chiffre d'affaires. C'est un interventionnisme d'Etat dans les règles de l'économie de marché...”

La baisse de la TVA serait une mesure universelle (pour les riches et les pauvres). Un ciblage de cette mesure en faveur des familles à bas revenu serait plus approprié, comme c'est le cas dans certains pays. Par exemple, au Canada, le gouvernement fédéral accorde un remboursement de la TVA de 13% sous forme d'un crédit de taxe (Goods and Services Tax Credit) aux familles à bas revenu. Le montant du remboursement de la TVA est de \$519 (Rs 17 746) en 2024-25 pour un individu célibataire et de \$680 (Rs 23 120) pour un couple.

Boni de 14e mois

Le boni de 14e mois est promis pour fin 2024 et serait maintenu dans les années à venir selon la situation économique du pays. Cette mesure aurait un impact financier significatif en 2024 si elle devait être imposée sur tous les employeurs du secteur public et du secteur privé. Le secteur public peut se permettre le luxe d'accroître son budget salarial en finançant son déficit budgétaire annuel par l'endettement (encore que la dette nationale s'approche de 100% du PIB) ou une augmentation éventuelle des taxes (directes et indirectes). Or, le secteur privé ne peut pas avoir recours au financement déficitaire.

A l'exception de grandes sociétés qui ont un bilan financier positif, le secteur privé en général rencontrera des difficultés à soutenir des charges salariales plus élevées en 2024. Les grandes sociétés rentables pourraient absorber la charge salariale supplémentaire, ce qui diminuerait leurs bénéfices assujettis à l'impôt des sociétés de 15% (3% pour les sociétés d'exportation et les sociétés offshore). En revanche, les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) font face déjà à des problèmes de trésorerie découlant de la hausse des coûts de production, et ce, due à l'inflation galopante et aux taux d'intérêt élevés sur les emprunts bancaires.

● Suite en page 4

Elections générales

La carotte électorale du boni de 14e mois

● Suite de la page 3

Le gouvernement sortant a promis des prêts sans intérêt aux PME ainsi qu'une assistance financière pour payer le 14e mois de salaire. Sans cette assistance financière, les PME n'auraient d'autre choix que de réduire leur personnel car elles ne peuvent majorer leurs prix de vente pour couvrir leurs coûts d'exploitation sans rendre leurs produits moins compétitifs sur le marché.

Cette assistance financière aux employeurs viendrait du fonds de la CSG (Contribution Sociale Généralisée), qui est une taxe sur les salaires dans le secteur privé visant à lever des fonds pour le paiement de la pension de retraite aux employés de ce secteur. Etant donné que les contributions de la CSG sont versées dans la caisse de l'Etat, et non pas dans un fonds de pension, le gouvernement sortant a utilisé le fonds de la CSG pour payer un supplément de revenu aux travailleurs du secteur privé (Rs 1 500 à Rs 3 000 aux salariés touchant entre Rs 20 000 et Rs 50 000 par mois) et certaines allocations sociales (par exemple, l'allocation de Rs 2 500 aux enfants de 0-3 ans).

CSG épuisée

Depuis sa création en 2020, le fonds de la CSG a été épuisé chaque année du fait de son utilisation pour le paiement d'allocations sociales autres que la pension de retraite. Le fonds de la CSG a augmenté de Rs 5,3 milliards en 2020-21 à Rs 11,4 milliards en 2023-24 et Rs 13,8 milliards en 2024-25 (estimation). En utilisant le fonds de la CSG pour payer le 14e mois de salaire aux employés des PME, le gouvernement aurait recours à une astuce évidente: prendre de l'argent d'une poche des employés privés pour le remettre dans l'autre poche.

Au-delà de la question de financement, le concept du boni de 14e mois est lui-même mauvais en théorie comme dans la pratique. Il n'y a aucun autre pays au monde qui paie un boni de fin d'année sans aucun rapport avec la productivité. Le boni de 13e mois est déjà un droit acquis sous la loi du travail à Maurice. Introduire un boni de 14e mois pour des raisons électorales fait fi de toute rationalité économique. C'est un moyen arbitraire de déterminer la politique salariale d'une entreprise sans commune mesure avec ses résultats financiers ou son chiffre d'affaires. C'est un interventionnisme d'Etat dans les règles de l'économie de marché, dont celle de l'équilibre entre les coûts d'exploitation et les revenus.

Toute majoration des charges salariales d'un employeur devrait être normalement le résultat du paiement d'une compensation de la hausse du coût de la vie et/ou du paiement d'un échelon supérieur dans la grille salariale d'un employé. Les gains de productivité devraient être normalement compensés par le paiement d'un boni de performance et/ou la participation des employés aux



P - wazaa.mu

“ Depuis sa création en 2020, le fonds de la CSG a été épuisé chaque année du fait de son utilisation pour le paiement d'allocations sociales autres que la pension de retraite. Le fonds de la CSG a augmenté de Rs 5,3 milliards en 2020-21 à Rs 11,4 milliards en 2023-24 et Rs 13,8 milliards en 2024-25 (estimation). En utilisant le fonds de la CSG pour payer le 14e mois de salaire aux employés des PME, le gouvernement aurait recours à une astuce évidente: prendre de l'argent d'une poche des employés privés pour le remettre dans l'autre poche...”

bénéfices de la société selon une formule donnée. Le boni de performance dépend de l'évaluation de la performance de l'employé selon des critères objectifs. Il constitue une incitation à mieux travailler.

La participation aux bénéfices est un moyen de récompenser les employés pour leurs efforts et leur contribution aux résultats financiers de l'entreprise. Comme les actionnaires qui reçoivent un dividende pour leur contribution au capital, les employés participant aux bénéfices de la société deviennent une partie intéressée ("stakeholder") de l'entreprise.

Le 14e mois de salaire requiert un règlement ou un amendement à la loi du travail pour devenir obligatoire. Si un tel règlement devait être promulgué, le patronat pourrait le contester en Cour suprême, ce qui rendrait le

paiement du boni aléatoire. Déjà, le patronat conteste le règlement portant sur le rajustement des salaires fondé sur la relativité salariale dans le secteur privé. Au lieu d'imposer un deuxième boni de fin d'année sans aucun rapport avec la productivité, la rentabilité de l'entreprise ou la compensation de la hausse du coût de la vie, le gouvernement serait mieux inspiré d'introduire le boni de performance dans le secteur public et laisser au secteur privé le choix d'intéresser le personnel aux bénéfices de la société.

Le paiement éventuel du 14e mois, en sus d'autres allocations sociales promises, injecterait beaucoup de milliards de roupies dans la masse monétaire en circulation en cette fin d'année, ce qui donnerait un coup de fouet à la consommation et à l'inflation. Déjà certains commerçants augmentent leurs prix de vente en anticipation des augmentations de salaires et de pensions. La spirale inflationniste des prix-salaires semble ne pas s'estomper.

En fin de compte, toutes les nouvelles promesses posent la question du financement. La facture de Rs 53,4 milliards pour l'Etat s'ajoute à un déficit budgétaire de Rs 63 milliards pour 2024-25, estimé en juin dernier. Il y aurait donc un trou béant de Rs 106,4 milliards à combler dans les finances publiques. Même si le pays devait recevoir un loyer de Rs 100 milliards (\$2 milliards) de la location de Diego Garcia aux Américains, la somme ne suffirait pas pour combler le trou financier.

Prakash Neerhoo

Table 1: Annual Cost of Promises

	Items	Beneficiaries	Number	Amount Rs	Total Rs monthly	Total Rs for Year
1	Free Internet	18-25 yrs	100,000	500	50,000,000	600,000,000
2	Free Drugs	Population				4,000,000,000
3	Interest cost in 1st year of housing loan	18-35 yrs	10,000	246,607		2,466,070,000
4	MBC Licence Fee	Households	350,000	150	52,500,000	630,000,000
5	Pension Increase	60-99 yrs	311,800	5,000	1,559,000,000	20,267,000,000
6	Child Allowance	0-18 yrs	250,000	5,000	1,250,000,000	15,000,000,000
	Sub-total					42,963,070,000
	New Promises:					
7	14 MTh Bonus 2024	Civil Servants				3,200,000,000
	14 MTh Bonus 2024	Social Recipients	310,643			4,967,681,000
8	Household Allowance	Non-working Women	50,000	2,000	100,000,000	1,300,000,000
9	Decrease of VAT on Basic Products	Population				1,000,000,000
	Total					53,430,751,000

“ Toutes les nouvelles promesses posent la question du financement. La facture de Rs 53,4 milliards pour l'Etat s'ajoute à un déficit budgétaire de Rs 63 milliards pour 2024-25, estimé en juin dernier. Il y aurait donc un trou béant de Rs 106,4 milliards à combler dans les finances publiques. Même si le pays devait recevoir un loyer de Rs 100 milliards (\$2 milliards) de la location de Diego Garcia aux Américains, la somme ne suffirait pas pour combler le trou financier...”



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Of 60-0 and Appeasement Politics

Past experience about the absolutist inclinations of a 60-0 or a 57-3 is surely a reminder to caution and guide us as election day approaches

**We will either live together
or die together.**

– Dr S Radhakrishnan, former
Philosopher-President of India

These are wise words worth keeping in mind by both our aspiring political leaders and voters in general.

It is common knowledge and part of our electoral campaign folklore that supporters of the contending parties are invariably to be found chatting to each other, exchanging light banter and sharing snacks, drinks and jokes. Their 'bazes' more often than not are only a short distance away from each other and it's a similar kind of atmosphere that prevails around them.

On occasions some incidents and scuffles have taken place, especially as the end of the campaign draws near, involving some hot-headed candidates and supporters, even to the extent of creating a law and order situation. But fortunately, these have by and large been fairly rapidly contained and normalcy restored. Our hope is that as in the past once the elections are over and the results declared, the transition to the elected government will take place smoothly, and the government of the day gets on with the business of leading the country towards peace and prosperity for all.

This expectation is despite the reality that the politics of seeking power through general elections is not necessarily aligned with the concerns of the people, the high-sounding rhetoric notwithstanding. Except perhaps for a few, those who join politics do so more to gratify their own ambitions than to meet the expectations of the masses to whom they go begging for votes in exchange for pledges to be fulfilled.

Several years ago, writing about democracy in Africa, Nic Cheeseman, Professor of Democracy, University of Birmingham, outlined the 'conditions necessary for countries to build a strong and stable democracy.' He identified 'a number of factors that most researchers would agree are probably important' as follows:

'A cohesive national identity is likely to make it easier to maintain national unity, while wealth and economic success have been found to promote political stability. A strong national infrastructure, underpinned by respect for the rule of law, means that the government is likely to be effective without being abusive. And a vibrant middle class and powerful civil society are usually seen as important to promote accountability and responsive government.'



P - défi Media

“All our leaders often invoke the Singapore model, one of political stability, economic prosperity and peaceful ethnic *vivre-ensemble* that we should emulate instead of merely alluding to rhetorically. That is why we also expect our political leaders to always keep the national interest foremost in mind at all times, find the proper balance so that both national and sectoral interests and aspirations are safeguarded. If, instead, they are more inclined to yield to the pressures of vested and sectarian interests or to bend to political correctness or practise appeasement politics, this puts at risk the soundness of the polity and the welfare of the population at large...”

Commenting about the challenges that African states faced, he noted that: 'With the exception of Botswana, they are all diverse multi-ethnic societies in which the question of national identity has been problematic. In Ghana and *Mauritius* for instance, ethnic identities have historically played a role in structuring political networks. This increased the tension around elections...' – something which, alas we are well aware of!

That is why our leaders must have a

“Our leaders must have a holistic vision for the country so as to be able to lay down strong foundations for and inspire the coming generations to share and pursue that vision. Physical developments may make a country, but that's not enough to make a nation, which should be an organic entity bound by shared values and goals. They therefore have a greater responsibility than the common citizen to not only emphasize the importance of living by these values but set the example by their own words and actions...”

holistic vision for the country so as to be able to lay down strong foundations for and inspire the coming generations to share and pursue that vision. Physical developments may make a country, but that's not enough to make a nation, which should be an organic entity bound by shared values and goals. They therefore have a greater responsibility than the common citizen to not only emphasize the importance of living by these values but set the example by their own words and actions.

That is why, in light of Nic Cheeseman's remarks about the tension caused by ethnic identities around election time in Mauritius, some further wise words of Dr S. Radhakrishnan assume even greater resonance in these troubling times. Namely, that 'enough men and women arise in each community who are free from the fanaticisms of race, religions and ideologies.'

These fanaticisms invariably create or deepen existing faultlines, and it is national interest that must have primacy over sectarian interests if we are to achieve national unity and cohesive national identity. All our leaders often invoke the Singapore model, one of political stability, economic prosperity and peaceful ethnic *vivre-ensemble* (in which it scores over its next-door neighbour Malaysia where often religion-sectarian considerations seem to have an upper hand) that we should emulate

instead of merely alluding to rhetorically.

That is why we also expect our political leaders to always keep the national interest foremost in mind at all times, find the proper balance so that both national and sectoral interests and aspirations are safeguarded. If, instead, they are more inclined to yield to the pressures of vested and sectarian interests or to bend to political correctness or practise appeasement politics, to the extent of tweaking rules or enacting legislations, if need be, this puts at risk the soundness of the polity and the welfare of the population at large.

This is the enormous responsibility that awaits the country - to do what is right by the people by political leaders in whom they put their trust, almost blindly. The question is: will the leaders live up to it?

What if they don't? That is where transparency and accountability come in, and it is a norm that in a vibrant democracy this is the task of a strong and credible opposition. While there may be a general feeling and a call for 60-0 by the competing parties, past experience about the absolutist inclinations of a 60-0 or a 57-3 is surely a reminder to caution and guide us as election day approaches. There is also a current of opinion that is voicing this concern, which is no doubt a genuine and valid one.

Let us therefore vote wisely, with balanced judgement.

Analyse: Les élections présidentielles aux États-Unis

Trump en 2024 : Un triomphe similaire à ceux de Modi en 2014 et 2019

Par A. Bartleby

La victoire de Donald Trump en 2024 présente de nombreuses similitudes avec les triomphes spectaculaires de Narendra Modi en 2014 et 2019. Ces victoires ne se limitent pas seulement à des résultats électoraux impressionnants, selon Prashant Jha de «Hindustan Times», mais ceux-ci marquent également un changement profond dans le paysage politique de leur pays respectif, consolidant une nouvelle vision idéologique, élargissant la base électorale et réinventant la façon de mener une campagne.



Comme Modi en Inde, Trump a mis en avant un message simple mais puissant: l'amélioration de la vie quotidienne des électeurs. P - Social News XYZ

1. Un message axé sur l'amélioration de la vie quotidienne des citoyens

Comme Modi en Inde, Trump a mis en avant un message simple mais puissant: l'amélioration de la vie quotidienne des électeurs. En 2014, Modi avait utilisé le slogan «Achhe Din» («de meilleurs jours»), promettant un avenir prospère. De même, Trump a axé sa campagne de 2024 autour de la question: «Votre vie est-elle meilleure aujourd'hui, ou était-elle meilleure sous Trump?»

Cette question, adressée à la fois aux électeurs républicains traditionnels et aux nouveaux groupes démographiques, s'est révélée déterminante, malgré les défis économiques et sociaux, y compris la pandémie de Covid-19. Pour de nombreux Américains, la réponse était claire: *la vie était meilleure sous Trump*, notamment grâce à une économie plus stable avant la crise sanitaire.

2. Une coalition sociale élargie et une approche «populiste»

Les victoires de Modi en 2014 et 2019 ont été marquées par un large rassemblement des classes populaires, des groupes marginalisés, et de diverses communautés ethniques et religieuses, bien au-delà du cœur traditionnel du BJP.

De même, Trump a réussi à élargir sa base électorale, au-delà des républicains «classiques», pour inclure des segments importants de la population noire, hispanique et indo-américaine. Ce phénomène est particulièrement notable parmi les hommes noirs et hispaniques, qui, malgré les tensions sur des questions comme l'immigration, ont soutenu Trump plus largement que ses prédécesseurs républicains.

3. Une campagne centrée sur des enjeux de la vie quotidienne

Tout comme Modi a centré sa campagne sur des questions économiques fondamentales, comme la création d'emplois et la réduction de la corruption, Trump a mis en lumière des préoccupations immédiates des électeurs américains, notamment l'inflation, l'immigration illégale, et la fin des guerres étrangères.

Son message sur l'immigration, en particulier, a résonné avec de nombreux électeurs, qu'ils soient blancs, noirs, hispaniques ou indo-américains, qui partagent une inquiétude commune face à la hausse de l'immigration illégale et la pression sur les services sociaux.

4. Une communication innovante et des canaux alternatifs

Une autre similitude frappante entre Trump et Modi est leur utilisation astucieuse des nouveaux médias et des canaux alternatifs pour communiquer directement avec leurs bases électorales.

Modi a excellé dans l'utilisation des réseaux sociaux et des plateformes numériques pour contourner les médias traditionnels et toucher une large audience, y compris les jeunes.

Trump a fait de même, s'appuyant sur des plateformes comme *Truth Social*, et utilisant des figures médiatiques comme Tucker Carlson ou Steve Bannon pour diffuser son message. Ce recours à des canaux alternatifs a permis à Trump de créer une réalité parallèle, où son discours politique pouvait être propagé sans les filtres des médias traditionnels, renforçant ainsi la loyauté de sa base.

5. Un leadership fort et une vision «anti-establishment»

Enfin, à l'image de Modi, qui s'est présenté comme un outsider politique, Trump a su se positionner comme un leader anti-establishment, promettant de défier l'élite politique et économique pour redonner le pouvoir au peuple.

Ce message a été particulièrement efficace dans les États clés, où les électeurs se sont sentis délaissés par les élites traditionnelles et ont vu en Trump un rempart contre un système qu'ils considéraient comme déconnecté de leurs préoccupations quotidiennes.

Organisation et communication de campagne

Pour faire passer le message et conquérir de nouveaux groupes sociaux, ce dont un leader politique a finalement besoin, c'est une infrastructure de campagne — ce qu'on pourrait appeler en termes indiens la «force de l'organisation» («*sangathan*»).

Trump, qui n'était pas connu pour sa discipline ou son organisation, a modifié son approche face à son plus grand défi politique. Il a choisi Susan Wiles pour diriger sa campagne. Wiles, opératrice républicaine en Floride, et un autre conseiller, Chris LaCivita, ont apporté un certain degré de compétence à la campagne qui avait manqué lors des tentatives précédentes. Cela incluait une analyse minutieuse des données, une adaptation du message en fonction du contexte et de son évolution, et une gestion efficace des ressources.

Ainsi, la victoire de Trump en 2024 constitue un modèle exemplaire de la manière dont la communication politique, l'organisation et la coalition peuvent se conjuguer pour livrer une victoire politique, même dans les circonstances les plus difficiles et improbables. C'est un témoignage remarquable des instincts politiques d'un homme qui est entré en politique il y a à peine une décennie.

Par ailleurs, la victoire de Trump en 2024 et celles de Modi en 2014 et 2019 ne sont pas de simples coïncidences électorales. Elles témoignent d'un changement fondamental dans la manière de conduire la politique: un retour aux préoccupations des citoyens ordinaires, une révision de l'alliance sociale traditionnelle et une maîtrise des nouvelles formes de communication. Trump, comme Modi, a utilisé une combinaison de messages populistes, une communication directe, et une expansion de sa base électorale pour triompher face à des adversaires qui, à leurs yeux, n'ont pas su répondre aux préoccupations fondamentales des électeurs.



P - Bloomberg

Changement de cap: Les Indo-américains se détournent des démocrates

Pour Kamala Harris, vice-présidente des États-Unis, le vote des Indo-américains semblait être une évidence. Son héritage indien était perçu comme un pont naturel vers une communauté historiquement fidèle au Parti démocrate. Cependant, les récentes élections ont révélé un changement surprenant dans les loyautés politiques des Indo-américains — un changement qui a contribué à la victoire écrasante de l'ex-président Donald Trump.

Ce phénomène reflète un mouvement plus large à travers les États-Unis: une réaction face à ce que beaucoup considèrent comme une priorité excessive des démocrates pour des agendas sociaux progressistes, au détriment de préoccupations plus pratiques telles que la stabilité économique, la sécurité nationale et les valeurs familiales, écrit Vivek Wadhwa dans une analyse du résultat des dernières élections présidentielles.

Un changement d'allégeance marqué

Une enquête récente de la *Carnegie Endowment* met en lumière ce changement d'allégeance. De 2020 à 2024, le pourcentage d'Indo-américains s'identifiant comme démocrates est tombé de 56 % à seulement 47 %, tandis que le soutien à Trump a augmenté de 22 % à 31 %.

Ce changement est particulièrement prononcé parmi les jeunes Indo-américains, notamment les hommes, qui auraient pu — selon certaines attentes — soutenir la candidature de Harris.

☞ Suite en page 7

Changement de cap: Les Indo-américains se détournent des démocrates

☞ Suite de la page 6

Au lieu de cela, ils sont à l'avant-garde d'un réalignement générationnel, rejetant les politiques démocrates qu'ils estiment s'éloigner des priorités fondamentales qui résonnent avec eux.

L'inquiétude face aux priorités progressistes

Les Indo-américains, comme beaucoup d'Américains, sont de plus en plus mal à l'aise face à ce qu'ils perçoivent comme une fixation du Parti démocrate sur des questions sociales progressistes, au détriment de politiques pragmatiques axées sur les résultats. L'accent semble être mis sur l'inclusivité symbolique plutôt que sur des problèmes pressants comme la croissance économique, la sécurité nationale et la cohésion familiale.

Pour une communauté qui valorise le travail acharné, l'éducation et l'unité familiale, ce décalage semble être un éloignement des valeurs qui ont été au cœur de leur succès en Amérique.

Kamala Harris et son héritage indien

Un facteur supplémentaire, alimentant ce sentiment de déconnexion, est l'approche de Kamala Harris vis-à-vis de son héritage indien. Contrairement à des personnalités comme Vivek Ramaswamy, qui a embrassé publiquement son identité hindoue, ou J.D. Vance, le vice-président désigné, un chrétien pratiquant dont la femme est fièrement hindoue, Harris s'est souvent distanciee de la communauté indo-américaine et de la religion de sa mère.

Beaucoup d'Indo-américains, qui espéraient une connexion culturelle plus profonde avec quelqu'un ayant des racines communes, ont été déçus. L'approche de Harris, selon certains, manque de la fierté culturelle exprimée par des leaders comme Ramaswamy ou la femme de Vance, ce qui donne l'impression d'un simple symbole sans véritable substance.

Immigration: un point de friction majeur

En tant qu'immigrants légaux ayant suivi un processus rigoureux, les Indo-américains soutiennent généralement une immigration basée sur le mérite, mais ils sont méfiants envers ce qu'ils perçoivent comme une position trop clémente du Parti démocrate vis-à-vis de l'immigration illégale. Beaucoup ont attendu des années, parfois des décen-



Les Indo-Américains sont de plus en plus mal à l'aise face à ce qu'ils perçoivent comme une fixation du Parti démocrate sur des enjeux sociaux progressistes au détriment de politiques pragmatiques et orientées vers les résultats. Photo - HT

nies, pour obtenir leur statut légal.

Par conséquent, cela les dérange de voir des individus franchir illégalement la frontière, bénéficier de refuges, de prestations sociales et de permis de travail. De plus, les démocrates ont régulièrement utilisé la situation des travailleurs qualifiés coincés dans les longues files d'attente de l'immigration pour plaider en faveur de voies de citoyenneté pour les immigrants sans papiers.

Ce sentiment est partagé par de nombreux Américains qui croient en un processus juste et légal et qui estiment que l'approche actuelle sape ces principes.

La position sur le séparatisme «Khalistani» et la sécurité nationale

Un autre facteur qui aliène les Indo-américains est l'alignement de l'administration Biden sur le Premier ministre canadien libéral, Justin Trudeau, sur des questions relatives aux séparatistes «Khalistani». Pour les Indo-américains, ayant des liens étroits avec l'Inde, la position de l'administration américaine sur des groupes hostiles à la souveraineté de l'Inde — des groupes impliqués dans des attentats à la bombe dans des avions et des milliers de meurtres — apparaît comme une trahison des valeurs communes.

Ce sentiment résonne également parmi les Américains qui estiment que les démocrates manquent de fermeté sur les questions de sécurité mondiale. La sécurité nationale n'est pas théorique pour les Indo-américains, dont beaucoup ont des souvenirs vivaces des attaques terroristes en Inde, ni pour les Américains qui se souviennent clairement des événements du 11 septembre 2001.

Les valeurs pragmatiques avant tout

Comme l'ensemble de l'électorat américain, les Indo-américains sont des électeurs pragmatiques qui privilégient des solutions pratiques aux discours divisifs. L'accent mis par le Parti démocrate sur les politiques de «Diversité, Équité et Inclusion» (DEI), qui sont bien intentionnées, suscite des inquié-

tudes au sein de la communauté.

Pour beaucoup d'Indo-américains, le DEI est perçu comme une distraction par rapport aux problèmes essentiels comme les opportunités économiques, la sécurité publique et l'éducation, au profit d'initiatives centrées sur l'identité.

Ce sentiment n'est pas propre aux Indo-américains ; de nombreux Américains à travers le pays se sentent déçus par un agenda social qui semble privilégier l'identité au mérite et à la compétence pratique.

Un électorat de plus en plus influent

Avec une population de plus de 4,8 millions de personnes et des concentrations dans des États clés, les Indo-américains représentent une base électorale de plus en plus influente pour les élections à venir. Les deux partis l'ont bien compris, intensifiant leurs efforts de sensibilisation.

Mais le Parti démocrate se trouve désormais confronté à un défi crucial : se reconnecter avec une communauté qui était autrefois un pilier de son soutien. Une représentation symbolique ne suffira pas ; les Indo-américains, comme tous les Américains, exigent des leaders qu'ils répondent à leurs préoccupations réelles et quotidiennes.

Chagos: Trump pourrait remettre en cause l'accord avec Maurice

L'accord entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice concernant la cession des îles Chagos pourrait être sérieusement remis en question après la victoire de Donald Trump à l'élection présidentielle de 2024. Des figures importantes du Parti républicain ont exprimé de vives critiques à l'égard de cet accord, incitant Trump à revoir sa position lorsqu'il reprendra ses fonctions à la Maison Blanche.

Le soutien de Trump à la souveraineté américaine

L'accord qui prévoyait la remise de la souveraineté des îles Chagos à Maurice a été dévoilé en octobre 2023. Les îles sont d'une importance géopolitique majeure en raison de leur proximité avec l'Asie du Sud-Est. Elles comprennent notamment Diego Garcia, qui abrite une base militaire stratégique utilisée par les États-Unis pour leurs avions de longue portée et leurs navires de guerre.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 16



L'accord sur les îles Chagos entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice est désormais dans l'incertitude après la victoire de Donald Trump. P - Pinterest



Anil Madan

What does Trump's win mean for American foreign policy?

Given his unpredictable and often volatile and inconsistent pronouncements, the world will lack a sense of stability from America in the years ahead

Donald Trump won a decisive victory in the presidential election. He will claim, incorrectly, but understandably, that he has a mandate to carry out his agenda. Never mind that discerning a cohesive Trumpian agenda is nigh impossible because... well, because there is no cohesive Trumpian agenda. Nevertheless, there are clues as to the broad strokes in both the domestic and foreign policy arenas with which Trump intends to paint while he is wielding the brush.

When it comes to foreign policy and geopolitics, Trump spouts mixed messages attempting to convey both toughness and disengagement. The toughness is illusory because he assumes that he can bend actors as diverse as China, Russia, Kim Jong Un, Volodymyr Zelensky, Bibi Netanyahu, Saudi Arabia's MBS, and others to do his bidding.

The perils of Trump's zero-sum approach to US-China relations

When it comes to China, Trump's transactional view of the relationship of that country with the US leads him to treat trade as a zero-sum game. He has proposed the imposition of hefty tariffs on all imports from China to the tune of 60% and up to 20% on imports from other countries. The goal here seems to be both to secure trading equity and geopolitical advantage. This runs the risk of conflating different aspects of the relationship and losing both ways.

Trump has long acted under the misimpression that the tariffs are a revenue-raising mechanism for the US. He simply does not understand that the tariffs will ultimately fall upon American consumers and effectively being a massive price rise, lead to soaring inflation and likely cause a severe recession at home.

The negative effects of punitive tariffs on imports from China would be devastating without even taking into account retaliatory measures that China would impose. For example, if China were to impose retaliatory tariffs on aircraft supplied by American manufacturers (read Boeing) that would be devastating to Boeing's sales and would allow Airbus to gain a significant advantage over its American rival.

The US is highly dependent on China as a manufacturer of goods. In 2023, we imported \$536 billion worth of goods and services from China and exported about \$148 billion.

More importantly, the US is dependent on China for pharmaceutical goods, rare earth minerals, and indeed, many US companies have outsourced the manufacture of their goods to China, so that if China embargoed its exports to the US both economies would start to grind down and this would produce a massive worldwide recession.

The America-China relationship is also marked by confrontation in the geopolitical sphere. China continues to encroach in the South China Sea and to threaten Taiwan. It is not known how much pain China is willing to endure on the economic front in order to establish a huge footprint in the South China Sea. My sense is that we do not want to goad China into making risky moves because the US is limited in what it can do to keep Taiwan independent.

As difficult as it may seem to think that the US would abandon Taiwan to the predations of Xi Jinping, that is seemingly precisely what Trump suggests. He has complained that the US does not "owe" Taiwan a defense because they "stole" our semiconductor industry. The charge is ludicrous. As of now, the risk to Taiwan has increased exponentially.

China also controls critical rare earth minerals necessary for the US to maintain the functions of critical systems including those related to defense. Disrupting the relationship with China could have costly consequences for the US and its ability to secure desperately needed supplies.

Trump, Israel, and the nuclear threat from Iran

When it comes to Israel, Trump has stated that Israel should "finish the job" when it comes to Gaza. It seems clear that his support for Israel is not fettered by humanitarian concerns for the Gazans. What is not clear is how he will be able to get Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia on board to make a lasting peace with Israel.

On that score, dealing with the threat that Iran poses to Israel and to its Arab neighbours writ large will be critical. In Trump, there is no love lost for Iran. He is likely to be confrontational and aggressive in dealing with that nation's theocratic regime. This is pure power politics because here too, Trump is not motivated by humanitarian concerns about the Iranian people.

A wild card is what Trump would do if



Pic - The Times

“Trump has said that he can and will end the war between Ukraine and Russia. The problem here is that Ukraine's population has been devastated with millions of its women and children fleeing, and it is short of men and munitions. Trump's apparent strategy is to have Ukraine cede territory to Russia and then hope that Putin does not escalate or attack again. The US under Trump is unlikely to provide boots on the ground, and Trump seems to have a fascination for Putin...”

Iran does develop nuclear weapons and demonstrate that they can be delivered by missiles. Saudi Arabia's MBS has stated clearly that if Iran gets nukes, Saudi Arabia must get them as well. Can Trump prevent proliferation? That remains to be seen.

Unpredictable foreign policy: From Ukraine to NATO and beyond

Trump has said that he can and will end the war between Ukraine and Russia. The problem here is that Ukraine's population has been devastated with millions of its women and children fleeing, and it is short of men and munitions. Trump's apparent strategy is to have Ukraine cede territory to Russia and then hope that Putin does not escalate or attack again. The US under Trump is unlikely to provide boots on the ground, and Trump seems to have a fascination for Putin. It is apparent that the very survival of Ukraine is up in the air with Trump.

Russian oligarchs are known to covet the wheat fields of Ukraine. Trump's actions could have the unintended effect of putting Ukraine's wheat production in Russia's hands. If that were to happen, it is not difficult to imagine that supplies will be diverted to China and away from Africa and Europe. The consequences for world hunger would be devastating.

So also, with the rest of Europe. It is not clear whether Trump will continue to view NATO as surplus in the modern era. The members of NATO certainly don't view it as

a surplus undertaking. On the other hand, NATO's effectiveness and cohesiveness are heavily dependent on the participation of the US in its defensive strategies. Under Trump, NATO is in danger of becoming ineffective, and if he withdraws the US from the alliance, the resulting US-Europe rupture would produce profound changes in the geopolitical security structure. This will spur the European countries to spend more on defense and to find ways to sharpen their alliances with each other. Confrontation with Russia would certainly be more likely.

Kim Jong Nuke continues to be a wild card. In his first term, Trump gave up on Kim. Will he try to revive his bilateral one-on-one approach? No predictions here, but it will be interesting to find out.

It is not clear at all how Trump will deal with the alliances that the US has tried to forge with Australia, Japan, India, the Philippines and Vietnam in the Pacific region. Will Trump try to strengthen these relationships or approach them with the same transactional view as he has approached NATO?

In the coming weeks and months, we will see more flesh on Trump's plans for America's role in the world. Given his unpredictable and often volatile and inconsistent pronouncements, the world will lack a sense of stability from America in the years ahead.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Dharam Gokhool

“The winds of change are blowing even stronger”

‘People have rightly come to value their freedom over money, and money-driven politics is likely to have little impact on their voting behaviour’

In the lead-up to Mauritius’ highly anticipated elections, political tension is palpable, as various alliances vie for the support of the electorate. Last Sunday, the ‘Alliance du Changement’ drew an impressive crowd in Port Louis, drawing comparisons with the ‘Lepep’ alliance’s gathering in Vacoas on the same day. However, despite the energy and enthusiasm displayed by both sides, the path to electoral victory remains uncertain. To shed light on the current political landscape and the challenges ahead, we sat down with Dharam Gokhool, former education minister, for his perspective on the upcoming elections, the political climate, and the reforms needed to restore trust in Mauritius’ democratic institutions.



«Until the ballot boxes settle the outcome of these general elections, the battle must be waged on all fronts. The dangers of poll rigging are real with suspicious incidents being reported in the media. No retreat and no surrender until victory should be leitmotiv of all candidates and activists. Eternal vigilance until the final count. The absolute power arrogated by those whom the former DPP rightly described as an “association of criminals” will stop at nothing in trying to discredit the Alliance du Changement...»

Mauritius Times: The ‘Alliance du Changement’ drew a good crowd last Sunday, perhaps slightly larger than the turnout of the ‘Lepep’ alliance in Vacoas on the same day. However, the outcome of the upcoming elections remains far from certain; one could even say it’s still very unclear. Do you feel the same way?

Dharam Gokhool: From the various comments and clips of both gatherings that I came across and also if we go by opinions expressed by independent observers, the Port Louis crowd was indeed much bigger.

By its composition, it was more diverse, with people of all ages, men and women, young and old, from all communities of our beautiful rainbow nation, and from every part of the country. More enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed to support the change agenda.

Most people came to Port Louis by their own means. In many constituencies, the Lepep Alliance deployed considerable resources - financial and material, with transport facilities, T shirts, “manger boire”, without forgetting the conspicuous

presence of Senior Citizens and Bangladeshi workers. I was even told that many who attended were rewarded up to Rs 2000 for their presence at Phoenix.

The Port Louis crowd was much, much bigger in terms of organisation, momentum, enthusiasm and impact. But as you say, until the ballot boxes settle the outcome of these general elections, the battle must be waged on all fronts. The dangers of poll rigging are real with suspicious incidents being reported in the media. No retreat and no surrender until victory should be leitmotiv of all candidates and activists. Eternal vigilance until the final

count.

The absolute power arrogated by those whom the former DPP rightly described as an “association of criminals” will stop at nothing in trying to discredit the Alliance du Changement and launch personal, below-the-belt attacks against its leaders, particularly the LP leader, Navin Ramgoolam.

*** Don’t you think it’s possible that the “Alliance Lepep” might still devise new strategies to shift the situation in their favour?**

My simple and straightforward answer is that the ‘Changement’ alliance will have

to be cautiously optimistic and avoid being overconfident. Until final results are announced, it has to be on alert 24/7 mode and keep its adversaries on its radar.

During the last two mandates of the MSM-led government, people have suffered terribly from the inhuman treatment inflicted on the population during the Covid-19 pandemic, followed by the Wakashio ecological disaster, the inhuman treatment of squatters, the ongoing mismanagement of the economy, drug proliferation, the stifling of democracy, state capture of nearly all public institutions through political agents, the deliberate deterioration of our public services, the daily partisan political propaganda of the MBC-TV, scandals of all kinds, cases of fraud, corruption and nepotism, the divisive campaigns fuelled by racism and communalism — the list is not exhaustive.

People will not forget the all the pains and suffering inflicted upon them by the MSM government over the last ten years.

You only need to watch the videos of ‘Missié Moustass’ to get a sense of the troubling influence at play, with a Prime Minister seemingly neglecting his constitutional duties under the sway of questionable forces and by a manipulative and controversial high priestess.

Against this background, I can confidently say that we have a silent majority, deeply conscious of the overall deterioration of the state of our country, and they have already made up their minds in favour of change. In my opinion, these last-minute strategies are more likely to backfire as they will be perceived as desperate moves to hang on to power.

*** Is it not possible that tangible promises, like the 14th-month salary and other financial benefits offered by the government, could sway a significant portion of the public in favor of the ‘Lepep’ alliance and put a break to the momentum for change?**

When the ‘Lepep’ alliance came out with these last-minute announcements, they did create some worry in the ranks of the ‘Changement’ alliance.

But as you know, almost immediately, there was a sharp rise in the prices of various commodities including cooking oil. It was largely unexpected, and the ‘Lepep’ alliance was caught in a maelstrom of strong public resentment which significantly diluted the overall impact of the 14th-month salary deal. It was a classic case of a zero-sum game.

On the other hand, the ‘Changement’ alliance took on board the impact of rising prices, and the sufferings of the people, and decided that people deserved to be compensated with a 14th-month salary, which will be paid. By the way, the 14th-month salary was already on the agenda of the ‘Alliance du Changement’, as Xavier Duval, the then Leader of the Opposition had already put a PNQ on behalf of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

☞ **Cont. on page 10**

'Missié Moustass' audio recordings: 'What we are witnessing may be only the tip of an iceberg of a criminal surveillance system'



☞ Cont. from page 9

We must not forget that Xavier was chairing a committee for drafting the manifesto of the Opposition and that proposal had emanated from that committee.

It is sheer hypocrisy for the MSM to claim ownership of this measure just as in the case of the Metro project.

On the contrary, it seems to me that the winds of change are blowing even stronger in favour of the Opposition. We should not also ignore the fact that many in the MSM ranks, including MPs and Municipal Councillors have already left the sinking Titanic...

*** It's possible that electors, both within the 'Changement' and 'Lepep' camps are starting to grow weary of the constant revelations from 'Missié Moustass.' What truly seems to matter more to them now are the tangible promises, like the 14th-month salary and other financial benefits offered by the government. What's your take on this?**

The shocking videos of 'Missié Moustass' have revealed the extent of the unprecedented rottenness ('pourriture') of the government. People, especially the younger generation, have realised how their liberties, freedoms and justice have been trampled over by this government. The interference with the internet and social

☞ **What we are witnessing may be only the tip of an iceberg of a criminal surveillance system, involving sophisticated equipment, costly servers, and spyware technology. No hacker or phone tapper, aside from those within a secret state-run operation, would possess the means to eavesdrop on hundreds of people simultaneously without control or high-level instructions. The 'Changement' alliance government will need to urgently review the entire national security system and reassure the public that there will be no intrusion into their private lives...»**

☞ **People will not forget the all the pains and suffering inflicted upon them by the MSM government over the last ten years. You only need to watch the videos of 'Missié Moustass' to get a sense of the troubling influence at play, with a Prime Minister seemingly neglecting his constitutional duties under the sway of questionable forces and by a manipulative and controversial high priestess...»**

media is a flagrant illustration of the totalitarian practices of this regime.

As the leaders of the 'Changement' alliance have stated, these elections are comparable to those of 1967. In 1967, we fought for our independence; in these elections we are fighting for the restoration of our liberties which have been confiscated by the MSM government for the benefit of the notorious 'Lakwizin' and its acolytes.

People have rightly come to value their freedom over money, and money-driven politics is likely to have little impact on the voting behavior of the population.

*** In the past two weeks, the 'Missié Moustass' videos, along with those yet to be revealed, have been very enlightening, offering a real 'eye-opener' about serious weaknesses in the inner workings of the state apparatus, thereby compromising the security of the nation. What are your thoughts?**

The revelations of 'Missié Moustass' have deeply shocked and traumatized the population. People have been outraged by the widespread surveillance of private conversations, even on supposedly secure platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook. More disturbing still, these intrusions raise serious concerns about our national security.

This situation brings to mind the "sniffing" incident at Jacotet Bay. What we are witnessing may be only the tip of an iceberg of a criminal surveillance system, involving sophisticated equipment, costly servers, and spyware technology. No hacker or phone tapper, aside from those within a secret state-run operation, would possess the means to eavesdrop on hundreds of people simultaneously without control or high-level instructions.

The 'Changement' alliance government will need to urgently review the entire national security system and reassure the public that there will be no intrusion into their private lives. Trust in our democracy and its institutions must be restored, with a new legislative framework established to protect both national security and citizens' privacy.

Our international standing as a sovereign democratic state has been tarnished, and every effort must be made to repair the damage. In light of these revelations, significant reforms are necessary to restore public confidence in our institutions.

*** These revelations should prompt significant changes in how we perceive and manage our institutions moving forward. What do you expect from the next Prime Minister in terms of remedial actions and reforms aimed at strengthening institutional autonomy, ensuring better governance, and safeguarding**

the separation of powers?

Our institutions, such as the Bank of Mauritius, FCC, FIU, IBA, ICTA, FSC, STC, etc., should function in an autonomous and independent manner without any political interference.

Institutional integrity must be high on the agenda of a future government.

Furthermore, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) should be revamped completely to enable it to play its role as an independent national broadcaster in line with a new mandate, without any political pressure, so that never again the government of the day can use it as a propaganda instrument. Private media operators must be encouraged to allow for diversity of opinions and views.

In parallel, it is imperative to introduce a Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management Act to ensure the judicious management of public finances, limiting unnecessary expenditure and strengthening transparency and accountability.

☞ **Instituting a term limit for a Prime Minister is a challenge. Unlike a presidential system, where the head of the executive is directly elected by the people, the prime minister in a parliamentary regime draws his legitimacy from Parliament and can be recalled as long as he enjoys the confidence of a majority of elected MPs. This means that a term limit could interfere with parliamentary will and, by extension, that of the electorate. Nevertheless, to avoid abuses, the manifesto of 'Changement' alliance proposes to strengthen governance mechanisms to limit excessive influence of one individual...»**

The powers of the National Audit Office should be strengthened to enable it to initiate corrective measures regarding waste and misuse of public funds. Additionally, the vital role of our National Assembly as the foremost institution for ensuring public accountability and transparency in public affairs must be re-established and reinforced.

Finally, to strengthen justice, we will fully support the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), ensuring it has the necessary resources to effectively fulfill its mandate. With these reforms, it is hoped that the 'Change Alliance' will restore citizens' trust in their institutions, ensuring transparent and accountable governance for the future of Mauritius.

*** The 'Missiés Moustass' revelations have also highlighted the risks of abuses that can occur when excessive power is exercised by a Prime Minister. It would perhaps be pertinent to seriously consider immediately a limitation of his term. What do you think?**

These revelations show the dangers of excessive concentration of power. The issue of limitation of the Prime Ministerial term of office has been a subject of intense debate recently.

☞ Cont. on page 11

'Both Ramgoolam and Bérenger 'n'ont pas droit à l'erreur'...

... more than just a political necessity, it is their moral responsibility to the nation'



Cont. from page 10

Instituting a term limit for a Prime Minister is a challenge. Unlike a presidential system, where the head of the executive is directly elected by the people, the prime minister in a parliamentary regime draws his legitimacy from Parliament and can be recalled as long as he enjoys the confidence of a majority of elected MPs. This means that a term limit could interfere with parliamentary will and, by extension, that of the electorate.

Nevertheless, to avoid abuses, the manifesto of 'Changement' alliance proposes to strengthen governance mechanisms to limit excessive influence of one individual. This includes the creation of independent parliamentary committees and improved transparency of public appointments and expenditure.

These measures will guarantee a balance of powers while fully respecting the principles of our parliamentary democracy. Thus, the "Changement" alliance will ensure that the democratic ethos and values scaffold the office of the Prime Minister, bolstered by rigorous governance rules adapted to today's challenges.

*** With two strong leaders at the helm of the "Changement" Alliance, do you foresee a smooth implementation of the government's program?**

Both Ramgoolam and Bérenger are experienced politicians with impressive track records. They must have gauged the pulse of the population and understood their legitimate expectations through their numerous interactions during the campaign. Given that this may likely be their last mandate, they have no choice but to ensure the success of their mission. 'Ils n'ont pas droit à l'erreur.' They will also need to consider the legacy they will leave behind... More than just a political necessity, it is their moral responsibility to the nation...»

pulse of the population and understood their legitimate expectations through their numerous interactions during the campaign.

The programme was agreed upon after extensive consultations and discussions between the various parties of the Alliance. In the event of any differences, they will need to demonstrate maturity and responsibility so as not to disappoint the electorate.

Given that this may likely be their last mandate, they have no choice but to ensure the success of their mission. "Ils n'ont pas droit à l'erreur." (They cannot afford to make mistakes.) They will also need to consider the legacy they will leave behind for both the present and future generations. More than just a political necessity, it is their moral responsibility to the nation.

*** At some point, all party leaders or heads of government reflect on their 'legacy'—what they hope to be remembered for. How do you think history will judge the leadership of Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Bérenger, and what lasting impact do you believe they could have on the country's political landscape?**

The leaders have travelled to every corner of the country and have listened to thousands of our fellow citizens of all ages. The people have opened their hearts to them to convey the most important

« Respect for human dignity must be at the centre of all the thoughts and actions of both Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Bérenger. Let us never forget that our people came in different ships, but today we are all in the same boat. The two captains have the duty and responsibility to steer the country towards a new destination, a new future for all. This must be their one and only mission. They must strive to leave behind a united, strong, dynamic, and confident Mauritius, proud of its future...»

mes "We trust you; don't let us down. Think of our children and our youth. Think of our motherland, scarred by ten years of poor governance and all the excesses of a totalitarian regime. Restore the trust of the citizens in state institutions, restore responsible management of the country's affairs, elevate yourselves to the status of heads of state, and restore the honour of our country both regionally and internationally."

Respect for human dignity must be at

the centre of all the thoughts and actions of both Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Bérenger. Let us never forget that our people came in different ships, but today we are all in the same boat. The two captains have the duty and responsibility to steer the country towards a new destination, a new future for all. This must be their one and only mission. They must strive to leave behind a united, strong, dynamic, and confident Mauritius, proud of its future.

Mauritius Times

Even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a reader-funded newspaper, the Mauritius Times relies on the support of those who are in a position to help. We know that you are fully conscious of the important role of an independent media, so even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups, your support in the form of a subscription or patronage will allow us to pursue our mission and protect our editorial independence. That is why we would kindly request you to consider becoming a regular subscriber by sending us your contribution.

Our Annual Subs Rate amounts to Rs 1500.

Your support, however much you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

Payment Options - Any one of the following

1. By cheque drawn to the order of **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**. Kindly post the cheque to our postal address as above.
2. Via MCB Juice to the following Phone No **5 782 9861**.
3. Bank transfer, paid to **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**, to any one of the following bank accounts:

Bank	Account No	Swift Code	IBAN
MCB	000448214277	MCBLMUMU	MU71MCBL0901000448214277000MUR
SBM	50300000703075	STCBMUMU	MU17STCB1101000000703075000MUR
SBI	156000504401	INILMUMU	MU47INIL0801156000504401000MUR

Please send us your personal details - Name, Postal Address, Email and Telephone / Mobile number by email or WhatsApps for immediate processing of your subscription.

Another option is to subscribe by going to our Google Form by clicking on the link below:

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Please know that we are at your disposal for any clarification and assistance that you may require. You may please contact us on:

Tel - 5 2929 301 - 5 782 9861 - 212 1313 -- Email: mtimes@intnet.mu

Pearl House - 4th Floor - Room 406, Sir Virgil Naz St -- Port Louis

Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times



Indian Prime Minister Modi and US President Donald Trump. Pic - MoneyControl

Trump praises Modi, India in call after winning us presidential election

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (6 November) dialled US President-elect Donald Trump to congratulate the American leader on winning the US presidential election. During their call, both leaders agreed to work together for world peace, reports Kuldeep Negi of Swaraj.

In his victory address, Trump announced that one of his top priorities would be to put an end to ongoing wars. India, too, is a trusted mediator of both the West and Russia in calling for peaceful negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, reports Hindustan Times.

Trump reportedly conveyed in the phone call that "the whole world loves PM Modi," and that India is "a magnificent country" and PM Modi is a "magnificent man".

The US President-elect told PM Modi that he considers him and India a true friend.

PM Modi was one of the first world leaders Trump spoke to after his victory.

PM Modi took to X to share details of the call, stating, "Had a great conversation with my friend, President Donald Trump, congratulating him on his spectacular victory. Looking forward to working closely together once again to further strengthen India-US relations across technology, defence, energy, space, and several other sectors".

India's familiarity with Trump's approach to leadership is grounded in experience, as both countries navigated a complex relationship during his previous presidency from 2016 to 2020.

During that time, Trump had been supportive of India's stance on global terrorism while adopting a stringent stance on tariffs impacting American products.

Trump's return to office may bring fresh prospects for India, though some sectors, particularly pharmaceuticals and IT, could encounter challenges if he opts to tighten import restrictions and H1B visa policies.

PM Modi's cordial relationship with Trump is expected to positively influence Indo-US ties. However, India may need to recalibrate its approach to maintain cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

Hamas urging Donald Trump 'to stop the war' in Gaza



A Palestinian woman carries a child as they walk past the rubble of houses destroyed in previous strikes during the Israeli military offensive, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. Pic - Reuters

Palestinian militant group Hamas has issued a statement urging US President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration to make "stop the war" in Gaza a priority.

The statement comes amid reports that Trump recently advised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to conclude the military conflict before his inauguration on January 20, following his electoral victory over Vice President Kamala Harris, reports Hindustan Times.

"In light of the initial results showing Donald Trump winning in the U.S. presidential elections," Hamas

responded to the election results, and they expect Trump to "listen to the voices that have been raised by the U.S. public for more than a year regarding the [Israeli] aggression on the Gaza Strip."

Times of Israel reported that Trump's remarks urging an end to the conflict were reportedly first shared with Netanyahu during a meeting at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Florida resort, in July.

The statement from Hamas outlined several specific demands from the US to "work seriously to stop the war of genocide and aggression

against our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank."

Hamas request to cease the 'military support' to Israel

The militant group also requested an end to "the aggression against the brotherly Lebanese people" and asked the US to cease providing "military support and political cover to the Zionist entity." Hamas also urged Trump's administration to recognize what they refer to as the "legitimate rights of our people."

Hamas emphasized its intention to continue resisting what it considers the "hateful [Israeli] occupation," stating that it would not accept any solutions that compromise Palestinian rights to "freedom, independence, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," aligning with Hamas's longstanding position on Palestinian sovereignty and its opposition to Israel's presence in territories claimed by Palestinians.

The policy of the current administration of the United States of America under the presidency of Joe Biden alongside VP Harris has been fairly pro-Israeli; the White House has, in the past, however, issued demarches against some actions of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In October, President Biden urged a ceasefire just before the IDF commenced operations in Lebanon.

Kashyap 'Kash' Patel, Trump loyalist who is likely to be new CIA Chief

In the final weeks of his last administration, Donald Trump planned to name Kashyap 'Kash' Patel as the deputy director of the CIA, reports Hindustan Times.

Due to the pressure from White House officials and others, Trump could not execute his plan to appoint Patel as CIA deputy director during his last presidency, reports Kuldeep Negi of Swaraj. However, at a gala of young Republicans last year, Trump had a message for Patel: "Get ready, Kash. Get ready."

Kashyap Patel is of Gujarati ancestry and has a family history that traces back to East Africa. According to The Atlantic, his father left Uganda during the oppressive regime of Idi Amin in the 1970s and moved to the United States. Patel was born in 1980 and grew up in Garden City, New York.

Raised in a Hindu family, his senior-yearbook quote, attributed to Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel, stated: "Racism is man's gravest threat - the maximum of hatred for a minimum reason."

Patel pursued his undergraduate studies at the University of Richmond and then returned to New York to earn his law degree.



Kashyap 'Kash' Patel. Pic - Mashable India

He also obtained a Certificate in International Law from the University College London Faculty of Laws in the UK.

The 44-year-old has a diverse career background, having served as the former Chief of Staff to Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller. Before this, as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism at the National Security Council, he was pivotal in executing several of Trump's top priorities.

These included the elimination of key ISIS and al-Qaeda figures such as al-Baghdadi and Qasem al-Rimi, and the repatriation of numerous American hostages.

In addition, Patel served as the National Security Advisor and Senior Counsel for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Here, he led the investigation into the Russian active measures campaign to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Starting his career as a public defender, Patel handled complex cases involving murder, narco-trafficking, and financial crimes in both state and federal courts.

The Atlantic describes Patel as a man "who will do anything for Trump," noting his rapid ascent in the Trump administration where he joined as a 40-year-old lawyer in 2019.

The Kremlin exercises caution in its response to Donald Trump's election

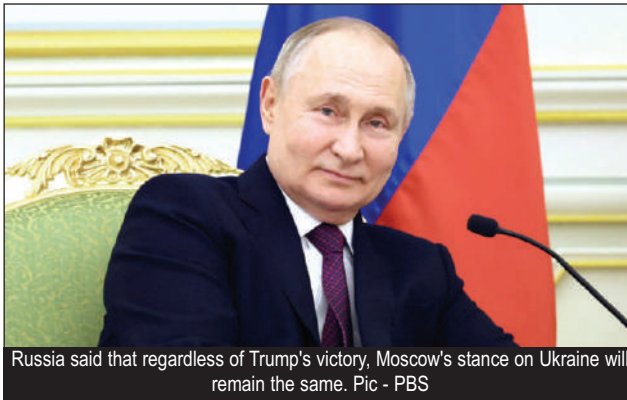
The Kremlin exercised caution on Wednesday in its response to Donald Trump's decisive victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election. A spokesperson stated that Trump's "actions" in office, rather than words, would determine whether he follows through on his pledge to end the war in Ukraine.

This statement comes amid growing speculation and concerns that a second term for Trump could be detrimental for Kyiv. In Moscow, many Russians welcomed Trump's victory, hoping he would deliver on his promises, according to reports from Hindustan Times.

Notably, Trump has repeatedly vowed to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict if re-elected to the presidency.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov acknowledged that Trump had made notable statements regarding the Ukraine war, but he emphasized that only time would reveal whether these statements would lead to tangible actions. "We will draw conclusions based on concrete steps and actual words," Peskov said.

Peskov also reminded the press that the U.S. is an "unfriendly country" that has been involved, both directly and indirectly, in a "war against our state."



Russia said that regardless of Trump's victory, Moscow's stance on Ukraine will remain the same. Pic - PBS

Regarding a potential message of congratulations from President Vladimir Putin, Peskov said he was "not aware" of any plans for such an exchange, citing the historically low state of U.S.-Russia relations. He added, "We have repeatedly said that the U.S. could contribute to ending this conflict. This will not happen overnight, but the U.S. can change the trajectory of its foreign policy. Whether that happens, and how, we will see after the U.S. presidential inauguration in January."

Following Trump's victory declaration, Russia made it clear that its stance on Ukraine would remain unchanged. The Kremlin stressed that with a Republican administration in the White House, Russia would prioritize achieving its goals in Ukraine. "Our conditions are unchanged and well-known in Washington," the Russian foreign ministry stated.

As the war in Ukraine continues, some officials in Moscow view Trump's return to power as a potential opportunity for a diplomatic breakthrough. Leonid Slutsky, a prominent Russian lawmaker, expressed cautious optimism, saying, "It's possible that there will be a chance for a constructive approach."

However, the Russian foreign ministry was careful to note that it harbored no illusions about Trump's approach. It pointed out the bipartisan anti-Russian stance within the U.S. ruling elites, which seeks to contain Russia. "Russia will work with the new administration once it 'takes up residence' in the White House, fiercely defending Russian national interests and focusing on achieving the objectives of the special military operation in Ukraine," the ministry added.

2024 set to be the hottest year on record, eu scientists warn ahead of COP29



2024 will be world's hottest year on record, EU scientists say. Pic - Geo.tv

According to new data released by the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2024 is "virtually certain" to become the world's hottest year on record. The announcement, made on Thursday, comes just days before the U.N. COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan, where international leaders will gather to discuss urgent action on climate change. However, the summit's outcome may be overshadowed by concerns that global efforts are failing to match the growing severity of the climate crisis.

From January to October 2024, global temperatures have soared so high that even a sharp cooling in the final months of the year would still make 2024 surpass 2023 as the warmest year on record. C3S attributes this record-breaking heat to human-induced climate change, with CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels being the primary driver.

2024 also marks a crucial milestone: it will be the first year in modern history when global temperatures exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This threshold, set in the 2015 Paris Agreement,

represents a critical limit that countries have committed to avoiding in order to prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. While the world has not yet breached this limit on a long-term average, C3S warns that this could happen as soon as 2030.

The data release comes at a critical time, with COP29 set to take place next week in Azerbaijan. The summit will focus on boosting climate finance for adaptation and mitigation, but growing concerns about political dynamics—particularly in the United States—could dampen hopes for significant progress. The recent victory of Donald Trump in the U.S. presidential election has raised doubts about the commitment of the world's largest economy to addressing climate change. Trump's previous administration rolled back numerous environmental regulations, and his stance on climate change was widely criticized for undermining global efforts to reduce emissions.

With the 1.5°C target increasingly out of reach, the question facing global leaders is how much further they are willing to go to limit warming.

Will COP29 be a turning point that leads to stronger commitments, or will it be yet another missed opportunity?

The consequences of rising temperatures are becoming increasingly visible, with extreme weather events wreaking havoc around the world. In 2024 alone, we have witnessed catastrophic flash floods in Spain that claimed hundreds of lives, record-breaking wildfires in Peru, and widespread flooding in Bangladesh that destroyed more than 1 million tons of rice, exacerbating the global food crisis. In the U.S., Hurricane Milton, which struck in September, was made more severe by human-caused climate change.

These extreme events are not isolated incidents—they are a preview of the future unless urgent action is taken. Every fraction of a degree increase in global temperature amplifies the intensity and frequency of extreme weather, posing a growing threat to lives, economies, and ecosystems worldwide.

The scientific consensus is clear: the world is warming at an alarming rate, and 2024 will likely be the hottest year on record. As COP29 approaches, the key question is how the global community will respond to this challenge. There is hope that world leaders will finally commit to ambitious, concrete actions that reflect the urgency of the situation. However, with the 1.5°C target in jeopardy and political challenges, such as the U.S. election result, casting a shadow over international negotiations, the path forward is uncertain.

DASAUTO CO LTD
Tel: 248 3693 / 5850 1922 / 5256 4837

BMW SPECIALIST GARAGE

Servicing & General Repairs
Mechanical & Electrical Problems
Diagnosis & Coding & Programming
Engine Overhaul/Oil &
Water Leakages/Suspension

FOR RENT

4000 Sq Ft Building
In Excellent Condition
within less than 5 mins
from New Supreme
Court Building

**Ideal for
Office - Mini
Clinic - Medical
Lab - Archives
& Chambers**

CONTACT US
57809413 - 5 7829861 - 5 2929301
email: drrouget@gmail.com

**Parking Spaces &
Alarm System Available**

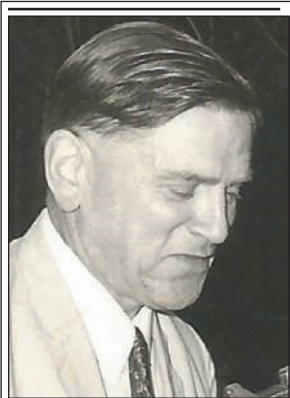
From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 288

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 26 February, 1960

• Gouverner c'est choisir. -- Pierre Mendès France

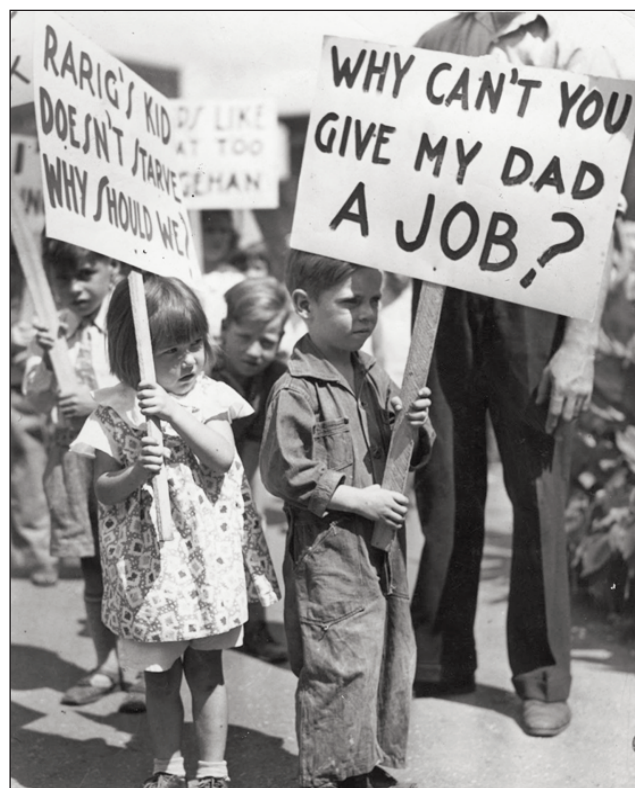


Peter Ibbotson

This year, 1960, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the first national Labour Exchange, which was renamed Employment Exchanges in 1916. Before the state intervened to provide labour exchanges, such services were offered by voluntary organizations or local enterprises. The pioneer in this field was a Conservative, Nathaniel Cohen, who opened the first labour exchange in 1885 at Egham, Surrey, where he lived. However, it was the Fabian Society pioneers, Sydney and Beatrice Webb, who did more than anyone else to bring about the establishment of state-run labour exchanges. They supported the then *Morning Post* leader-writer William Beveridge in his campaign for such exchanges. Beveridge later left the *Morning Post* and joined the Board of Trade at the express personal invitation of the President of the Board, Winston Churchill. Churchill and Beveridge together created the state labour exchange system, and both men—now Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Beveridge — were still alive to witness the golden jubilee of their creation.

The primary function of the first labour exchanges was, like the employment exchanges operated by the Mauritius Department of Labour today, to facilitate the matching of employers seeking workers with individuals seeking employment. While the UK Employment Exchanges still perform this core function, several additional services have been introduced over the years. Every effort is made to match the right person with the right job, and vice versa. Vacancies that cannot be filled locally are advertised nationwide, and suitable candidates for remote jobs are referred in writing to employers. Each Exchange employs a Disablement Resettlement Officer, whose responsibility is to assist disabled individuals in securing appropriate work in

Unemployment Exchanges



industry, as well as to help seriously disabled persons find sheltered employment. Other services include vocational training programs, government-run training centers, and industrial rehabilitation centers.

In the first year of operation, 62 exchanges opened on the first day, and 94 more were added during 1910. By the end of that year, the exchanges had placed around 400,000 workers in jobs. In 1959, nearly 1,900,000 workers were placed, including school-leavers, who were served by a special division called the Youth Employment Service.

When Churchill introduced the Labour Exchanges Bill in Parliament, he also proposed the creation of a national insurance system, which was later formalized by the National Insurance Act of 1911. Initially, the scheme applied to a limited number of trades, including engineering, shipbuilding, and construction, affecting about 2.5 million people. However, with the outbreak of World War I in 1914, more workers — especially those in munitions — were quickly brought under the insurance system.

After the war, it became clear that the continuation of the labour exchanges was essential and inseparable from any system of unemployment insurance. Subsequent legislation extended the scope of unemployment insurance to more than 12 million workers, and the exchanges became the official point of contact for unemployed workers to

receive their benefits. Registration as unemployed and regular attendance at the exchange were required to claim unemployment benefits. As Churchill had anticipated in 1909, unemployment insurance and the employment exchanges were complementary. This relationship was reaffirmed in Parliament during the establishment of the Ministry of National Insurance in the post-war period. As a result, the exchanges continue to register unemployed individuals and process claims for unemployment benefits.

During and immediately after World War II, for several years, individuals were not allowed to change jobs or obtain new employment without the consent of an employment exchange or an approved employment agency. Many workers, particularly in clerical fields, were reluctant to use these agencies, mistakenly believing they were intended only for manual laborers.

Currently, in Mauritius, there is no reliable method of determining the true level of unemployment. Employment Ex-

changes are seldom used; people register and attend for a few weeks but then stop, believing that there is no work available and that their time and money are better spent elsewhere. As a result, their registration lapses, and the Department of Labour considers them no longer unemployed. Mr. Luce estimated that there were about 30,000 unemployed people, despite only 2,000 registered at the Employment Exchanges. Some critics thought Mr. Luce's estimate was too pessimistic, while others felt that his figure was not alarmingly high enough. Only through compulsory registration can we accurately assess the true unemployment situation in Mauritius, but we cannot expect unemployed individuals — often struggling financially — to spend their limited funds on transport to the exchange.

Professor Titmuss is soon to advise on a system of social security for Mauritius, and it is likely that one of his recommendations will be to make unemployment benefits contingent on compulsory registration at the employment exchanges. As history has shown, from the earliest days in the UK, registration and benefits have been complementary, and this is equally true for Mauritius.

We Are Moving!

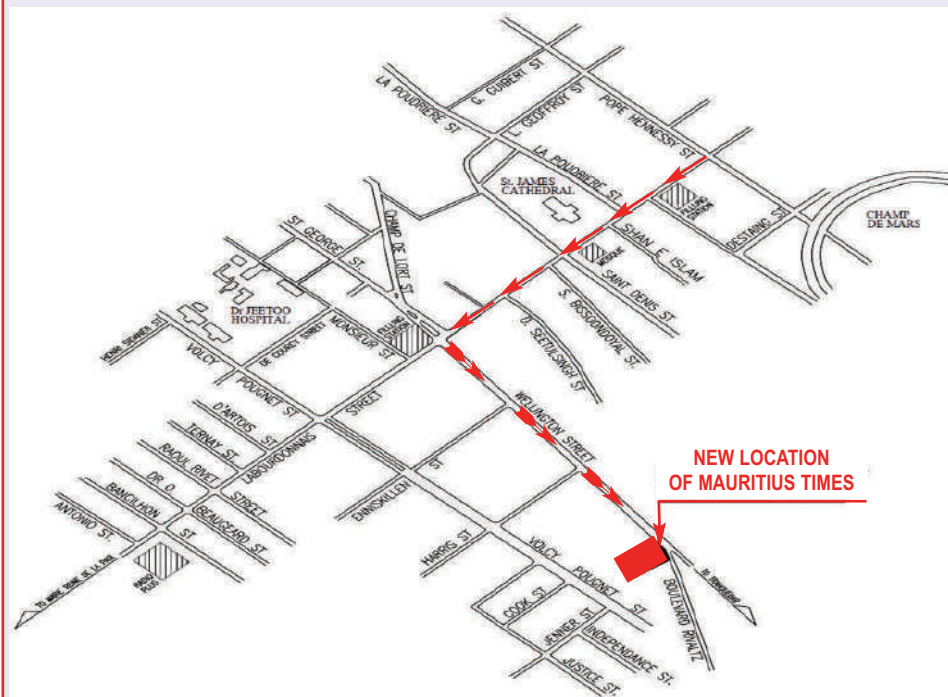
We would like to inform all our patrons and well-wishers that starting Monday, November 4th, 2024, Mauritius Times will be relocating to our new office at 28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street), Port Louis.

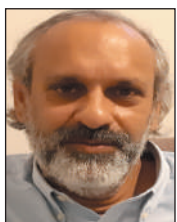
You are welcome to visit us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at our new office. Please note that we work from home on Thursdays and Fridays.

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

You may also reach us via email at mtimes@intnet.mu.

Thank you!





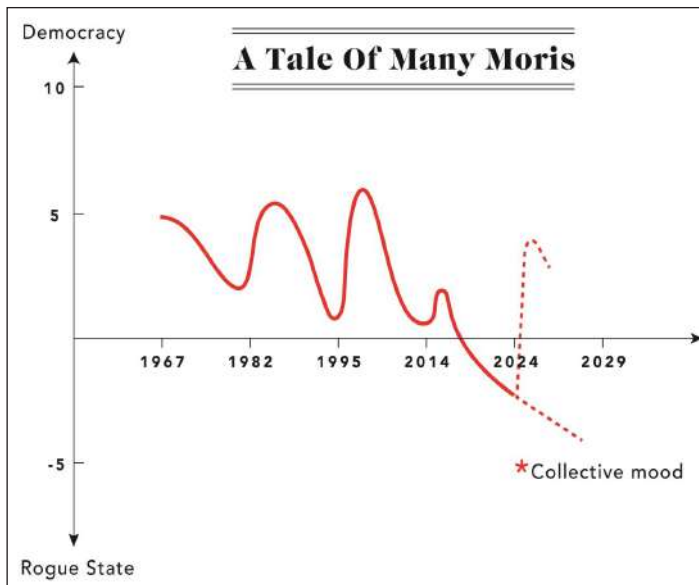
Samad Ramoly

Moris: the bigger picture

Institutions are expected to regulate the power and estate distribution of society. Alternatively, when government policies tend to be extractive, giving rise to disproportionate economic power to the entitled few, it is only a matter of time before cracks permeate the system. More often than not, we are the product of the environment we live in. A country is well run when, from top to bottom, citizens internalise a set of rules that are indiscriminately and consistently enforced. In short, our civic sense is a critical determinant in whether we succeed in building a nation that is simultaneously high performing, greener and healthier.

Mauritius is belatedly waking up to the accident-waiting-to-happen development model it has so one-track-mindedly been following. Ironically, we seem to be stuck in paralysis mode. Not with an overload of (sound) analysis, but rather with the control of toxic networks of patronage and, indeed, without any strategic thinking to turn around. The symptoms of the national decay can intuitively be identified. Meanwhile the absence of a holistic approach to problem-solving at all levels has been

“Parliament lies at the heart of a functioning democracy. Its fundamental role is to implement laws and policies that preserve and improve the welfare of all citizens. Opposition parties, media outlets and civil society are expected to keep governments on their toes. The impartiality of the judiciary and the police are non-negotiable. No institutions can be trustworthy without a “zero tolerance to BS” signal sent by a (still elusive) savvy prime minister to everyone heading them in order instill accountability, transparency, stability and equal opportunities nationwide...”



spinning the resulting vicious circle faster and faster. The crisis of confidence gripping citizens could not have been more predictable. Most naturally, outsiders of the collapsing system increasingly dream of either joining the self-seekers inside or migrating to more favourable skies. Under these circumstances, on the one hand, clientelism flourishes to exploit the vulnerability of the masses and to satisfy the zeal of contract, job and rent seekers. On the other hand, weaponising our cultural differences sets up the coup de grâce.

Should I stay or should I go?

Today many citizens are realising that that the brand of “democracy”, “miracle” and “development” we have been celebrating so fondly has neither been inclusive nor structural. Our “democracy” has been a full-fledged electocracy (meaning governments can be more caring than reckless, and vice versa, for five years practically as per their whims) with growing disconnect between governments and people’s aspiration. Our “miracle” has failed

to nurture talent and creativity, instead it has actively bred social ills and brain drain. “Our development” has been a de facto obsession with infrastructural muscle-flexing, with hardly any commitment to efficiency, cost structure, compliance, aesthetics, eco-friendliness, etc. Consent manufactured around the extractive model is slowly being debunked. The well-being of citizens and their ability to deliver with a competitive edge having badly gone missing in political discourses.

Parliament lies at the heart of a functioning democracy. Its fundamental role is to implement laws and policies that preserve and improve the welfare of all citizens. Opposition parties, media outlets and civil society are expected to keep governments on their toes. The impartiality of the judiciary and the police are non-negotiable. No institutions can be trustworthy without a “zero tolerance to BS” signal sent by a (still elusive) savvy prime minister to everyone heading them in order instill accountability, transparency, stability and equal opportunities nationwide. The trust as much as the cynicism between governments and citizens are mutually reinforcing.

Vigilant watchdogs to resolutely crack down on systemic corruption will deter economic clientelism, defuse market concentration, balance our national accounts, sanitise the rupee and reduce inequalities. A skewed system invariably inflates costs and adds a premium on prices, stifling our overall competitiveness. Providing incentives for wealth creation by innovative and motivated citizens and foreigners is a key driver.

Mauritius is sending a distress call, no revolutionary, no ideology is being urged. The system is begging for few quick fixes and hundreds of incremental measures to be implemented in synchronicity to bond all stakeholders. Delusion just does not last. There is a thin line between sociopathic rule and psychopathic rule. Who can hear the roar for a metamorphosis?

The Democrats want to have it both ways

To get elected, Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris needs the political support of the Arab-, Muslim- and Palestinian-American electorate.

Yet, for the last year or so, the current administration, of which she is vice president, seems to have been essentially saying to the Israeli government and/or Israel Defense Forces: ‘Here are our best bombs for your unconditional use, as per usual; but, for the political and media record: please do not use them against non-combatant civilians.’ ... Israel’s reply seems to have been, ‘Duly noted’, while continuing its bloody business as usual.

When the administration had finally called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza in April, the timing gave it the strong odor of political expediency — for re-election purposes. Since then, there’s

been multiple requests for ceasefires by Biden, yet while continuing to fully arm thus enable Israel to do essentially as it deems fit.

Both back then as well as now, a sizable chunk of traditionally Democrat voters — adamantly against and angry about the intentional large-scale starvation and mass slaughter by Israel against Palestinian non-combatants — credibly threaten to punish Biden through presidential candidate Kamala Harris at the ballot box.

Judging from their passion and the seriousness of the human crisis involved, it’s doubtful the most adamantly pro-Palestinian and anti-war demonstrators and voters will compromise, sell their souls, by politically forgiving Biden thus Harris come election day for the very consequential stance he took/takes,

especially in continuing to provide Israel with the mass-casualty weaponry being used against Palestinian non-combatants.

* * *

A Palestinian-American briefly interviewed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s TV news channel about ten days ago said she was actually going to cast her ballot for Trump this election instead of her usual vote for the Democratic candidate.

Why exactly, she didn’t specify, other than the obvious Biden/Harris administration’s unconditional arming of Israel’s mind-bogglingly massive starvation, sickening and slaughter of Palestinians over the last year.

However, it’s likely also due to the Democrats’ neo or phoney liberalism on this

great-human-disaster issue: they should be well above Trump’s unconditionally pro-Israel foreign policy. (Recall, for example, that he even appointed his Jewish son-in-law to head his administration’s Middle East “peace” efforts, which is a bit of a conflict of interest on his son-in-law’s part.)

But the Democrats are not much or not at all above Trump’s as well as the Republican party’s transparent, very-long-standing thus expected unconditional political and military-arms support of Israel. In their phoniness, at least on this issue, the Democrats want to both have and eat their cake by expecting the political support of pro-Palestinian and anti-war Arab-, Muslim- and Palestinian-Americans.

Frank Sterle Jr.
White Rock, B.C.
Canada

Chagos: Trump pourrait remettre en cause l'accord avec Maurice

☞ Suite de la page 7

Le rôle essentiel de cette base pour les opérations militaires américaines dans la région a suscité des inquiétudes concernant la remise des îles à Maurice.

Les responsables républicains aux États-Unis, dont certains membres influents du Congrès, ont fait savoir qu'ils s'opposaient fermement à cette cession, estimant que cela pourrait affaiblir les intérêts stratégiques des États-Unis en Asie, en particulier dans le contexte de l'expansion de l'influence chinoise dans la région.

Michael McCaul, membre de la Chambre des représentants du Texas et président du comité des affaires étrangères, a souligné l'importance de la base de Diego Garcia pour contrer les ambitions de la Chine. Il a ajouté: «L'administration [Biden] doit veiller à ce que les intérêts de sécurité des États-Unis dans la région Indo-Pacifique soient protégés par cet accord.»

Le soutien de Farage et des figures pro-Brexit

L'ancien leader de l'UKIP, Nigel Farage, connu pour ses liens étroits avec Trump, a également exprimé son opposition à l'accord, soulevant des préoccupations au sein de l'équipe de campagne du président élu. Des conseillers britanniques pro-Brexit, qui ont toujours critiqué les décisions des institutions internationales comme la Cour internationale de justice, semblent également pousser Trump à revoir cet accord.

Farage, qui a joué un rôle clé dans la campagne présidentielle de Trump en 2016, aurait soulevé ses inquiétudes au sujet de l'accord avec Maurice, en faisant valoir que cet accord affaiblirait la position stratégique des États-Unis dans l'Indo-Pacifique et faciliterait l'influence croissante de la Chine. Les figures pro-Brexit et les partisans de Trump suggèrent qu'il pourrait être prématuré de céder ces îles sans garanties solides concernant les intérêts militaires et stratégiques des États-Unis



P - dailymail.co.uk

et du Royaume-Uni dans la région.

Les enjeux juridiques et diplomatiques

Le traité qui formaliserait l'accord entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice reste toujours en cours de négociation, et aucune signature n'a encore été apposée. L'incertitude règne donc sur la mise en œuvre de cet accord, en particulier si Trump adopte une position différente de celle de son prédécesseur, Joe Biden, qui avait soutenu la cession des îles.

Les critiques républicaines soulignent que la décision d'abandonner la souveraineté sur les îles Chagos pourrait être perçue comme une concession aux pressions exercées par des institutions internationales, et qu'elle offrirait à la Chine une occasion d'augmenter son influence dans une zone stratégique pour la sécurité des États-Unis. Le sénateur James Risch, un fervent soutien de Trump, a qualifié cet accord de «soumission à la guerre juridique chinoise», faisant valoir que l'accord serait préjudiciable aux intérêts stratégiques de l'Occident dans la région.

L'impact de l'opinion de Trump

Bien que la position officielle de Donald Trump sur l'accord des îles Chagos reste floue, son influence pour-

rait avoir un impact considérable sur la direction que prendra ce dossier. Si Trump choisit de s'opposer publiquement à l'accord, cela pourrait compliquer les efforts du Royaume-Uni pour finaliser l'accord avec Maurice dans les mois à venir.

Richard Tice, vice-président de Reform UK, a même exprimé l'espoir que l'administration Trump pourrait mettre un terme à cet accord, le qualifiant de «mauvais accord» et demandant à la nouvelle administration américaine de rejeter fermement le projet.

L'accord sur les îles Chagos entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice est désormais dans l'incertitude après la victoire de Donald Trump. Les critiques républicaines, notamment sur les risques géopolitiques

liés à la remise des îles à Maurice, pourraient pousser Trump à revoir la décision prise sous l'administration Biden. Si Trump choisit de s'opposer à cet accord, cela pourrait avoir de vastes répercussions diplomatiques, affectant non seulement les relations entre les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni, mais aussi les dynamiques de sécurité dans l'Indo-Pacifique.

Bien que l'accord entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice ait été présenté comme un geste de décolonisation, il n'en reste pas moins un sujet de débat intense, tant au niveau stratégique qu'émotionnel. Le rôle des États-Unis, en particulier sous l'influence de Trump, pourrait bien être un facteur déterminant dans l'issue de cet accord.

Dans un contexte où la compétition géopolitique avec la Chine s'intensifie, chaque décision semble avoir des implications majeures. Ce dossier souligne également la complexité des relations internationales et la manière dont les choix politiques, même ceux qui semblent éloignés de la scène internationale, peuvent réverbérer sur des enjeux de sécurité et de diplomatie globale.

A. Bartleby

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Adventure calls! You're eager to explore new ideas or places, which could inspire future plans. Financially, there's a chance for a boost if you seize it. Romance is uplifting, and open-mindedness strengthens your relationships.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 18, 21, 33, 37

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Your focus on work pays off, and a project might gain recognition. Personal finances stabilize but remember to save for the future. Health-wise, prioritize physical activity. Family discussions could bring new perspectives.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 15, 24, 28, 38

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

New ideas take shape, helping you make progress on a long-term project. Financially, be cautious with investments. Friends and family bring warmth and laughter, reminding you to enjoy the present moment. Romance flourishes through honest communication.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 17, 22, 30, 36

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Creativity flows, enhancing your professional and person-

YOUR STARS

al life. Embrace spontaneity but stay practical with finances. A close friend may seek advice; offer them your compassionate ear. Rest and relaxation are essential to recharge.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 16, 20, 27, 34

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Balance is key this week. While work projects may pick up, your personal life will demand attention too. Manage stress with short breaks and consider a new hobby for relaxation. Financially, it's a stable period but avoids impulsive purchases.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 19, 23, 34, 38

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Relationships take center stage. Open communication will help resolve lingering issues with family or friends. At work, stay alert to new opportunities. Health-wise, focus on better nutrition; small adjustments will yield long-term benefits.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 16, 24, 29, 33

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

You're feeling inspired, which brings creativity into both work and home life. Expect positive feedback for a recent project. However, resist the urge to overspend. Romance is highlighted; surprise your partner with a thoughtful gesture.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 14, 21, 27, 35

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

This week may bring unexpected changes, especially in career. Embrace flexibility, as it will open doors to growth. Financially, avoid risky investments. Focus on family time—it will provide the emotional support you need.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 15, 22, 28, 36

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Ambition drives you, and you'll shine in professional settings. However, remember to listen to others; teamwork will amplify your success. In romance, sparks fly but stay grounded. Financially, a new plan could strengthen your savings.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 18, 20, 30, 39

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

You're called to focus on details and organization, which boosts productivity. Health matters improve with a consistent routine but keep an eye on stress levels. In love, communication deepens; be open about your feelings.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 17, 26, 32, 37

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Social engagements are abundant, bringing joy and connections. At work, collaboration leads to fruitful results. Financially, think long-term and avoid spontaneous expenses. In personal life, give yourself space to unwind and reflect.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 13, 19, 25, 31, 40

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

This week is about introspection. Reflect on your goals and how to achieve them without rushing. Professionally, stay patient as results unfold. Loved ones will offer valuable advice—listen closely, as it can shape your path.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 14, 23, 29, 35

Italian sailors knew of America 150 years before Columbus, new analysis suggests

Recent research has unveiled a fascinating chapter in maritime history, suggesting that Italian sailors were aware of America long before Christopher Columbus's famous voyage in 1492. This revelation comes from an analysis of a 14th-century document by Milanese friar Galvaneus Flamma, revealing references to North America as early as 1345.

Professor Paolo Chiesa, a Medieval Latin literature expert at the University of Milan, transcribed and interpreted this ancient text, highlighting a remarkable passage that refers to a region known as "Markland" or "Marckalada." According to Chiesa, this area, identified by scholars as part of the Atlantic coast of North America — likely Labrador or Newfoundland — indicates that sailors from Genoa were already aware of the land's existence.

The findings were published in the peer-reviewed journal *Terrae Incognitae*, coinciding with Columbus Day, which is also recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day in various states across the U.S. This research adds a new layer to the ongoing debate surrounding Columbus's motivations and expectations as he set sail across the ocean, particularly in a climate where statues of the explorer have faced significant backlash and vandalism.

Professor Chiesa emphasizes the significance of this discovery: "We are in the presence of the first reference to the American continent, albeit in an embryonic form, in the Mediterranean area." This suggests that knowledge of North America was circulating in Italy a century and a half before Columbus's expedition, raising questions about the narrative of exploration and discovery.

Galvaneus Flamma, a Dominican friar connected to



Italians knew about America 150 years before Columbus voyage. P - New York Post

the lordship of Milan, wrote several Latin works on historical subjects, providing invaluable insights into contemporary events. His text, *Cronica Universalis*, is believed to be one of his last unfinished works, aiming to chronicle the history of the world from its creation.

In his analysis, Professor Chiesa posits that Genoa served as a "gateway" for news and that Galvaneus likely heard informal rumours about lands to the northwest, which were believed to hold commercial potential. He notes that while these rumours were too vague to be accurately represented cartographically at the time, they nonetheless contributed to the body of knowledge regarding new lands.

Chiesa asserts that *Cronica Universalis* provides unprecedented evidence that news about the American

continent, derived from Nordic sources, circulated in Italy long before Columbus's journey. He highlights the geographical significance of the information: "What makes the passage about Marckalada exceptional is its geographical provenance: not from the Nordic area, but from northern Italy."

Describing Marckalada, Galvaneus mentions that it is "rich in trees" and teeming with wildlife, reminiscent of the wooded Markland depicted in the *Grœnlandinga Saga*. This stands in contrast to the typical bleak descriptions of northern lands like Greenland, as chronicled by other historical sources.

Overall, Professor Chiesa advocates for the credibility of *Cronica Universalis*, pointing out that Galvaneus meticulously notes the origins of his information and substantiates his claims with elements drawn from various accounts. He adds, "I do not see any reason to disbelieve him."

The professor also notes that 14th-century nautical charts created in Genoa and Catalonia reflect a more sophisticated understanding of northern geography, likely informed by direct contacts with those regions. This knowledge may have been acquired through trade routes connecting Genoa to the British Isles and the North Sea's continental coasts.

While there is no concrete evidence that Italian or Catalan sailors reached Iceland or Greenland during this period, they were likely able to gather information from northern European merchants transporting goods to the Mediterranean. The "marinarii" mentioned by Galvaneus likely played a crucial role in conveying news — some factual, some embellished — about these distant lands.



Why do we use gasoline for small vehicles and diesel fuel for big vehicles?

Both gasoline and diesel fuel are refined from crude oil, but they are good for different things and can't be used interchangeably.

Gasoline fuels most light-duty vehicles, such as passenger cars and pickup trucks. Heavy-duty vehicles, like buses, delivery trucks and long-haul tractor-trailers, typically run on diesel.

Both fuel types are needed because gasoline and diesel engines have different strengths. As my automotive engineering students learn, this makes them suitable for different uses.

Let's start with what they have in common. Gas and diesel engines both work through a process called internal combustion.

- * First, they mix fuel with air because the fuel needs oxygen from the air to burn.
- * Next, they compress the fuel-air mixture, which makes the mixture hot enough to burn.
- * Then the engine burns the mix of fuel and air, releasing heat. This creates high pressure, which moves internal parts that make the car move.
- * Finally, the car releases spent combustion gases to the atmosphere through its tailpipe. These gases contain pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and unburned fuel, that are harmful to human health, as well as carbon dioxide, which warms Earth's



Sol de Zuasnar Brebbia/Getty Images

atmosphere.

Different engines for different jobs

Gasoline and diesel fuel are both made from crude oil, a fossil-based energy source. But they have different chemical properties that require different types of engines.

In a gas engine, a small device called a spark plug ignites the compressed fuel-air mixture. It uses hundreds of thousands of volts to create an electrical arc that can start the burn, much like striking a flint rock against another stone.

Diesel fuel is harder to ignite and slower to burn than gasoline. But if it is compressed enough, it will ignite without a

spark. And this higher compression results in higher efficiency, so vehicles powered with diesel get more miles per gallon. That's important for transporting goods and people as economically as possible — one reason why most buses, trains and large trucks run on diesel.

Diesel engines tend to be more expensive than gas engines, since they need sturdier parts to withstand the higher tempera-

tures and pressures they produce. But they also last longer than gasoline engines. This is a plus for vehicles such as long-haul trucks that need to go many hundreds of thousands of miles between engine overhauls.

So why do passenger cars use gas? One reason is that diesel engines' higher compression and temperature make them noisier, especially at higher frequencies that humans find annoying. Diesel engines also produce higher levels of fine particle pollution, known as PM 2.5, that has been linked to many human health risks.

These trade-offs typically lead consumers to prefer cheaper, quieter gasoline

engines in cars they drive for work and pleasure. Efficient, long-lasting diesel engines are more attractive to companies hauling goods and transporting large numbers of people.

Beyond internal combustion engines

In the future, transportation may not use gas or diesel at all. Some cars and light trucks — models known as hybrids — already use gas or diesel together with batteries and electric motors, or run entirely on electricity. And cities across the U.S. are investing in electric school buses, which are lower-polluting and cheaper to maintain than diesel buses.

Hybrid, plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles promise to result in far fewer emissions of toxic gases and carbon dioxide — especially if they are recharged with electricity produced from renewable sources like wind and solar power. These vehicles will be quieter than gasoline and diesel models and also cheaper to maintain, since they have fewer moving parts. Gasoline and diesel vehicles will remain in use for years to come, but they no longer represent the forefront of transportation innovation.

Michael Leamy

Woodruff Endowed Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology



The Farmer and the Preacher

A farmer buys an old, abandoned farm. The fields are overgrown with weeds, the farmhouse is falling apart, and the fences are broken down. On his first day of work, the city preacher stops by to bless the farmer's efforts. "May you and God work together to make this the farm of your dreams," he says.

A year later, the preacher visits again. He finds the farm completely transformed: the farmhouse is fully rebuilt and in excellent condition, cattle and other livestock are thriving in well-fenced pens, and the fields are neatly planted with crops.

"Amazing! Look at what God and you have accomplished together," the preacher comments.

"Yes, but remember what the farm was like when God was working it alone," says the farmer.



* * *

The Disappearing Mother-in-Law

"Do you know, my mother-in-law has vanished -- just disappeared from home, just like that?"

"Have you given a description to the police?"

* * *

The Queue Incident

It was the first day of the big sale. A long queue of customers had gathered in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be shoved back, amid loud and colourful curses.

On his second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw and thrown back to the end of the queue again.

As he got up, he told the person at the end of the line, "That does it -- should they hit me one more time, I will not open the door."

* * *

The Lawyer and the Charity

A local charity office realized it had never received any donation from the city's famous lawyer. The

volunteer responsible for contributions calls him to persuade him to donate.

"Our records show that you've never contributed a penny to our office. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer thinks for a moment and replies,

"Did your research also show that my mother is on her deathbed after a long illness and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the charity worker stays silent.

"Second, did you know my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken charity worker begins to stammer out an apology but is cut off.



"Third, did you know that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident, leaving her penniless with two young children?"

The humiliated charity worker, completely beaten, simply says, "I had no idea."

On the roll, the lawyer cuts him off again, "And I don't give any money to them, so why should I contribute to your office?"

* * *

Biden's Confusion

The Health Secretary briefs President Joe Biden:



"Sir, in Chennai, India, 36 Tamilians have been killed due to the coronavirus."

Biden is silent. His lips quiver, his hands shake, and his eyes well up. He's too moved to speak.

The Health Secretary is stunned. He never imagined this news would affect the president so deeply.

After a few moments, Biden, with a trembling voice, asks, "So... how many millions are there in one Tamilian?"

* * *

The Astrologer's Prediction

An old man asks an astrologer, "Please tell me my future."

The astrologer replies, "A young woman will touch you all over."

The old man, excited, asks, "When and where?"

* * *

King Solomon's Judgment

Two women appeared before King Solomon, each dragging a young man between them.

"This fellow agreed to marry my daughter," said one.

"No, he agreed to marry mine!" protested the other. The two women argued before the king until he called for silence.

"Bring me my biggest sword, and I shall hew the man in half. Each of you will receive a half," said the king.

"That sounds fine to me," said the first woman.

But the other woman cried out, "Oh, Your Majesty, do not spill innocent blood! Let the other woman take him as her son-in-law."

The wise king did not hesitate. "This man must marry the first lady's daughter," he proclaimed.

"But she was willing to have him cut in two!" protested the king's court.

"Indeed," replied King Solomon, "that shows she is the true mother-in-law."

* * *

The Cat's Farewell

A couple was going out for the evening. The last thing they had to do was put the cat outside. The taxi arrived, and as the couple walked out, their cat ran back into the house. Not wanting to reveal that the house would be empty, the wife explained to the taxi driver, "He's just going upstairs to say goodbye to his mother."

A few minutes later, the husband returned and said, "Sorry to keep you waiting. The silly creature was hiding under the bed, and I had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out."

Life's Lesson**We all have four "wives" in life***The parable of the king and his four wives*

Once upon a time, there was a King with four wives.

He loved his fourth wife the most, showering her with affection and giving her the finest luxuries.

He also loved his third wife and proudly displayed her to the neighbouring kingdoms.

The King deeply relied on his second wife, his trusted advisor and companion. She helped him through difficult times.

However, his first wife, though she played a key role in maintaining the kingdom, was barely noticed by the King.

One day, the King fell gravely ill and realized his time was near. Desperate to prolong his life, he consulted a mystical sorcerer.

The sorcerer said, "Your death is imminent, but I will grant you the chance to take one of your wives with you into the afterlife."



The King first asked his beloved fourth wife, "I have given you the best of everything. Will you come with me to the afterlife?"

She replied, "No way!" and walked away without another word.

Heartbroken, the King asked his third wife, "Will you come with me?"

She replied, "No, life is too good here. When you die, I'm going to remarry!"

Desperate, he turned to his second wife and asked, "Will you join me in the afterlife?"

She replied, "I'm sorry, I can only walk with you to your grave."

The King was devastated. Then, a quiet voice spoke:

"I will go with you, no matter where you go."

It was his first wife, aged and frail from years of neglect. The King, filled with regret, said, "I should have taken better care of you while I had the chance."

Moral of the story: We all have four "wives" in life.

1. The Fourth Wife is our Body

We lavish attention on it, adorn it with fine things, but in the end, it will abandon us when we die.

2. The Third Wife is our Possessions

We spend much of our time accumulating wealth, yet none of it will follow us when we pass. It will be left behind and shared by others.

3. The Second Wife is our Friends and Family

They provide comfort and support, but they can only accompany us as far as our grave.

4. The First Wife is our Spirit

Often neglected in the pursuit of worldly pleasures, it is the only thing that will stay with us beyond death.

The lesson: To live a balanced life, we must care for all aspects of our existence --our body, our possessions, our relationships, and our spirit. Only by nurturing our spirit will we find true fulfilment, both in this life and beyond.

Personal Development**How to Finish Everything You Start**

In a world filled with distractions, competing demands, and endless tasks, following through on your commitments can often feel overwhelming. Jan Yager's '7 Lessons on How to Finish Everything You Start' offers a clear, actionable guide for improving focus, productivity, and follow-through. These lessons provide a structured approach to overcoming obstacles, managing time effectively, and maintaining motivation

Ruthless Prioritization. Not everything is equally important. Identify your core values and goals, then prioritize tasks that align with them. Learn to say "no" to commitments that don't contribute to your priorities, avoiding overcommitment and scattered focus.

Tame the To-Do List Monster.

Break down large, overwhelming tasks into smaller, actionable steps. This makes them seem less daunting, clarifies the process, and provides a sense of accomplishment as you complete each step, keeping you motivated on the path to completion.

Master Your Time Management.

Develop effective strategies to utilize your time efficiently. Set realistic deadlines, schedule tasks strategically, and minimize distractions. Consider tools like time trackers and to-do list apps to stay organized and focused.

Embrace the Growth Mindset.

View challenges as opportunities to learn and grow, not roadblocks to

success. Don't be afraid to make mistakes; see them as stepping stones on your path. Celebrate progress, even small victories, and leverage setbacks as valuable learning experiences.

Prioritize Self-Care. Don't pour from an empty cup. Taking care of yourself physically and mentally is essential for sustained energy, focus, and motivation. This includes getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, exercising regularly, and engaging in activities you enjoy.

The Power of Collaboration. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Delegate tasks when possible and leverage the expertise and support of others. Collaboration can lighten your workload, bring fresh perspectives, and accelerate progress toward your goals.

Embrace Continuous Improvement. Reflect on your progress regularly and adjust your approach as needed. Be open to learning and adapting your strategies based on experience. Don't be afraid to change your plans if they no longer serve you effectively.

Inspiration
Woman's Secret to Success

I once asked a very successful woman to share her secret with me. She smiled and said to me:

"I started succeeding when I started leaving small fights for small fighters.

I stopped fighting those who gossiped about me.
I stopped fighting with my in laws.

I stopped fighting for attention.
I stopped fighting to meet public expectation of me.
I stopped fighting for my rights with stupid people.
I left such fights for those who have nothing else to fight.

And I started fighting for
my vision,
my dreams,
my ideas and
my destiny.

The day I gave up on small fights is the day I started becoming successful."

Some fights are not worth your time. Choose what you fight for wisely.

The Dance of Love

By Rumi

"Love is the dancing cry of the soul, calling the body to worship. Like a shining whirlpool or a spinning mayfly, so is love among the skies. I leap across the mountaintops, madly singing the song of all songs. I float through the ether, intoxicated and thrilled, thinking only of your love and your calling to me.

I dance the thousand dances of love, all returning to you. It is not the play of children, nor the detached unity of wise sages. Unreal! Unnecessary! Where is the beauty?

When I, like a glowing comet, flash around your sun, laughing and singing with the joy of loving you!

Wine may intoxicate the mind and body, but it is love that thrills the soul. When I approach you, I feel the mad



pounding of love, the singing wonder, the joy that opens blossoms on the trees of the world.

Come to me, and I shall dance with

you -- in the temples, on the beaches, through the crowded streets. Be you man or woman, plant or animal, slave or free. I shall show you the brilliant crystal fires shining within. I shall reveal the beauty deep within your soul and the path beyond Heaven.

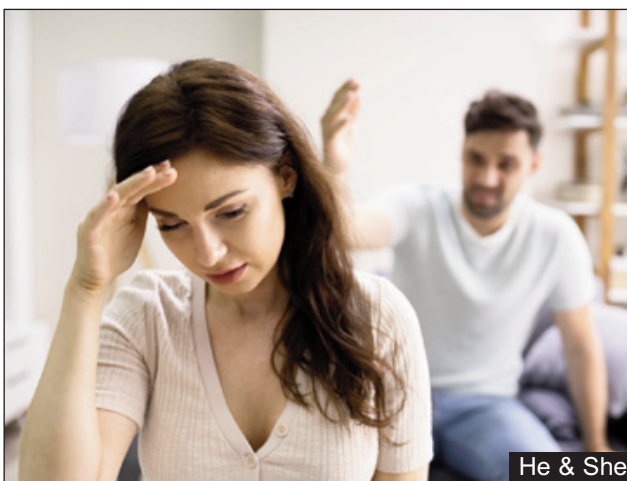
Only dance, and your illusions will blow in the wind. Dance and make joyous the love around you. Dance, and your veils that hide the Light shall swirl in a heap at your feet.

5 not-so-obvious signs you might be headed for breakup

Even the healthiest long-term relationships experience ups and downs. But how can you distinguish between temporary challenges and serious issues that might signal the end of a marriage? Couples therapists share some less obvious signs that your marriage might be heading toward divorce, as reported by Kelsey Borresen of HufPost:

You've stopped fighting with each other

It might seem counterintuitive, but a lack of arguments can signal problems. According to Los Angeles marriage and family therapist Abigail Makepeace, when a couple ceases to address their issues, it can indicate emotional disengagement. If one partner stops complaining without resolving underlying issues, it may mean they have given up on the relationship. Clinical psychologist David Narang notes that this often happens when one partner, feeling deprived of emotional connection, stops expressing frustrations. This disengagement makes the marriage fragile, as the partner who has given up is more likely to consider divorce.



He & She

Your lives have become more separate

While some independence is healthy, an increasing sense of division may be a warning sign. Makepeace explains that when couples start spending more time apart, it might reflect a deeper disconnect rather than a healthy balance. This trend often indicates a preference for separate lives and a diminishing desire to share experiences.

You're not transparent with one another

Privacy is about personal boundaries, but secrecy involves intentionally hiding things. Marriage and family

therapist Marni Feuerman emphasizes that keeping secrets can erode trust and emotional connection. If partners avoid disclosing their thoughts and activities, it suggests a lack of intimacy and a weakening bond.

You rarely talk about the future

A lack of future planning may signal complacency and a disinterest in growing together. Makepeace notes that when couples stop discussing future goals, it can lead to feelings of stagnation and unhappiness. If partners no longer envision a fulfilling future together, it may prompt a reevaluation of the relationship and potentially lead to separation.

You Confide More in Others Than in Your Spouse:

Sharing personal thoughts and feelings more with friends, coworkers, or relatives than with your spouse can be a troubling sign. Feuerman warns that if someone else knows more about you than your partner, it indicates a weakened emotional connection. This situation might suggest that boundaries with others need to be reevaluated and more emotional energy should be invested in the marriage.

Additional Note: Unhappy partners often don't voice their struggles until it's nearly too late. Marriage and family therapist Becky Whetstone advises that it's crucial to address issues early and seek professional help if needed. Being proactive and engaging with a therapist can provide the tools and skills necessary to rebuild and strengthen the relationship.

Managing Teenagers: Striking the Right Balance Between Support and Independence

Being Mum & Dad

As teenagers prepare to head off to university, it's crucial for parents to strike the right balance between support and independence. This transitional phase is not only about preparing for academic challenges but also about fostering self-reliance and resilience. Jess deCourcy Hinds of HuffPost explores the signs of overparenting and provides insights into how parents can better support their teens.

Constantly reminding your teen about deadlines

As teens progress through high school, they should gradually take charge of managing their schedules. By this age, students should be adept at using day planners or digital calendars to keep track of deadlines. If parents constantly remind their teens about upcoming due dates, it prevents them from learning the consequences of missed deadlines. Meredith Sjoberg, a psychologist and head of counselling programs at Lakeside School, highlights the importance of letting teens manage their responsibilities while recognizing that not every assignment is high-stakes. Parents must trust their teens to navigate these challenges independently, which helps build crucial executive function skills.

Communicating on your child's behalf

Parents may feel compelled to step in when their child struggles with school communication or advocacy. However, when parents consistently act as intermediaries with teachers or other adults, it undermines their child's confidence and



autonomy. Crystal Sandiford, director of college counselling at Bard High School Early College Queens, notes that this behaviour indicates a lack of trust in the student's ability to manage their own affairs. Instead, Sjoberg suggests that parents encourage their middle schoolers to send their own emails to teachers about academic issues, gradually stepping back as the child grows older.

Fixing problems immediately to avoid discomfort

It's natural for parents to want to protect their children from distress but solving every problem for them can stunt their growth. Julie Lythcott-Haims, author of *How to Raise an Adult*, describes how intervening in minor issues -- like arranging for a college student's UPS boxes to be delivered -- can prevent young adults from developing problem-solving skills. Sjoberg acknowledges that while it's difficult to watch teens struggle,

allowing them to handle their own challenges fosters confidence and independence. Building agency is essential for young adults to navigate adult life effectively.

Making major academic decisions for your teen

In the early years, parents are deeply involved in their child's education, but by the time teens reach high school, it's crucial to shift this role. Choosing classes, topics for assignments, or making academic decisions for your teen can inhibit their ability to make independent choices. Sjoberg recommends that parents encourage their teens to brainstorm and seek guidance from teachers or peers rather than providing solutions. Even if your teen has struggled in the past, transitioning to a more supportive role rather than a directive one helps them build the skills needed for future academic and personal success.

Being overly involved in the university application process

The college application process is a significant milestone that often brings heightened parental involvement. Deanna Dixon, dean of admission at Smith College, warns against parents taking over this process. Whether it's participating in interviews or writing essays, excessive parental involvement can detract from the student's ownership of their own application. Dixon advises parents to remain supportive but allow students to take the lead. This approach helps students develop a sense of ownership and personal voice, which are critical for their success in higher education and beyond.

Embracing the gradual release

The concept of "gradual release" is vital as teens approach adulthood. This approach involves gradually allowing young adults to take on more responsibilities while stepping back to give them space to grow. As Sjoberg explains, this gradual release fosters independence and helps teens develop the skills necessary for a successful transition to adulthood.

In conclusion, recognizing and addressing these signs of overparenting can help parents better support their teens as they prepare for college and beyond. By fostering independence, encouraging self-reliance, and providing appropriate support, parents can help their children navigate the transition to adulthood with confidence and resilience.

Upcoming Bollywood Movies

Vijay 69, Khwaabon Ka Jhamela, The Sabarmati Report, and more

November 2024 is shaping up to be an exciting month for Hindi cinema, featuring an interesting slate of films across genres. The month opened with a massive Diwali box office clash. *Singham Again*, featuring a star-studded cast including Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ranveer Singh, and Deepika Padukone, was released on the same day as *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, led by Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan, Madhuri Dixit, and Triptii Dimri.

Here are all the upcoming Bollywood movies releasing in November 2024:

Vijay 69

This inspirational film follows a 69-year-old Vijay, played by Anupam Kher, as he trains to compete in a triathlon. It promises to be a heartwarming story of resilience, showing how one can dream regardless of age.

• Release Date: November 8

Khwaabon Ka Jhamela

Khwaabon Ka Jhamela is a romantic comedy starring Prateik Babbar and Sayani Gupta. The film revolves around Zubin, a finance executive, and Ruby, an intimacy coordinator. When Zubin's marriage proposal is turned down, he seeks help from Ruby.

• Release Date: November 8

The Sabarmati Report

Inspired by true events, *The Sabarmati Report*



dives into the Godhra train incident. It follows two journalists, played by Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna, as they uncover the truth behind the tragic events.

• Release Date: November 15

I Want to Talk

Starring Abhishek Bachchan, *I Want to Talk* centers on a character who always sees the bright side of life and loves to talk. Directed by Shoojit Sircar, the film explores themes of optimism and self-expression.

• Release Date: November 22

Naam

Naam, starring Ajay Devgn, is making its way to theatres after 18 years. The film chronicles the journey of a man suffering from amnesia as he seeks to rediscover his identity.

• Release Date: November 22

Metro In Dino

This anthology film, starring Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, and others, weaves together four heartwarming stories of couples navigating modern relationships. Inspired by the song *In Dino* from Anurag Basu's *Life in a... Metro*, the film promises an emotional journey.

• Release Date: November 29

BollyBytes

'Ramayana' to be Bollywood's most prestigious film, set for two-part release

The much-awaited Ramayana is set to become one of Bollywood's most prestigious films. Produced by Allu Arvind in collaboration with some of Bollywood's top producers and directed by Nitesh Tiwari, the official announcement has finally arrived. The filmmakers have revealed that the epic will be released in two parts, with the first part slated for a Diwali 2026 release and the second part set for Diwali 2027. A poster showcasing the release dates has been unveiled, marking a new milestone for this ambitious project.

The film has generated significant buzz on social media, with several photos from the shoot reportedly leaked. Ranbir Kapoor, portraying Lord Ram, has shared that he is undergoing intense training and following a strict diet for the role, even giving up alcohol to prepare. Sai Pallavi, who will play Sita, expressed her excitement about the role, calling it a dream come true: "Ramayana is a story I grew up hearing. I consider myself fortunate to portray Seethamma. I approached this role as a devotee, not just as an actress," she said.

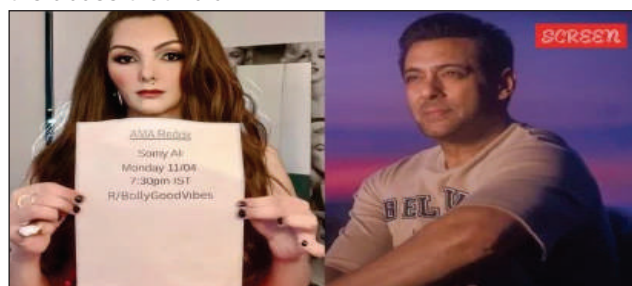
This ambitious adaptation of Ramayana promises to be a groundbreaking cinematic event, combining a stellar



cast, cutting-edge technology, and music by two of the world's finest composers.

Somy Ali accuses Salman Khan of abuse and infidelities

Somy Ali, former actress and social activist, recently shared her personal experiences with Salman Khan in an interview with IANS, revealing the reasons she left Bollywood. She spoke candidly about the abusive nature of their relationship, claiming that Salman subjected her to physical and verbal abuse, which ultimately led her to walk away from both the relationship and her Bollywood career. Somy stated, "The way Salman treated me was unique. Sangeeta and Katrina didn't experience even half the abuse that I did."



She also shared disturbing allegations about Salman's behaviour toward other women, including Aishwarya Rai, whom she claimed was severely mistreated, possibly even having her shoulder fractured by Salman. Somy remarked that, in her view, Lawrence Bishnoi was a better person compared to Salman due to the abuse she endured.

Recounting specific incidents, Somy detailed how Salman physically assaulted her, with a household helper once intervening to stop the abuse. She also mentioned actress Tabu, who was visibly distressed upon seeing Somy bedridden from intense back pain while Salman never checked on her. Somy stated that only her mother and a few close friends know the full extent of what she

went through with Salman.

Somy is currently working on a book to reveal more details about her relationship with Salman and her experiences in the entertainment industry. She also touched on her decision to leave Bollywood in 1999, saying it was due to her exhaustion from dealing with Salman's infidelities, particularly his alleged "eight-night stands," and the physical and verbal abuse. She also finished her education and moved on with her life.

Simi Garewal defends Abhishek Bachchan amid divorce rumours with Aishwarya Rai

Rumours of marital discord between Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai have been circulating, with unsubstantiated claims suggesting Abhishek may have been unfaithful. Veteran actor Simi Garewal took to social media to defend Abhishek, and filmmaker Farah Khan echoed her sentiments. However, Simi's post received intense backlash, prompting her to delete it.

Simi, who shares a close bond with the Bachchan family, recently defended Abhishek amid the extra-marital affair rumours on Instagram.

Last Tuesday night, she posted a snippet from her talk show *Rendezvous* with Simi Garewal featuring Abhishek, calling him one of the "nicest men" in Bollywood.

"I think everyone who knows Abhishek personally will agree he is among the nicest men in Bollywood. Good values and innate decency," she captioned the post featuring Abhishek.

In the clip, Abhishek talks about loyalty: "I personally feel that as a man, if you commit to a woman, even if you are her boyfriend, you should be loyal to her. Because you wouldn't like it if she wasn't loyal to you. Men are usually accused of being very disloyal; I have never been able to understand that, and I don't agree with it. It disgusts me," he had said on the show.



Vendredi 8 novembre - 21.30



Samedi 9 novembre - 21.40



Dimanche 10 novembre - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 8 novembre

MBC 1

- 07.35 Serial: Under Pressure
- 08.41 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
- 09.35 Film: The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid
- 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Terre Nostra
- 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: The Night Is Young
- 17.15 Mag: Meet The Costume...
- 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: Doree
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.15 General Elections 2024
- 22.05 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 22.55 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 23.30 Le Journal
- 00.15 Serial: The Bionic Woman

MBC 2

- 06.14 Les Grandes Lignes
- 06.43 Local: En Forme
- 08.36 Local: Metie
- 10.40 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
- 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 13.10 Rodrig: Sa Lavi La
- 14.40 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.45 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 16.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 16.45 Local: En Forme
- 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 - Ekrikr Kreol
- 22.00 Local: La Sosiete
- 23.20 Local: Meshiagare...
- 23.33 Rodrig Otantik
- 00.02 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 00.15 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif

MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Y Factor - Climate
- 08.01 Local: MBC Production
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Hum Intezaar Kareingue
- Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Padmini Kolhapure, Vinod Mehra
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
- 16.46 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.00 Local: MBC Production
- 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
- 21.00 Film: Hum Hai Dharam Yoddha
- Starring: Sudeep pandey, Avinash Shahi
- 23.23 Serial: Mere Sai

Cine 12

- 07.52 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
- 08.06 D.Anime: Akedo
- 08.58 Film: The Peanuts Movie
- 10.28 Doc: A Mediterranean...
- 11.20 Mag: Shift
- 11.33 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 11.58 Doc: Turning Childhood...
- 12.38 Doc: A World Heritage Site...
- 13.20 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 13.30 Film: Bayala: The Fairy Princess And The Unicorn
- 14.51 D.Anime: Kids Songs
- 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.36 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.41 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 15.56 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.15 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 21.05 Film: Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.30 Film: Khushi
- Starring Fardeen Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Amrish Puri
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.32 Dharam Patni
- 20.01 Mithai
- 20.31 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
- 21.01 Anupamaa
- 21.31 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.27 Swaran Ghar
- 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
- 23.30 Film: Khushi
- Starring Fardeen Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Amrish Puri
- 02.00 Kundali Bhagya

samedi 9 novembre

- 03.16 Serial: Under Pressure
- 04.42 The Gardener's Daughter
- 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 07.00 Serial: Heartland
- 08.30 Serial: Ultimate Countdown
- 09.15 Serial: Under Pressure
- 10.00 Serial: Treadstone
- 10.49 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 13.25 Tele: Barbarita...
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: The Boat
- 17.15 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
- 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.15 General Elections 2024
- 21.15 Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges
- 22.00 Serial: Treadstone
- 22.51 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 07.05 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 07.45 Local: Lir - Ekrikr Kreol
- 09.10 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 10.40 Rodrig Otantik
- 11.05 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.28 Local: Couleur Marine
- 14.45 Local: La Sosiete
- 15.40 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 16.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.02 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 18.05 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.45 Rodrig: Kot Nou
- 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.26 Local: Roar Of Africa...
- 21.55 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 22.21 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 23.31 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 23.57 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 00.22 Rodrig: Promnad

- 08.00 Serial: Hamar Fitness
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 10.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 11.58 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.20 Local: MBC Production
- 14.05 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 14.30 Mag: Talaash
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Shiv Shastri Balboa
- Starring: Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Jugal Hansraj
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.00 MBC Production
- 20.45 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.47 Mag: Cinema Ki Duniya
- 23.12 Local: Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood Hits
- 23.45 Local: MBC Production

- 06.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 07.24 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
- 09.47 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 09.50 Teen Serial: The Wish
- 10.43 Doc: Greek Islands
- 11.22 Mag: Transforming Business
- 13.21 Doc: Deep Sea Greed
- 15.00 D. Anime: Tut! Tut!
- 15.08 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.39 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.48 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.11 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter
- 16.34 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 16.55 Teen Serial: The Wish
- 17.30 Doc: Bee-Keeping
- 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.40 Serial: The Equalizer
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.50 Mag: Unseen
- 21.40 Film: Dream Horse
- 22.49 Doc: Kenya
- 23.31 Doc: Diet For Your Body...



- 20.35 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Porus
- 23.31 Doc: Diet For Your Body...

dimanche 10 novembre

- 02.44 Film: Dream Horse
- 04.24 Mag: Close Up
- 04.50 Mag: Meet The Costume Designers
- 05.04 The Gardener's Daughter
- 06.40 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 07.15 Film: Dream Horse
- 09.00 General Elections 2024
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.20 General Elections 2024
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 General Elections 2024
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 19.30 Le Journal Televis
- 20.45 Local: Info 7 Sur 7
- 21.00 Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges
- 21.45 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
- 23.36 Le Journal
- 00.45 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 01.27 Mag: Red Carpet

- 07.23 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 09.18 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 09.45 Rodrig Prog: Promnad
- 10.15 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 14.00 Local: Elle
- 15.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 15.35 Local: Four Seasons
- 17.07 Local: Tous Egaux
- 17.28 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 18.03 Serial: Heartland
- 19.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 19.24 Local: Info En Langue...
- 20.00 Local: Tipa Tipa Nou Avance
- 20.45 Local: Les Klips
- 21.36 Rodrig Prog: Sa Lavi La
- 23.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.30 Local: Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule
- 23.56 Local: Mangeons Veg
- 00.22 Rodrig Prog: Komanter

- 06.59 Mag: Y Factor
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 12.00 Film: Barsaat
- Cast: Bobby Deol, Bipasha Basu, Priyanka Chopra
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Local: MBC Production
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Local: MBC Production
- 20.30 Serial: Porus
- 21.00 Serial: Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Serial: Naagin
- 22.15 Serial: Bahubali
- 23.04 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave
- 00.27 Local: MBC Production
- 02.15 Film: Barsaat
- Cast: Bobby Deol, Bipasha Basu, Priyanka Chopra

- 06.47 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
- 08.09 D.Anime: Earth To Luna
- 08.45 D.Anime: The Deep
- 09.49 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 10.08 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 10.10 Teen Serial: The Wish
- 12.00 Film: L'appel De La Foret
- 13.39 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail
- 15.00 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
- 15.24 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.36 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.40 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 15.52 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 17.00 Teen Serial: The Wish
- 18.40 Serial: The Equalizer
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Film: Parental Guidance
- 22.19 Doc: Dogs & Us
- 23.01 Doc: Robert Wilson

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.45 Udaariyaan
- 03.45 Anupamaa
- 05.55 Fanaa
- 07.48 Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Patiala Babes
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.00 Rajaa Betaa
- 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.38 Film: Entertainment
- Starring: Akshay Kumar, Tamannaah Bhatia
- 20.31 Tenali Rama
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 21.47 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.35 Rajaa Betaa
- 00.19 Patiala Babes

lundi 11 Octobre

- 05.04 The Gardener's Daughter
- 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
- 07.30 Serial: The Equalizer
- 08.41 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 09.30 General Elections 2024 - Counting Day



- 12.00 Le Journal
- 18.45 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.07 Filler Serial: Hindi Filler
- 21.15 Serial: Briarpatch
- 21.42 Serial: Heartland
- 01.00 Your Love Is My Fortune

- 07.41 Local: Sa Lavi-La
- 09.59 Rodrig: Komanter
- 10.45 Local: Festival Bouze Ocean Indien
- 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.53 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.13 Local: Elle
- 14.56 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
- 15.26 Local: En Forme
- 15.45 Local: Les Klips
- 16.37 Festival Bouze Ocean Indien
- 17.01 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
- 19.30 Le Magazine De L'emploi
- 20.00 Local: Voyage AU Feminin
- 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux
- 20.46 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 21.40 Local: Paroles Agricoles
- 22.41 La Journee Sous Le regard
- 23.00 Rodrig: Kot Nou

- 07.00 Mag: Eco India
- 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 08.27 Tohar Rashi
- 09.07 Local: Yaadein
- 09.40 Bahubali
- 10.37 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 11.42 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Dillagi
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.56 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Hindi Hamari Pehchan
- 19.50 Local: Charcha
- 20.18 Serial: Ramayan
- 20.41 Film: Yeh Raat Phir Na Aayegi
- With: Prithviraj Kapoor, Biswajeet, Sharmila Tagore, Mumtaz
- 23.01 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.53 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.15 Serial: Ved Ki Shikshahein

- 06.25 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 07.21 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 07.35 D.Anime: Yo Yo
- 09.08 Film: Sherlock Holmes
- 10.34 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For...
- 11.07 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 11.26 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.08 Doc: Preserving Peatlands
- 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 15.30 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
- 15.42 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.58 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 16.10 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.22 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter
- 16.45 D.Anime: The Wish
- 17.35 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Film: Night School

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Money Hai Toh Money Hai
- Starring: Govinda, Aftab Shivdasani, Upen Patel



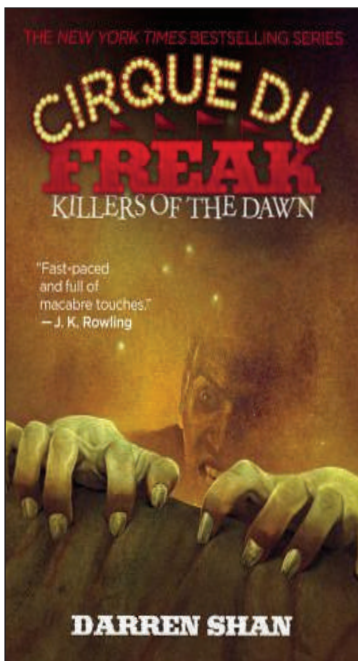
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dharam Patni
- 20.05 Mithai
- 20.33 Yashomati Maiyya Ke
- 21.09 Anupamaa
- 21.32 Mere Sai
- 22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se



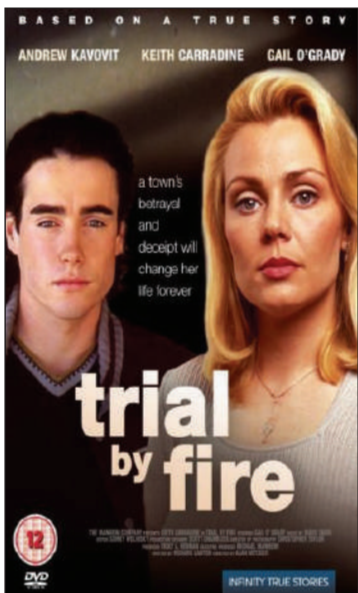
Mardi 11 Novembre - 20.30



Mercredi 12 Novembre - 20.30



Jeudi 13 Novembre - 21.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 11 novembre	05.07 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.10 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.30 Film: Night School 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 15.30 Film: Ghost In The Family 17.00 Mag: Close Up 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Serial: Briarpatch 22.10 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.03 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Treadstone 00.58 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	08.30 Local: Tous Egaux 10.35 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol... 11.03 Rodrig Mo Pei 12.00 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 12.28 Voyage Au Feminin 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.10 Local: Metie 15.31 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 16.16 Rodrig Mo Pei 17.02 Local Prod October 2024 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.15 Local: Les Grands Moments 20.25 Local: Priorite Sante 20.55 Parooles Agricole 21.18 MBC Local Prod 22.10 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.44 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Music Tour	07.31 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood 08.00 Serial: Ved Ki Shikshahein 09.59 Kundali Bhagya 11.40 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Johar In Bombay 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Tark Vitark 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Raaste Pyar Ke Cast: Jeetendra, Rekha 22.58 Serial: Mere Sai 23.55 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.23 Local: Tark Vitark 00.49 Local: Samarpan 01.01 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 01.40 Local: Gyan Vigyan	07.21 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 07.36 D.Anime: Yo Yo 07.51 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 08.16 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 10.06 Teen Serial: N*Gen 12.45 Mag: In Good Shape 13.41 Doc: Shaking Up The Art... 14.23 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 15.27 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 15.38 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.03 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.39 D.Anime: The Deep 17.03 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Mag: REV 18.45 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: The Quake With: Kristoffer Joner, Ane Dahl Torp	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Haal-E-Dil Starring: Amita Pathak, Nakuul Mehta, Adhyayan Suman 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.06 Mithai 20.29 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar 23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Haal-E-Dil Starring: Amita Pathak, Nakuul Mehta, Adhyayan Suman 01.32 Kundali Bhagya
mercredi 12 novembre	06.00 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.33 Serial: The Equalizer 08.38 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi 09.35 Film: The Night Is Young 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.11 Serial: The Equalizer 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: The Far Country Cast: John Doucette, Robert Foulk, Don C. Harvey 17.38 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Serial: Briarpatch 22.00 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.00 Your Love Is My Fortune	07.10 Local: An Eta Dalert 08.28 Local: Mots & Ecrits 09.07 Rodrig: Rod'Art 10.45 Local: Music Tour 12.01 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.10 Local: Son Ladan Mem 12.23 Local: An Eta Dalert 13.08 Local: Priorite Sante 14.35 Rodrig: Rod'Art 16.04 Local: Mots & Ecrits 16.28 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.07 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.20 Le Mag De L'emploi... 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.36 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.39 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance	07.58 Local: Tark Vitark 08.30 Local: Samarpan 09.00 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 09.38 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.24 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.44 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Maa Baap Cast: Rajendra Kumar, Kamini Kadam 15.00 Samachar 15.33 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.53 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Radha Krishna 19.01 Local: Kala 20.30 Mag: Talaash 21.00 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho Gaya With: Ritesh Pandey	07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous... 09.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 11.04 Mag: REV 11.51 Mag: Healthy Living 12.51 Mag: Global US 13.41 Doc: The Future Of Travel 14.30 D.Anime: Apple Tree House 14.58 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 15.26 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.51 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic... 16.17 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 D.Anime: The Deep 16.57 Serial: The Wish 17.30 Mag: REV 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Travel 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Arts Unveiled 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: Cirque Du Freak	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Sherdil Starring: Pankaj Tripathi, Sayani Gupta, Neeraj Kabi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.31 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.00 Anupama 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.20 Swaran Ghar 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Sherdil Starring: Pankaj Tripathi, Sayani Gupta, Neeraj Kabi
jeudi 13 novembre	06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.14 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer 08.39 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.35 Film: Cirque Du Freak 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Serial: Heartland 15.25 Film: Hamlet & Hutch 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 20.15 Film: De Dana Dan Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty 23.00 Tele: Terra Nostra 00.38 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	06.51 Local: Aktiv 07.52 Local: Toc Toc Doc 11.08 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.20 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.00 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion 14.32 Local: Proze Dime 14.55 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.15 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan 22.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Rodrig: Lavi Fam	07.00 Mag: Health Show S2024 08.00 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 09.46 Local: Gyan Vigyan 12.00 Film: Maa Cast: Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Nirupa Roy 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.56 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.41 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 20.38 Serial: Ramayan 21.01 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 22.00 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.31 Mere Sai 23.35 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.17 Local: Amrit Vani	07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous... 07.58 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 08.57 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 11.02 Serial: Lost & Found Music... 11.30 Mag: Motorweek 12.24 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.07 Doc: Marvel 13.35 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 14.17 Mag: Travel 14.30 D.Anime: Apple Tree House 15.05 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 15.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.51 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic... 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 17.04 Serial: The Avatars 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.00 Film: Trial By Fire	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.31 Film: F.A.L.T.U Stars: Arshad Warsi, Riteish Deshmukh, Jackky Bhagnani, Puja Gupta, Chandan Roy, Sanyal Angad Bedi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.24 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Swaran Ghar 23.05 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: F.A.L.T.U Stars: Arshad Warsi, Riteish Deshmukh, Jackky Bhagnani...

BTV Jeudi 13 Novembre - 15.30 Stars: Arshad Warsi, Riteish Puja Gupta, Chandan Roy, Sanyal Angad Bedi

MBC 1 Jeudi 13 Novembre - 20.15 Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Beyond Buzz, Rhetoric and Symbolism

Let us face it. The internet, media outlets, and social networks bring a plethora of information to our doorstep. We just have to click a button and the world comes to us. Organizations and lobbies with an agenda make full use of modern communication technology to reach out to, influence, or manipulate the highest number of people to push forward their ideas.

Needless to say, during elections, whether in a superpower country or a small island state, such a flow of information pouring out from every corner, with numerous candidates vying for the presidency or prime ministership, the public may fall prey to hollow slogans, buzzwords, and endless rhetoric about the right economic measures. A big country like the US may veer towards a U-turn in handling the economy and trigger a global recession, critics of Trump would insist. Conversely, in a small economy like Mauritius, there aren't many new sectors to choose from, and we simply have to pick and choose after which an avenue of opportunity will open up.

We are no longer in the 1990s. Handing out freebies has its limits. Character assassination, likes and dislikes may be used to influence voting, leading the public to react impulsively and emotionally. An opinionated lot may stand firm in their political loyalties, come what may. However, the stark truth is that, at the end of the day, we have to distance ourselves from slogans, buzzwords, fiery speeches, and the symbolic value of prominent figures in political parties and start thinking for ourselves. Set aside prejudices, private interests, and think of the future of the country as a whole. Here is the rub: Do not let yourself be fooled by wolves in sheep's clothing.

Push back emotions and use your brains for honest and proper discernment. Pragmatism is the best option. Quite challenging, though.

* * *

Life Without Social Networks

A tragic event that happened more than twenty years ago flashed back to mind recently. A young man became enraged and lost his mind when his parents refused to let him watch the channel of his choice on television. Instead, they continued watching their own shows. He went away and came back with a gun. He shot down both parents.



Social media warriors and keyboard activists can shout about injustice from the safety of their screens, but none of them would dare to face the life-or-death consequences that someone like Ahu Deryayi endures.
Pic - images.squarespace-cdn

Such was the addiction to the box that deprivation led to insanity. Today, television is no longer a must. It has been replaced by the internet and social networks on our mobile phones, an outstanding Israeli invention. At the end of the day, however useful they may be, they are consumer products. Addiction to them leads people to throw tantrums in the streets if, for some reason, they are deprived of their favourite gadgets for a short time. Not everyone absolutely needs Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram for online publicity and customers.

What they call freedom can also be seen as enslavement to modern gadgets. Shut them down, and watch people lose their minds and vent their anger in the streets. Never mind that the country has a high rate of diabetes and blocked arteries, despite successive governments' steady efforts to create health awareness on the MBC daily for years. These are health issues that deprive families of their loved ones. In other words, people still do not know how to feed themselves properly or what to eat and drink. What drives them mad is the suspension of social networks, which in many cases are a public space for frustrated and ignorant folks to meet, pour out nonsense, and splash private lives and events. It is a multi-billion-dollar business, and it needs billions of addicts.

While some websites are genuinely informative and educational, it's ironic that in an age of unparalleled communication, mo-

dem societies are still plagued by so much loneliness.

* * *

Ahu Deryayi: Standing up for her rights in Iran

Ahu Deryayi has become a symbol of courage for millions of freedom-loving people around the world. The video of this brave young woman, a student of French literature, walking in her underwear on her university campus has gone viral.

Deryayi's act of defiance came after she was reprimanded by the Morality Police for not properly wearing her headscarf. During her interrogation, she grew frustrated with the situation, removed her clothes, and threw them at the officer in protest. When the guard refused to return her clothes, she walked out of the room and onto the university grounds in her undergarments, defiantly asserting her right to freedom of expression and personal autonomy.

Unsurprisingly, Ahu Deryayi was arrested and held in police custody. As is often the case, the latest reports have focused on her mental health, with the authorities suggesting that she may be unstable. However, to any rational observer, it's clear who truly needs psychiatric attention — and it is not Ahu. The real issue lies with the theocratic regime that continues to oppress its people.

Deryayi has been hailed as a freedom fighter, a lioness, a symbol of resistance standing tall against the iron-fisted government of Iran. The world watches with bated breath, fearing for her safety, and wondering what may happen next. One can only hope that the Iranian authorities, mindful of the growing unrest, will show restraint and avoid further violence.

In the face of such oppression, it's easy to see the difference between those who fight for freedom and those who only express outrage online. Social media warriors and keyboard activists can shout about injustice from the safety of their screens, but none of them would dare to face the life-or-death consequences that someone like Ahu Deryayi endures. In the free world, people become outraged over every small erosion of their liberties—but how many are truly willing to risk everything, as she has, for the cause of freedom?

The answer, sadly, is all too clear.

Tree of Knowledge

The Breath of the Universe



When we remember that nature's power is as close as our breath, we breathe deeply once again

We can connect ourselves with a basic force of nature by focusing on the essential element of air during a wind meditation. We begin by centering ourselves on our breath. We inhale the life-giving force, feeling it fill us, and then releasing it into the world to let our breath mingle with the breath of nature. If we cannot feel the wind right now, we can recall times when the wind has sent us caresses on our bare skin or ruffled our clothes and played with our hair.

We can evoke sounds carried on the wind, maybe laughter or song, or perhaps just the wind's own whispers through the trees or across the landscape of our ears. We may summon up an image of falling flowers or leaves from above, vivid colours set free with the wind's encouragement. We may envision birds drifting on unseen currents with wings unbent, or flags and banners unfurled in the breeze. The scent of a sea breeze may come to mind or the aromas of freshly baked treats or fragrant blooms that reach us from a distance. As these memories awaken our senses, we feel the vital force that surrounds and animates us. We can look to the trees to sway in time with nature's rhythm. Just as we can be soothed by the wind, we know that nature has great power. In a rush, it can block out all sound, leaving us with only the beating of our hearts.

Wind can even make the inanimate dance and whirl gracefully. With a gentle sigh, the wind has carried sailors to faraway lands and balloons to great heights. We can entrust the wind to carry our voices and best wishes out into the world, knowing they will be carried to their perfect destination. Releasing these precious offerings to the wind's care, we remember that nature's power is as close as our breath, and we breathe deeply once again before returning to the world around us.

DailyOM