

MAURITIUS TIMES

• When good people in any country cease their vigilance and struggle, then evil men prevail. -- Pearl S. Buck

Interview: Kugan Parapen, Junior Minister - Min of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

“The first 100 days in office are probably the easiest of the mandate...

...especially when taking over from such despots”

‘This government has been given a clear mandate of change’

‘Change should not limit itself to a change of personnel at the helm of the country but should also include systemic change’



P 7

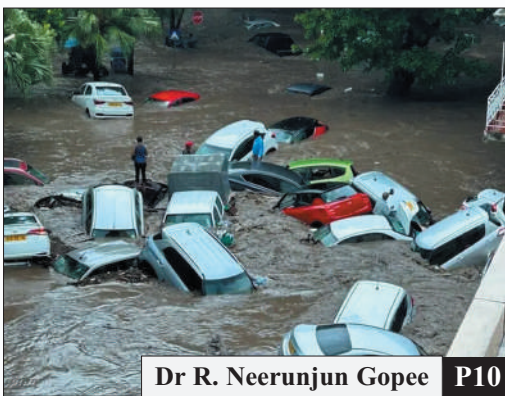
Analyse

Dépenses électorales

Le Paroxysme de l’Hypocrisie



Prakash Neerohoo P 3



Dr R. Neerunjun Gopee P10

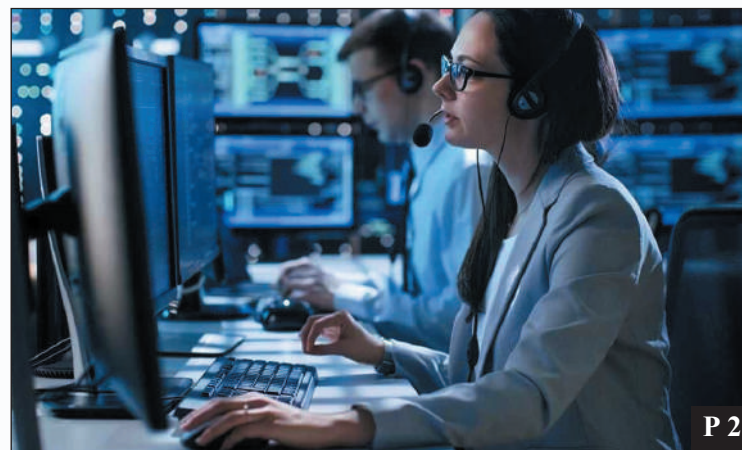
Thoughts & Reflections

When will the real rains come?

Vieillesse et Santé
Anne, ma sœur Anne... Y a-t-il des solutions pour soulager la population vieillissante à l’horizon ?



Vina Ballgobin P11



P 2

Editorial

In the Shadows of Mass Surveillance

Qs & As



LEX P6

Election Overspending: Legal Lapse or Honest Mistake?

Breakfast with Bwana



Anil Madan P4

The Out-Of-The-Box World Disorder

In the Shadows of Mass Surveillance

The recent revelations in the Parliament regarding the extensive surveillance of communications since 2017 have sent shockwaves through the nation. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's confirmation of illegal wiretapping and digital espionage exposes a sophisticated system of mass surveillance that allegedly began when Pravind Jugnauth assumed the office of Prime Minister. According to preliminary audits conducted by US experts, a high-tech interception system known as PertSol was deployed to monitor phone calls, internet traffic, and social media communications. The intercepted data, including Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, Signal, and email exchanges, was reportedly stored, analyzed, and potentially exploited without judicial oversight or independent control. These revelations not only raise concerns about privacy violations but also cast serious doubts on the ethical and legal framework governing Mauritius' intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

The root of the surveillance

The roots of this mass surveillance operation trace back to 2017, when the then-government, led by the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM), procured an advanced surveillance system from the Israeli firm VERINT. This system enabled large-scale interception of telephone calls and internet traffic, granting the authorities unprecedented access to private communications. In 2022, another batch of surveillance equipment was reportedly acquired, further expanding the then government's monitoring capabilities. According to reports, these devices were deployed across major telecom operators in Mauritius, allowing direct access for the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) and the National Security Services (NSS). Despite being installed on telecommunications infrastructure, these tools remained under the exclusive control of intelligence agencies, operating without transparent regulatory oversight. Such an extensive surveillance mechanism raises alarming questions about how this information was used and who had access to it.

What makes these revelations even more troubling is the timing of data destruction. As per the findings of international experts working with the Mauritius Police Force, a significant amount of intercepted information was wiped from government servers immediately after the 2019 general elections. This suspiciously timed data destruction has led to speculations about the true intent behind the surveillance. Was it purely for national security, or did it serve political interests? Were opposition figures, journalists, and activists targeted to influence elections or suppress dissent?

The lack of transparency surrounding the deletion of this data only deepens suspicions about the troubling intentions of those who initiated the surveillance system. If the surveillance program was genuinely designed to counter threats such as terrorism and cybercrime, why were the records erased at such a critical political juncture? The failure to provide clear answers to these questions erodes trust in state institutions and undermines the credibility of Mauritius as a democracy that upholds the rule of law.

Global parallels: The Italian spyware scandal

This situation in Mauritius is eerily reminiscent of global spyware controversies, most recently involving the Israeli firm Paragon and its surveillance tool, Graphite (See Spotlights Page 12). Paragon, known for working

exclusively with state entities like the FBI and the Israeli security establishment, recently terminated its contracts with Italy after allegations surfaced that its spyware was used to target government critics, journalists, and civil society activists.

Reports indicate that nearly 100 individuals had their encrypted smartphone data breached, including vocal critics of the far-right government led by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. This misuse of surveillance technology led Paragon's new American owners to sever ties with their Italian clients, citing violations of ethical and legal agreements.

The Paragon case, along with the infamous Pegasus spyware scandal, highlights a growing global trend where governments misuse surveillance technology under the guise of national security. Pegasus, developed by the Israeli firm NSO Group, was allegedly used by multiple governments worldwide to spy on journalists, human rights activists, and opposition leaders. Although NSO has consistently maintained that its software is intended only for counterterrorism and criminal investigations, the evidence suggests that authoritarian regimes have leveraged such tools for political repression.

The Broader Implications for Mauritius

The striking similarities between Mauritius' surveillance scandal and these global cases underscore a fundamental question: How can a democracy protect national security while preserving civil liberties? The use of sophisticated surveillance tools in Mauritius, without oversight or accountability, risks turning the country into a surveillance state where citizens' rights are systematically violated.

This crisis also raises pressing concerns about data security and sovereignty. If Mauritius acquired its surveillance technology from foreign firms, does this mean that sensitive information about its citizens could have been accessed by foreign intelligence agencies? The potential for such breaches underscores the need for stringent regulations governing data protection and state surveillance.

To rebuild public trust and safeguard democratic values, it is crucial for Mauritius to urgently implement the following measures:

First, a transparent and independent commission should be established to investigate the full extent of illegal surveillance, determine accountability, and recom-



mend corrective measures.

Second, Parliament must enact stronger data protection and privacy laws to prevent any future abuse of surveillance technology. Intelligence agencies should operate within a strict legal framework with judicial oversight.

Third, as regards technological safeguards, telecommunication providers must be required to implement stronger encryption protocols and privacy safeguards to prevent unauthorized interception of communications.

Fourth, individuals responsible for the illegal surveillance and data destruction should be held accountable through legal and institutional actions. This includes both political figures and intelligence officials who orchestrated or facilitated the surveillance operations.

Fifth, civil society organizations and legal experts must play an active role in holding the government accountable and advocating for digital rights protections.

The mass surveillance revelations represent a defining moment in Mauritius' democratic history. The country must now decide whether it will uphold the fundamental principles of freedom, privacy, and human rights, or continue down a path of unchecked state power and digital authoritarianism.

The global lessons from cases like Pegasus and Graphite demonstrate that once surveillance infrastructure is misused, it becomes nearly impossible to reverse its consequences. Mauritius stands at a crossroads: either it chooses transparency, accountability, and reform, or it risks further erosion of democratic institutions and civil liberties. The citizens of Mauritius deserve answers, and more importantly, they deserve the right to communicate freely without fear of government intrusion.

Only time will tell whether these revelations will lead to meaningful change. But one thing is certain: democracy cannot thrive in the shadows of mass surveillance.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah

Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah

Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This epaper 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





Prakash Neerohoo

Dépenses électorales

Le Paroxysme de l'Hypocrisie

Deux mois à peine après le scrutin du 10 décembre 2024, le nouveau gouvernement de l'Alliance du Changement se trouve en face d'un problème cornélien: la contestation éventuelle de l'élection de six de ses députés, dont trois ministres, pour avoir dépassé le plafond des dépenses électorales par candidat sous la loi électorale.

L'ironie est que ce sont des candidats battus du MSM qui présenteront une motion devant la Cour suprême pour faire invalider l'élection de ces députés, élus tous pourtant avec une marge confortable grâce au score sans appel de 60-0. Cette contestation du verdict électoral pour cause de dépassement des limites des dépenses électorales, aussi insignifiant soit-il, marque le paroxysme de l'hypocrisie politique à Maurice en matière de financement des partis politiques.

En vertu de l'article 51 de la *Representation of the People Act* (RPA) de 1958, le plafond des dépenses électorales par candidat est fixé à Rs 150 000 pour un candidat de parti et Rs 250 000 pour un candidat indépendant par circonscription. Les dépenses des candidats sont notamment les repas fournis aux agents le jour du scrutin, la publicité, le transport d'électeurs et l'impression de pamphlets (flyers), entre autres.

Dépenses excédentaires

Selon les déclarations de dépenses déposées auprès de la commission électorale par les députés à ce jour, les ministres Richard Duval (Tourisme), Raj Pentiah (Fonction publique) et Kaviraj Sukon (Éducation tertiaire) et trois députés de la majorité (Sandeep Prayag, Véronique Leu-Govind et Kevin Lukeeram) ont dépassé la limite de Rs 150 000 durant la dernière campagne électorale dans une proportion variant de 4% à 66% (voir le tableau ci-dessous).

« Pendant deux mois, le manque de réaction du gouvernement à l'impatience populaire face à la tolérance des malfaiteurs de l'ancien régime posait la question de savoir s'il n'y avait pas un pacte faustien entre les nouveaux dirigeants et les anciens (sponsorisé par une main invisible) en vue de passer l'éponge sur des affaires criminelles. Ainsi, on se demandait où était l'enquête de la police sur l'assassinat de Kistnen ou encore les fameux «Kistnen Papers» des dépenses électorales... »



« Si des candidats battus du MSM contestent l'élection des six députés du gouvernement susmentionnés, quelles sont les chances que la Cour suprême leur donne gain de cause? En l'absence de jurisprudence sur cette question, il est difficile de se prononcer. Toutefois, il est clair que le MSM s'est vu offrir une occasion de régler des comptes politiques avec l'Alliance du Changement qui l'a botté hors du pouvoir de façon magistrale... »

On y voit aussi que le ministre Richard Duval arrive en tête de liste avec un excédent de Rs 98 375, soit 66%. Pour sa part, le candidat battu du MSM Kavi Ramano a un excédent de Rs 70 000, soit 47%. Le député avec l'excédent le plus faible est K. Lukeeram avec Rs 6 500, soit 4%.

s'il est prouvé qu'il a donné son consentement.

L'article 74 (1) de la RPA précise qu'une personne reconnue coupable d'une pratique illégale est passible d'une amende maximale de Rs 1 000. De plus, pendant cinq ans à compter de sa condamnation, elle ne pourra ni s'inscrire

Tableau des dépenses électorales excédentaires

Nom	Publicité	Transport	Repas	Autres	Total	Limite	Excédent	Marge
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%
R. Duval	175,375	73,000	0	0	248,375	150,000	98,375	66%
K. Sukon	67,100	0	116,500	50,000	233,600	150,000	83,600	56%
S. Prayag	142,500	0	71,875	7,700	222,075	150,000	72,075	48%
K. Ramano	220,000	0	0	0	220,000	150,000	70,000	47%
R. Pentiah	62,930	0	75,000	50,000	187,930	150,000	37,930	25%
V. Leu-Govind					157,170	150,000	7,170	5%
K. Lukeeram	75,000	34,000	0	47,500	156,500	150,000	6,500	4%

Infractions et amendes

L'article 54 de la RPA ne permet pas une infraction aux limites de dépenses prévues dans l'article 51. Selon l'article 55 de la RPA, «la personne ayant engagé les dépenses non-autorisées, ainsi que le candidat pour lequel elles ont été engagées, seront désignés coupables d'une pratique illégale». Toutefois, un candidat ne peut être reconnu coupable du fait qu'une tierce personne ait engagé des dépenses en son nom, sauf

en tant qu'électeur, ni voter, ni se porter candidat à une élection. Si elle a été élue avant sa condamnation, elle perdra également son siège. Toutefois, sous l'article 74(2) de la RPA, ces sanctions ne prendront effet qu'à l'issue d'une période de 30 jours après la condamnation ou après la décision de la Cour suprême sur une éventuelle demande de recours, en vertu de l'article 74B.

En effet, l'article 74B de la RPA prévoit que tout député élu en délicatesse

avec la loi peut demander une exonération ("relief") des dispositions de l'article 74 concernant une pratique illégale afin de sauver son mandat, en arguant que le dépassement des limites des dépenses a eu lieu par inadvertance ou pour une autre cause raisonnable. La Cour suprême peut accorder cette exonération si elle est satisfaite des explications données.

Contestation des élections

Si des candidats battus du MSM contestent l'élection des six députés du gouvernement susmentionnés, quelles sont les chances que la Cour suprême leur donne gain de cause?

En l'absence de jurisprudence sur cette question, il est difficile de se prononcer. Toutefois, il est clair que le MSM s'est vu offrir une occasion de régler des comptes politiques avec l'Alliance du Changement qui l'a botté hors du pouvoir de façon magistrale, et il ne la ratera pas!

Dans le passé, le MSM au pouvoir n'a pas lésiné sur les moyens légaux de combattre ses adversaires, que ce soit au niveau de la police (avec des arrestations arbitraires sous des charges provisoires) ou au niveau du judiciaire (avec des poursuites contre des opposants sous des charges de blanchiment d'argent ou de trafic illicite).

Le cas le plus célèbre est celui de Navin Ramgoolam, qui fut arrêté sur 11 charges provisoires entre 2015 et 2019. Bien que le judiciaire ait rayé 10 des 11 charges, une charge de blanchiment d'argent pèse toujours sur la tête de Ramgoolam dans une affaire de coffres-forts confisqués.

En outre, lorsque l'élection de certains députés du MSM, y compris son leader, fut contestée devant la justice après le scrutin de 2019, le MSM déploya les grands moyens, en s'adjoignant des services d'avocats anglais notamment, pour les défendre, et ce, jusqu'au Conseil Privé du Roi. Maintenant qu'il est dans l'opposition, le MSM aura recours à son arme favorite, la procédure légale, pour contester l'élection de six députés de la majorité sous l'article 55 de la RPA.

Désillusion générale

Si le gouvernement croyait bien faire en prêchant l'apaisement après les élections, en se fondant sur le refus d'entreprendre quelque action (arrestations de suspects ou enquêtes sur les scandales précédents) qui puisse donner l'impression d'une revanche politique, il devrait déchanter maintenant car il n'a pas affaire à des adversaires de bonne foi.

● Suite en page 9



Anil Madan

The Out-Of-The-Box World Disorder

In just over two weeks of President Trump 2.0, the world has seen an expansionist idea of America with Greenland, Canada, and the Panama Canal in its sights. The overture to buy Greenland ended in a somewhat testy telephone call between Trump and Danish PM Mette Frederiksen in which Trump insisted on acquiring Greenland and Frederiksen insisting that it is not for sale. That is not the end of the matter. Recently confirmed Secretary of State, Marco Rubio said: "This is not a joke," and added: "This is not about acquiring land for the purpose of acquiring land. This is in our national interest."

It should not be overlooked that Frederiksen gives legitimacy to US concerns about security and has signalled that she would welcome the presence of additional US troops in Greenland.

Meanwhile, Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China. In addition to voicing his displeasure with the massive trade surpluses that these countries enjoy over the US, he raised other concerns. With Mexico and Canada, it is the flow of illegal immigrants and fentanyl into the US. With China, it is the massive trade surplus as well as the flow of precursor chemicals for the manufacture of fentanyl, from China to Mexico. As well, he voiced his displeasure over alleged Chinese control of the Panama Canal: "China is operating the Panama Canal, and we didn't give it to China — we gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back."

China's influence over the Panama Canal

This past weekend, Rubio visited Panama and relayed the message that Trump believes "the current position of influence and control of the Chinese Communist Party over the Panama Canal area is a threat to the canal and represents a violation of the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal."

Trump then announced tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada and China.

In Panama, Rubio insisted that unless immediate changes were made, the United States would be forced to take necessary measures to protect its interests under the treaty.

With Trump threatening: "We're going to take it back, or something very powerful is going to happen," President Mulino of Panama protested that the premise of Trump's concerns — that the canal is



Pic - nbcnews.com

"Trump is often described as a 'bully' and his actions as 'bullying.' There is, however, an undeniable legitimacy to his concerns. As already noted, Frederiksen has recognized that the presence of additional US troops might be one way to meet security concerns. And, as the Danish defence minister's remarks I have quoted in a previous article, show, European security too is at stake. When it comes to Canada, the flow of illegal immigrants and fentanyl may be a tiny percentage of that from the southern border, but it is important that efforts to secure the Mexican border not end up a pyrrhic victory if the northern border remains porous..."

being operated by the Chinese — is wrong, and tried to downplay the situation by suggesting that Trump was more focused on Chinese operated ports than on the canal itself.

Two ports, one on either end of the canal, Balboa and Cristobal have, since 1997, been operated by Hong Kong-based Hutchison Ports Holding. US military and security personnel have expressed fears that China might weaponize the private Chinese company's control of these ports should a geopolitical crisis erupt.

Mexico then appeared to capitulate to Trump's tariff threats and Panama appeared to yield to American concerns about Chinese control of the canal. Following the announcement of 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, Trump agreed to pause the tariffs on Mexico for 30 days. Mexico agreed to deploy 10,000 soldiers to the US-Mexico border to stem the flow of illegal migrants and fentanyl into the US. Trump announced that Rubio would spearhead further negotiations with Mexico.

Meanwhile, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau had announced retaliatory tariffs on imports from America, but by day's end Canada too announced that it had agreed on a 30-day pause and the deployment of 10,000 troops to the Canada-US border to stop the inflow of illegal immigrants and fentanyl. No men-

tion was made of Canada becoming the 51st state of the US.

Panama also agreed to major concessions. President Mulino who had declared that negotiations over the canal were off the table, announced that Panama was open to discussing Trump's concerns about Chinese influence over the canal. Mulino announced that Panama would not renew its contract with China under that country's Belt and Road Initiative and would seek to end its con-

tract with China before the scheduled end of the relationship. Apparently, negotiations for American companies to operate the canal will take place.

The American bully

It is not surprising that reaction to Trump's overtures to acquire Greenland and the Panama Canal, as well as his threats to impose tariffs on Mexico and Canada, have been negative. He is often described as a "bully" and his actions as "bullying." There is, however, an undeniable legitimacy to his concerns. As already noted, Frederiksen has recognized that the presence of additional US troops might be one way to meet security concerns. And, as the Danish defence minister's remarks I have quoted in a previous article, show, European security too is at stake. When it comes to Canada, the flow of illegal immigrants and fentanyl may be a tiny percentage of that from the southern border, but it is important that efforts to secure the Mexican border not end up a pyrrhic victory if the northern border remains porous.

For decades, Mexico has stood by as immigrants from Central and South America, the Caribbean and indeed, from the world, have surged into the US and its inability to control drug cartels has seen the flow of fentanyl and other illegal drugs continue unabated. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of American lives have been lost to these drugs. Trump's initiatives may not be the cure, but they are a first step. Perhaps they are an important first step to recognizing that it is just as much in Mexico's interest to control the problem as in the interests of America.

Where will the actions against China lead? It is difficult to say. In 2024, China had a worldwide trading surplus of almost \$1 trillion. Of this, more than one-third (36%) was with the US.

● Cont. on page 5



Pic - wirthconsulting.org

"Where will the actions against China lead? It is difficult to say. In 2024, China had a worldwide trading surplus of almost \$1 trillion. Of this, more than one-third (36%) was with the US. Whereas the US is an important trading partner for China, American influence over Chinese actions is tempered by the massive surpluses that China enjoys around the world. China acted with alacrity in announcing retaliatory tariffs on US imports and banned the export of certain strategic commodities to the US..."

The Out-Of-The-Box World Disorder



Pic - Brandon Bell - Getty Images

“For decades, Mexico has stood by as immigrants from Central and South America, the Caribbean and indeed, from the world, have surged into the US and its inability to control drug cartels has seen the flow of fentanyl and other illegal drugs continue unabated. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of American lives have been lost to these drugs. Trump’s initiatives may not be the cure, but they are a first step. Perhaps they are an important first step to recognizing that it is just as much in Mexico’s interest to control the problem as in the interests of America...”

● Cont. from page 4

Whereas the US is an important trading partner for China, American influence over Chinese actions is tempered by the massive surpluses that China enjoys around the world.

China acted with alacrity in announcing retaliatory tariffs on US imports and banned the export of certain strategic commodities to the US. Further discussions between President Xi and President Trump are planned.

For perspective, consider that in 2023, China’s top three categories of exports included almost \$67 billion worth of cell phones, \$53 billion in computers and accessories, and \$42 billion worth of electrical and industrial equipment to the US.

China announced a 15% tariff on American coal and liquefied natural gas products as well as a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery and some American vehicles. China also complained that Trump’s tariffs are a seriously violation of World Trade Organization rules. China has filed a request for consultations under WTO procedures. This triggers a 60-day period for the US and China to resolve the dispute before submission to a three-judge panel of WTO judges.

Less than 2-1/2% of US LNG exports go to China and only 110,000 vehicles were imported by China. The impact of tariffs on those exports is not large. Far more important are bans on commodities designated as critical minerals by the US Geological survey. These are considered vital to US economic or national security and include tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium. These are par-

ticularly sensitive to supply chain disruptions. In December, while Biden was President, China had already restricted exports of gallium and graphite.

Trump has also proposed that Ukraine supply the US with rare earth minerals — “their rare earths and other things” as he put it — in exchange for support against Russia’s war on that country. This is undoubtedly in response to the Chinese squeeze on America’s access to such critical commodities.

Transactional foreign policy

These actions suggest that Trump’s transactional approach to foreign policy is in full force and that his threats against Mexico, Canada, and Panama were negotiating ploys. The tariffs on Chinese imports, on the other hand, may simply be a reflection of his belief that they are a source of great revenue for the US government. He has spoken of funding the US government through tariffs and of eliminating income taxes.

The threat of tariffs may have had the unintended effect of causing the US trade deficit to balloon as imports surged in December by 3.5% to an all-time peak of \$364.9 billion. Exports declined in November to \$266.5 billion.

To cap off a wild week in which Elon Musk and his associates seemed to seize control of the US Agency for International Development and the US Treasury’s payment systems, Trump also suggested that Gaza be taken over by the US.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt described his comments on Gaza thus: “His administration is going to work with our partners in the

region to reconstruct this region. and let me just take a step back here, because this is an out-of-the-box idea. That’s who President Trump is, that’s why the American people elected him, and his goal is lasting peace in the Middle East for all people in the region.”

Trump’s comments on Gaza came out of the blue — out-of-the-box, indeed. Going beyond his previously expressed idea that Gazans should be “cleaned out” while the area was rebuilt, Trump suggested that the US would acquire Gaza and rebuild it completely, into a Riviera of the Middle East.

On the one hand, Trump seemed to suggest that the Palestinians be moved out of Gaza forever, to some place where they could live in peace: “You build really good quality housing, like a beautiful town, like some place where they can live and not die, because Gaza is a guarantee that they’re going to end up dying.” On the other hand, he spoke of redeveloping Gaza to include housing for people of the region. Whether that includes Palestinians or just Israelis was not clear.

“The US will take over the Gaza Strip, and we will do a job with it too,” Trump said. “We’ll own it and be responsible for dismantling all of the dangerous unexploded bombs and other weapons on the site. Level the site, and get rid of the destroyed buildings, level it out, create an economic development that will supply unlimited numbers of jobs and housing for the people of the area, do a real job, do something different.”

Sounds crazy, doesn’t it? On the one hand, perhaps he is right that there will

never be peace so long as Gaza remains what many Arabs have described as an open-air prison. On the other hand, where does one realistically think about moving two million people? And, if I were an economist and had a third hand, I’d say that Trump’s call on the richest nations of the region to finance the development may end up being the key.

The economic opportunities in developing the Gaza Strip are enormous. Here, you have prime waterfront real estate, with unlimited potential for luxury and destination type of development. There is plenty of room to build factories, universities, and hospitals to serve the people of the region whether from Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and the wider Middle East, perhaps even Cyprus and Africa.

Don’t dismiss this crazy idea just because it is crazy.

But to make this work, the Gazans must agree to leave voluntarily. Forced displacement is a crime under international law. Hamas too would have to agree to leave voluntarily. The Saudis, Qatar, Emirati, and Israel would have to agree to fund the project. Funding includes housing displaced Gazans and providing for their livelihood over a number of years. The area would probably need a missile defence system. And you’d need workers to do the clean up and building. Would those include Gazans?

Maybe it is just a crazy idea after all.

Cheerz...
Bwana



Pic - voanews.com

“Trump’s comments on Gaza came out of the blue — out-of-the-box, indeed. Going beyond his previously expressed idea that Gazans should be “cleaned out” while the area was rebuilt, Trump suggested that the US would acquire Gaza and rebuild it completely, into a Riviera of the Middle East. On the one hand, Trump seemed to suggest that the Palestinians be moved out of Gaza forever, to some place where they could live in peace. On the other hand, he spoke of redeveloping Gaza to include housing for people of the region. Whether that includes Palestinians or just Israelis was not clear...”

Election Overspending: Legal Lapse or Honest Mistake?

'An election cannot be invalidated for the mere asking by the opponents of the candidates'

LEX

Recent disclosures regarding the election expenses of six newly elected MPs from the 'Alliance du Changement' have reignited concerns about financial transparency and electoral integrity in Mauritius. Among them, three ministers and one junior minister have declared spending that exceeds the legal limit set by the Representation of the People Act. While some may see this as an attempt at openness, the law is clear — overspending constitutes an illegal practice that carries severe consequences, including fines and disqualification from voting or running for office.

This controversy raises critical legal and political questions: Should the Electoral Commission or the Electoral Supervisory Commission take action, potentially referring the matter to the Supreme Court? Can the implicated MPs seek relief under Sections 74A and 74B of the Act, claiming inadvertence or good faith? And if the excess spending is minimal, should the Court exercise leniency, or would that undermine the credibility of electoral laws? Lex shares his legal perspective on the matter, shedding light on the potential consequences and broader implications of electoral finance violations.

* Six newly elected MPs from the 'Alliance du Changement,' including three ministers and one junior minister, have declared electoral expenses exceeding the legal limit in the last elections. While this may reflect an attempt at transparency, whether intentional or not, it remains a serious violation according to the electoral law of the country, isn't it?

Spending more than what is allowed by law is a serious offence and constitutes an illegal practice under the Representation of the People Act (The Act). A guilty candidate is liable to pay a fine and will be ineligible to stand as a candidate, vote, or be registered as an elector.

* If the Electoral Commission or Electoral Supervisory Commission decides that these constitute serious violations, do they have to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for legal proceedings and enforcement of penalties?

When an offence is committed, there must be a prosecution. It is for the Electoral Commission or the Electoral Supervisory Commission to decide on the appropriate course of action.

* However, Sections 74A and 74B of the Representation of the People Act provide for "relief" if the Court



“Silence prevails not only on the Kistnen Papers but also regarding the perpetrators of his murder. This has been the case due to the presence of police officers who owed their allegiance not to the State, but to the former political masters. Let us hope that the truth will emerge soon...”

determines that the MPs' actions or omissions resulted from inadvertence, a reasonable cause, or a lack of bad faith. Given this provision, how do you expect the Supreme Court to respond to any potential application for relief from the six MPs?

Well, if there is a motion for relief, the Supreme Court will have to examine the facts and circumstances under which the excess payments were declared. The judges will then make a decision. An election cannot be invalidated for the mere asking by the opponents of the candidates.

* Do you think the Court may reject the application for relief if the overspending appears to be a deliberate attempt to gain an unfair advantage in the election?

Given that the excess expenses were almost insignificant and resulted from either inadvertence or negligence — surely without any criminal intention — it would be an exaggeration to conclude bad faith. Bad faith or criminal intention depends on the circumstances.

* Is it possible that the extent of the overspending by the candidates will also be considered by the Court? That is if the excess spending is minor, the Supreme Court might grant relief, especially if it did not significantly impact the fairness of the election?

Of course. If the excess amount was minimal, the court is likely to show leniency. After all, how can a few hundred rupees unfairly impact an election?

“Well, if there is a motion for relief, the Supreme Court will have to examine the facts and circumstances under which the excess payments were declared. The judges will then make a decision. An election cannot be invalidated for the mere asking by the opponents of the candidates...”

However, it must be noted that expenses incurred on behalf of a candidate by political agents do not need to be declared in the candidate's return. This loophole creates a lack of transparency, as any amount spent by an agent remains opaque. A candidate is only guilty of illegal practice if such expenses were made with their consent.

This situation is absurd and undermines the credibility of electoral spending limits. After all, where would an agent get massive amounts to spend on a candidate if not from the candidate themselves?

* What if the Court decides that ignorance of the law is no excuse? Is this not a fundamental principle in legal systems worldwide, ensuring that individuals are

held accountable for their actions, regardless of their knowledge or understanding of the law?

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. The candidates will not be stupid to invoke ignorance. Instead, they will rely on good faith and inadvertence, leaving it to the court to determine the outcome.

* However, one could also argue that the law is an ass — rigid, unreasonable, and sometimes lacking common sense. This is especially relevant given the widespread belief that most election candidates intentionally misreport or underreport their electoral expenses. What do you think?

This question touches on a more specific issue — the unreasonably low spending limits

imposed on candidates, which fail to reflect the reality of rising costs in an era of inflation. Justice Sachs, in his report on Electoral Reform, went so far as to describe this as condoning official lies.

* Should this incident spark a debate on electoral reforms in Mauritius, particularly regarding campaign finance rules and the enforcement of spending limits? What changes would you recommend?

There have been numerous debates with little to no result. The report by Justice Sachs, which addressed these very issues, has remained a dead letter. What, then, will another debate achieve?

* The Kistnen Papers case remains shrouded in uncertainty, with little recent information on the progress of the investigation. This case is particularly serious because, beyond electoral expenses, it is linked to allegations of corruption, fraud, and potentially even murder — raising grave concerns about political integrity and justice. What should we make of this case?

The allegations made under the previous regime have either not been properly investigated or were handled in an amateurish manner, seemingly to shield the former political masters. However, Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam has now stated that this matter will be investigated. Let us hope that this leads to meaningful action.

* Ultimately, without decisive police and legal action and greater transparency, the Kistnen Papers case risks becoming another example of impunity in high-profile political scandals. The question remains: Will justice be served, or will silence prevail?

Silence prevails not only on the Kistnen Papers but also regarding the perpetrators of his murder. This has been the case due to the presence of police officers who owed their allegiance not to the State, but to the former political masters. Let us hope that the truth will emerge soon.

Kugan Parapen, Junior Minister - Min of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

“The first 100 days in office are probably the easiest of the mandate... especially when taking over from such despots”

As the Alliance du Changement approaches its first 100 days in office, Junior Minister Kugan Parapen reflects on the transition from opposition to governance, the challenges of systemic reform, and the urgent need for accountability. A long-time advocate for progressive policies and a key figure in Rezistans ek Alternativ (ReA), K. Parapen discusses his party's role in the coalition government, its push for institutional change, and the pressing issues facing Mauritius -- from economic recovery to the Chagos sovereignty dispute. He also cautions against repeating past mistakes and underscores the importance of balancing responsibility with public expectations. Read on:

Mauritius Times: What is it like to transition from campaigning in the opposition — taking strong stances on various issues — to now having to deliver in an official capacity within the government?

Kugan Parapen: When one treads on the political path, the possibility of being in a position of responsibility is always there. My political engagement stems from my belief that I could contribute positively to decision making at the national level. But then again, I think one can never be fully prepared for what comes in one's way when occupying an official capacity within a government for the first time.

I must confess that the last few months have been the most intense of my life so far. From being officially endorsed as a candidate of the Alliance du Changement in Constituency 1 at the eleventh hour to being sworn in as the Junior Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, I have hardly had the time to reflect on life. But I am taking it one step at a time.

While the transition has felt overwhelming at times, I prefer to remain serene and grateful. Becoming a public policy maker has always been my dream and now that I have been handed an opportunity to make a difference, I intend to seize the opportunity with both hands. Whether I'm any good at it is not for me to say, the population will ultimately decide.

*** Have there been moments where the realities of governing forced you to reconsider or adapt the positions you took while in opposition? How do you balance political ideals with the practical constraints of being in government?**

I have been a stern critic of previous governments - not out of opportunism but rather out of conviction. Ideological beliefs shape one's vision of the future, and it is such beliefs

« I must confess that the last few months have been the most intense of my life so far. From being officially endorsed as a candidate of the Alliance du Changement in Constituency 1 at the eleventh hour to being sworn in as the Junior Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, I have hardly had the time to reflect on life. But I am taking it one step at a time... »

that have always guided my appreciation of politics. So far, I do not feel that the realities of governing have impinged on such appreciation.

But I would probably be naive if I said that such situations won't arise in the future.

My view of things is that this government has been given a clear mandate of change - now change can be interpreted in so many different ways - it can exist along a wide spectrum. There can be a minimalist version of it as well as a maximalist one. I think I am somewhere in the



“The MIC took on the role of a commercial bank and used public funds to spray the corporate cronies with helicopter money”

middle when it comes to my expectations for change under this government.

*** Rezistans ek Alternativ (ReA), which has long positioned itself as an anti-establishment, progressive party, joined last year the Alliance du Changement, a mainstream political coalition. Before joining the Alliance, what key assurances did the ReA demand and receive on policy areas that will guarantee the fulfillment of its 'rupture' agenda?**

Yes, we did join the alliance. And it is important to recall the context in which Rezistans ek Alternativ joined this alliance. We were of the view that the previous government had to be ousted, given its horrific performance. We were truly on the brink of dictatorship. History would have been very harsh on us had we positioned ourselves in such a way that had contributed to the re-election of Pravind Jugnauth as Prime Minister of our Republic.

We adopted a pragmatic political positioning, and this has been vindicated - not only by the results of the general elections but also by what has been revealed over the last few weeks regarding the handling of affairs of the former regime. The 'State of the Economy' address by the Prime Minister laid bare the economic mismanagement and treacherous falsification of economic realities by the MSM

« My view of things is that this government has been given a clear mandate of change - now change can be interpreted in so many different ways - it can exist along a wide spectrum. There can be a minimalist version of it as well as a maximalist one. I think I am somewhere in the middle when it comes to my expectations for change under this government... »

while the “Missie Moustass Leaks”, and recent revelations highlighted the “état de surveillance” reality in which we were living.

That said, Rezistans ek Alternativ also insisted on reaching a political agreement with the Alliance du Changement on programmatic terms. We were of the view that change should not limit itself to a change of personnel at the helm of the country but should also include systemic change. We will remember that the party held numerous rounds of negotiations with the leaders of the Labour Party and Mouvement Militant Mauricien before reaching a final agreement.

● Cont. on page 8

'This government has been given a clear mandate of change'

'Change should not limit itself to a change of personnel at the helm of the country but should also include systemic change'

● Cont. from page 7

And, at all times, it was the systemic changes to be adopted that were at the forefront of discussions.

This ultimately led to the signature of an agreement among all parties which formed part of the Alliance du Changement. The salient measures included in this electoral agreement were the need for constitutional reforms, the introduction of the right-to-recall, the inclusion of nature rights in the Constitution, the adoption of progressive policies for the working class (for e.g. the introduction of 40-working hour week), inclusion of socio-economic and cultural rights in the Constitution and a shift towards participative democracy.

*** Given ReA's participation in government, does this signal a long-term shift towards electoral alliances? And what does this move mean for small, left-wing parties in Mauritius?**

That is a very pertinent question and a question to which I am unable to provide a clear and definite answer right now.

What we know is that the electoral system of our country is tailored in such a way that it greatly favours electoral alliances. History tells us that bar the election of one Cehl Meeah in 2010, general elections since independence have always returned members of mainstream electoral alliances as MPs to Parliament. And this is unlikely to change unless there is an electoral reform.

The electoral reform has proved elusive so far but given the clear mandate for change given to this new government, including the mandate to come forward with the introduction of a proportional representative system, it would be a major political letdown if we head into the next elections with the electoral system remaining unchanged.

With respect to other left-wing parties, it is not for me to say what Rezistans ek Alternativ's participation in a government means for them. That would be rather indelicate. What I can say, though, is that upon hearing Babita Thanoo's maiden speech in Parliament last Tuesday, I am rather satisfied that the voice of the left



« We have a country to save. The magnitude of the challenge is simply enormous. This will ultimately lead to some tough decisions being taken. One such decision was the exclusion of those earning more than MUR 50,000 from the 14th month special allowance. It was quite unpopular as you would expect but it did definitely help in preventing the country from losing its investment grade status. Responsibility over popularity - that is the kind of government I want for my country...»

finally resonates within the august assembly.

*** How will you ensure that ReA's presence in government brings real change and does not become merely symbolic?**

Rezistans ek Alternativ is in Parliament, Rezistans ek Alternativ is in Cabinet, Rezistans ek Alternativ is at the helm of an important ministry. So, it is within the realm of possibility that Rezistans ek Alternativ can bring real change. But from what we have experienced so far, the party brings more to the table.

Our views and ideas are sought and

valued, especially when it comes to democracy, economy, ecology and the working class. Truth be told, I was pleasantly surprised when my proposition for paying the 14th month special allowance over two separate months was unanimously adopted.

*** The Alliance du Changement will soon complete its first 100 days in office. How do you assess the government's performance so far?**

The first 100 days in office are probably the easiest of the mandate. Especially when taking over from such despots. In general, I get the impression that people are satisfied with the new government. Many have confessed that they finally feel that they are living in a democratic society where freedom has made a come-back. Freedom is one of those things whose value you truly appreciate only when you no longer have it.

That said, we have a country to save. The magnitude of the challenge is simply enormous. This will ultimately lead to some tough decisions being taken. One such decision was the exclusion of those earning more than MUR 50,000 from the 14th month special allowance. It was quite unpopular as you would expect but it did definitely help in preventing the country from losing its investment grade status. Responsibility over popularity - that is the kind of government I want for my country.

*** In your view, what should the government avoid to maintain public trust and fulfil its promises?**

As long as the government acts in the sole interest of the people, I trust that the people will support the government. The moment members of this government start putting their interest or the interest of their circles of influence ahead of the interests of the people, the trust is bound to erode. The Mauritian population has made it clear once again that they will not tolerate those who act against their interests.

MPs are representatives of the people and as such, they should stay humble and act to serve their constituents to the best of their abilities. Over the next five years, we should strive to deliver on our promises. The people will ultimately judge us on our commitment to improving their wellbeing.

*** Given the public's strong expectation for accountability regarding the**

« Rezistans ek Alternativ is in Parliament, Rezistans ek Alternativ is in Cabinet, Rezistans ek Alternativ is at the helm of an important ministry. So, it is within the realm of possibility that Rezistans ek Alternativ can bring real change. But from what we have experienced so far, the party brings more to the table. Our views and ideas are sought and valued, especially when it comes to democracy, economy, ecology and the working class...»

alleged wrongdoings of the previous MSM government, do you believe the current administration is taking the necessary steps to address these concerns effectively and ensure justice is served - at the earliest?

The thirst of the population for justice is fully understandable. The previous government was at the centre of so much wrongdoing and responsible for so much suffering that they need to be held accountable. However, a rush to bring to justice those who are responsible could prove counterproductive. It is better to build solid cases against culprits than to rush flimsy ones to court, only for them to be dismissed.

« It would be well received if the government could conjure up a mix of experience and fresh blood to serve the country in important positions. In many cases, we get the impression that groundwork is being laid to *build the bridge to the future*, that is experienced cadres are being teamed up with promising elements to harness the best of both worlds. Let's hope this approach is as far-reaching as possible...»

*** Governance, institutional reform, and meritocracy remain key concerns. We've seen many of the 'old guard' being called back into service, possibly due to a shortage of experienced and competent cadres. What are your thoughts on the government's approach so far?**

In its latest economic report, Moody's referred to the significant weakening of the country's institutional governance as one of the main reasons which convinced the rating agency to place the country's outlook in negative territory. It is thus of paramount importance that the country restores its credibility when it comes to the governance of public institutions.

It would be well received if the government could conjure up a mix of experience and fresh blood to serve the country in important positions.

● Cont. on page 9

'Getting the UK recognise the full sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelagos would be a major achievement'



« As long as the government acts in the sole interest of the people, I trust that the people will support the government. The moment members of this government start putting their interest or the interest of their circles of influence ahead of the interests of the people, the trust is bound to erode. The Mauritian population has made it clear once again that they will not tolerate those who act against their interests... »

● Cont. from page 8

In many cases, we get the impression that groundwork is being laid to *build the bridge to the future*, that is experienced cadres are being teamed up with promising elements to harness the best of both worlds. Let's hope this approach is as far-reaching as possible.

* **The MIC's transactions and investigations into alleged wrongdoings risk turning into a never-ending saga throughout this government's mandate. With confidentiality clauses seemingly protecting the 'big players' while the smaller ones are scrutinized for public appeasement, do you think this approach inspires confidence in accountability?**

When the MIC was being set up in the immediate aftermath of Covid-19, we had repeatedly

proponent of peace in the Indian Ocean. And the continued existence of a US military base on Diego Garcia is obviously a threat to this peace. As Starmer reminded the UK parliament earlier this week, the negotiations between Mauritius and the UK had reached an advanced stage prior to new governments being elected in both jurisdictions. Walking away from these negotiations could have been an option, but it would likely have resulted in Mauritius not regaining its effective sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelagos for many years, if not decades.

World diplomacy is deeply intricate and is swayed by the balance of global power. Had the United Kingdom not alienated its long-standing allies in Europe over its decision to leave the European Union, who knows how the vote over the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos

« World diplomacy is deeply intricate and is swayed by the balance of global power. Had the United Kingdom not alienated its long-standing allies in Europe over its decision to leave the European Union, who knows how the vote over the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago at the United Nations would have turned out. Getting the UK recognise the full sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelagos would be a major achievement... »



said that the government was building an arsenal for economic and political gratification. And we were damn right.

Injecting billions of rupees in some sectors of the economy at that point in time was the right thing to do - however a lot can be said on the terms and conditions which underpinned these injections. The MIC took on the role of a commercial bank and used public funds to spray the corporate cronies with helicopter money. Unfortunately, such favourable terms and conditions do not represent criminal offences but nevertheless remain immoral. Since when did the MSM care about morality?

* **The Chagos deal is undeniably a crucial issue — both in terms of Mauritius' sovereignty claim and its financial implications, especially given the country's current economic challenges. Are we handling this matter strategically? Or would Lalit's position, advocating for the closure of the US base, be a more principled stance?**

Rezistans ek Alternativ has always been a

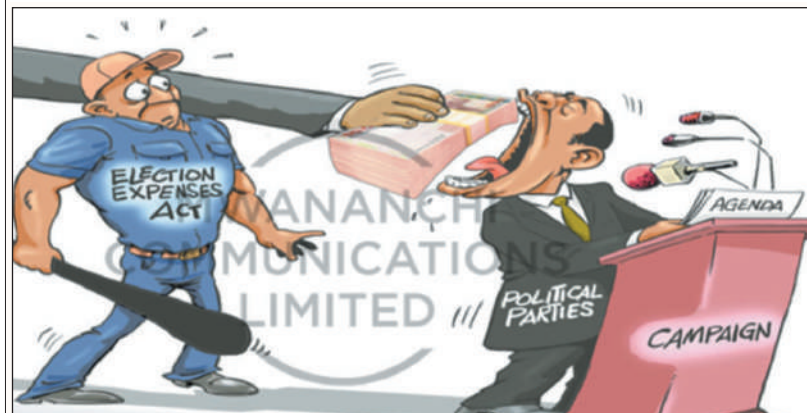
Archipelago at the United Nations would have turned out. Getting the UK recognise the full sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelagos would be a major achievement.

« We adopted a pragmatic political positioning, and this has been vindicated - not only by the results of the general elections but also by what has been revealed over the last few weeks regarding the handling of affairs of the former regime. The 'State of the Economy' address by the Prime Minister laid bare the economic mismanagement and treacherous falsification of economic realities by the MSM while the "Missie Moustass Leaks", and recent revelations highlighted the "état de surveillance" reality in which we were living... »

Analyse

Dépenses électorales

Le Paroxysme de l'Hypocrisie



● Suite de la page 3

Pendant deux mois, le manque de réaction du gouvernement à l'impopularité face à la tolérance des malfaiteurs de l'ancien régime posait la question de savoir s'il n'y avait pas un pacte faustien entre les nouveaux dirigeants et les anciens (sponsorisé par une main invisible) en vue de passer l'éponge sur des affaires criminelles.

Ainsi, on se demandait où était l'enquête de la police sur l'assassinat de Kistnen ou encore les fameux «Kistnen Papers» des dépenses électorales liées à une élection contestée dans la circonscription no. 8 en 2019?

Est-ce que les enquêtes sur les autres scandales (Saint-Louis Gate, Stag Party Gate, Silver Bank, assistance opaque de la MIC à des sociétés, marchés publics d'urgence, etc.) ont été reléguées aux oubliettes ou étouffées sous le prétexte de la confidentialité des transactions bancaires ou contractuelles? La transparence et l'imputabilité (devoir de rendre compte – "accountability") sont-elles des slogans creux dans le secteur public malgré la promesse de rupture?

Financement politique

Cette nouvelle affaire de dépenses électorales remet en perspective l'urgence d'un nouveau cadre légal pour le financement des partis politiques dans le contexte d'une réforme globale du système électoral. Durant la dernière campagne électorale, les principaux partis ont dépensé beaucoup d'argent sans que l'on connaisse leurs sources de financement.

Le MSM, en particulier, s'était signalé par des extravagances telles qu'une armada de véhicules sur la route pour transporter les partisans aux meetings, la débauche d'affiches dans tous les coins et recoins du pays avec l'effigie de son

chef et les fonctions sociales avec de la nourriture à gogo...

Durant son règne, le MSM a tenté deux fois de régler le financement des partis politiques à travers un projet de loi («Political Financing Bill»), la première fois en 2019 et la seconde fois en 2024. Mais, à chaque fois, le projet de loi n'a pas eu les trois quarts de voix nécessaires pour être voté tant les dispositions proposées étaient tellement inadéquates ou inacceptables.

Dans notre article intitulé «Financement politique: Non à la mainmise des entreprises privées sur les partis», publié dans notre édition du 12 juillet 2024, nous avons analysé les faiblesses du projet de loi et les différentes formules de financement convenables aux partis dans une démocratie parlementaire.

En particulier, nous avons critiqué les propositions outrageantes du gouvernement d'alors, dont celle ayant trait à des dépenses électorales de Rs 1 million par candidat et de Rs 1 million pour un parti dans une circonscription. Le plafond de dépenses proposé par candidat était alors largement supérieur au plafond de Rs 150 000 prévu dans la loi actuelle. Paradoxalement, le MSM viendra contester un excédent de dépenses de Rs 98 000 en vertu d'une conception legaliste de la loi. En matière d'hypocrisie, on ne fait pas mieux!

Nous espérons que le gouvernement aura le courage d'introduire une nouvelle loi sur le financement politique qui soit équitable, qui épargne les partis de toute influence ou emprise extérieure et qui permet des limites raisonnables des dépenses électorales. Il y va de la représentation démocratique de l'électorat.

Prakash Neerhoo



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

When will the real rains come?

In truth nobody knows with 100% certainty. One can only make projections, not predictions, about the weather, i.e. probabilistic estimates based on a literal slew of variables that keep changing from moment to moment. After all, that is why they are called variables I suppose! And a seemingly minimal change in one can have a major impact. For example, I've read that when a cyclone is forming over the ocean, a half a degree Celsius change on the surface of the latter can influence the cyclone's behaviour in a major way, and thus mess up any attempt at 'predicting' the course or size or wind speed or amount of rains associated with it, etc.

To cap it all, not all variables are known, the 'unknown unknowns', to use an expression popularised by US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld during the Iraq war. And as we know, the more that science advances, the more we realise that there may well be more such unknown unknowns waiting around the bend as it were. They are a complicating factor that add to the 'known knowns' and the 'unknown knowns' and make the limit of probability recede further.

Pity our meteo forecasters, for they have a very hard, risky task.

And to blame them for not 'predicting' a flash flood is indeed a most ungrateful expectation. This is what happened several years ago, in 2013 I think, when Port Louis was hit by a sudden mega-downpour that filled up the man-made Caudan basin with such a speed that people were caught unawares and had to run for their lives. A number of them unfortunately couldn't get away in time and were drowned. Others watched helplessly as the water rose up to dangerous levels in the underground parking and on the streets as they tried to scurry to safety, unsure where they were placing their next steps.

The then director of the Meteorological Services was forced to step down in what was later widely perceived to be a politically motivated coup. The irony is that there is some similarity between 'predicting' electoral poll results and the weather. How many times have we seen, around the world which includes our dot-size island, that the psephologists – magicians who juggle with factors influencing polls – have gone wrong, with the exact opposite of their predicted out-

come taking place! And yet no politician has ever blamed them or forced them out of a job.

Anywhere in the world, who can predict the *actual* - at a given time and place – weather, let alone of such a phenomenon as a flash flood. At best one can make an estimate of the condition(s) in a certain zone or region, but to do so for a micro-mini area like a city in an equally puny size of land like Mauritius??

One must be daft, really out of one's mind, to entertain such a feat. In the case of the Caudan flash flood, on the spur of the moment no one had given any thought to the multitude of factors – all due to human activity – that later were found to have contributed to the flooding. Such as all manner of solid waste thrown into the main canal running through Port Louis that drains into the sea, and that got clogged as a result; the extensive *betonisation* that the city had undergone over the years; inept planning of underground parking; the elimination of the undergrowth on the flanks of the surrounding hills and elevated areas by unbridled and unregulated age constructions that left paved or tarred lanes in between the houses, such that these lanes became rivers of rain water that flowed straight on to the highway and in turn became torrents furiously making their way to Caudan lying at the lower, sea level.

Increasingly, over the years, we have seen not only flash floods but other catastrophes such as earthquakes and droughts, cyclones, forest fires and extremes of cold weather creating havoc in major parts of countries across all continents. And all countries, large and small, advanced as well as underdeveloped and developing, have fallen victim to them. Floods in the Arabian deserts and in the Death Valley of California! Just a few days ago, not less than 200 earthquakes took place in a few hours in the Greek island of Santorini, forcing people to flee. As if that was not enough, there followed a volcanic eruption!

And so, when are we going to get the much-needed rains that we may soon be dying for if they don't come! And once again, there is no saying when and where around the island they will come. Not even in Curepipe, which is notorious for its *la grande saison de petites pluies* and *la petite saison de grandes pluies* - (literally: 'the long season of light rains, the short season of heavy rains'.

In fact, one could say that if there is any pattern at all, it's



Pic - Tictok

“Anywhere in the world, who can predict the *actual* - at a given time and place – weather, let alone of such a phenomenon as a flash flood. At best one can make an estimate of the condition(s) in a certain zone or region, but to do so for a micro-mini area like a city in an equally puny size of land like Mauritius?? One must be daft, really out of one's mind, to entertain such a feat. In the case of the Caudan flash flood, on the spur of the moment no one had given any thought to the multitude of factors – all due to human activity – that later were found to have contributed to the flooding. Such as all manner of solid waste thrown into the main canal running through Port Louis that drains into the sea, and that got clogged as a result; the extensive *betonisation* that the city ...”

“Increasingly, over the years, we have seen not only flash floods but other catastrophes such as earthquakes and droughts, cyclones, forest fires and extremes of cold weather creating havoc in major parts of countries across all continents. And all countries, large and small, advanced as well as underdeveloped and developing, have fallen victim to them. Floods in the Arabian deserts and in the Death Valley of California! Just a few days ago, not less than 200 earthquakes took place in a few hours in the Greek island of Santorini, forcing people to flee...”



Pic - reddit.com

that there is no pattern! Sometimes the rain falls here, sometimes there; sometimes the sky darkens and one is expecting a major roar and pour, but all you have is about 10 minutes of the precious liquid. Just enough to unnecessarily rinse your morning wash on the clothes line and make you let out a curse - since you are not in time to take them down!

The little mercy that the passing cyclone over the weekend – merely some light rain here and there - granted us only a few hours of cool on Monday morning, but we were soon sizzling in stifling heat and humidity again, and no sign of a let-up on the horizon.

Like the ancient mariner, we are not in a position to lament, 'water water everywhere, and not a drop to drink.'

As my Rector Bullen used to say during the morning Assembly at the Royal College Curepipe, in the 1960s, 'Let us pray.'

Vieillesse et Santé

Anne, ma sœur Anne... Y a-t-il des solutions pour soulager la population vieillissante à l'horizon?



Vina Ballgobin

L'île Maurice continue de vieillir. Au 1er juillet 2024, la population de la République de Maurice s'élevait à 1,259,509 (île Maurice – 1,213,974; île Rodrigues – 45,261; Agaléga et St Brandon – 274) avec une réduction de 1,532 (-0.12%) si l'on compare avec la population au 1er juillet 2023 (1). Force est d'accepter qu'il y aura de plus en plus de retraités et de personnes souffrant de maladies chez les 3e et 4e âges. Il fut un temps où l'on parlait d'un hôpital gériatrique mais la population mauricienne s'attendait-elle à la réalisation de ce projet tel un miracle? Évidemment non ! D'ailleurs, cet hôpital est resté un miroir de la décadence ambiante. Mis à part les problèmes de santé, les Seniors sont confrontés à plusieurs autres problèmes, demeurés invariablement stationnaires à ce jour.

Problèmes affectant le cerveau

Le problème principal concerne le manque d'information à propos des maladies affectant l'état de santé du Senior. On entend souvent parler de «maladie vieillissante» - c'est une sorte de fourre-tout pour indiquer que le Senior est parfois ou souvent ou toujours de mauvaise humeur ou neurasthénique, se plaint de tout et de rien, dit des choses parfois absurdes, raconte des histoires à dormir debout, a des hallucinations, entre autres.

Souvent les médecins ne mettent pas de nom sur le type de dégénérescence du cerveau de la personne âgée car ils ne sont que médecins généralistes ou cela coûterait trop cher à leur patient pour effectuer une batterie de tests auprès d'un spécialiste dans une institution privée. La plupart du temps, le commun des mortels cataloguera ainsi un Senior, et ce, dès le constat de troubles de mémoire et/ou de changement dans son comportement et/ou s'il se met à beaucoup parler de son enfance et de son passé: «C'est un Alzheimer».

Très récemment, quelques ONGs parlent aussi de «dementia» ou «démence» en la distinguant de «Alzheimer». (Il n'est jamais trop tard pour bien faire.) Toutefois, entretemps, à l'étranger, les chercheurs distinguaient 149 types de «dementia» et, désormais, certains types de troubles cognitifs plus légers sont catégorisés uniquement comme «cognitive impairment» (à des degrés divers «very mild», «mild», etc). Espérons que les ONG ne rateront pas le train cette fois...

Voyons la définition que donne le gouvernement du Canada au terme «démence».

«La démence est un terme générique pour désigner un ensemble de symptômes qui touchent les fonctions cérébrales. Il s'agit d'une condition chronique qui s'aggrave avec le temps et qui se caractérise souvent par:

■ un déclin:

- de la mémoire
- des capacités de planification
- du langage
- du jugement
- **des changements physiques, notamment:**
 - une perte de coordination
 - une perte de contrôle de la vessie
 - des muscles faibles et raides
- des difficultés à se tenir debout, à s'asseoir ou à marcher
- **des changements d'humeur et de comportement».**

Le même site indique que «[la] démence est incurable pour l'instant, mais certains traitements peuvent aider à soulager les symptômes chez certaines personnes et permettre d'améliorer leur qualité de vie. La condition n'est pas contagieuse.» (2)

Au Canada, le nombre de Seniors atteints de «démence» est en hausse dans le contexte de vieillissement de la population. Il y a eu une volonté réelle d'élaborer «une stratégie nationale sur la maladie d'Alzheimer et d'autres démences» (3). L'objectif était de circonscrire ces «maladies évolutives et dégénératives du cerveau» qui affectent l'autonomie d'un Senior, et de prévoir des solutions pour apaiser ses maux et améliorer la qualité de sa vie.

Parmi les solutions, figurent «le diagnostic précoce et le soutien au traitement» pour les Seniors mais aussi un cadre qui aurait «une incidence positive sur les proches et les amis qui leur prodiguent des soins» (3). En 2017, le gouvernement du Canada a décidé de rencontrer tous les acteurs concernés pour rendre moins difficile la vie des Seniors et, par ricochet, celle de leurs «aidants» («carers»).

Résumons les solutions envisagées pour chaque acteur concerné au Canada dans le cadre de la stratégie nationale:

- élaborer et diffuser des lignes directrices en matière de diagnostic clinique et de traitement fondées sur les résultats des



Pic - P - AHRCI

« Les expériences avec les aidants mauriciens (en excluant les exceptions) sont plutôt décourageantes... C'est une «scarcity area» à l'île Maurice... Les gens savent que les responsables des Seniors ne sont pas dans une position pour discuter des salaires et le paiement se négocie parfois par jour... Pour celui qui a des moyens financiers limités, le sacrifice est parfois énorme. Ainsi raconte une personne: «J'ai dû arrêter de travailler pour m'occuper de ma vieille maman. Le carer était trop souvent absent. Il fallait trouver une solution. Cela faisait moins d'argent pour le budget familial. Mais quoi faire d'autre?»

- évaluer et diffuser les pratiques exemplaires visant l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des personnes atteintes de démence et de leurs aidants, notamment en ce qui concerne l'intégration accrue des soins, la prévention et la gestion des maladies chroniques ainsi que la coordination des mesures de soutien et des soins de santé communautaires destinés à alléger le fardeau des familles;
- élaborer et diffuser, à l'intention des professionnels de la santé et de la population en général, des documents d'information traitant de l'importance de la prévention de la maladie d'Alzheimer et d'autres types de démences ainsi que de l'importance de l'intervention et de la prise en charge précoces;
- présenter des recommandations visant l'élaboration de lignes directrices nationales sur les normes en matière de soins destinées aux personnes atteintes de démence, qui s'inspirent des pratiques exemplaires fondées sur l'expérience clinique dans les domaines de la prestation de soins et de la

planification journalière axées sur les besoins de la personne.

Plus intéressant encore, le ministre de la Santé a constitué un Comité consultatif de 15 personnes «dont les compétences ou l'expérience sont utiles» et les membres du dit comité «ne reçoivent aucune rémunération pour l'exercice de leurs fonctions à ce titre» (3).

Problèmes liés au lieu de vie

À l'île Maurice, la liste officielle des maisons de retraite du ministère de l'Intégration sociale, de la Sécurité sociale et de la Solidarité nationale (division de la Sécurité sociale et de la Solidarité nationale) indique l'existence de 53 maisons de retraite, officiellement enregistrées sous la «Residential Care Homes Act» (4).

Imaginez quelqu'un qui, pour x raisons, doit trouver un «Home» pour y installer un Senior. En général, c'est un membre de la famille du Senior qui a ses propres responsabilités familiales et domestiques, et professionnelles. De surcroît, cette personne peut avoir des contraintes financières et vivre avec des préoccupations de santé physique ou mentale elle-même.

● Suite en page 12

Vieillesse et Santé

Anne, ma sœur Anne... Y a-t-il des solutions pour soulager la population vieillissante à l'horizon?

● Suite de la page 11

Voilà donc une personne qui doit contacter tant de «Homes» pour en trouver une susceptible d'accueillir le Senior...

C'est une tâche bien facile pour ceux qui peuvent vivre dans une maison de retraite huppée et luxueuse. Il paraît que les soins de santé et l'encadrement y sont impeccables. Tant mieux pour les privilégiés! Cela coûtait environ Rs70,000 par mois avant 2020. Quel est le prix mensuel pour habiter dans un tel endroit aujourd'hui?

Malheureusement, la majorité de la population n'a pas les moyens pour s'engager dans ce genre de dépenses. Donc, il faut passer un temps incroyable pour dénicher une maison de retraite convenable à un prix moyen (englobant souvent toute la retraite du Senior – pension vieillesse et pension du travail).

Certains pays développés proposent des logements qui conviennent aux Seniors. En Ecosse, il existe un système public très «elderly-friendly» que l'île Maurice ne pourra jamais égaler (ce jugement est personnel et n'engage que moi) ! Mais venons-en aux types de logements proposés là-bas (5).

● **Logements d'agrément («Amenity housing»)**: C'est un appartement ou une maison équipés avec le matériel nécessaire, entre autres, rampe de salle de bains, sol antidérapant, prises électriques repositionnées. Mais il n'y a pas de service de sécurité 24/7.

● **Appartements groupés («Cluster flats»)**: Le Senior possède une chambre individuelle mais partage les espaces communs avec d'autres Seniors. Une agence spécialisée fournit un soutien aux Seniors qui en ont besoin.

● **Logements avec soins (supplémentaires si nécessaire)**: Chaque Senior a un appartement adapté à ses besoins. Il est autonome dans la gestion de son appartement. Mais il bénéficie de la présence d'un personnel qui fournit un soutien de suivi médical et autres si nécessaire (réparations, maintenance, alarme, ...)

● **Logements adaptés («Sheltered housing»)** : Pour ceux qui ont un problème de santé physique ou mental, plusieurs aménagements les aident chaque jour (outre les autres facilités mentionnées ci-dessus, il existe aussi un service de lessive, un «lounge» et des facilités pour recevoir un invité). Il y a un «warden» et la possibilité d'appeler un service d'urgence 24/7.

● **Logements très adaptés («Very sheltered houses»)** : Outre les services déjà mentionnés, il y a la possibilité de faire appel à plus d'un «warden» et d'obtenir plus de

soutien et de supports. Il existe aussi un service de plats cuisinés.

● **Logements pour chaise roulante («Housing for wheelchair»)** : Ce logement est construit de manière à faciliter le déplacement du Senior. C'est plus spacieux, la dimension des portes est plus large, il y a des rampes d'accès, une salle de bains aménagée et des prises surélevées, entre autres.

● **Logements pour handicapés («Ambulant/Physically disabled»)** : Des facilités supplémentaires sont offertes pour aider le Senior souffrant de certaines incapacités physiques lourdes.

Au Canada, les types de logements proposés tiennent compte du degré d'autonomie des Seniors, pour les plus autonomes jusqu'aux moins autonomes (6).

● **Résidences autonomes**: Celles-ci offrent des appartements ou des «unités de vie» indépendantes. Plusieurs services sont offerts : sécurité 24/7, entretien ménager et activités sociales.

● **Résidences avec soins personnalisés**: Celles-ci offrent plusieurs services car le Senior a besoin d'une assistance tous les jours. Un personnel sur place aide le Senior pour sa toilette, sa douche, ses repas, par exemple. Il est aussi possible d'assurer la gestion des médicaments et la prise des doses comme il convient. Une sécurité 24/7 est garantie.

● **Résidences pour soins de longue durée** : Celles-ci offrent des soins médicaux et une assistance personnalisée 24/7 aux Seniors qui souffrent d'une maladie handicapante. Une sécurité 24/7 est assurée.

● **Résidences pour la mémoire**: Celles-ci offrent des activités de stimulation cognitive et personnalisent les traitements de chaque Senior. Une sécurité 24/7 est garantie.

● **Résidences en copropriété pour seniors**: Le Senior est propriétaire de son logement. Il reçoit plusieurs services personnalisés et adaptés à son âge et à son état de santé.

Le «Fonds pour le logement abordable», auparavant appelé le «Fonds national de co-investissement pour le logement», fait partie de la Stratégie nationale sur le logement du gouvernement du Canada. Les résultats sont concluants.

En 2024, l'honorable Sean Fraser, ministre du Logement, de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités a dit ce qui suit: «Ces nouveaux logements abordables feront une réelle différence dans la région de Dartmouth. Ils aideront à la fois à soutenir les aînés et les personnes ayant un dia-



Pic - Indian Express

« Beaucoup de «carers» ont plus de 60 ans et ne souhaitent pas être déclarés officiellement afin de ne pas payer de taxe sur les revenus... Une famille qui a vraiment besoin d'un aidant embauche dans ces conditions avec tous les risques que cela comporte... Mais il y a pire encore. C'est que le «carer», déclaré en bonne et due forme, connaît toutes les lois et les utilise à son avantage. Ainsi, tous les congés autorisés y passent, et parfois même plus. Comme il est si difficile de trouver un aidant en qui l'on peut avoir confiance, l'employeur se tait et laisse faire... »

gnostic de maladie mentale et à créer une collectivité plus forte et plus inclusive.» (7)

Tim Halman, ministre de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique de la Nouvelle-Écosse, au nom de John Lohr, ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement de la Nouvelle-Écosse a ajouté : «Avoir un logement sûr avec des services de soutien, c'est bien plus que quatre murs et un toit. Nous sommes heureux de participer à la création de collectivités inclusives et accueillantes où les gens peuvent prospérer, s'épanouir et se sentir en sécurité.» (7)

Problèmes liés à l'encadrement des Seniors

À l'île Maurice, les familles sont confrontées à des défis uniques quand il s'agit de trouver un «aidant» en temps normal. Cela devient plus difficile pour ceux qui sont à la recherche d'un «carer» pour encadrer le Senior atteint de troubles cognitifs divers.

Le Mauricien moyen procède par le bouche-à-oreille pour recruter un «carer». Il peut aussi contacter des agences (souvent ils sont en manque de personnel) ou des lieux de santé qui font des publicités en ligne. Cela prend un temps considérable pour élaborer une liste de «carers» potentiels. Ensuite, il faut faire passer les entre-

tiens, et cela peut durer au moins deux jours. Avant 2020, les salaires variaient entre Rs 450 (la personne cherche un emploi mais n'a aucune certification ou uniquement celle de l'école primaire) à Rs1,200 par jour (scolarisation au collège avec ou sans certification de SC ; aucune certification en soins aux personnes âgées ou si peu; expérience professionnelle avec quelques recommandations des familles ou non). Il est rare, sinon impossible, de trouver un «carer» possédant la certification et l'expérience professionnelle adéquates...

Beaucoup de «carers» ont plus de 60 ans et ne souhaitent pas être déclarés officiellement afin de ne pas payer de taxe sur les revenus... Une famille qui a vraiment besoin d'un aidant embauche dans ces conditions avec tous les risques que cela comporte...

Mais il y a pire encore. C'est que le «carer», déclaré en bonne et due forme, connaît toutes les lois et les utilise à son avantage. Ainsi, tous les congés autorisés y passent, et parfois même plus. Comme il est si difficile de trouver un aidant en qui l'on peut avoir confiance, l'employeur se tait et laisse faire.

Vina Ballgobin
● Suite en page 13

Viellissement et Santé

Anne, ma sœur Anne... Y a-t-il des solutions pour soulager la population vieillissante à l'horizon?

• Suite de la page 12

Par conséquent, le membre de la famille, responsable du Senior, doit calquer ses absences sur son lieu de travail sur celles du «carer», et il y en a beaucoup par mois... Au niveau de la productivité au travail, dans le moyen terme, il y a définitivement une baisse de qualité...

Quoiqu'il en soit, la personne responsable d'un Senior n'a aucune aide d'un ministère ou d'une ONG quelconque pour s'orienter dans les labyrinthes de l'encadrement d'un Senior. Comment s'y prendre pour recruter un «carer» qui conviendrait au Senior ? Les publicités de plusieurs agences ne reflètent absolument pas la réalité : la formation des «carers» semble lacunaire, parfois le comportement du «carer» lui-même est difficile à supporter... Où sont les sites qui donnent accès aux informations sur les différentes catégories de «carers» et les salaires? Où en est la sensibilisation du public?

Il paraît que c'est hors de la portée de tout le monde de recruter un employé étranger... On a tendance à décourager cette pratique pour avoir moins de chômeurs localement. Malheureusement, les expériences avec les aidants mauriciens (en excluant les exceptions) sont plutôt décourageantes... C'est une «scarcity area» à l'île Maurice... Les gens savent que les responsables des Seniors ne sont pas dans une position pour discuter des salaires et le paiement se négocie parfois par jour...

Pour celui qui a des moyens financiers limités, le sacrifice est parfois énorme. Ainsi raconte une personne: «J'ai dû arrêter de travailler pour m'occuper de ma vieille maman. Le carer était trop souvent absent. Il fallait trouver une solution. Cela faisait moins d'argent pour le budget familial. Mais quoi faire d'autre?»

Parfois, c'est plus difficile pour le Senior lui-même, raconte une autre personne avec regret. «Il faut que je travaille. J'ai des enfants. Il y a l'école et les leçons à payer. Alors nous nous partageons la garde de ma belle-maman entre frères et sœurs. Quand elle est chez moi, je m'occupe d'elle le matin. Je lui mets une couche. Je rentre vers 18h. Elle m'attend patiemment pour le changement de couche. Je lui laisse de la nourriture et de l'eau sur une table à côté du lit. Elle doit se débrouiller. Heureusement, elle est très gentille et ne me dit rien...»

Par ailleurs, lorsque le Senior vit seul dans son appartement ou dans sa maison, il doit s'occuper de petits soucis comme un robinet qui fuit, un circuit électrique ou une machine à laver défectueuse, un jardin à entretenir, ... Là encore, c'est un parcours du combattant pour trouver des réparateurs aujourd'hui. Ne parlons pas des charlatans et autres voleurs. Les sites pour contacter ces professionnels fonctionnent rarement. D'autres fois, quelqu'un rentre en contact avec le membre de la famille du Senior plusieurs mois plus tard.

Parlons aussi des coupures d'eau et le fait de devoir faire des aménagements pour soulager le Senior car il ne peut pas remplir des seaux d'eau et les porter en autonomie, ... Tout le fardeau retombe de facto sur la personne responsable du Senior.

De plus, cette dernière a peu de temps pour s'occuper de trouver des loisirs adaptés pour le Senior, qui souvent ne veut plus quitter le lieu d'habitation à cause d'une mobilité de



« À l'île Maurice, les familles sont confrontées à des défis uniques quand il s'agit de trouver un «aidant» en temps normal. Le Mauricien moyen procède par le bouche-à-oreille pour recruter un «carer». Il peut aussi contacter des agences (souvent ils sont en manque de personnel) ou des lieux de santé qui font des publicités en ligne. Cela prend un temps considérable pour élaborer une liste de «carers» potentiels. Ensuite, il faut faire passer les entretiens, et cela peut durer au moins deux jours. Avant 2020, les salaires variaient entre Rs 450 (la personne cherche un emploi mais n'a aucune certification ou uniquement celle de l'école primaire) à Rs1,200 par jour (scolarisation au collège avec ou sans certification de SC; aucune certification en soins aux personnes âgées ou si peu; expérience professionnelle avec quelques recommandations des familles ou non)... »

plus en plus réduite. Les statistiques indiquent que 9.8% de femmes et 7.7% d'hommes éprouvent des difficultés pour exécuter des tâches quotidiennes, et cela, augmente avec l'âge. (8)

Pour conclure

La population mauricienne a eu droit à toutes sortes de slogans «Bizin sanzman», «Sanzman pe vini», «Vote sanzman», «Bizin vrai sanzman» et j'en passe. La vérité est différente: plus les gouvernements changent, plus ils se ressemblent. Les nouveaux élus commencent par critiquer l'ancien gouvernement, les ministres font quelques visites surprises ici et là pour marquer les esprits. Et ensuite, la population observe inexorablement leur danse dans un lac d'immobilisme inouï et un marécage de corruption, et ce, jusqu'aux élections suivantes...

La population pourra-t-elle compter sur ce gouvernement du «énième sanzman»? Ou les ministres et autres élus s'intéresseront-ils uniquement à effectuer des visites dans quelques maisons de retraite sélectionnées et offrir un briani aux Seniors pour passer dans les médias? Et ensuite, se cantonneront-ils à leur rôle de siéger au Parlement de temps à autre pour poser une question (parfois une seule question pendant un mandat de cinq ans en retour d'un salaire mirobolant et de succulents repas au frais du peuple mauricien)? Ou effectueront-ils un voyage à l'île de la Réunion (singant la nouvelle technique inaugurée par la Junior Minister de l'Environnement) pour comprendre comment fonctionne une maison de retraite et reviendront-ils au pays pour faire entendre ce que la population sait déjà?

L'absence d'information en amont entrave la capacité à

fournir des soins et un soutien appropriés à la population vieillissante. Il se trouve que tout reste à faire en ce qui concerne le dépistage des maladies comme la démence à l'île Maurice, probablement par manque de spécialistes du domaine, et ne parlons pas de la surcharge de travail du personnel hospitalier dans l'état actuel des choses (mais nous n'aborderons pas ici le cas du «Early Dementia Diagnosis Clinic (EDDC) opérant depuis 2018 à l'hôpital Victoria).

Pourtant, la démence peut affecter un individu vers la cinquantaine ou même avant... Les options de logement adaptées aux besoins spécifiques des Seniors sont extrêmement limitées; la recherche d'un logement convenable pour les personnes âgées est une tâche ardue, en particulier pour ceux qui ont des moyens financiers limités. Le recrutement d'aidants qualifiés et fiables auprès d'agences de placement est un défi majeur. Le processus de recrutement informel comporte ses propres risques. De plus, il n'existe pas de système de soutien adéquat pour le membre de la famille responsable d'un Senior.

Pour faciliter les recherches et la prise de décision pour se rendre dans une maison de retraite ou soutenir le Senior à domicile, la population (plus particulièrement le responsable d'un Senior) pourra-t-elle compter sur quelques ministères de ce gouvernement qui travailleraient en synergie afin de (i) définir un système efficace avec des catégories de logement bien établies pour mieux loger les Seniors (ii) élaborer une liste d'ouvriers spécialisés par catégorie – robinetterie, électricité, entretien du jardin, peinture, etc., et les prix par type de travail effectué (iii) diffuser des informations

fiables sur le recrutement de «Carers» étrangers sans risque de se faire arnaquer? (iv) améliorer la palette de loisirs pour les Seniors, y compris à la télévision?

Et les associations socioculturelles dans tout cela? Vont-elles s'engager pour faire pression sur le gouvernement afin qu'il prenne des mesures concrètes dans ce sens, ou vont-elles uniquement continuer à demander de nettoyer les lieux de prière avant chaque fête et ensuite briller par leur silence?

Il est permis de rêver à des jours meilleurs...

(1) Statistics Mauritius

(2) <https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-publique/services/maladies/demence.html>

(3) <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/fr/lois/N-16.75/TexteCompleto.html>

(4) <https://socialsecurity.govmu.org/socialsecurity/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Private-Homes-List-updated-20.10.2023.pdf>

(5) <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/housing-homeless/supported-sheltered-housing>

(6) <https://www.placessenior.com/blog/conseils-residences-services/les-differents-types-residences-pour-seniors-canada>

(7) <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/salle-de-presse/news-releases/2024/nouveaux-logement-abordables-logements-personnes-agees-crees-dartmouth>

(8) Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity. (2023). NATIONAL INTEGRATED CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE (ICOPE) STRATEGIC AND ACTION PLAN 2022 – 2026, WHO & Republic of Mauritius.

Note : Dans le présent document, les termes employés pour désigner des personnes sont pris au sens générique; ils ont à la fois valeur d'un féminin et d'un masculin.

Vina Ballgobin

Paragon cuts ties with Italy over alleged misuse of spyware technology

Israeli spyware maker Paragon has terminated its dealings with Italy and disconnected Italian clients from its military-grade surveillance technology, Graphite, following reports that the intrusive tool was misused to target government critics in a possible human rights abuse case.

The decision came amid allegations reported by WhatsApp on Friday that the software — capable of hacking into encrypted smartphones — was employed to breach the accounts of nearly 100 journalists and civil society activists. Among these, three individuals were reportedly vocal critics of the current Italian far-right regime led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, according to PTI.

Paragon, which works exclusively with state entities such as the Israeli security establishment and the FBI, provides hacking capabilities through its spyware Graphite. This is the first instance where the company — recently acquired by an American defense contractor — has been linked to potential misuse of its technology.

The controversy comes on the heels of similar global scrutiny directed at Israeli technology firm NSO Group, whose controversial spyware Pegasus has faced allegations of misuse. NSO has maintained that its products are strictly used by government clients to target terrorists and serious criminals.

Israeli firms have developed advanced spyware that can infect a target's mobile phone, allowing operators to



Israeli spyware firm blocks Italy following reports of misuse. Pic - Republic

eavesdrop on conversations, read encrypted messages, access contacts and files, and even monitor surroundings via the device's camera and microphone.

Paragon serves several European clients, including two Italian agencies — a law enforcement body and an intelligence organization. Following the recent revelations, Paragon demanded that Italy provide details regarding the alleged hacking. In response, the two Italian clients were disconnected from Graphite at the start of the week.

On Wednesday, the Italian government issued a statement denying the allegations and asserting that no targeting of journalists had occurred. The statement also noted that the telephone numbers involved were

associated not only with Italy but with several other European countries, including Belgium, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden—thereby indirectly listing other Paragon clients in the EU.

Despite this explanation, Paragon's US owners and Israeli management decided not to reinstate the Italian clients' access and to terminate all ties with Italy immediately. As reported by The Guardian on Thursday, a spokesperson suggested, "One possible explanation is that Paragon believes the Italians are not being forthright, as the company can review client usage of its system when there are credible concerns of misuse or violations of its so-called 'end user agreement.'"

Spyware such as Graphite and Pegasus was originally developed for counterterrorism and serious crime prevention — offenses that, under Israeli defense export laws, carry a minimum sentence of six years. Sources familiar with offensive cyber exports indicated that if one of Paragon's Italian clients indeed used the spyware to hack devices belonging to journalists or political activists, it would constitute a breach of both Israeli export regulations and the company's contractual terms. In such cases, Paragon would demand an explanation from the client, who would then need to justify the breach or risk losing its license and access to the system.

Gaza residents stand firm amid storm and controversial Trump announcement



Palestinians make their way along a road on a rainy day, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Gaza City. Pic - Reuters

A severe winter storm battered the Gaza Strip in the early hours of Thursday, with heavy winds and torrential rains flooding tents and ripping away the plastic sheeting that once sealed makeshift homes. Despite the physical devastation, local residents remain defiant in the face of political upheaval.

U.S. President Donald Trump recently announced plans to seize the Gaza enclave and expel its residents — a move that, rather than prompting flight, has only strengthened the locals' resolve to stay. "Despite the tragedy we are living, despite the rain and the very bad weather, people are staying under no roof," said Qassem Abu Hassoun, speaking from the ruined outskirts of Rafah in southern Gaza. Having returned to their destroyed home after a ceasefire was declared on January 19, his family now has no plans to leave.

On the night following Trump's announcement, the storm forced families from their sleep, shredding makeshift tents constructed from plastic and cloth.

Residents were seen bailing water out of their homes in small pots, yet their determination remained unshaken.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz has ordered the army to prepare a plan for the "voluntary departure" of Gaza's residents, with exit options reportedly including land crossings and special arrangements for sea and air departures. However, many locals reject these proposals outright.

"It seems even the weather is against us, but neither the weather, nor Trump, nor Israel will eject us from our land," said Abdel Ghani, a father of four living in the ruins of his Gaza City home destroyed by previous military action. "Is he nuts? We will not sell our land for you, real estate developer. We are hungry, homeless, and desperate but we are not collaborators. If he wants to help, let him come and rebuild for us here."

The storm's fury coincided with growing tensions over displacement — a highly sensitive issue in the Middle East, where forced relocation under military occupation is considered a war crime under the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Hamas official Basem Naim dismissed Katz's plan as an attempt to mask Israel's failure to achieve its objectives in the ongoing conflict.

Since the deadly Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 — which resulted in significant casualties and hostages — the region has seen relentless military action. More than 47,000 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the past 16 months, according to Gaza's health ministry, with widespread accusations of genocide and war crimes leveled at Israel.

Amid this backdrop of political strife and physical devastation, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced Palestinians are returning to their homes across Gaza. For many, the decision is clear: their attachment to the land remains unbreakable, even in the face of natural disasters, political turmoil, and the looming threat of forced displacement.

Which countries have banned DeepSeek AI, the Chinese answer to ChatGPT?

DeepSeek came in and shook the artificial intelligence (AI) industry all over the world, and by the looks of it, some governments too. It was seen as China's answer to ChatGPT. In a matter of days of its AI chatbot going viral, the Chinese startup finds itself at the crosshairs of several regulators.

In India, the ministry of finance has banned the use of DeepSeek by its employees, joining several government agencies across the world to do so. A growing list of nations have either fully or partially banned the use of DeepSeek within their borders. While some have banned their government employees from using the AI chatbot, others have extended the curbs to private citizens as well, reports Hindustan Times.

Several countries have imposed bans or restrictions on DeepSeek AI. Notably:

- **Italy:** Italy was the first country to impose a full ban on DeepSeek AI. The platform has been removed from app stores after Italy's Data Protection Authority raised concerns about how the startup handles user data.

- **Taiwan:** Taiwan has banned DeepSeek AI for use by all public sector organizations, including public schools, state-owned enterprises, and institutions managing critical infrastructure. This measure is driven by concerns over cross-border data transmission and information security.

- **Australia:** The Australian government has prohibited its government employees from using DeepSeek AI. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke announced the ban, citing national security risks, although the restriction does not extend to personal devices.

- **India:** In India, the Ministry of Finance has banned the use of DeepSeek AI by its employees, adding India to the growing list of nations imposing limitations on the platform.

While this ban does not apply to personal devices, Burke urged Australians to be cautious about their online data usage and to protect their digital privacy.

Nationwide protests in US erupt over Trump's policies, Project 2025, and Elon Musk

Across the United States, demonstrators are taking to the streets to protest early actions taken by the Trump administration. Rallying under hashtags like #buildtheresistance and #50501 — representing “50 protests, 50 states, one day” — citizens in cities from Philadelphia to Sacramento are decrying policies that include an aggressive immigration crackdown, rollbacks of transgender rights, and proposals to forcibly relocate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Protesters are also voicing their alarm over billionaire Elon Musk's new role heading the Department of Government Efficiency and his access to sensitive Treasury Department data.

In cities nationwide, demonstrators waved signs denouncing President Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and the hard-right blueprint known as Project 2025, which outlines a radical vision for American governance and society. Margaret Wilmeth, speaking outside the Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, expressed her dismay:

“I'm appalled by democracy's changes in the last, well, specifically two weeks — but it started a long time ago. So I'm just trying to put a presence into resistance.”

Outside the state Capitol in Lansing, Michigan, hundreds of protesters gathered in freezing temperatures. Catie Miglietti from the Ann Arbor area voiced concern over Musk's control over Treasury data, displaying a



Protesters hold placards and chant during a 50501 Movement protest against Project 2025 and the executive orders of U.S. President Donald Trump, at the Tennessee State Capitol building in Nashville, Tennessee. Pic - CNBC

sign that depicted Musk manipulating Trump like a puppet — a reference to Musk's controversial straight-arm gesture during a January speech that some critics likened to a Nazi salute.

“If we don't stop it and get Congress to do something, it's an attack on democracy,” she declared.

In Jefferson City, Missouri, demonstrators questioned Musk's role further, with one poster reading, “DOGE is not legit. Why does Elon have your Social Security info??” Lawmakers have expressed concerns that Musk's connection with the U.S. government payment system could pose security risks or disrupt benefits like Social Security and Medicare. A Treasury Department official clarified that a tech executive working with DOGE would

only have “read-only access.”

Since assuming office, President Trump has signed a series of executive orders addressing trade, immigration, and climate change, among other issues. As Democrats mobilize against his agenda, protests have surged. In Austin, Texas, demonstrators marched through downtown; in Atlanta, crowds assembled at Centennial Olympic Park before marching to the state Capitol; and in Phoenix, protesters chanted “deport Elon” while affirming that “immigrants are welcome here.”

Laura Wilde, a former public school occupational therapist in Austin, emphasized the need for collective strength:

“We need to show strength. I think we're in a state of shock.”

In Alabama, hundreds rallied outside the Statehouse to protest measures targeting LGBTQ people. This comes as Governor Kay Ivey vowed to sign legislation declaring only two sexes—mirroring Trump's executive order defining sex as solely male or female. Rev. Julie Conrady, a Unitarian Universalist minister addressing the crowd, declared:

“The president thinks he has a lot of power. He does not have the power to determine your gender. He does not have the power to define your identity.”

As protests continue to spread across the nation, demonstrators remain resolute in their fight to safeguard democracy and protect the rights of all citizens against what they perceive as an overreach by Trump's administration and its key allies.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and son Hamza acquitted in sugar mills corruption case

In a significant legal victory, a Pakistani court on Thursday acquitted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in an eight-year-old corruption case related to the Ramzan Sugar Mills, after the complainant disassociated himself from the allegations.

Anti-Corruption Court Judge Sardar Muhammad Iqbal announced the verdict, which had been reserved earlier this week. According to a court official, “An Anti-Corruption Court of Lahore today acquitted PM Shehbaz Sharif and his son, former Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz, in the Ramzan Sugar Mills corruption case after the complainant disassociated himself from the case.”

The turning point came when complainant Zulfiqar Ali informed the court that he neither filed the complaint against the

Sharifs nor was aware of the application on which the case had been initiated. This revelation led to the dismissal of the charges.

A political observer commented on the decision, suggesting that the incident reflected a broader pattern: “The complainant's statement shows how the military establishment frames politicians in different cases when they are confronting it and once they are on its side or in its good books such cases are reversed within no time.”

The case originally dates back to 2018 when the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) filed charges against Shehbaz and Hamza Sharif. They were accused of causing a loss of over PKR 200 million to the national exchequer by allegedly misusing their authority. It was claimed that,



PM Shehbaz Sharif (left) and his son and senior PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz. Pic - APP

while serving as Punjab Chief Minister, Shehbaz Sharif had issued a directive for the construction of a drain in the Chiniot district that primarily benefited the Ramzan Sugar Mills, owned by Hamza and his younger brother Suleman.

Both Shehbaz and Hamza Sharif were arrested in 2018 and 2019, respectively, though they were later granted bail by the Lahore High Court. The defence counsel argued that the case was “politically motivated.” Following the change in government with Imran Khan's departure in 2022, the prosecution had virtually ceased pursuing the case, setting the stage for the eventual acquittal.

This latest verdict marks a significant milestone for the Sharif family, effectively closing a long-standing chapter in a case that has been widely perceived as emblematic of Pakistan's ongoing political struggles.

Anti-Indian hate on X surges, US think-tank report finds

A new analysis by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for the Study of Organized Hate (CSOH) reveals a dramatic spike in anti-Indian hate posts on X (formerly Twitter) over the past month. The study, which examined 128 posts, found that hateful content surged between December 22, 2024, and January 3, 2025 — coinciding with two high-profile events: the appointment of Indian-American business leader Sriram Krishnan as White House Senior Policy Advisor for AI on December 22, and a controversial post by Vivek Ramaswamy on December 26 declaring, “Our American culture has venerated mediocrity over excellence for way too long.”

The CSOH report highlights that several posts challenging X's hateful conduct policies were allowed to remain online. Democratic Congressman Shri Thanedar has also raised concerns over escalating Hinduphobic

behavior on the platform, supporting a bipartisan bill aimed at addressing the issue, according to Hindustan Times.

A notable finding of the report is that much of the anti-Indian rhetoric appears to stem from resentment toward the H-1B visa system, which enables skilled immigrants — including many Indians — to live and work in the United States. Both Krishnan and Ramaswamy have publicly supported the H-1B program, adding another layer to the contentious debate.

Far-right figures, including Laura Loomer, opposed Krishnan's appointment, arguing that it conflicted with the nativist “America First” principle. Loomer criticized the move on the grounds that Krishnan had advocated for removing green card caps and for allocating STEM jobs to immigrants, jobs she believed should belong solely to Americans. Co-author Deeksha Udupa noted, “There is this greater narrative of the Great Replacement Theory, which claims that immigrants will come and take your job,

and the only person ‘deserving’ of that job is a white American.”

Udupa further emphasized, “This is a moment when we are realizing that it doesn't matter how you come here... you will not fit into Trump's America.”

The report also states that the attacks are not solely directed at Hindus; they target anyone perceived as being of Indian origin, including members of the Sikh community. The documented posts depicted Indian immigrants as an “invasion,” perpetuated negative stereotypes about their hygiene, and even used slurs such as “curry” and “pajeet.” Some of these posts have been categorized under “restricted monetization,” indicating that the creators were able to generate revenue from their hateful content.

“Hate sells. At least for X, its business model has basically incentivized hate speech. Because it is not the quality or content that is privileged, it's views, reach, visibility, and engagement,” Udupa concluded.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

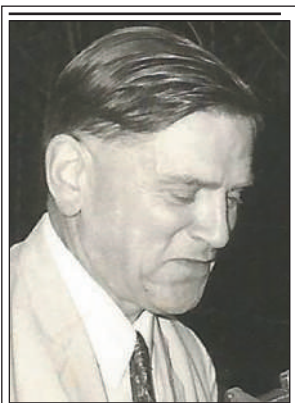
7th Year No 294

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 15 April, 1960

• *Common souls pay with what they do; nobler souls, with what they are. — Emerson*

Give Mauritius More Technical Education



Peter Ibbotson

The development program outlined in the Sessional Paper accompanying the recent speech from the Throne, disrupted (but not abandoned) by the cumulative effects of cyclones Alix and Carol, indicates the country's growing "plan-mindedness." Development and progress require planning, ensuring various desirable advances don't compete for scarce resources. This increased "plan-mindedness" stems

from the rise of the Mauritius Labour Party, culminating in their 1959 general election victory, the first under universal adult suffrage. The Labour Party's contribution to the country's "plan-mindedness" mirrors the People's National Party's (PNP) influence in Jamaica. (The PNP, Jamaica's Socialist Party, is affiliated with the Socialist International.) The PNP's 1955 election victory led to the establishment of "a permanent and continuing planning outlook and machinery," as George Cadbury (formerly United Nations Advisor on Economic Planning to the Government of Jamaica) noted in this month's 'Venture' – organ of the Fabian Commonwealth Bureau. The same could be said of the Mauritius Labour Party.

The PNP planned, among other things, the country's educational development. This is also being planned in Mauritius; the present Minister has at heart the true welfare of the nation's children and the desire to secure the country's future. Educational planning is crucial for the orderly development of educational facilities; in the past, there has been wasteful and often duplicated expenditure of educational effort, not always in the best interests of schools or the country.

In 'Venture', Mr Cadbury outlines the four cardinal principles underpinning the PNP's educational plans. I quote them fully because they are general principles underlying educational plans in any underdeveloped territory, especially a dependent territory striving for self-government, and should be understood by the general public and responsible Ministers. Mr Beejadhur and his colleagues know what they want and how to achieve it; their ideas on educational progress for Mauritius command the utmost respect and applause.

Here are the four principles of educational planning: "Firstly, that education is a vital element in economic as well as social advance, no longer a wholly welfare expenditure but an investment in a country's major resources, its human beings; secondly, education is the preparation for all types of eventual activity from the inculcation of the habits of regularity and conscientious work essential to high productivity in the lowest levels of the labour force, to the intellectual training of the scientist, managers or senior civil servants who must make the policy decisions; thirdly, education is the ladder up which ability can climb irrespective of wealth or parenthood and, fourthly, education at its minimum provides the ability to read and write which is an essential pre-requisite to a democratically organised community."

The logical conclusion of these four principles – which



P - cle.nyc

underlie the program of educational progress in Mauritius envisioned by the present Minister and his colleagues – is free and compulsory primary and secondary education for all. But Mauritius (like Jamaica) lacks the necessary resources for such a reform, so the principles must be applied within available resources and the general framework of educational and social advance.

Jamaica's first priority was five years of primary education for all. As I showed in a recent article, there is considerable wastage in the primary schools of many colonies; few who enrol in class I complete the full primary course. Compulsory primary education in Mauritius would have been introduced sooner, had it not been for the disastrous cyclones. Nonetheless, it remains the most important long-term educational reform planned by the present government.

Nearly as important is the plan for extra secondary education in comprehensive, or 'all-purpose,' secondary schools, starting at Beau-Bassin and extending to rural areas. These schools will provide technical and academic education; when these two complementary facets of secondary education are given equal importance in the same school, the status of the technical school pupil will rise, benefiting the community. In Mauritius, secondary education still means grammar school education, and higher education means university education.

Mauritius has 123 students at UK universities, but only 72 at UK technical colleges. Other dependent ter-

ritories tell a different story. British Guiana: 115 at universities, 140 at technical colleges; Somaliland, 10 and 40; Cyprus, 169 and 416; Hong Kong 237 and 258; Nigeria, 879 and 1,311; North Borneo and Sarawak, 10 and 22; Sierra Leone, 112 and 138; Uganda, 158 and 297; Trinidad, 166 and 164. These colonies, aspiring to or having achieved self-government, realize it alone cannot achieve everything. Social and economic advance needs technicians and technologists; but too many Mauritians overlook this, assuming that becoming doctors, dentists, or lawyers assures their place in the new Mauritius. Given the current mindset of many Mauritians contemplating higher education in the UK, I add

a fifth principle to Mr Cadbury's four: "Technical education, at both school and college level, is essential to any society aspiring to major economic and social advance."

Mr Beejadhur realizes this; do his critics? If not, it is high time they did. Greater provision of technical education is the biggest single step forward in secondary education in present-day Mauritius.

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

- By cheque drawn to the order of **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**. Kindly post the cheque to our postal address as above.
- Via MCB Juice to the following Phone No **5 782 9861**.
- 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

Naughty or Nice?

Parents use threats and bribes to manage misbehaviour

When young children misbehave, many parents rely on threats or bribes to encourage better behavior. A national poll suggests that one in four parents of preschool-aged children have warned their child that Santa — or their holiday gifts — might not come if they don't behave.

According to the University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health, threats like these are common among parents of children ages 3 to 5. In addition to Santa-related warnings, many parents have threatened to leave an activity, take away toys, or withhold dessert to manage their child's behavior. Nearly half have admitted to using bribes to gain short-term compliance.

Are these strategies effective?

Dr. Susan Woolford, M.D., a pediatrician and co-director of the Mott Poll, warns that while discipline is crucial for teaching children right from wrong, empty threats can backfire.

"Discipline helps young children learn what behaviors are safe and appropriate," Woolford said. "But empty threats can undermine trust and credibility. Positive reinforcement and consistent discipline are far more effective in shaping long-term behavior."

The challenge of consistency in discipline

The poll, which surveyed 725 parents of children ages 1 to 5, found that while half of parents believe they are very

consistent in disciplining their child, many struggle with maintaining that consistency.

The biggest challenges parents reported include:

- Their child being too young to understand consequences
- Discipline strategies not always working
- The need to prevent a public tantrum

Additionally, nearly one in four parents admitted they sometimes react out of frustration, forget their discipline strategies in the heat of the moment, or are simply too exhausted to enforce rules consistently.

"Consistency in discipline requires planning and patience, which can be difficult when parents are tired or overwhelmed," Woolford said. "Having a clear strategy and ensuring both parents are aligned can help provide children with clear expectations and prevent mixed messages."

Where do parents get advice on discipline?

The poll also explored where parents turn for guidance on disciplining their children. The most common sources included:

- The child's other parent
- Family and friends
- Parenting books, articles, and social media

However, fewer than one in five parents reported discussing discipline strategies with a healthcare provider. One in eight admitted they haven't given much thought to their approach at all.

Some parents also admitted to using discipline methods that experts advise against. Two in five said they sometimes spank their child, despite research linking spanking to increased aggression and defiance in preschoolers and school-aged children.

"Parents should avoid discipline tactics that may seem effective in the short term but have negative long-term effects," Woolford cautioned. "The best strategies are age-appropriate and support healthy emotional and behavioral development."

What works best? Age-appropriate discipline strategies

For toddlers (ages 1 to 2), distraction and redirection are the most effective discipline techniques. At this age, children are naturally curious, and their behavior is rarely intentional misbehavior. The poll found that parents of toddlers were more likely to use redirection rather than punishment.

By age 2, children begin to understand that their actions can cause reactions from others. Parents of preschoolers (ages 3 to 5) reported using warnings, firm language, and timeouts more frequently.

Woolford advises that during the preschool years, discipline should focus on logical consequences. For example, if a child spills a drink in anger, an appropriate response would be to have them clean up the mess — rather than imposing an unrelated punishment like taking away a toy.

"Consequences should be immediate so children clearly associate them with their misbehavior," she explained.

Because children respond differently to discipline, Woolford encourages parents to remain flexible.

"As children grow, their responses to discipline will change, so parents should adapt their strategies accordingly," she said. "Balancing correction with positive reinforcement—such as praise and rewards — helps children develop self-esteem while learning from their mistakes."



Why does it hurt when you get a scrape? A neuroscientist explains the science of pain

Pain is unpleasant, but it does have a purpose.

Nobody likes to feel pain, but it's something every person will experience at some point in their life.

But why is that?

I am a neuroscientist, and my job is to research why and how people feel pain in order to help doctors understand how to treat it better.

What is pain?

To understand why people feel pain, it helps first to understand what pain is. Pain is the unpleasant sensation you feel when your body is experiencing harm, or thinks it is.

Not everyone experiences pain the same way. Pain is a highly personal experience influenced by a variety of biological, psychological and social factors. For example, research has shown differences in the pain experiences of women and men, young and older people, and even across people from different cultures.

Danger signals

A network of nerves similar to wires runs all through the human body, from the tips of your fingers and toes, through your back inside the spinal cord and up to your brain. Specialized pain receptors called nociceptors can be found at the end of the nerves on your skin, muscles, joints and internal organs.

Each nociceptor is designed to activate



Why do people have to feel pain when they get injured?
jackscoldsweat/E+ vi Getty Images

its nerve if it detects a danger signal. One way scientists classify nociceptors is based on the type of danger signal that activates them.

Mechanical nociceptors respond to physical damage, such as cuts or pressure, while thermal nociceptors react to extreme temperatures. Chemical nociceptors are triggered by chemicals that the body's own tissues release when they are damaged. These receptors may also be triggered by external irritants, such as the chemical capsaicin, which gives chili peppers their heat. This is why eating spicy food can cause you pain.

Finally, there are the nociceptors that are activated by a combination of various triggers. For example, one of these receptors in your skin could be activated by the poke of a sharp object, the cold of an ice

pack, the heat from a mug of cocoa, a chemical burn from household bleach, or a combination of all three kinds of stimulation.

How pain travels through the body

When you fall and get a scrape, the mechanical nociceptors in your skin spring into action. As soon as you hit the ground, they activate an electrical signal that travels through the nearby nerves to the spinal cord and up to your brain. Your brain interprets these signals to locate the place in your body that is hurting and determine how intense the pain is.

Your brain knows that a pain signal is an SOS message from your body that something isn't right. So it activates multiple systems all at once to get you out of danger and help you survive.

Your brain may call on other parts of your nervous system to release chemicals called endorphins that will reduce your pain. It may tell your endocrine system to release hormones that prepare your body to handle the stress of your fall by increasing your heart rate, for example. And it may order your immune system to send special immune cells to the site of your scrape to help manage swelling and heal your skin.

As all of this is happening, your brain takes in information about where you are in the world so that you can respond accordingly. Do you need to move away from something hurting you? Did you fall in the

middle of the road and now need to get out of the way of moving cars?

Not only is your brain working to keep you safe in the moments after your fall, it also is looking ahead to how it can prevent this scenario from happening again. The pain signals from your fall activate parts of your brain called the hippocampus and anterior cingulate cortex that process memory and emotions. They will help you remember how bad falling made you feel so that you will learn how to avoid it in the future.

But why do we need to feel pain?

As this example shows, pain is like a warning signal from your body. It helps protect you by telling you when something is wrong so that you can stop doing it and avoid getting hurt more.

In fact, it's a problem if you can't feel pain. Some people have a genetic mutation that changes the way their nociceptors function and do not feel pain at all. This can be very dangerous, because they won't know when they're hurt.

Ultimately, feeling that scrape and the pain sensation from it helps keep you safe from harm.

Yenisei Cruz-Almeida

Associate Professor & Associate Director, Pain Research & Intervention Center Of Excellence, University of Florida



The Mysterious Stamp

A couple, expecting their first child, made their first doctor's visit.

After a thorough checkup, the doctor placed a small stamp on the wife's stomach with indelible ink.

Curious, the couple wondered what the stamp was for.

When they got home, the husband used a magnifying glass to examine it.

In tiny letters, the stamp read: "When you can read this, come back and see me."

The School Report Card Joke

One evening, a mother entered her daughter's room to find it empty. As she looked around, she found a letter on the bed. With trembling hands and a terrible sense of foreboding, she read:

"Dear Mum,

Please don't be cross, but I eloped with my new boyfriend. I finally found real love, and he is really nice, Mum, with all his piercings and tattoos and his big motorbike. Not only that, I'm pregnant, and he says we're going to be really happy in his cave in the hills. He wants me to have lots more children, and you know that's one of my wishes too. He also taught me that marijuana doesn't hurt anyone, and we're going to grow it for us and his friends, who will pay us by giving us all the cocaine and ecstasy we'll ever need. We'll pray every day for scientists to find a cure for the addiction gene so that he can get better. He deserves it.

"Don't worry, Mum, I'm fourteen years old now, and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'll pay a visit so you can meet your grandchildren."

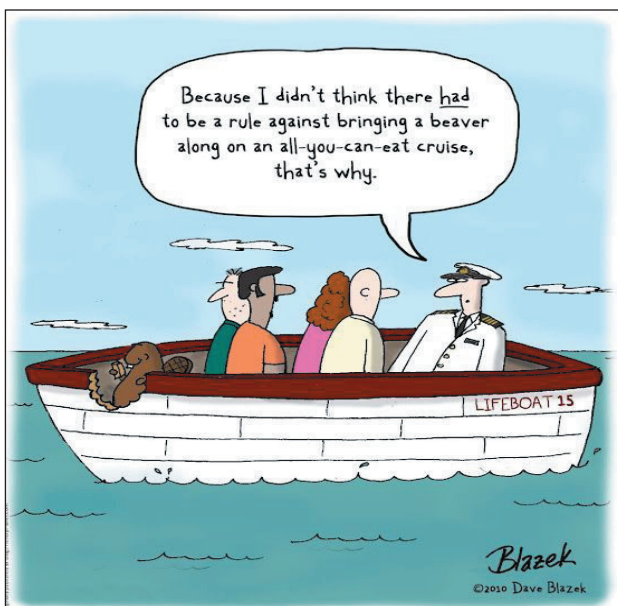
Your daughter, Molly.

After fainting, the mother read the rest of the letter:

P.S. "It's a joke! I'm next door at Karen's house. I just wanted to show you that there are worse things in life than the school report card on my desk."

L'armoire et l'arrêt de bus : une histoire rocambolesque

Une dame achète une armoire en kit et la rapporte



chez elle, dans un appartement au rez-de-chaussée situé près d'un arrêt de bus. Elle assemble l'armoire et, satisfaite de son travail, s'assoit pour l'admirer. Mais voilà qu'un bus s'arrête dans un bruit de freins, et l'armoire s'effondre.

Incompréhensive, elle retourne au magasin pour se plaindre. Le magasin dépêche un technicien pour examiner le problème. Celui-ci remonte l'armoire et, comme par hasard, au moment où un bus freine devant l'arrêt, l'armoire s'effondre à nouveau.

Pour trouver l'origine du problème, le technicien décide de remonter l'armoire et de s'asseoir à l'intérieur pour observer.

C'est alors que le mari de la dame rentre à la maison. Il trouve sa femme assise sur le lit, fixant l'armoire avec perplexité. Curieux, il ouvre la porte de l'armoire et découvre le technicien assis à l'intérieur.

Surpris, il demande : « Mais que faites-vous là? »

Le technicien, embarrassé, répond: « Euh... Vous n'allez jamais me croire... J'attends le bus ! »



A Limp Duck and the Vet's Bill

A woman brought in a very limp duck to a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the duck's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm sorry, your duck Cuddles has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. The duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

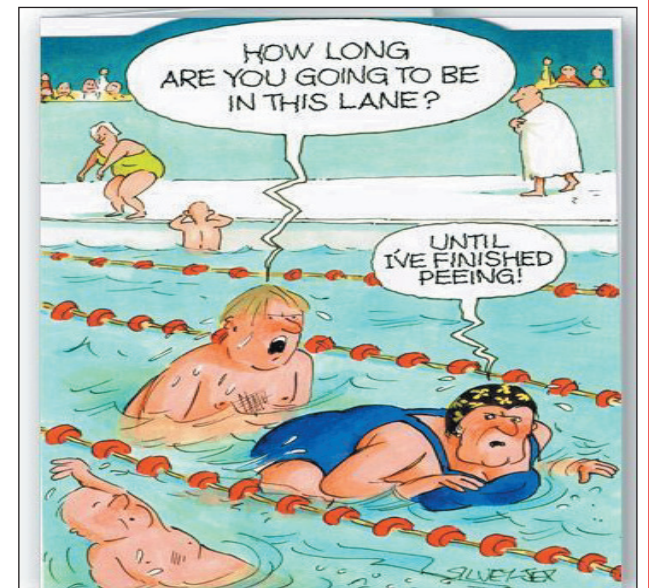
The vet rolled his eyes, turned around, and left the room.

He returned a few minutes later with a Labrador.

As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on its hind legs, put its front paws on the examination table, and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. The dog then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook its head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room.

A few minutes later, he returned with a cat. The cat jumped onto the table and delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its



head, meowed softly, and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$3000!" she cried. "\$3000 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$100, but with the 'Lab Report' and the 'Cat Scan,' it's now \$3000."

This is healthcare today!

Touching!

A hotelier receives a reservation letter asking if the hotel accepts dogs. He answers like this:

"Sir, for twenty years that I've been running this hotel, no dog has stolen an ashtray from me, nor burned the sheets with a cigarette."

I've never had to call the police on a dog that was drunk or trying to leave without paying.

That's why, of course, I gladly welcome dogs.

A new teacher joins the school... She finds two boys who look very similar in appearance...

Teacher asks, "Twins...?"

Boy: "No... 'Neighbours.'"



MarkParisi@aol.com

Collaborating With The Enemy

By Adam Kahane

In today's complex and often divided world, the ability to collaborate with those we may initially see as adversaries is not just beneficial — it's essential. In "Collaborating With The Enemy," Adam Kahane outlines a series of guiding principles that illuminate how effective collaboration can emerge even from the most unlikely partnerships. By embracing open dialogue, shared goals, and a respect for diversity, we can bridge gaps, overcome conflict, and foster an environment where innovation thrives. The following key points offer a roadmap to building meaningful, productive collaborations that transform challenges into opportunities:

- 1. The Power of Dialogue:** Effective collaboration requires open, honest communication. Foster a safe space for sharing diverse perspectives and listening to each other.
- 2. The Importance of Shared Purpose:** A shared goal unites efforts. Find common ground to keep everyone motivated and committed.
- 3. The Role of Facilitation:** A skilled facilitator helps manage conflict, maintain focus, and ensure every voice is heard, creating a positive collaborative environment.



- 4. The Value of Diversity:** Diversity of thought leads to innovation. Encourage a variety of perspectives to generate creative solutions.
- 5. The Importance of Trust:** Build trust through honesty, reliability, and respect. Trust enables open communication and successful collaboration.
- 6. The Power of Empathy:** Understanding others' feelings fosters trust and collaboration. Empathy creates a positive environment where everyone feels valued.
- 7. The Importance of Respect:** Treat others with respect, regardless of differences. Respect promotes openness and a productive atmosphere.
- 8. The Power of Curiosity:** Ask open-ended questions to understand differing viewpoints. Curiosity

helps uncover common ground and new perspectives.

9. The Importance of Flexibility: Be open to change and compromise. Flexibility ensures success even when things don't go as planned.

10. The Power of Patience: Building collaboration takes time. Stay patient and persistent, as strong relationships and trust develop gradually.

11. The Importance of Celebration: Acknowledge milestones and successes to maintain momentum, boost morale, and motivate continued effort.

12. The Power of Reflection: Regularly assess the collaborative process to identify areas for improvement, learning from experiences to improve future efforts.

13. The Importance of Ethical Leadership: Lead with integrity and respect. Ethical leadership fosters a trustworthy environment that supports collaboration.

14. The Power of Inclusivity: Ensure everyone feels valued and included. Inclusive collaboration enhances engagement and contributes to more effective teamwork.

15. The Importance of Perseverance: Collaboration comes with challenges. Stay persistent to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

This framework serves as a powerful reminder that, even when working with those who might initially seem like "enemies," the thoughtful application of these principles can turn conflict into cooperation and opposition into opportunity.

Words of Wisdom

to ignite our inner drive

In our journey through life, words of wisdom have the power to inspire us, uplift our spirits, and ignite our inner drive. The following collection of quotes offers motivation, hope, and practical advice to help you overcome challenges, embrace new opportunities, and strive for excellence. Let these words remind you that every setback is a setup for a comeback, and every small step forward is progress on the path to greatness.

- "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." — *Thomas A. Edison*
- "Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." — *Albert Einstein*
- "With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." — *Eleanor Roosevelt*
- "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." — *Helen Keller*
- "Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground." — *Theodore Roosevelt*
- "What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." — *Henry David Thoreau*
- "The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best." — *Epictetus*
- "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your

attitude. Don't complain." — *Maya Angelou*

- "Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible." — *Tony Robbins*

- "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do." — *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

- "Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing." — *Thomas Jefferson*

- "Well done is better than well said." — *Benjamin Franklin*

- "If you start by promising what you don't even have yet, you'll lose your desire to work towards getting it." — *Paulo Coelho*

- "If you want to conquer fear, don't sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." — *Dale Carnegie*

- "Go for it now. The future is promised to no one." — *Wayne Dyer*

- "The quality of a man's life is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence, regardless of his chosen field of endeavor." — *Vince Lombardi*

- "Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it." — *Lou Holtz*

May these timeless words serve as a beacon of encouragement and a reminder that with determination, resilience, and the right mindset, you have the power to create a meaningful and successful life.

The Power of Connection

Who likes you in this life matters

In life, the people we meet and the relationships we build can be our greatest assets. Every individual, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, may hold the key to our future success. This reflection reminds us that who values us and who we choose to value can open doors to opportunities we never imagined.

By nurturing every connection and recognizing the inherent worth in every person, we position ourselves to receive guidance, support, and breakthroughs that only valuable relationships can provide. Read on:

Who likes you in this life matters.

Men are lifted through men.

Many of us are talented, but we lack a cupbearer to tell the King that there is a Joseph who can interpret dreams.

Who you know matters a lot in this life. Don't say it doesn't matter. It does.

There are heights and opportunities you will never attain if you don't understand the power of keeping valuable relationships.

When they say, turn and greet your neighbour, sometimes you don't even know who you are talking to.

That might be the CEO of a company. But sometimes, we despise people based on their outward looks and judge them wrongly.

Take heed of the wisdom I'm sharing with you.

That person you sit with, or the colleague at work you look down on, may



be the one to lead you to your destiny helper because you have no idea who they know.

Sometimes, it only takes a recommendation to change your story.

Don't despise men in life. You will need them one day.

Sometimes those who crown kings don't look like kings and may never become kings, but they can help you wear the crown.

Remember, shut the door of relationships gently; you may need to use it tomorrow.

Please value even the least person, because that person might be the one to place the crown on your head!

Your full participation in any group or environment you find yourself in will speak volumes when you need the group in the future.

Let's Not Forget: Everyone Is A Plus!!

Wellness

Ways to Feel Happier

Happiness doesn't always have to be elusive or reserved for big moments—often, it's found in the small, everyday actions we take to nurture our well-being. By keeping your "why" in mind and surrounding yourself with positive influences, you can create a more joyful and content life. Each of these simple strategies is a step towards creating a life where joy and contentment are within reach. Embrace these practices, and remember that small changes can lead to lasting improvements in your overall happiness.

Walk with Confidence

Walking tall with swinging arms can boost your mood. Even if you're not feeling happy, a spirited stroll can help you "fake it till you make it."

Smile More

Smiling, even when you don't feel like it, can trigger positive changes in your brain chemistry, lifting your spirits.

Volunteer

Helping others benefits both them and you. Volunteering can enhance your mental well-being and give you a sense of fulfillment.

Make New Friends

Surround yourself with people who care about you. Strengthening old bonds and forming new relationships



increases happiness.

Count Your Blessings

Write down what's good in your life. Focusing on the positives shifts your perspective and enhances contentment.

Exercise Regularly

Just five minutes of physical activity can improve your mood. Consistent exercise helps keep depression at bay.

Let Go of Grudges

Forgiving others frees you from negativity, allowing more space for inner peace and happiness.

Practice Mindfulness

Meditating for even an hour a week fosters joy, peace, and emotional resilience by creating new pathways in your brain.

Listen to Music

Music influences emotions. Create a playlist of your favourite tunes and let the rhythm lift your spirits.

Prioritize Sleep

Getting 7–8 hours of sleep each night helps regulate your mood and overall well-being.

Remember Your "Why"

Having a sense of purpose gives life meaning. Take a moment to reflect on your goals and why they matter to you.

Silence Your Inner Critic

Recognize when negative self-talk takes over. Ask yourself, "Is this true?" to avoid unnecessary self-doubt.

Set Achievable Goals

Define clear, realistic objectives, like "walk 30 minutes a day, three times this week." Track progress and celebrate small wins.

Surround Yourself with Positivity

Emotions are contagious — spend time with upbeat, confident people to uplift your own mindset.

Seek Professional Help

If you're struggling despite trying these tips, consider talking to a counsellor. Professional support can provide new insights and strategies to improve your happiness.

Women's Health

Everyday Habits to Lower Breast Cancer Risk

Breast cancer is a major health concern for women worldwide, but adopting certain lifestyle habits can help reduce the risk. While no single measure guarantees prevention, a combination of healthy choices, as medically reviewed by Jabeen Begum, MD of WebMD, can make a significant impact.

1. Maintain a Balanced Diet

A diet rich in vegetables, fruits, beans, and whole grains can lower the risk of breast cancer. These plant-based foods should make up two-thirds of your plate, while lean proteins like fish or poultry should constitute the remaining third. Aim for at least five cups of plant-based foods daily.

2. Limit Alcohol Consumption

Drinking alcohol increases breast cancer risk. Women who consume two to three alcoholic drinks per day have a 20% higher risk than non-drinkers. If you choose to drink, limit it to one serving per day to minimize the impact.

3. Avoid Smoking

Smoking, particularly in younger women who haven't undergone menopause, is linked to a higher breast cancer risk. If you smoke, seek professional help to quit as soon as possible.

4. Understand Your Breast Tissue Type

Breast composition varies among women. Dense breasts, which have more glands and supportive tissue than fat, can elevate cancer risk and make tumors

harder to detect. Regular mammograms can help assess breast density, and additional screenings may be recommended for women with dense breast tissue.

5. Stay Physically Active

Regular exercise can help reduce the risk of breast cancer. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise weekly. A mix of both can provide added benefits.

6. Maintain a Healthy Weight

Excess weight, especially gained in adulthood, increases breast cancer risk, particularly after menopause. A combination of a healthy diet and regular exercise can help manage weight effectively.

7. Reevaluate Birth Control Choices

Hormonal birth control methods, including pills and certain IUDs, may slightly increase breast cancer risk. However, they also offer protection against other health conditions. Consult your doctor to weigh the risks and benefits before making a decision.

8. Be Cautious With Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)

HRT, often used to manage menopause symptoms, can raise breast cancer risk, particularly combination therapy (estrogen and progesterone) or long-term estrogen-only therapy. Discuss alternative treatments with your doctor and, if necessary, opt for the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration.

9. Increase Fiber Intake



A fiber-rich diet — including whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and legumes — may help lower breast cancer risk. While researchers are still studying the precise mechanism, fiber is known to support overall health, including reducing the risk of heart disease and diabetes.

10. Reduce Nighttime Light Exposure

Excessive exposure to artificial light at night, such as from shift work or bright urban areas, may raise breast cancer risk by interfering with melatonin production. Using blackout curtains, sleep masks, and low-watt bathroom bulbs can help minimize nighttime light exposure.

11. Ensure Adequate Vitamin D

Levels

Vitamin D deficiency may contribute to higher breast cancer risk. While sunlight exposure helps the body produce this vitamin, dietary sources such as salmon, sardines, and fortified foods like milk and orange juice can also be beneficial. Supplements may be an option, but consult a doctor before taking them.

12. Check Your Toiletries

Certain cosmetics, lotions, and hair products contain parabens, which can mimic estrogen in the body. While research is inconclusive, choosing paraben-free products may be a precautionary measure for those concerned about hormone-related cancer risks.

13. Stay Informed

Misinformation about breast cancer is widespread. Common myths — such as mammograms spreading tumors, antiperspirants increasing risk, or underwire bras being harmful — are unfounded. Trust reliable medical sources for accurate information.

Conclusion

While some breast cancer risk factors, such as genetics, are beyond our control, adopting these everyday habits can contribute to a healthier lifestyle and potentially lower the chances of developing the disease. Regular screenings, a balanced diet, physical activity, and mindful choices regarding alcohol, smoking, and hormones can collectively make a difference in breast health.

Top 10 Bollywood Sequel Films Releasing in 2025: Dhadak 2, Hera Pheri 3...

Bollywood is all set to dazzle audiences in 2025 with a slate of highly anticipated sequel films that promise to deliver fresh storylines, new casts, and plenty of entertainment. From the soulful continuation of a beloved romance in *Dhadak 2* to the much-awaited comic reunion in *Hera Pheri 3*, these films are gearing up to reignite the magic of their originals while adding exciting new twists.

Here's a roundup of the top 10 Bollywood sequel films hitting theatres in 2025:

1. Dhadak 2

Starring Triptii Dimri, Ananya Panday, and Siddhant Chaturvedi, *Dhadak 2* is the sequel to the 2018 romantic film that captivated audiences with its emotional depth and soulful music. Originally scheduled for a November 2024 release, the film has now been postponed to 2025. Fans are eager to see how this sequel builds on the legacy of the original, which starred Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter.

2. War 2

Directed by Ayan Mukerji and set for release on 14 August 2025 (according to IMDb), *War 2* features Hrithik Roshan, N.T. Rama Rao Jr., and Kiara Advani in lead roles. Following the high-octane action and electric chemistry of the original 2019 hit, the sequel promises a fresh plot and a revamped cast to keep the adrenaline pumping.

3. Hera Pheri 3

The iconic trio of Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, and Suniel Shetty are set to reunite in *Hera Pheri 3*. Known for its hilarious misadventures and memorable dialogues, this cult classic franchise is back, much to the delight of fans who are excited to see what new escapades the trio will embark on in 2025.

4. Raid 2



Raid 2 stars Ajay Devgn, Vaani Kapoor, and Riteish Deshmukh in a gripping drama inspired by true events. Following the intense storytelling and powerful performance in the original, this sequel is expected to deliver another riveting narrative centered around the pursuit of justice. The film is anticipated to hit theatres in May 2025.

5. Jolly L.L.B. 3

Returning to the courtroom with wit and a strong social message, *Jolly L.L.B. 3* stars Akshay Kumar alongside Amrita Rao and Huma Qureshi. Scheduled for release on 10 April 2025 (per IMDb), this sequel aims to build on the success of its predecessors, *Jolly L.L.B. 2*, by delivering a blend of humor, drama, and impactful courtroom scenes.

6. Housefull 5

Directed by Tarun Mansukhani, *Housefull 5* is slated for a 6 June 2025 release. With a cast that includes Jacqueline Fernandez, Akshay Kumar, and Nargis Fakhri, the film continues the franchise's legacy of over-the-top comedy and chaotic storylines, promising audiences even more laughs and entertainment.

redefine this new chapter, expected to release in June 2025.

9. Baaghi 4

Announced in November 2024, *Baaghi 4* is set to begin shooting in September 2025. Starring Tiger Shroff along with Sanjay Dutt, Sonam Bajwa, and Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu, the film promises to elevate the franchise's action-packed sequences to new heights, featuring both seasoned performers and fresh faces.

10. Son of Sardaar 2

Reuniting Ajay Devgn, Sanjay Dutt, and Mrunal Thakur, *Son of Sardaar 2* is the sequel to the light-hearted entertainer that combined humor with action. The film aims to recapture the spirit of its predecessor with an exciting new story and is expected to release in the second half of 2025.

With an impressive lineup of sequels on the horizon, 2025 is set to be a blockbuster year for Bollywood fans. Stay tuned for more updates as these films gear up to bring fresh energy and unforgettable moments to the big screen.

Varun Dhawan recalls childhood drama

'Shraddha Kapoor had me beaten up for rejecting her proposal!'

Childhood friendships often come with their share of hilarious and endearing stories, and Bollywood stars Varun Dhawan and Shraddha Kapoor have one that takes the cake. During a recent chat with YouTuber Shubhankar Mishra, Varun revealed a childhood anecdote involving Shraddha, rejection, and a rather unexpected "birthday brawl."

The Mountain Confession

When Varun and Shraddha were just eight years old, their fathers — filmmaker David Dhawan and actor Shakti Kapoor — were shooting together. Young Shraddha, harbouring an innocent crush on Varun, decided to confess her feelings in the most dramatic way possible — on top of a mountain, reports Indian Express.

"She took me to the mountains and said, 'You love I.' I was eight, confused, and I said, 'I don't like girls!' Then I ran away," Varun shared, laughing at the memory.

Shraddha had previously shared this story, confirming Varun's rejection with a playful smile.

Birthday revenge

What followed two years later was something straight out of a Bollywood script. At Shraddha's 10th birthday party, Varun found himself cornered by a group of boys who demanded an explanation.

"Four guys surrounded me in the jumping bag. They asked, 'Why don't you like Shraddha?' I said, 'I'm more interested in the dance competition.' They replied, 'No, you will like her!' And then they started fighting with me!"

Varun described the entire scene as "filmy," admitting that while he got beaten up, he also fought back. He then went on to win the dance competition, while Shraddha finished in third place.

"It was chaotic, but I'll never forget that day. Shraddha had me beaten up, and then we all went back to dancing!" he chuckled.

Teenage regrets and a slow-motion realization

Years later, at a dandiya event, fate brought them together again. Varun, now a teenager, was hiding from a crowd after



accidentally hitting someone with a dandiya stick. Amidst the chaos, he saw Shraddha walking in slow motion, looking absolutely stunning.

"That day, she looked so beautiful, and I regretted rejecting her on that mountain all those years ago," Varun admitted.

From that point onward, the two became close friends, sharing screen space in movies like *ABCD 2*, *Street Dancer 3D*, and most recently, *Street 2*, where Varun made a cameo appearance.

Shraddha's side of the story

Shraddha had previously recounted the same tale from her perspective:

"I had a tiny crush on Varun and told him, 'You love I.' But he said he didn't like girls and ran away. It's so funny to think about now!"

Their playful banter and enduring friendship remain one of Bollywood's most heartwarming stories.

From childhood friends to on-screen chemistry

Today, Varun and Shraddha share not just childhood memories but also a sizzling on-screen dynamic. Their camaraderie shines both in films and off-camera, and their nostalgic stories continue to delight fans.

"It's been such a journey, from mountains to movies," Varun concluded with a smile.



Vendredi 7 fevrier - 20.10



Samedi 8 fevrier - 20.10



Dimanche 9 fevrier -21.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 7 fevrier

MBC 1

- 07.30 Serial: Briarpatch
- 08.43 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
- 09.35 Film: Le Déserteur De Fort Alamo
- 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.40 Tele: Wildflower
- 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 Film: Monolith
- 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: Doree
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.35 Film: Anna And The King
- 22.52 Tele: Wildflower
- 00.11 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 00.37 Serial: Billions
- 01.31 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 02.21 Mag: Hollywood

MBC 2

- 06.00 Rodrig: Komanter
- 06.57 Local: En Forme
- 10.37 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
- 07.25 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanfan
- 10.37 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
- 12.00 Rodrig: Komanter
- 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard..
- 13.48 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
- 14.18 Local: Proze Dime
- 15.18 Local: Metie
- 16.41 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power
- 18.30 Les Riches Pleurent
- 19.25 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir...
- 19.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
- 20.57 Local: Dance Fever
- 22.53 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.20 Rodrig Otantik
- 23.52 Local: Couleur Marine
- 00.21 Local: Saver Lokal
- 00.39 Local: Sur La Piste De La...

MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama
- 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 08.09 Local: Amrit Vani
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Parasmani
- Starring: Gitanjali, Mahipal, Nalini Chonkar
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 19.00 Local: MBC Prod
- 20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
- 21.00 Film: Devvar Bhabhi
- Cast: Arun Govil, Upaasna Singh, Ritu Sharma
- 22.38 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

Cine 12

- 07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
- 09.23 Doc: The Arctic: Putin's
- 10.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 11.26 Mag: Shift
- 11.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 12.23 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.00 Doc: USA: The Rise Of The...
- 14.24 Doc: A Mediterranean...
- 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit...
- 15.26 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
- 16.11 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 17.02 D.Anime: The Avengers
- 17.30 Mag: Eco India
- 18.00 Doc: The Yellowstone Super...
- 18.42 Mag: Mapped Out
- 19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous
- 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
- 20.50 Doc: Life On US
- 21.31 Doc: The Tsaatan
- 22.18 Doc: Deep Sea Greed

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.30 Film: Mili
- Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Manoj Pahwa, Sunny Kaushal
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.32 Dharam Patni
- 20.01 Mithai
- 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
- 21.01 Anupamaa
- 21.31 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
- 23.30 Film: Mili
- Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Manoj Pahwa, Sunny Kaushal
- 02.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya

samedi 8 fevrier

- 03.46 Serial: Briarpatch
- 04.32 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
- 06.10 Tele: All The Flowers
- 06.40 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 08.10 Serial: Blue Lights
- 09.19 Serial: Under Pressure
- 09.53 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
- 10.47 Serial: F.B.I
- 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Serial: Seal Team
- 13.25 Tele: Barbarita...
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Radha Krishna
- 15.21 Film: Anna And The King
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.10 Film: Chemins Croises
- 22.11 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
- 23.06 Mag: Hollywood's Best

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 06.55 Local: Aktiv
- 07.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard..
- 08.47 Local: Sur La Piste De La...
- 10.00 Local: J'ai Faim
- 10.30 Local: Dance Fever
- 12.17 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
- 12.32 Local: Animalia
- 13.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.38 Local: Nos Aines
- 14.37 Local: La Sosiete
- 15.00 Local: Sur La Piste De La...
- 15.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 16.01 Local: Aktiv
- 16.15 Local: Dance Fever
- 17.45 Serial: Columbo
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.40 Rodrig: Kot Nou
- 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.30 L'Anniversaire De La Television
- 22.36 25e Edision Festival Kreol

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 06.59 Mag: A Legacy Of Survival
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 12.55 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 14.30 Mag: Talaash
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Toh Baat Pakki
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 19.15 Serial: Virasat
- 20.00 Local: Bollywood Express
- 21.00 Film: Freddy
- Cast: Kartik Aryan, Alaya.F
- 23.04 Local: Puranya Pakwan

- 06.00 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 07.07 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 08.34 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
- 09.56 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 10.11 Serial: Penny Su M.A.R.S
- 10.55 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
- 12.44 Mag: Mapped Out
- 13.44 Doc: The Tsaatan
- 15.08 Les Aventures Du Petit...
- 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
- 16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 17.06 D.Anime: The Avengers
- 17.30 Doc: Bee-Keeping
- 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: Top Div Sites
- 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
- 20.50 Mag: Skuld
- 21.40 Film: The Night House
- 23.30 Film: Black Swan
- 01.14 Doc: Under Poisoned Skies
- 02.06 Doc: Transactions
- 02.48 Mag: In Good Shape

- 08.00 Dharam Patni
- 09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 10.02 Mithai
- 12.00 Udaariyaan
- 14.10 Anupamaa
- 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 17.36 Vidrohi
- 18.30 Film: Chhalaang
- With: Rajkummar Rao, Nushratt Bharuccha, Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub
- 20.50 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein

dimanche 9 fevrier

- 03.45 Serial: The Last Kingdom
- 04.55 Serial: Gout De L'amour
- 05.38 Tele: All The Flowers
- 06.05 Film: Chemins Croises
- 08.10 Serial: Airwolf
- 09.06 Film: Viceroy's House
- 10.48 Serial: F.B.I
- 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: Le Déserteur De Fort Alamo
- 15.22 Film: Chemins Croises
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il...
- 19.18 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Le Journal Televise
- 20.10 Film: Elvis: The Early Years
- 21.35 Serial: Airwolf
- 22.21 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
- 23.30 Le Journal
- 00.05 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

- 06.15 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou
- 07.05 Local: En Forme
- 09.05 L'Anniversaire De La Tele...
- 10.11 25e Edision Festival Kreol
- 11.01 Local: Artizan
- 11.34 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 13.38 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.40 Local: Exceptionnelles
- 15.11 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 17.20 Local: Tous Egaux
- 17.40 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 18.05 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.24 Local: Info En Langue...
- 20.15 Local: Les Klips
- 21.10 Local: Exceptionnelles
- 21.36 190 Ans Liberte Emission Speciale A L'Occasion...
- 23.05 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.12 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion

- 06.59 Mag: Eco India
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 08.52 Serial: Virasat
- 12.00 Film: Mahabharat
- 12.00 Film: Zamane Se Kya Darna
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 17.00 Bollywood Express
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Planet Bollywood
- 19.30 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 20.31 Serial: Porus
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 22.54 Serial: Bahubali
- 23.33 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 01.16 Planet Bollywood
- 01.40 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare
- 03.18 Local: Yaadein
- 04.55 Film: Zamane Se Kya Darna

- 08.35 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
- 09.07 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 09.33 D.Anime: Caillou
- 09.49 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
- 10.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 10.55 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
- 11.55 Mag: In Good Shape
- 12.21 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 12.47 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit...
- 15.11 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 15.35 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob
- 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
- 16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 17.03 D.Anime: The Avengers
- 18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens
- 18.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: All The Flowers
- 21.40 Film: Beaute Fatale
- Cast: Robin Dunne, Sarah Fisher, Stephane Garneau-Monten

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.49 Udaariyaan
- 03.40 Anupamaa
- 05.55 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 08.00 Tenali Rama
- 08.12 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 10.22 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.11 Rajaa Betaa
- 14.10 Doree
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.38 Film: Khiladi 786
- Cast: Akshay Kumar, Asin, Mithun Chakraborty
- 20.48 Tenali Rama
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 22.05 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.56 Rajaa Betaa
- 00.26 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

lundi 10 fevrier

- 03.00 Tele: Wildflower
- 03.50 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 05.06 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
- 05.50 Serial: Amour Secret
- 07.34 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man
- 08.42 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 09.35 Film: Elvis: The Early Years
- 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Wildflower
- 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 14.10 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Film: Joe Kidd
- 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.07 Serial: Doree
- 20.10 Serial: Hawaii
- 20.55 Serial: Blue Lights
- 21.50 Tele: Wildflower
- 22.34 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

- 09.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 09.45 Local: Clin D'oeil
- 10.00 Local: Exceptionnelles
- 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.21 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
- 15.02 Local: Exceptionnelles
- 16.00 Local: Les Klips
- 16.43 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.07 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
- 19.30 Le Magazine De L'emploi
- 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.30 Local: Konn Ou Drwa
- 21.01 Local: Tous Egaux
- 21.15 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 22.07 Les Grandes Lignes
- 22.39 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.33 Rodrig Mo Pei

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 07.00 Tenali Rama
- 07.12 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 07.23 Lambu G Tingu G
- 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 08.27 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare
- 08.57 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 09.40 Bahubali
- 10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 11.30 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Main Tulsi Tere Aangan
- 15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.50 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.57 Local: Hindi Sahitya
- 20.42 Serial: Ramayan
- 21.07 Film: Rajnigandha
- With: Amol Palekar, Vidya Sinha, Dinesh Thakur
- 23.01 Serial: Mere Sai

- 06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 07.18 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 08.30 Doc: I Survived Auschwitz
- 09.16 Doc: Stop Filming
- 10.43 Doc: Cobalt Rush
- 11.29 Doc: Ageless Gardens
- 11.51 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 12.43 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 13.09 Doc: A World Without Bees?
- 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit...
- 15.27 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.34 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob
- 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
- 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 17.04 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneezee
- 17.30 Doc: Bee-Keeping
- 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
- 21.05 Film: Bad Boys For Life
- Cast: Will Smith, Martin Lawrence...

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Helicopter Eela
- Starring: Kajol, Riddhi Sen, Tota Roy Chowdhury
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dharam Patni
- 20.05 Mithai
- 20.33 Shrimad Ramayan
- 21.09 Anupamaa
- 21.32 Mere Sai



Mardi 11 fevrier - 20.10



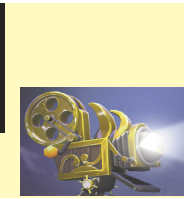
Mercredi 12 fevrier - 21.00



Jeudi 13 fevrier - 22.17



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 11 fevrier	04.46 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 05.23 Serial: Amour Secret 07.55 Tele: All The Flowers 09.15 Film: Le Dernier Metro 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.40 Tele: Passion And Power 15.25 Film: Mortal Engines 17.35 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.58 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Fast And Furious 22.20 Tele: Wildflower 23.05 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal 00.05 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 01.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	07.50 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 10.27 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 12.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.52 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 14.17 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 15.05 Local: Fee Main 16.55 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.29 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.04 Journal Kreol 19.24 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.04 Local: An Eta Dalert 20.33 Local: Priorite Sante 21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.35 Local: Le Mag 22.30 Local: Profil 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.12 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 10.07 Kundali Bhagya 11.41 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Dil Hi Dil Mein 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Raaz Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Babita 23.11 Serial: Mere Sai 23.55 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.26 Local: Tark Vitark 00.53 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare	07.00 D.Anime: Croco Doc 07.23 D.Anime: Jungle Book 07.49 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 08.04 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory... 11.20 Mag: In Good Shape 12.00 Doc: Elementary Particles 13.00 Doc: The Yellowstone 13.31 Film: Le Roi Des Elephants 14.49 D.Anime: Kids Songs 15.31 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.50 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.30 Mag: Eco Africa 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.30 Mag: Global US 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi 22.18 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.43 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Singh Is Kinng Cast: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.06 Mithai 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.04 Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Singh Is Kinng Cast: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan
mercredi 12 fevrier	06.22 Serial: Amour Secret 07.14 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 07.57 Tele: All The Flowers 09.20 Film: Fast And Furious 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.14 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.37 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Serial: Under Pressure 21.00 Serial: The Last Kingdom Cast: Alexander Dreymon, Emily Cox, Millie Brady	07.08 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 08.05 Local: En Eta Dalert 09.30 Local: Le Mag 11.00 Local: Profil 12.00 Local: Inspiration 12.39 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Ragard 13.41 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.19 Local: A Nou Kwi 16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.30 Rodrig Prog: Coin Zen 17.00 Local: Music Tour 18.00 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.30 Local: Les Klips 22.25 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Tark Vitark 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Yaaron Ka Yaar Cast: Shatrughan Sinha, Leena Chandravakar 15.20 Serial: Radha Krishna 15.33 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.53 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Kala 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.30 Talaash 21.00 Film: Aashiqui 23.15 Serial: Mere Sai 00.07 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Made In Germany 08.15 Mag: Euromaxx 10.19 Doc: Wild Isles 11.32 Mag: Healthy Living 12.29 Mag: Global US 13.21 Mag: Euromaxx 15.01 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.34 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.46 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.04 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 18.30 Mag: Transforming Business 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: Situationships 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Choices 21.05 Film: Elvis: The Early Years 22.35 Mag: Close Up 23.01 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.27 Doc: Will Roots Save The...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Tutiya Dil Cast: Sidhant Kapurris, Maity, Suzanna Mukherjee 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.20 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Tutiya Dil Cast: Sidhant Kapurris, Maity, Suzanna Mukherjee 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan
jeudi 13 fevrier	05.46 Tele: Amour Secret 08.09 Serial: All The Flowers 08.35 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.30 Film: Les Cents Et Une Nuit De Simon Cinema 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance 15.25 Film: Elvis: The Early Years 17.18 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.56 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Bajirao Mastani Stars: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra 22.41 Tele: Wildflower	06.50 Local: Metie 07.59 Local: Toc Toc Doc 08.30 Local: Agir Ensemble 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 12.00 La Memoire Des Ondes 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.55 Local: En Forme 14.36 Local: Metie 15.05 Local: Saveurs Plus 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Prog: Komanter 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.35 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanfan 21.00 Local: Le Mag 21.52 Rodrig-Klip Selektion 22.38 Local: Metie 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Tenali Rama 08.00 Local: Yatra 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Natak Cast: Vijay Arora, Moushumi Chatterjee, Snehlata 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 20.35 Serial: Ramayan 21.01 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.57 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.20 Mere Sai 23.17 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.47 Mag: Choices 08.31 Doc: Focus On Europe 10.10 Doc: By Train Along The East 11.01 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.06 Mag: Close Up 14.14 Doc: Flying Hands 15.00 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.12 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.25 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.34 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.47 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.55 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 22.17 Film: Glass	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: Singh Is Kinng Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.24 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.05 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Singh Is Kinng Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif



Jeudi 13 fevrier - 15.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif



Jeudi 13 fevrier - 20.10

Stars: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra



Artificial Intelligence: A Bridge to the Future?

Sceptics may dismiss the AI-powered future as naive, but tomorrow's leaders will use AI, the internet, and robotics to realize the unimaginable

Baljinder Sharma

Most people don't understand artificial intelligence, in the way they never understood the internet. Yet, the internet has been instrumental in giving birth to seven of the world's top ten companies (with a combined market cap of \$15trillion). Not only have they contributed up to 30% of the GDP growth in the developed world in the last twenty years but also help overthrow governments in many countries.

The news, last week, that Deepseek, an obscure Chinese startup had released an open-source artificial intelligence, large-language model, promises an even bigger impact on the world economy.

So what's special about Deepseek? Why is everyone talking about it? What does it mean for the world?

To begin with; it is really cheap - an estimated 95% lower than OpenAI - the current market leader.

Deepseek, in many ways, removes the single most formidable hurdle to adoption of AI - the cost, making it accessible to ordinary individuals, small firms, societies and governments.

Cheap AI, in turn, has the potential to significantly alter the way education, healthcare and other public services are delivered.; but also bring to popular use what was mostly lying in the domain of nerds and experts - early detection of cancer, for example.

AI has a profound bearing on the nature of work as well and the promise of mainstreaming entirely new industries such as smart manufacturing, 3D printing, robotics, biotech, intelligent grids and e-mobility.

Recent experiments at Harvard University, for instance, have concluded that learning gains for students in the AI-tutored classes were about double those for students in the in-class group. Well-conceived AI tutoring could, therefore, solve the problem of 'lack of teachers' and 'physical classrooms' that consume huge government budgets. It also means hitherto uneducated societies would be able to acquire the same knowledge as others in a shortened time.

Remote Healthcare (including robotics surgery) is now commonplace, but AI's impact on diagnosis and preventive emergencies is truly extraordinary. In the UK, studies on 350,000 patients who were taken by ambulance to hospital each month found that use of AI could eliminate 80% of those misidentified needs. Using expert AI

Agents instead of paramedics - their requirement to be hospitalised could be more precisely determined.

Food abundance underpinned by biotech and near-free energy are within reach. Clearly, neither the biotech nor energy are new - but AI provides the means to supercharge them.

To that, add Innovations such as the Digital Public Infrastructure pioneered by Indian government and you could unleash transparency, enhance public service delivery and lower costs drastically. From pension payments via direct debit transfer to retrieval of land records - the digitisation of government services means 24X7 access and availability at fraction of conventional costs.

One can go on enlisting the merits of AI. The truth is that from preventing crimes to predicting weather to reducing congestion on the roads, to protecting the environment, AI can improve societies in a way that is hard to imagine.

Does that mean we are finally approaching the age of 'Abundance' so aptly described by futurist Peter Diamandis?

There is little doubt that the next five years will be radically different from the past fifty.

Deepseek has suddenly compressed years into days and days into seconds. The sheer velocity of automated transactions undertaken by AI agents will lead to double digit growth in national incomes rather than small incremental ones that the world is used to.

Nations will be able to build their own AI Infrastructure based on 'open-source models' that countries such as India and China are making available for a song. Or "on a joke of a budget" as one analyst put it.

All knowledge will become common and inexpensive in the process. The average IQ of the world will increase by several points - which could unleash immeasurable productivity.

Given the nature of opportunity that 'Cheap AI' suddenly presents, how can the new government that has set many ambitious goals for the country deliver them successfully? To what extent would it be able to help the government honour its promises at



“One can go on enlisting the merits of AI. The truth is that from preventing crimes to predicting weather to reducing congestion on the roads, to protecting the environment, AI can improve societies in a way that is hard to imagine. Does that mean we are finally approaching the age of 'Abundance' so aptly described by futurist Peter Diamandis? There is little doubt that the next five years will be radically different from the past fifty...”

a time when the economic situation is 'catastrophic'? One analyst has projected the cost of implementation at Rs 400 billion. Where will the government find this money? Sam Altman - the founder of OpenAI,

recently announced that PhD Level 'Super Agents' capable of performing a range of intellectual tasks across a range of subjects, will be made available 'very' soon. These 'Super Agents' could do everything from writing legislation to discovering drugs to detecting water leakages to treating patients in hospitals.

Now Imagine if these facilities were available for a low cost (they are already available quite cheaply), Mauritius could begin to use them to write a range of bills that were announced in the government programme last week. No need for expensive lawyers - just smart ones to brief AI Agents and six months of work could be delivered in six minutes. And there are thousands of ways in hundreds of areas in which such path breaking productivity could be achieved - if only one is willing and courageous enough to try them out.

Based on historical data that goes back over three thousand years, Michael Kremer, an American economist, suggests that population size is the key input for how fast your society comes up with more ideas.

Once again imagine if you were able to break away from the threat of population decline that Mauritius faces and begin to deploy AI Agents of the intelligence of Elon Musk or Sundar Pichai at a cost lower than the cost of a factory worker?

Your PlumberGPT will tell you how to fix your drains at home and your EngineerGPT will help you design your roads and bridges that could be built using robotised equipment. This is not some science fiction - China recently built a 156km road in 24 hours using automated construction equipment.

Technology sceptics will dismiss the AI-fed future, as an 'imagination of the immature'. Yet, the true leaders of tomorrow will be able to use the tools of AI, internet and robotics to make the very future 'they cannot imagine' actually come to life.

Publish Your Notices in Mauritius Times Digital Editions

- Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- General Assembly
- Applications for Building and Land Use Permits
- Corporate - Company Notices

Send Your Notices + Proof of ID by Email or
WhatsApp No - 5 2929301

Payment: Bank Transfer or by Juice No. 5782 9861

Contact us: Tel: 212 1313 -- 5 2929301
Email: mtimes@intnet.mu