

L'Union
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British Politics

Will Britain opt for a three-party election race?

Do we need a third major political party in Great Britain next to the Conservative Party and the Labour Party in the House of Commons (HOC) together with the 12 other minor parties making up the 650 elected members of the House, including the Speaker?

Or perhaps, we should rather ask whether we need a fourth major political party in Britain next to the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberals? Well, the Liberal Party is not today a great performer with only 72 MPs sitting in the HOC. Yet, it is hard to believe that the Liberal Party once dominated the political scene in Britain until 1918.

The **Labour Party** was born in 1900 out of the trade union movement. The party grew in strength from year to year to become the second major political force in Britain next to the Conservative Party. The Liberals had been put aside, managing to elect only a few MPs.



Zara Sultana

Picture: Courtesy Wikipedia

The Labour Party had its first taste of government under Ramsay MacDonald in 1924. Since then, the Party has been, on and off, at the helm of government. Labour initially preached socialism and even nationalisation, i.e. government-control of various essential services and utilities, including the railways, which is

anathema to the Conservative Party.

Over the years the Labour Party has rid itself of its extremism and adopted a middle-of-the-road policy of mixed economy. While there were those in the Labour Party who wanted a socialism akin to the Russian philosophy of state control, there have been those who wanted to take the party closer to the right of the political spectrum.

Tony Blair

Labour leader Tony Blair (1997-2007) created the impression of wanting to take the party more to the right. His father, Leo Blair, though

of humble origin had joined the Conservative Party. Son Tony might have inherited some of the Conservative tendencies from the father. Tony Blair was even called the true son of Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady, the Conservative Leader who headed the government for 12 years.

Blair took Britain to war against Iraq to destroy Saddam Hussein on the pretext that the Iraqi head of government had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. There was actually no evidence for this assertion and to this day there is no indication as to the veracity of Blair's accusation.

Blair's reign as PM lasted for about 2 1/2 years to June 2007 when he was compelled to pass on, both the party's leadership and the Government, to Gordon Brown as a result of their power-sharing agreement before the 2007 General Election. It was said that Blair was reluctant to abide by the agreement and was in the end compelled to submit.

Well, if there has been a Labour PM with Conservative tendencies, there has also been a Labour Leader with Marxist views. This is Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington. He was elected as Labour Leader following the defeat of leader Ed Miliband in 2015 and sat in the House as leader of the Opposition for a time.

Corbyn's popularity waned following the defeat of the Labour Party at the 2019 General Election. His party leadership was not renewed at the 2020 contest and he was succeeded by present leader, Sir Keir Starmer, who took the party to victory at the 2024 election.

Anti-semitism

Seen by Starmer as a politician with antisemitic views because of his firm support for the Palestinian cause, Corbyn was expelled from the party and forbidden to stand as a Labour candidate for the forthcoming 2024 general election. However, he was returned to Parliament as an independent candidate increasing his vote share by more than 7000.

Starmer is seen by many party members as a replica of Tony Blair with right-wing tendencies. There are party members who believe that Starmer may see antisemitism in

every nook and corner because of his Jewish connections.

Jeremy Corbyn has always been pro-Palestinian advocating the establishment of a Palestinian State. Because of the international pressure, especially from within the EU, Starmer himself is now being forced to acknowledge a Palestinian nationhood. He has now stated that he would support the plea for a Palestinian State at the September United Nations General Assembly.



Jeremy Corbyn

Picture: Courtesy Wikipedia

Because of the introduction of quite a few anti-social measures the Keir Starmer is becoming unpopular in national politics. Pensionable age is being increased to 70 years. It has been reported that certain benefits will be cut that will cause considerable hardships to the needy within the nation. It has been said that Britain is entering a period of austerity under the Keir Starmer Labour government.

New Left-wing Party

MP Jeremy Corbyn is against the austerity measures and demands an increase in public spending to relieve the stress on the poorer section of society, for which he blames Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

As an independent MP, Jeremy Corbyn, together with ex-Labour MP Zara Sultana who has resigned from the Party, has launched a new left-wing political party which is yet to be named. The new party is facing its fair share of teething problems. The right-wing press reports that, apart from the question of name, the tandem have yet to decide on the question of leadership as well. This does not seem to make sense since it is an accepted fact that Jeremy Corbyn is the leader with wide political and parliamentary experience.

However, the press acknowledges that the new unnamed party has already pulled a few thousands of fans likely to create the third force in British politics. This is the big question:

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are we witnessing the birth of a three-party system in Britain? A similar question has been asked in America with the creation of a third party by Elon Musk to eliminate Trump. Can America accommodate a three-party system composing of the Republicans, the Democrats and the Musk-eteers?

As far as Britain is concerned, it would seem that the days of the Labour government under Starmer are numbered. The Conservatives are preparing for government. It has even been hinted in the press that Nigel Farage's party



Kemi Badenoch

'Reform UK' could make of him the next Prime Minister.

As an out and out brexiteer, Farrage fought tooth and nail for Britain to leave the European Union, though he was himself a member of the European Parliament. Of

course he lost his seat when Britain left the EU. But then, he made great headway in domestic politics to get himself elected to the House of Commons as a member for Clapton.

Labour's Decline

On the other hand, with Labour at the lowest

ebb under Keir Starmer, if not Nigel Farage, the Conservative Party will certainly secure a majority of seats in the Commons to form the next government with Kemi Badenoch, of Nigerian parentage, as Prime Minister, and Indian-blood Priti Patel in her Cabinet. Immigrant-stock Badenoch and Patel are two black characters of the sort that, according to the 1960s Conservative racist, Enoch Powell, would fill the River Thames with the blood of the English white people.

Both Badenoch and Patel do certainly consider themselves as the True Blue elements of the Conservative Party whom Margaret Thatcher, in her exclusive Conservative Club, used to refer to one another, as "one of us". It must be borne in mind that Both Badenoch and Patel, plus Farage, all on the Opposition bench, are against the return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius and to the payment of compensation to Mauritius and the Chagossians. It will be interesting to know what will be their attitude when they will be "the Government."

We have tried as much as possible in this exposé to place in context the political melting pot in which a third political party will emerge under the likelihood leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. As a note-



Nigel Farage



Our young UK Mauritian friend Joshua of Islington with his arm around Jeremy Corbyn. This picture first appeared in our UK Mauritian Gazette in December 2017. A tall young man is Josh. He has decided to be a security officer. Mr Corbyn is well acquainted with the Mauritian community. He has always stood by Mauritius regarding the Chagos issue.

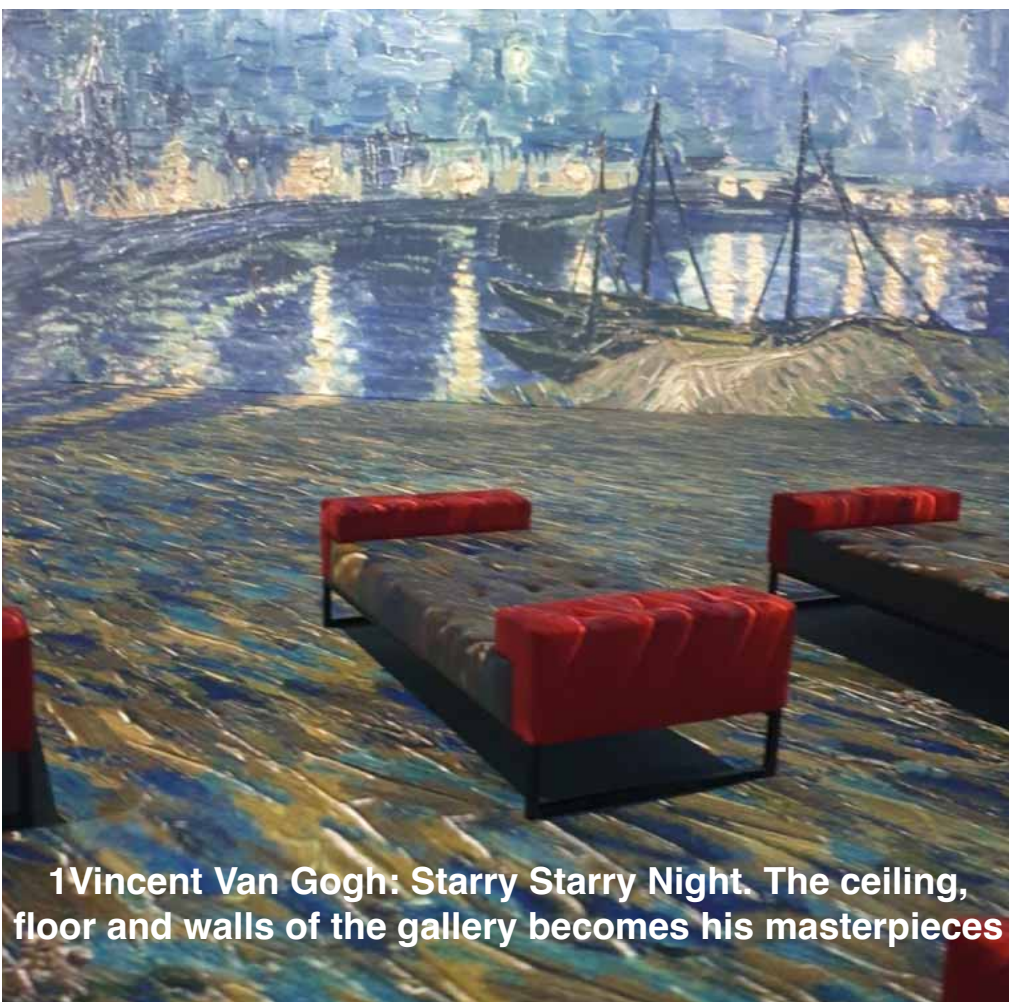
worthy remark, it is important to bear in mind the fact that PERSONALITY plays a great part in politics. The electorate have little time for scruffy leaders. Michael Foot sporting his duffle coat attracted derogatory remarks from Margret Thatcher. With his beard and sometimes careless dressing, Jeremy Corbyn will have to create upon the nation the impression of a Respectful Leader.

The question is, in any case, can a third political force survive and establish itself as a lasting icon to reckon with. Political parties need financial backing to survive. Can a party that is seen as an enemy of capitalism find any such backing or is it as they say a mort-né movement?

Peter Chellen

Pictures from Liverpool Biennial 2025: The UK's Largest Festival of Contemporary Visual Art *from Mylene*

Every two years, the city transforms into an exciting playground for art! Forget about quietly strolling through a museum looking at paintings of fair-skinned women or European landscapes. Instead, be prepared to immerse yourself in art in all its fabulous forms. This year's theme is BEDROCK, which explores the various aspects of the vibrant



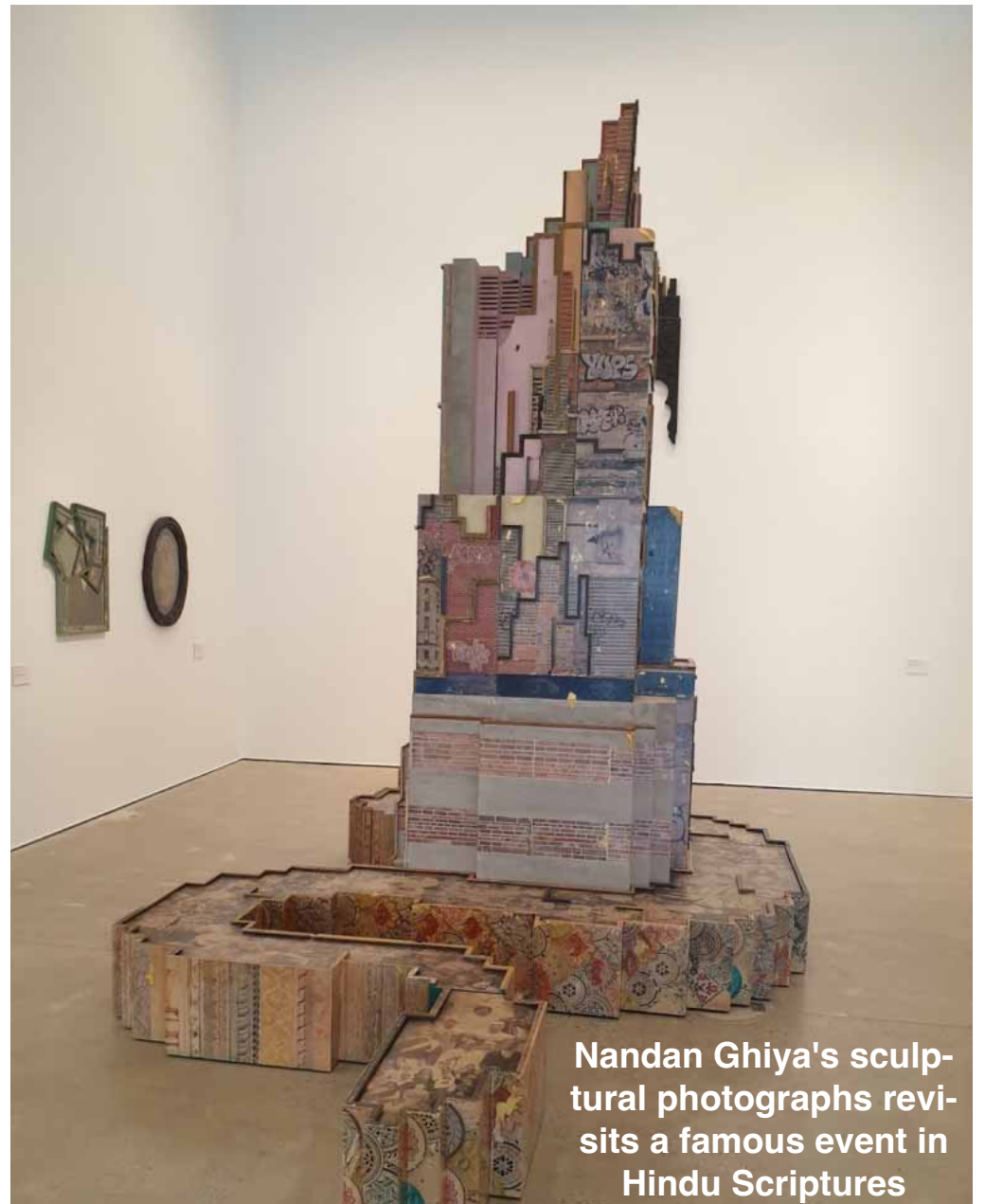
1 Vincent Van Gogh: Starry Starry Night. The ceiling, floor and walls of the gallery becomes his masterpieces



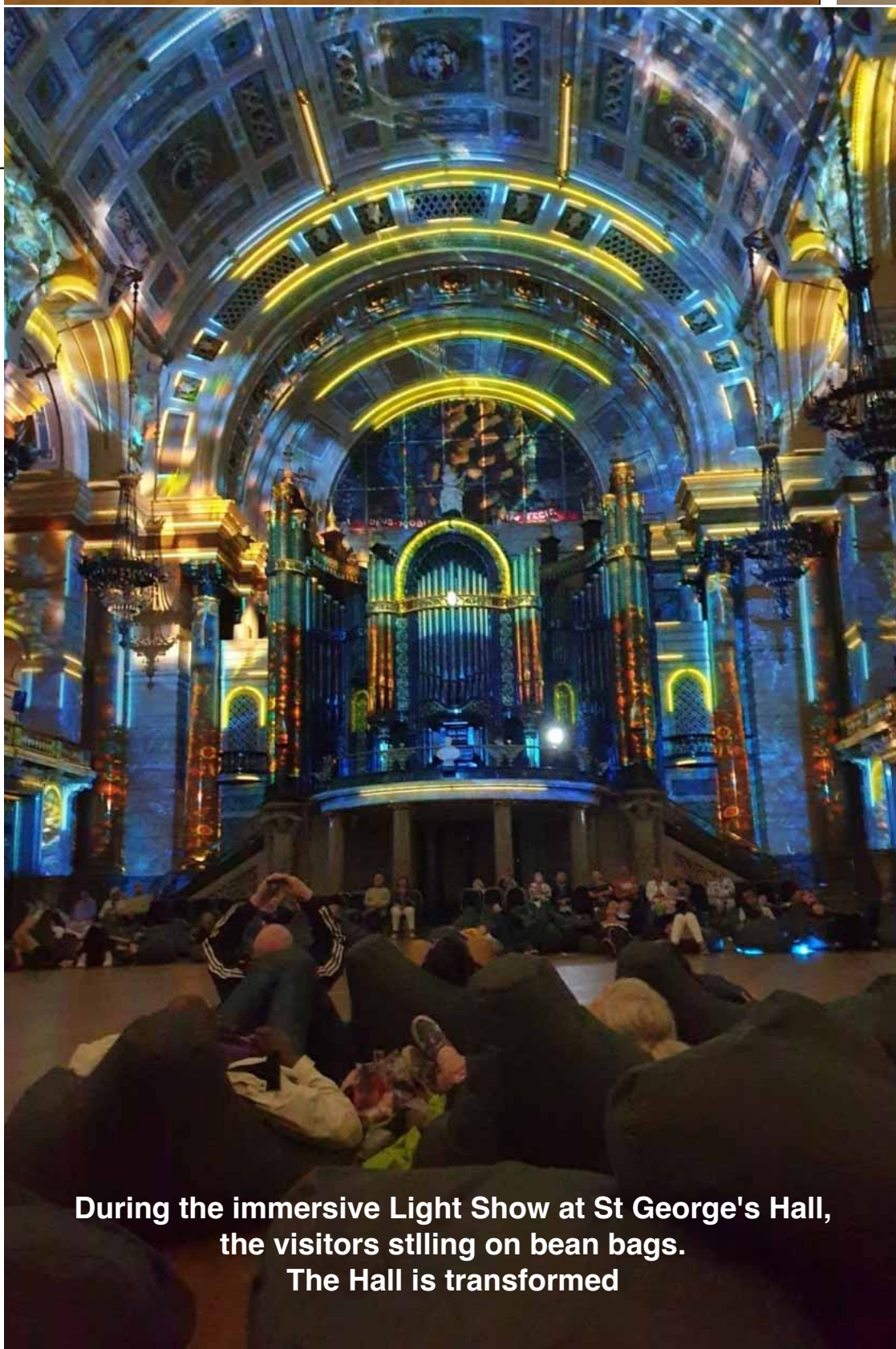
Vincent Van Gogh: Sunflowers



Before The Eonarium FLOW: An immersive Light Show at St George's Hall. We sit on bean bags



Nandan Ghiya's sculptural photographs revisits a famous event in Hindu Scriptures



During the immersive Light Show at St George's Hall, the visitors stlling on bean bags. The Hall is transformed



The end-part of above sculpture