

# MAURITIUS TIMES

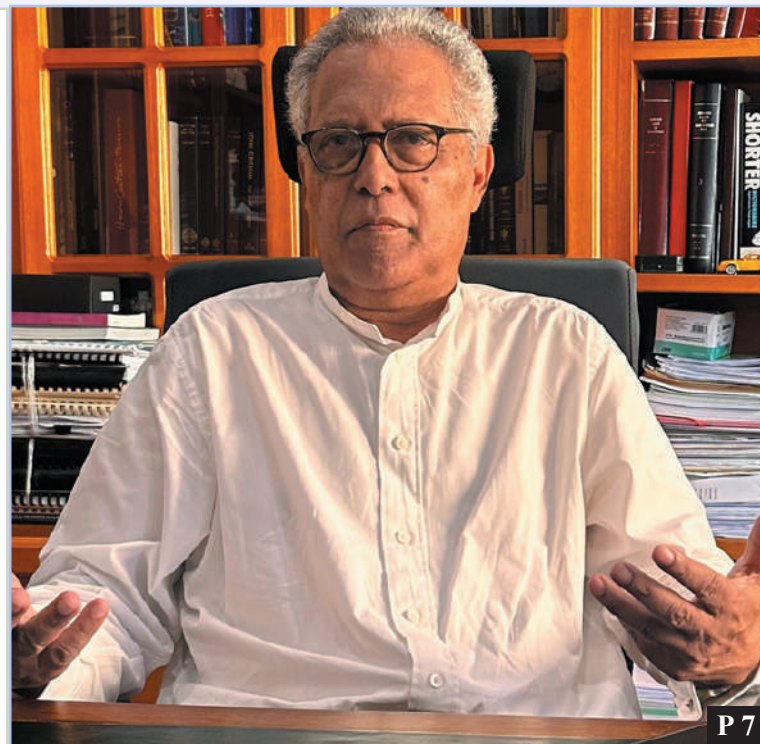
• Be vigilant; guard your mind against negative thoughts. -- Gautama Buddha

Interview : Me Antoine Domingue, SC

## “Il suffit d’un grain de sable pour enrayer la machinerie la mieux huilée...”

...Certains l’apprennent en ce moment à leurs dépens, ils se mordent les doigts”

- ‘Une enquête de ce genre concernant le blanchiment de plus d’une centaine de millions de roupies n’est pas une mince affaire et peut prendre plusieurs mois’



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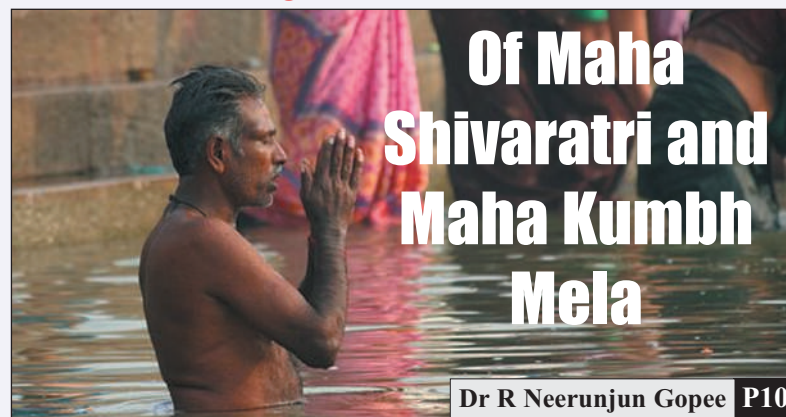
Editorial

## The Arrest of former PM Pravind Jugnauth A Turning Point for Justice in Mauritius?

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## The Arrest of former PM Pravind Jugnauth

# A Turning Point for Justice in Mauritius?

**T**he arrest of former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth on money laundering charges has sent shockwaves across Mauritius. His wife, Kobita, was also detained for questioning before being released. This high-profile arrest marks a significant moment in the country's political and legal history and will hopefully signal a genuine shift toward greater accountability.

For years, public frustration had been mounting over the lack of legal consequences for political figures suspected of corruption and financial misconduct. Most citizens viewed the previous government, led by Pravind Jugnauth's MSM, as being embroiled in numerous questionable financial dealings. Yet, despite the growing body of allegations, there had been little to no visible progress in holding those responsible accountable. With a new government in power for the past three months, impatience was growing over when those suspected of wrongdoings would face justice. The arrest of Jugnauth and the subsequent 'Objections to Departure' registered against several individuals close to him raise the possibility that the authorities have been carefully working behind the scenes to ensure that those suspected of involvement in financial and other crimes do not escape justice.

However, questions linger. Was this arrest the result of a carefully planned strategy by investigative agencies—namely the police and the Financial Crimes Commission—to target a specific, provable case rather than attempting to tackle larger, more complex scandals? High-profile controversies such as the 'Kistnen Papers,' the Wakashio oil spill, and questionable financial dealings involving the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), among others, have all tainted the Jugnauth administration. Could it be that the authorities chose to build a case around money laundering because it is easier to prove than other allegations?

The legal basis for Jugnauth's provisional charge remains unclear to the public, though reports suggest it relies heavily on testimony from individuals said to be close to him. Allegations indicate that these individuals may have acted as "storekeepers" of funds, mostly in foreign currency, and other assets that were seized by investigators. The reliability of these testimonies will be crucial in determining whether the charges will hold up in court. The next legal steps will be closely scrutinized, with many wondering how long the case will take to proceed through the justice system. Given the high stakes and the intricate nature of financial crime investigations, delays are likely, raising concerns about whether justice will be served in a timely manner.

Beyond Jugnauth's personal legal troubles, this



case carries broader implications for governance in Mauritius. Our island nation was once considered a model of good governance in Africa, often cited for its transparency, legal robustness, and economic progress. However, events over the past 10 years of MSM rule have placed Mauritius in the same category as countries where state institutions are seen as compromised, investigative bodies are accused of political bias, and legal mechanisms appear to be weaponized for political gains. This is a worrying development, as it has eroded public trust in institutions meant to uphold justice and democracy. A key concern today is whether the current administration is truly committed to justice. If this arrest is part of a genuine effort to clean up corruption, it must be followed by transparent investigations into all individuals suspected of financial crimes, regardless of their political affiliations.

Another critical issue is the broader financial mismanagement that has plagued the country in recent years. One of the most glaring examples is the MIC, which was established to support businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic but has been shrouded in secrecy. The public has been left in the dark regarding how MIC funds were allocated, with confidentiality clauses preventing scrutiny. This has led to widespread speculation that well-connected individuals and com-

panies benefited disproportionately while ordinary citizens faced economic hardship. The perception that small offenders are targeted while the so-called "big fish" escape justice only deepens public cynicism.

The issue of large-scale financial mismanagement extends beyond MIC to include controversial government spending. The massive investments in a surveillance system, costing Rs 5.2 billion with an additional Rs 355 million in annual maintenance costs, have raised eyebrows. Many question whether such expenditures were justified and whether corruption played a role in awarding contracts. Investigating and addressing

these financial irregularities will be essential if Mauritius hopes to restore its reputation as a transparent and accountable democracy.

While the FCC and other legal frameworks provide a foundation for tackling financial crimes, significant challenges remain. Institutional independence is a major concern, as the public perceives that investigative agencies are influenced by political considerations. Strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing transparency in investigations will be vital in ensuring that financial criminals are held accountable, regardless of their status or political connections.

Ultimately, the events of the past week will have lasting implications for Mauritius. If the case against Pravind Jugnauth is pursued fairly and backed by solid evidence, it could mark the beginning of a new era of accountability. The current administration is expected to ensure that justice is applied impartially, without favouritism or retribution.

At stake is not just the reputation of an individual politician but the credibility of Mauritius as a functioning democracy. A just and well-executed legal process could set a precedent that no one, regardless of rank or influence, is above the law. The people of Mauritius deserve no less.

## Mauritius Times

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Wishing you a  
blessed  
**Maha  
Shivaratri!**



Mauritius Times





Prakash Neerohoo

# Contrôle des crimes financiers

## Est-ce un nouveau souffle pour la FCC?

**L**a Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), une institution qui a remplacé l'ICAC dans le combat contre les crimes financiers, semble avoir pris un nouveau départ. Ces derniers jours, elle a frappé deux grands coups.

Primo, l'arrestation des frères Gooljaury sous une charge de blanchiment d'argent relativement à des prêts bancaires de Rs 1,1 milliard obtenus d'une banque d'Etat (l'ex-Mauritius Post & Cooperative Bank Ltd, aujourd'hui connue sous le nom de MauBank) et rayés par la suite. Cette charge tombe sous les articles 3 et 6 de la *Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act* (FIAMLA);

Secundo, l'arrestation de deux hommes d'affaires et de l'ancien Premier ministre Pravind Jugnauth sous une charge provisoire de blanchiment d'argent sous les articles 36(1) (b) et 38(3) de la *Financial Crimes Commission Act*. La charge est fondée sur la saisie de quatre valises remplies de billets en di-verses devises pour une somme totale de Rs 114 millions.

Aussi impressionnantes soient-elles par leur audace et leur célérité, ces dernières actions de la FCC sont-elles de bon augure pour la lutte contre les crimes financiers à Maurice? La FCC pourra-t-elle accomplir ses actions (perquisitions, arrestations et poursuites) à un rythme soutenu afin de justifier sa raison d'être auprès du public? Saura-t-elle répondre aux attentes du public concernant une moralisation des mœurs du pays après dix ans de corruption généralisée?

### Du jamais vu

Le succès ultime de ces deux actions dépendra éventuellement de la qualité du dossier de poursuite monté par la FCC, lequel dossier sera piloté par le Directeur

des Poursuites Publiques (DPP) devant une Cour de justice s'il est convaincu de ses éléments probants. Il faut s'attendre à une défense vigoureuse des suspects arrêtés par leurs avocats bien payés, que ce soit au niveau de la Cour de première instance ou de la Cour d'appel si jamais un verdict de culpabilité émis par la première est contesté devant la seconde.

Déjà, en ce qui concerne la deuxième action de la FCC, un suspect (l'ancien PM) a gagné une première manche en obtenant la libération sous caution devant une Cour de justice (*Bail and Remand Court*) qui a tenu une séance jusqu'à fort tard dimanche le 16 février pour débattre de la motion de remise en

liberté.

Voir une Cour de justice siéger un dimanche pour écouter une motion et livrer sa décision le même jour, c'est du jamais vu dans les annales judiciaires. Normalement n'importe quel quidam ne peut obtenir qu'un magistrat écoute une motion de remise en liberté un dimanche. En général, un suspect arrêté un vendredi doit rester en cellule jusqu'au lundi suivant pour avoir accès aux services d'un magistrat. L'ancien Premier ministre peut s'estimer chanceux.

**S**i cette séance dominicale de la Cour est un précédent, espérons qu'elle se répètera à l'avenir pour d'autres suspects qui auront le malheur d'être arrêtés un

vendredi. Autrement, on ne pourra pas empêcher le public d'avoir l'impression d'une justice à deux vitesses ou le sentiment que «bail is for the rich and jail is for the poor».

Sous l'ancien gouvernement, la FCC n'était pas différente (en termes d'efficacité) de l'ICAC, une agence d'investigation connue notoirement pour son incompétence, sinon sa complicité dans le maquillage des crimes financiers, grâce à ses enquêtes bidon. Dès sa création en novembre 2023, la FCC avait fait l'objet de vives critiques en raison de l'usurpation des pouvoirs de poursuite du DPP en matière de crimes financiers. La concentration des pouvoirs d'enquête et de poursuite entre les mains d'une seule entité (FCC) violait l'esprit de la séparation des pouvoirs dans notre système juridique. A telle enseigne que le DPP avait été contraint de contester l'usurpation de ses pouvoirs devant la Cour suprême

### FCC renforcée

Le nouveau gouvernement a été bien inspiré d'amender la loi régissant la FCC pour rendre au DPP ses pouvoirs de poursuite en matière de crimes financiers. Le projet de loi (*Financial Crimes Commission Miscellaneous Provisions Bill No. 1 of 2025*) voté à cet effet est une mesure ponctuelle visant à remettre la FCC sur les rails en attendant la création d'une nouvelle institution plus efficace (*Serious Crime Office* ou *National Crime Agency*) avec des pouvoirs élargis pour mieux combattre les crimes financiers (la corruption, la fraude, le blanchiment d'argent). Maurice n'a pas connu de succès à ce jour dans la lutte contre la corruption comme l'indique l'Indice de la Corruption pour 2024 publié par *Transparency International*. En effet, Maurice reste à la 56e place parmi 180 pays avec un score de 51 sur 100 points, soit la même qu'en 2023. Elle est devancée par les Seychelles qui fait un score de 72 points à la 18e place.

Avec la modification de la loi, la FCC est en mesure maintenant de traquer des criminels à col blanc et d'enquêter sur leurs affaires en toute indépendance. Elle ne sera plus juge et partie à la fois (enquêteur et procureur). Elle est obligée de référer ses rapports d'enquête au DPP aux fins de poursuite, ce qui empêchera tout abus de sa part. Sous l'ancienne loi, la FCC pouvait discontinuer une enquête ou poursuivre des suspects à sa guise. La garantie d'indépendance lui confère une obligation de résultats.

● Suite en page 4



P - lemauricien.com

**“Il faut s'attendre à une défense vigoureuse des suspects arrêtés par leurs avocats bien payés, que ce soit au niveau de la Cour de première instance ou de la Cour d'appel si jamais un verdict de culpabilité émis par la première est contesté devant la seconde. Déjà, en ce qui concerne la deuxième action de la FCC, un suspect (l'ancien PM) a gagné une première manche en obtenant la libération sous caution devant une Cour de justice (*Bail and Remand Court*) qui a tenu une séance jusqu'à fort tard dimanche le 16 février pour débattre de la motion de remise en liberté...”**



## Contrôle des crimes financiers

# Est-ce un nouveau souffle pour la FCC?

● Suite de la page 3

La nouvelle FCC ne peut plus se permettre de dormir sur les dossiers. En attendant la nomination d'un nouveau directeur général (en remplacement de l'ancien titulaire Navin Beekarry), les quatre nouveaux commissaires nommés à la FCC (les avocats Richard Rault, Nitish Hurnaum et Karim Namdarkhan, et la comptable Virginie Lennon) doivent lui donner un nouveau souffle en vue de faire des enquêtes avec diligence et méthode. Ils ont du pain sur la planche.

### Relancer des enquêtes

D'abord, il faudra relancer les enquêtes qui ont tourné en eau de boudin dans le passé en raison d'une approche incompetente ou d'un refus d'aller au fond des choses. Le commissaire Karim Namdarkhan pourra apporter un éclairage sur ces enquêtes du fait de son expérience dans le domaine puisqu'il a été un directeur indépendant de la SBM en 2018-2020 et un membre du conseil d'administration de l'ICAC en 2021-2024, selon les informations publiées dans la presse.

Ces enquêtes concernent notamment:

1. L'affaire Saint-Louis qui, selon la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD), impliquerait le paiement d'un pot-de-vin de Rs 700 millions par une firme danoise (BWSC) pour fournir des moteurs à la station électrique de Saint-Louis du CEB. Cette affaire remonte à juin 2020. L'ancien ministre de l'Energie Ivan Collendavelloo fut révoqué du conseil des ministres en raison de la mention de son nom dans une lettre de la BAD citée alors par le Premier ministre. Mais il n'a jamais été inquiété par l'ICAC.
2. Le contrat attribué à un importateur en décembre 2021 pour la fourniture d'un million d'unités d'un médicament anti-Covid (Molnupiravir) au prix surévalué de Rs 79 l'unité contre le prix initial de Rs 9. L'Etat a payé un excédent de Rs 70 millions. Un pharmacien de l'Etat poursuivi dans cette affaire fut acquitté par une Cour de justice, qui blâma l'ICAC pour les insuffisances de son enquête. La haute hiérarchie du ministère de la Santé, qui avait approuvé le contrat, n'a jamais été inquiétée par l'ICAC.
3. Le «Stag Party Gate» où une entreprise a apparemment payé un pot-de-vin de Rs 3 millions à certains officiels pour obtenir un terrain à bail de 700 arpents dans le voisinage du lac de Grand Bassin.
4. Les contrats d'approvisionnement d'urgence (sans appel d'offres) en médicaments et équipements médicaux alloués à des fournisseurs, y compris des bijouteries et des quincailleries, durant la pandémie de la Covid-19. L'enquête judiciaire sur la mort de Kistnen avait révélé un réseau de sociétés fictives



“Il faudra ouvrir de nouvelles enquêtes sur certaines affaires qui se sont produites dans le passé mais qui n'ont jamais été au centre des préoccupations de l'ICAC. Il s'agit notamment de la vente de quatre avions d'Air Mauritius durant la pandémie de la Covid-19 à des prix très bas (Rs 373 millions au total), causant une perte énorme à la compagnie (Rs 3, 3 milliards). Aussi liée à cette affaire est le paiement de Rs 100 millions aux administrateurs de la compagnie lorsqu'elle fut mise sous administration judiciaire. Est-ce que cette somme était raisonnable compte tenu des services rendus par les administrateurs et du plan de redressement proposé?”

ayant bénéficié de ces contrats.

### Nouvelles enquêtes

Ensuite, il faudra ouvrir de nouvelles enquêtes sur certaines affaires qui se sont produites dans le passé mais qui n'ont jamais été au centre des préoccupations de l'ICAC. Il s'agit notamment de:

**1 La vente de quatre avions d'Air Mauritius** durant la pandémie de la Covid-19 à des prix très bas (Rs 373 millions au total), causant une perte énorme à la compagnie (Rs 3, 3 milliards). Aussi liée à cette affaire est le paiement de Rs 100 millions aux administrateurs de la compagnie lorsqu'elle fut mise sous administration judiciaire. Est-ce que cette somme était raisonnable compte tenu des services rendus par les administrateurs et du plan de redressement proposé? Un des deux administrateurs était Sattar Hajee Abdoula, un ancien président du conseil d'administration de SBM Holdings Ltd. Il était aussi l'administrateur chargé de restructurer les sociétés du conglomérat BAI après son démantèlement.

**2 La radiation des prêts sans garantie, accordés par la SBM** à des clients étrangers, causant des pertes de Rs 7,6 milliards en trois ans avant 2020. Bien que la SBM soit une compagnie redevable envers ses actionnaires, elle est comptable de ses actions envers son

actionnaire majoritaire, l'Etat. Il est important de savoir si les risques liés aux prêts furent évalués correctement.

**3 Le gaspillage de Rs 700 millions à la CWA** sur le remplacement de tuyaux de distribution comme soulevé dans un rapport du département d'audit interne.

**4 La démolition éventuelle du réservoir de Cluny** en raison de 25 fissures constatées dans son architecture, ce qui cause une perte sèche de Rs 75 millions à la CWA. Il y a lieu de savoir qui a conçu le plan d'ingénierie et si les travaux ont été effectués selon les normes.

**5 La faillite de la Silver Bank**, qui a accordé des prêts toxiques de Rs 7 milliards à des sociétés étrangères et locales alors que l'Etat a perdu des centaines de millions de roupies en dépôts à travers ses organismes (ministères et corps paraétatiques) qui y avaient investi leur argent. La Banque centrale a permis à cette banque d'opérer dans des conditions troublantes. La nouvelle direction de la Banque centrale tente de démêler l'écheveau, avec peu de résultats à ce jour.

La FCC devrait se pencher sérieusement sur les enquêtes susmentionnées afin de sauvegarder la réputation du centre financier offshore de Maurice, dont dépend l'investissement étranger. Maurice devrait éviter toute nouvelle inscription sur la liste grise ou noire du Groupe d'Action Financière (GAFI) de l'OCDE pour cause de déficiences dans le régime AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism).

Prakash Neerohoo



“Il faudra relancer les enquêtes qui ont tourné en eau de boudin dans le passé en raison d'une approche incompetente ou d'un refus d'aller au fond des choses. Ces enquêtes concernent notamment l'affaire Saint-Louis qui, selon la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD), impliquerait le paiement d'un pot-de-vin de Rs 700 millions par une firme danoise (BWSC) pour fournir des moteurs à la station électrique de Saint-Louis du CEB. Cette affaire remonte à juin 2020. L'ancien ministre de l'Energie Ivan Collendavelloo fut révoqué du conseil des ministres en raison de la mention de son nom dans une lettre de la BAD citée alors par le Premier ministre...”



# “Corporate political donations often come with strings attached”

*‘This can create a system where policy decisions are influenced by financial contributions rather than the public interest’*

**I**n Mauritius, the primary legal framework to combat corruption and money laundering is the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) Act. Although the Act contains provisions to punish corruptors, enforcement appears rare. One notable exception is the St Louis Gate scandal, which surfaced after a public communiqué from the African Development Bank (ADB) on 8 June 2020. The ADB’s Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded that Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) had financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others for providing access to confidential tender-related information. This misconduct led to BWSC winning the Rs4.3 billion contract for the redevelopment of the CEB’s St Louis power plant in 2015.

This case illustrates how corruption thrives not just through complicit officials but also through corporations willing to bend the rules for financial gain. Strengthening legal frameworks to track and penalize both corrupt and corruptor, alongside reforms in electoral financing transparency, could play a decisive role in breaking this destructive cycle. A more rigorous application of existing laws, paired with new investigative mechanisms, might finally bring both sides of corruption to justice.

## LEX

**\* Beyond the St. Louis Gate scandal, are there documented cases in Mauritius where corruptors (not just public officials) have been successfully prosecuted? What were the typical charges and penalties?**

No information is available on this. The corrupt rarely disclose the names of their corruptors. During the Covid-19 pandemic, several contracts were awarded to friends and supporters of the former regime. There remains a perception that kickbacks were given to those responsible for awarding the contracts. However, no proof is available. The FCC Act stipulates that any public official who solicits, accepts, or obtains a gratification from another person, for themselves or for any other person, commits an offence.

**\* What specific provisions within the FCC Act address the actions of the corruptor (e.g., bribery, offering undue advantage, collusion)? Are these provisions strong enough, or are there loopholes that allow corruptors to escape prosecution?**

The FCC Act contains several provisions addressing financial crimes, which are broadly defined. Both the offense of a pub-

lic official accepting a bribe and the offense of offering a bribe are punishable. The Act also addresses conflicts of interest where an official participates in discussions or decision-making in which they have, or reasonably should know they have, a personal interest.

The MedPoint case against Pravind Jugnauth involved allegations of conflict of interest, though he was ultimately acquitted due to a specific interpretation of the law. Proving that an official has a personal interest is often challenging. In the MedPoint case, both the Supreme Court and the Privy Council emphasized the need to analyze and assess each specific decision individually to determine whether the official, a relation, or an associate had a personal interest in that decision.

**“Making the influence of large corporations on political decision-making more transparent and accountable requires a multi-pronged approach. A key element is comprehensive legislation on political financing. Such legislation could include stricter regulations on campaign contributions, including limits on corporate donations and enhanced disclosure requirements. Transparency is crucial, so all contributions, including their source and amount, should be publicly available in a timely and accessible manner...”**



Pic - democracyproject.substack.com

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**\* What are the challenges in proving the guilt of a corruptor, especially when they are often sophisticated entities with legal and financial resources at their disposal?**

Proving the guilt of a corruptor presents significant challenges, particularly when dealing with sophisticated entities possessing substantial legal and financial resources.

Prosecutions under the FCC Act are criminal proceedings, requiring proof beyond a reasonable doubt – a high legal standard. Given the complex nature of financial crimes, investigators must meticulously gather and analyze all relevant details, both factual and technical, before establishing the guilt of the accused.

The legal system rightly affords every accused person ample opportunity to defend themselves, further adding to the complexity of these cases.

**\* How does the FCC Act address the issue of corporate criminal liability? Can companies be held directly responsible for the corrupt actions of their employees or agents? Are the penalties for corporate corruption sufficiently deterrent?**

The FCC Act addresses corruption within private entities.

☞ Cont. on page 6

# “Corporate political donations often come with strings attached”

*‘This can create a system where policy decisions are influenced by financial contributions rather than the public interest’*

☞ **Cont. from page 5**

A “private entity” is defined broadly, encompassing associations, companies, foundations, limited liability partnerships, partnerships, *sociétés*, trusts, and other prescribed entities incorporated or registered in Mauritius.

Any employee or member of a private entity who solicits, accepts, or obtains gratification from another person, either for themselves or for another, in exchange for performing or abstaining from performing an act related to their functions, duties, the entity’s affairs, or its business commits an offense. Upon conviction, they are liable to a fine not exceeding 20 million rupees and penal servitude for a term not exceeding 10 years.

Similarly, any person who gives, agrees to give, or offers a gratification to an employee or member of a private entity for such an act commits an offense. Upon conviction, they are subject to the same penalties.

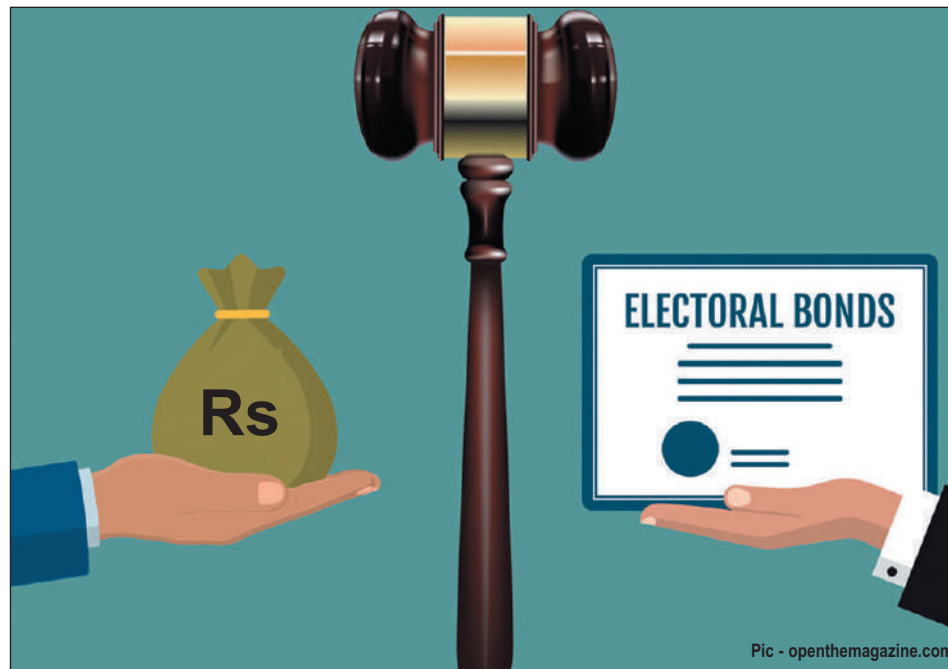
Furthermore, a legal person (such as a corporation) may also be held liable and subject to the same penalties if any of its directors, senior managers, or other management personnel, officers, agents, or authorized representatives commit an offense under the Act for the benefit of the legal person.

**\* Beyond criminal penalties, are there provisions for debarment of corrupt companies from participating in future public contracts?**

If a company is found guilty of corruption, it may be blacklisted. The Registrar of Companies may also impose sanctions, including striking the company off the register. Companies engaging in corruption can face a range of penalties, including substantial fines, imprisonment for individuals involved, revocation of business licenses, and confiscation of assets.

**\* As regards electoral financing, there is the issue of *quid pro quo* arrangements between corporations making campaign contributions and politicians who later hold office. What are your thoughts on this matter?**

The issue of *quid pro quo* arrangements between corporations making campaign contributions and politicians who later hold office raises serious concerns about corruption and conflicts of interest. Donations to political parties by corporations or other entities are often made with the expectation of reciprocal benefits. This can create a sys-



**“The corrupt rarely disclose the names of their corruptors. During the Covid-19 pandemic, several contracts were awarded to friends and supporters of the former regime. There remains a perception that kickbacks were given to those responsible for awarding the contracts. However, no proof is available. The FCC Act stipulates that any public official who solicits, accepts, or obtains a gratification from another person, for themselves or for any other person, commits an offence...”**

tem where policy decisions are influenced by financial contributions rather than public interest. The potential for such *quid pro quo* arrangements undermines the integrity of the democratic process and erodes public trust in government.

**\* How can the influence of large corporations on political decision-making be made more transparent and accountable? Should there be stricter regulations on lobbying activities?**

Making the influence of large corporations on political decision-making more transparent and accountable requires a multi-pronged approach. A key element is comprehensive legislation on political financing. Such legislation could include stricter regulations on campaign contributions, including limits on corporate donations and enhanced disclosure requirements. Transparency is crucial, so all contributions, including their source and amount, should be publicly available in a timely and accessible manner.

**\* Are there typical investigative techniques used to uncover corruption involving both public officials and cor-**

**ruptors?**

To prevent and detect offenses under the FCC Act or the Declaration of Assets Act, the Director of the Investigation Division of the FCC, with the approval of the Director-General, may use the following investigative techniques as needed to gather intelligence or evidence: controlled remittances and surveillance. The FCC may also obtain

a judge’s order to authorize intrusive surveillance, the use of covert human intelligence sources, and equipment interception.

**\* What specific legislative reforms could be considered to strengthen the fight against corruption, particularly focusing on the corruptor’s role?**

The FCC Act and other legislation provides for a number of offences. The penalties, ranging from heavy fines to imprisonment and asset seizure, are severe enough. It is up to those in charge of the institutions to do their duty. Ultimately, the effectiveness of these laws depends on those responsible for their enforcement diligently performing their duties.

**\* What lessons can be learned from other countries that have been successful in combating corruption, both in terms of legislation and enforcement?**

There is no single lesson to be learned, except perhaps that the culture of some countries fosters a corruption-free environment. Until we educate people, and until our leaders set a positive example, there is little that can be done. Legislation exists, but until the culture changes, the fight against corruption will remain an uphill battle.

**\* Beyond the ADB’s findings, we are to date not aware what actions have been taken in Mauritius to hold both the public officials and the company (BWSC) accountable for their roles in the St. Louis Gate scandal. That is not surprising, isn’t it?**

With the FCC now under new leadership, it falls to this body to pursue the case.

LEX

## The Physical Education and Sports Employees Union (PESEU) Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Physical Education and Sports Employees Union (PESEU) on Saturday, 8th March 2025, at 10:30 am at MTUC Headquarters, GRNW, Port-Louis.

### AGENDA:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Reading & approval of minutes of last AGM  | 2. Matters arising    |
| 3. Finance                                    | 4. President's Report |
| 5. Motions / amendments of rules (if any)     |                       |
| 6. Reshuffling of Managing Committee (if any) | 7. AOB                |

Compliant members are kindly requested to attend the AGM.

**Mrs Henna MIHDIDIN**  
Secretary, PESEU



Interview : Me Antoine Domingue, SC

# “Il suffit d’un grain de sable pour enrayer la machinerie la mieux huilée...”

...Certains l’apprennent en ce moment à leurs dépens, ils se mordent les doigts”

**L'**actualité politique mauricienne est secouée par l'arrestation de l'ancien Premier ministre, Pravind Jugnauth, sur des accusations de blanchiment d'argent. Cette affaire fait suite à une perquisition menée par la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), au cours de laquelle une somme de 114 millions de roupies mauriciennes a été saisie. M. Jugnauth a été libéré sous caution, mais les charges provisoires portées contre lui soulèvent des questions sur l'intégrité des institutions politiques et la transparence du financement des partis à Maurice. Pour analyser les implications de cette affaire, nous avons sollicité l'expertise de Me Antoine Domingue, Senior Counsel et ancien président du Bar Council. Dans cet entretien, il partage ses perspectives sur les allégations de corruption, les défis juridiques à venir et la nécessité d'une réforme profonde du financement politique à Maurice.

**Mauritius Times:** Les années Jugnauth, de 2014 à 2019, et plus encore depuis 2019 jusqu'à la dernière année de son mandat, ont été marquées par diverses affaires impliquant des sommes d'argent considérables, présumément obtenues de manière frauduleuse. Les autorités policières et la FCC ont mené une opération durant le week-end dernier, aboutissant à l'arrestation de Pravind Jugnauth sous une charge provisoire de blanchiment d'argent. La question se pose: s'agit-il d'une affaire majeure - un gros morceau -, ou plutôt d'un dossier relativement mineur qui, malgré tout, pourrait aboutir à une condamnation?

**Antoine Domingue:** S'agissant du dernier mandat du Premier ministre sortant, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, je n'ai pas connaissance des sommes considérables que vous venez d'évoquer. Je ne connais que l'affaire MedPoint qui, dans le temps, avait défrayé la chronique mais elle est antérieure à 2014: le prévenu avait été condamné à un an de prison. Mais ce jugement fut cassé en appel; par la suite, le jugement de la Cour d'appel fut confirmé par le Conseil privé suite à un appel interjeté par l'ancien DPP.

Nous avons aussi connaissance des dépenses électorales au no 8 pour les élections générales de fin 2014 telles qu'elles apparaissent dans les 'Kistnen Papers'. Celles-ci tournaient autour de 6 millions de roupies si l'on se fie aux documents qui sont disponibles. Jusqu'ici l'enquête de police n'a pas abouti.

En ce qui concerne la présente charge

de blanchiment d'argent contre Pravind Jugnauth, on ne peut pas prétendre qu'il s'agit d'un cas mineur puisqu'on est sans conteste en présence d'une somme colossale de pas moins de 115 millions de roupies. Aboutira-t-elle à une ou plusieurs condamnations? Contre qui et pour quelles infractions? Ce n'est pas à nous de le dire.

Je préfère ne pas spéculer à ce stade. Gardons en mémoire l'affaire Yogida Sawmynaden où la défense a obtenu un verdict d'acquiescement en Cour intermédiaire.

« En ce qui concerne la présente charge de blanchiment d'argent contre Pravind Jugnauth, on ne peut pas prétendre qu'il s'agit d'un cas mineur puisqu'on est sans conteste en présence d'une somme colossale de pas moins de 115 millions de roupies. Aboutira-t-elle à une ou plusieurs condamnations? Contre qui et pour quelles infractions? Ce n'est pas à nous de le dire. Je préfère ne pas spéculer à ce stade. Gardons en mémoire l'affaire Yogida Sawmynaden où la défense a obtenu un verdict d'acquiescement en Cour intermédiaire... »

**\* Il est possible que les autorités policières, la Financial Crimes Commission, etc., aient choisi de se concentrer sur des cas suspects vérifiables et potentiellement condamnables, plutôt que de chercher à inculper l'ancien Premier ministre dans des affaires complexes - que ce soit par rapport aux 'Kistnen Papers', à l'affaire Wakashio et tant d'autres cas suspects - où il serait difficile de constituer un dossier d'accusation solide. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Comme je viens de vous le dire, en ce qui concerne les 'Kistnen Papers' l'enquête de police n'a toujours pas connu d'aboutis-



sement.

Je vous signale par ailleurs que l'accusation privée (*private prosecution*) de Dayal contre Pravind Jugnauth devant la Cour de district de Port-Louis s'est soldée par un non-lieu, à la suite d'un classement sans suite (*discontinuance of proceedings*) de l'ancien DPP. Cela faisait suite à une motion de Pravind Kumar Jugnauth contre Dayal devant la Cour suprême, où j'avais invité la Cour à ordonner que le DPP soit mis en cause, ce qui fut d'ailleurs ordonné.

**\* Les fondements légaux de l'accusation provisoire de blanchiment d'argent portée contre Pravind Jugnauth ne sont**

pas encore publiquement connus dans les détails, mais il semble qu'elle repose principalement sur les déclarations faites par des personnes présumées proches de lui, qui auraient agi comme 'storekeepers' des devises et autres biens saisis par les enquêteurs. Dans quelle mesure ces témoignages pourraient-ils influencer sur le déroulement et l'issue d'un éventuel procès contre l'ancien Premier ministre, selon vous?

Ce que l'on sait pour le moment, c'est qu'il s'agit d'une dénonciation par un complice présumé, reposant également sur certains documents retrouvés lors d'une perquisition à son bureau. Cela tendrait à accréditer la thèse de la poursuite, selon laquelle il s'agirait bel et bien d'une tentative de blanchiment d'argent pour le compte d'une ou de plusieurs tierces parties.

Tout ce que je peux dire à ce stade, c'est que le témoignage d'un complice est admissible en Cour de justice dans le cadre d'une poursuite au pénal sous une accusation de blanchiment d'argent.

● Suite en page 8



# 'Le témoignage d'un complice est admissible en Cour de justice dans le cadre d'une poursuite au pénal sous une accusation de blanchiment d'argent'

● Suite de la page 7

Comme vous le dites vous-même, nous ne sommes qu'au tout début de l'enquête, et il n'y a pour le moment qu'une 'charge provisoire' devant la cour de district de Port-Louis. Si je ne m'abuse, il me semble que la prochaine comparution n'est pas prévue avant le mois d'août. Il faudra encore que l'enquête soit complétée, que le dossier à charge soit remis au DPP, et que celui-ci l'étudie avant de prononcer soit un non-lieu (*no further action*) ou intenter des poursuites pénales devant la Financial Crimes Division. Mais contre qui et dans quel ordre? Contre le complice ou contre le 'principal'? Ce sera au DPP d'en décider.

Tout ce que nous pouvons affirmer, et ce qui nous réjouit, c'est que suite à l'amendement de la Financial Crimes Commission Act en ce début d'année, cette décision, fort heureusement, n'appartient plus à la FCC mais bel et bien au DPP.

**\* Quelles sont les étapes juridiques à venir, et quels sont les délais typiques pour une affaire de cette envergure?**

Il faut tout d'abord boucler l'enquête pour que le dossier puisse être remis au DPP. Une enquête de ce genre concernant le blanchiment de plus d'une centaine de millions de roupies n'est pas une mince affaire et peut prendre plusieurs mois.

Le temps qu'il faudra au DPP pour l'étudier et prendre les décisions qui s'imposent sera nécessairement tributaire de l'envergure du dossier, suivi de la durée d'une ou de plusieurs poursuites au pénal sur plusieurs années.

Souvenez-vous de l'affaire MedPoint qui n'a connu son aboutissement qu'au Conseil Privé après la volte-face tout à fait surprenante de l'ICAC.

**\* Étant donné les fortes attentes du public en matière de responsabilisation face aux présumés actes répréhensibles du gouvernement précédent, estimez-vous que l'administration actuelle soit en train d'adopter finalement les mesures nécessaires pour répondre efficacement à ces attentes et garantir que justice soit rendue de manière transparente et dans les meilleurs délais?**

Oui, je pense que l'administration actuelle abonde dans ce sens et on ne peut rien lui reprocher à cet égard.

Le premier projet de loi qui a été voté au Parlement en atteste puisque le pouvoir de poursuite a été restitué au DPP. D'ailleurs, d'autres projets de loi sont prévus dans cette mouvance afin de s'assurer que les pouvoirs constitutionnels du DPP soient consolidés et qu'il ne soit plus tributaire des sautes d'humeur d'un Commissaire de police, perçu comme étant à la solde du pouvoir en place.

Ce dernier, dont le fils a initialement écopé d'une année de prison ferme, peine convertie en une amende de Rs100 000 sur recommandation de la Commission de Pourvoi en Grâce, se retrouve une fois de plus devant la justice à l'heure où je vous parle.

D'autre part, il a aussi été recommandé que l'entraide judiciaire (*Mutual Legal Assistance*) soit revu et passe de l'Attorney General au bureau du DPP. Ce serait une mesure salubre qui répondrait favorablement aux attentes que vous venez d'évoquer.

**\* Au-delà des autres cas suspects de malversation, il y a les transactions de la MIC qui ont dominé l'actua-**

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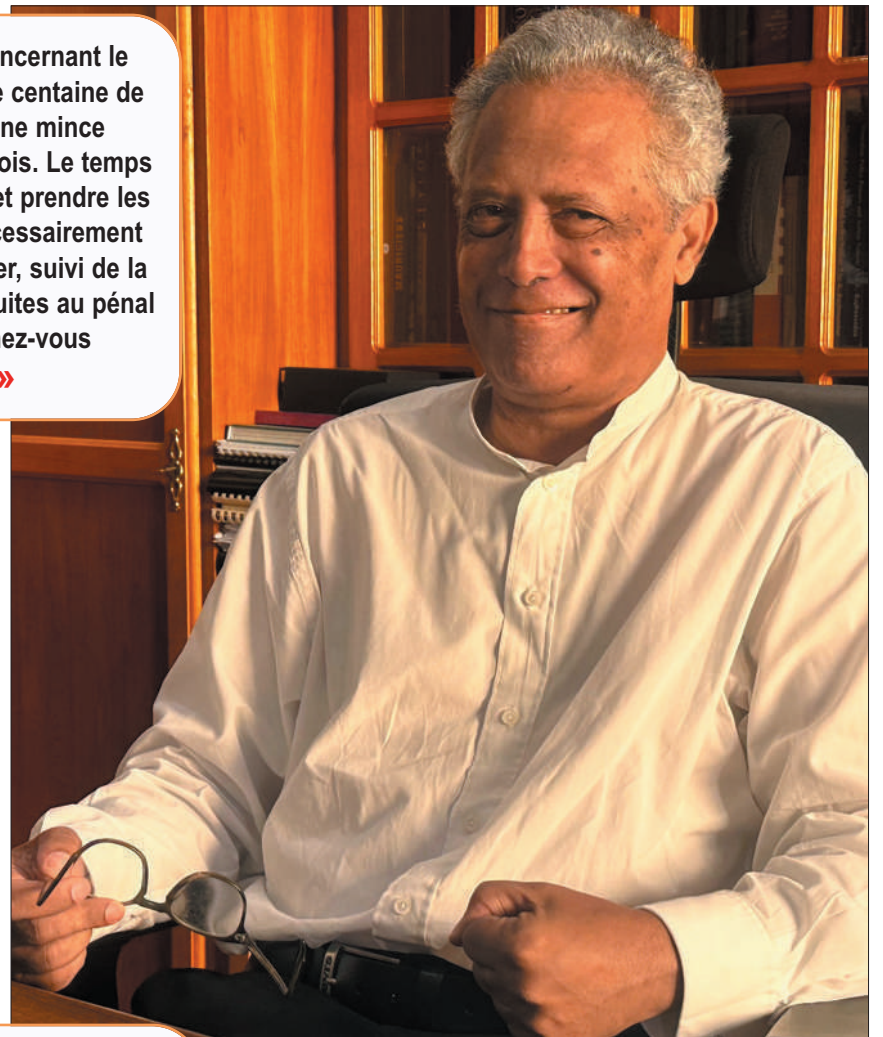
lité pendant un bout de temps. Cependant l'évocation des clauses de confidentialité est venue protéger les « gros poissons » -- c'est du moins la perception -- tandis que les plus petits sont scrutés pour apaiser l'opinion publique. Pensez-vous que cette approche renforce vraiment la confiance en la responsabilité et la justice?

La justice doit s'accommoder et se plier aux règles légales de confidentialité surtout en matière bancaire. Cela ne signifie pas que ces règles de confidentialité concernant le secret bancaire ont été édictées pour faire obstacle à l'administration de la justice ou pour protéger les contrevenants.

« Nous ne sommes qu'au tout début de l'enquête, et il n'y a pour le moment qu'une 'charge provisoire' devant la cour de district de Port-Louis. Si je ne m'abuse, il me semble que la prochaine comparution n'est pas prévue avant le mois d'août. Il faudra encore que l'enquête soit complétée, que le dossier à charge soit remis au DPP, et que celui-ci l'étudie avant de prononcer soit un non-lieu (*no further action*) ou intenter des poursuites pénales devant la Financial Crimes Division. Mais contre qui et dans quel ordre? Contre le complice ou contre le 'principal'? Ce sera au DPP d'en décider... »

La loi prévoit les ordonnances de divulgation (*disclosure orders*), le recouvrement des avoirs (*asset recovery*) ainsi que d'autres mécanismes tels que le '*Norwich Pharmacal Order*' afin de connaître les bénéficiaires d'une fraude bancaire. Ces mécanismes sont en place pour contraindre les banquiers de dévoiler certaines informations pour s'assurer que les crimes financiers ne demeurent pas impunis.

Mais certaines contraintes et certaines règles existent en matière de droit bancaire, et il faut que l'on s'y soumette. Je tiens à préciser que ces règles de confidentialité et de



secret bancaire s'appliquent de la même façon au menu fretin ainsi qu'aux 'gros poissons' dont vous venez de faire état.

**\* Il est très difficile d'établir clairement les responsabilités dans les affaires de fraude, de corruption, voire d'assassinat. L'affaire du système de surveillance nécessitant des investissements massifs (Rs 5,2 milliards pour le système et Rs 355 millions pour l'entretien annuel), illustre parfaitement cette complexité. Que faut-il faire dans ce cas-là?**

Cela a coûté beaucoup trop cher au contribuable pour un résultat dérisoire et aléatoire. Dans certaines affaires, telles que l'affaire Kistnen, cela a été décrié à juste titre, en effet. Le jeu en valait-il la chandelle?

Ces caméras de surveillance n'ont servi qu'à éclaircir que quelques affaires minables. D'autres demeurent toujours des affaires non résolues (*cold cases*), et l'on est en droit de s'en préoccuper surtout quand il y a eu homicide d'un agent politique du MSM, affaire jusqu'ici non résolue par le MCIT et donc demeurée impunie à ce jour.

Que certaines caméras de surveillance ne fonctionnent pas, comme par enchantement, au moment où l'on en aurait le plus besoin, ou que les données n'aient pas été sauvegardées comme elles auraient dû l'être, c'est très préoccupant, eu égard aux sommes astronomiques englouties dans ce genre de projet budgétivore, qui a fait les beaux jours du MSM.

● Suite en page 9



# 'Une enquête de ce genre concernant le blanchiment de plus d'une centaine de millions de roupies n'est pas une mince affaire et peut prendre plusieurs mois'



● Suite de la page 8

Comme le disait fort à propos feu Sir Gaëtan Duval QC quand il était DPM et Attorney General du Cabinet Jugnauth de 1983 : *'Make hay while the sun shines!'* (Il faut battre le fer tant qu'il est chaud!)

\* Bien que la FCC et la loi cadre constituent une base solide pour lutter contre les crimes financiers à Maurice, des défis et des lacunes persistent. On soutient que des améliorations dans les domaines de l'indépendance, de la coopération inter-institutions et de la transparence sont nécessaires pour garantir que les criminels financiers soient tenus responsables de leurs actes. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Je viens de vous en parler à l'instant, et je suis convaincu qu'il est urgent que l'entraide judiciaire (Mutual Legal Assistance) soit placée sous la responsabilité et le contrôle exclusif du DPP et de son bureau.

\* Le gouvernement MSM avait franchi une ligne rouge en 2015 en ordonnant la perquisition de la résidence de Navin Ramgoolam à Angus Road et son arrestation ce jour-là. Sa vie privée avait également été étalée sur la place publique. Jamais auparavant une telle chose ne s'était produite à Maurice. La non-divulgaration de la vie privée et des financements des politiciens était-elle justifiée?

Pour la vie privée, vous n'êtes pas sans

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savoir qu'il existe certaines règles juridiques et de bienséance qui stipulent que chacun a droit au respect de sa vie privée. Toutefois, tout dépend des circonstances de l'affaire, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de politiciens, qui sont supposés avoir une certaine résilience (*thick-skinned*).

D'ailleurs, tout cela a été longuement examiné par le juge Balancy dans son jugement concernant l'affaire *Soomack vs Le Mauricien*, que chacun devrait lire et relire afin d'en tirer profit. Il existe des limites à la vie privée, tout comme au concept de confidentialité (*privacy*). Ce qui importe le plus, c'est la liberté d'expression, c'est-à-dire la liberté d'informer (*Freedom of Speech*), surtout lorsque l'intérêt public est en jeu.

Pour ce qui est du financement des politiciens et des partis politiques, il y a très longtemps que l'on souhaite une loi cadre. Mais ce dernier se fait cruellement attendre.

Cependant, comme vous le savez, ce n'est pas demain la veille que les politiques s'accorderont sur un tel texte et que cela figurera de façon prioritaire sur l'ordre du jour politique (*on top of the political agenda*).

\* L'histoire politique, ici comme ailleurs, nous enseigne qu'il existe des "Judas" qui ont trahi et qui continueront de le faire. L'affaire qui défraie la chronique ces jours-ci en est un exemple frappant, dit-on. On pourrait penser que les leaders, forts de ces expériences passées, tireraient des leçons. Or tel n'est souvent pas le cas. Votre opinion?

Mon opinion, puisque vous me la demandez, est de rappeler à vos lecteurs que 'ceux qui fréquentent les chiens attrapent des puces'.

Ce qui se passe actuellement était prévisible de longue date : il suffit d'un grain de sable pour enrayer la machinerie la mieux huilée. Certains l'apprennent en ce moment à leurs dépens, ils se mordent les doigts, et ils se rendent maintenant compte de ce que mes parents m'ont inculqué depuis ma tendre enfance : 'L'argent est un bon serviteur, mais un bien mauvais maître.'



Central Electricity Board – Metro Express Ltd

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Sécurité des pèlerins lors du pèlerinage de Maha Shivaratree

À l'approche de Maha Shivaratree, le Central Electricity Board (CEB) et Metro Express Ltd (MEL) rappellent l'importance de la sécurité lors du pèlerinage vers le Ganga Talao.

Conformément aux règlements promulgués en janvier 2025, la hauteur des kanwars, incluant celle du porteur ou des porteurs, ainsi que la hauteur des roues ou du caisson des véhicules transportant les kanwars, ne doit pas dépasser 3 mètres afin d'éviter tout contact dangereux avec les lignes électriques du CEB, ainsi qu'avec les lignes électrifiées situées le long du tracé de Metro Express Ltd.

Tout contact avec ces lignes peut entraîner des blessures graves, voire mortelles. L'utilisation d'un groupe électrogène (générateur) à l'intérieur du kanwar est strictement interdite, mais une batterie de 12 volts maximum est autorisée.

Les pèlerins doivent également respecter une distance de sécurité et s'abstenir de manipuler ou de soulever les lignes électriques. Des contrôles stricts seront effectués par les autorités compétentes afin de garantir un pèlerinage sûr et serein.

Agissons tous avec responsabilité.

18 février 2025

Communiqué émis conjointement par le Central Electricity Board et Metro Express Ltd.





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Of Maha Shivaratri and Maha Kumbh Mela

**F**or generations to come 2025 will be remembered as the year when the Maha Kumbh Mela will end on February 26, coinciding with the celebration of Maha Shivaratri. The Maha Kumbh Mela has come after 144 years in an unbroken cycle of Kumbh gatherings that go back to very ancient times, spanning countless centuries. In fact, the first written evidence of the Kumbh Mela can be found in the accounts of the Chinese traveller Huan Tsang or Xuanzang (602 - 664 AD) who visited India in 629-645 CE, during the reign of King Harshavardhana. However, similar observances date back to many centuries earlier still, when the river festivals first started getting organised.

This ritual cleansing, a physical act accompanied by chanting of specific mantras, is of course symbolic of the inner mental purification that one must undergo throughout one's life in order to attain liberation or *moksha* from our attachment to the world of matter, as presented to our psyche by our five senses.

*En passant*, I may mention that there is much debate going on in the world of science – fundamental physics in particular – about whether this 'external reality' perceived by our mind through our senses is the *actual* reality of the universe or is its true reality the intuitive one revealed to our sages of yore, the rishis? For the latter and the tradition they have spawned – Sanatana Dharma - this is a settled question, but for science it will ever be an unending quest for, as Einstein observed, a scientific theory is never final.

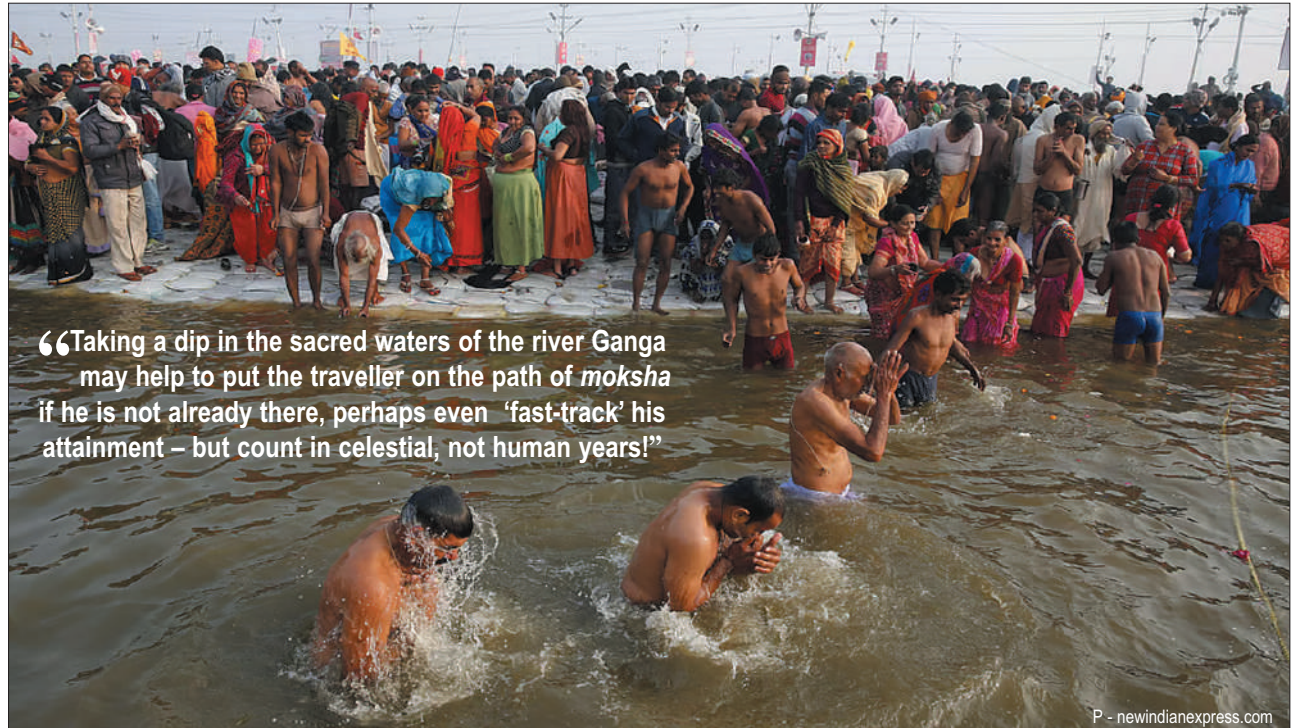
As Swami Tejomayananda, former Spiritual Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide, put it once, whereas science asks what is the origin of consciousness, we say that consciousness is the origin of everything.

**T**o come back to the Kumbh Mela, taking a dip in the sacred waters of the river Ganga may help to put the traveller on the path of *moksha* if he is not already there, perhaps even 'fast-track' his attainment – but count in celestial, not human years!

As far as Mauritius is concerned, Maha Shivaratri 2025 will also be remembered as the year when water from the Triveni Sangam – meeting of the rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh – was mixed with the water at Ganga Talao during a special ceremony that was held on Sunday February 16. The first mixing of Ganga water there was carried out in 1972, with water brought from Ganga at its origin in the Himalayas, Gomukh.

This time round, the water has come directly from the Sangam Triveni. It was collected there by Mrs Bimla Purmah, admin of a Sanskrit learning platform to which I also belong. She did the yatra to the Maha Kumbh Mela and stayed for a week earlier this month and was able to send the water to the Mauritius Sanatana Dharma Temples Federation for the ceremonial mixing.

When she returned, she gave us a first-hand account of her stay at the Mela and her participation in the 24/7 pujas, discussions, *satsangs* or spiritual discourses that were taking place. She had travelled alone and confirmed the reports of the very efficient logistic



“Taking a dip in the sacred waters of the river Ganga may help to put the traveller on the path of *moksha* if he is not already there, perhaps even 'fast-track' his attainment – but count in celestial, not human years!”

and security arrangements that have been organized under the direct and rigorous supervision of the Chief Minister of the state, Yogi Adityanath. Worthy of note, for example, is that men and women were sleeping under the same roof (as she did too), and there has not been a single untoward incident. On the contrary, there was respect and dignity maintained in the pervasive spiritual atmosphere.

She was present when the 'stampede' occurred, as a result of unruly behaviour by a group that somehow barged in, and a special enquiry is under way to establish how and what exactly took place. The situation was rapidly brought under control in the limited area where this happened, but everywhere else the pilgrimage was going on without any break or hitch.

She also emphasised the discipline and orderliness observed by all the visitors, and the piety that they dis-

placed, greeting each other by Jai Gange or Jai Sri Ram. We are indeed fortunate that she was able to carry the water and hand it over to be poured in the Ganga Talao.

**T**o date almost 520 million visitors coming from all over the world have taken a dip at the Maha Kumbh Mela, far exceeding the initial expected crowd of 400 million, and way beyond the 75 million or so that visited in 2013 when the city was still called Allahabad.

A cruder, negative reason for which Maha Shivaratri 2025 in Mauritius will be remembered is the fact that for the first time the authorities have had to enact regulations regarding the dimensions of kanwars, in the wake of the unfortunate accident that marred the yatra last year. It will be recalled that several youngsters sadly lost their lives when their kanwar caught fire after its top touched electrical wiring. The conflagration spread so rapidly that they did not have time to get away.

The sadder thing is that there are some people who don't seem to have learnt a lesson, insisting on exceeding the stipulated height of the kanwar and, rightly, have been charged by the police. Something that ought to be a matter of self-regulation has necessitated the intervention of the state. And yet, numerous are the examples of groups which are disciplined and so-well organized, such as the elegantly clad youngsters from Ecoignard who are admired and do all of us proud.

There are many lessons to be learnt from how the yatra has unfolded at the Maha Kumbh Mela that can be usefully adopted locally. All those who have had the occasion to participate at Prayagraj should make it their duty to share what they have observed and practised there that can guide future Maha Shivaratri pilgrimages locally.

*Aum Namashaivaya.*

“Taking a dip in the sacred waters of the river Ganga may help to put the traveller on the path of *moksha* if he is not already there, perhaps even 'fast-track' his attainment – but count in celestial, not human years! As far as Mauritius is concerned, Maha Shivaratri 2025 will also be remembered as the year when water from the Triveni Sangam – meeting of the rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh – was mixed with the water at Ganga Talao during a special ceremony that was held on Sunday February 16. The first mixing of Ganga water there was carried out in 1972, with water brought from Ganga at its origin in the Himalayas, Gomukh...”



## A worried NATO holds large-scale combat drills as the U.S. shifts its Europe stance under Trump

NATO members continued their largest combat exercises of 2025 on Wednesday, testing their ability to rapidly deploy large-scale forces on the 32-nation alliance's eastern border as worries grow over its most powerful member, the United States.

The drills in Romania, which borders Ukraine, come as a shaken Europe grapples with a new U.S. course under President Donald Trump. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has demanded that allies dramatically ramp up military spending and said U.S. security priorities lie elsewhere — casting doubts on Washington's longstanding security guarantees provided to Europe, reports AP.

Although the Trump administration has not announced plans to pull U.S. forces from the region, Hegseth's remark that "European allies must lead from the front" left NATO partners contemplating a potential new reality in which the U.S. is no longer the powerful, nuclear-armed backstop for the continent's security.

Radu Tudor, a defense analyst in Bucharest, said a U.S. rollback of its military presence in Romania would be



British servicemen unfurl the Union Jack flag before the start of the Steadfast Dart 2025 exercise, involving 10,000 troops in three different countries from nine nations and represent the largest NATO operation planned this year. Pic - AP

"a gift" to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The whole eastern flank of NATO become weaker in front of Russia's aggressive behaviour," he said, adding that it would push Romania to ask NATO allies to contribute troops and weapons to plug the gap left by several thousand American troops.

European allies have also expressed concern over being sidelined from talks between Washington and Moscow's top diplomats on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia on working towards ending the war in Ukraine.

The fast-moving developments prompted France's president to convene select EU countries and the U.K. for talks this week in Paris.

## The Netherlands agrees to return more than 100 artifacts to Nigeria looted during colonial times



The artifacts were looted in the late 19th century by British soldiers from what is now Nigeria. Pic - The Boston Globe

The Netherlands agreed on Wednesday to return a collection of 119 artifacts to Nigeria, the latest objects to be sent back to their homelands as museums grapple with their colonial-era holdings.

The artifacts, known as the Benin Bronzes and mostly housed in a museum in Leiden, were looted in the late 19th century by British soldiers from what is now Nigeria. They will be returned at the request of the Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments.

The artifacts include human and animal figures, plaques, royal regalia and a bell, reports AP.

The development comes as governments and museums in Europe and North America have increasingly sought to resolve ownership disputes over objects looted during colonial

times.

Nigeria formally requested the return of hundreds of objects from museums around the world in 2022. Some 72 objects were returned from a London museum that year while 31 were returned from a museum in Rhode Island.

The Benin Bronzes were stolen in 1897 when British forces sacked the

Benin kingdom, which is now in modern-day Nigeria.

The decision to return the items in the Dutch collection followed an assessment of a committee tasked with looking into requests by countries for restitution of artifacts in state museums. It marked the fifth time Dutch cultural institutions have returned objects based on the committee's recommendation.

"Cultural heritage is essential for telling and living the history of a country and a community," Eppo Bruins, the Dutch culture and education minister, said in a statement. "The Benin Bronzes are indispensable to Nigeria. It is good that they are going back."

The committee is currently considering requests from Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia for the return of objects. In 2023, two Dutch museums returned hundreds of cultural artifacts back to Indonesia and Sri Lanka taken, often by force, during the colonial era.

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## Donald Trump threatens 25% tariffs on cars, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors

U.S. President Donald Trump expanded his offensive against trading partners on Tuesday, threatening 25 percent tariffs on imported cars, and similar or higher duties on pharmaceuticals and semiconductors.

Trump has announced a broad range of levies on some of the biggest US trading partners since taking office in January, arguing that they will help tackle unfair practices -- and in some cases using the threats to influence policy.

He recently pledged 10 percent duties on all goods coming from China, and 25 on steel and aluminum imports, reports AFP.

At his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, he told reporters that tariffs on the automobile industry will "be in the neighborhood of 25 percent," with specifics to come around April 2.



U.S. President Donald Trump threatens 25% tariffs on cars, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors. Pic - France 24

Asked about threatened tariffs on pharmaceuticals and chips, Trump said: "It'll be 25 percent and higher, and it'll go very substantially higher over (the) course of a year."

He added he wanted to give affected companies time to bring their operations to the United States, saying that he had been contacted by major firms that "want to come back".

The president also said that Washington's trading partners could avoid being taxed by investing in factories in the United States.

"We want to give them time to come in," he said. "When they come into the United States and they have their plant or factory here, there is no tariff. So we want to give them a little bit of a chance."

Experts have warned it is often Americans who end up paying the cost of tariffs on imports, rather than foreign exporters.

About 50 percent of the cars sold in the United States are manufactured within the country. Among imports, about half come from Mexico and Canada, with Japan, South Korea and Germany, also major suppliers.



## Over two dozen terror groups in Afghanistan are 'driver of instability': UN report

The threat posed by more than two dozen terror groups active in Afghanistan remains a "driver of instability" in the region, with the Afghan Taliban's "permissive environment" allowing al-Qaeda to consolidate, according to a new United Nations report. The Islamic State-Khorasan Province, also known as ISIL-K and based in Afghanistan, poses the "greatest extra-regional terrorist threat", said the report from the team monitoring the UN Security Council's sanctions on Islamic State and al-Qaeda and their affiliates.

Despite the loss of territory and attrition among senior and mid-tier leaders of more than two dozen terror groups operating in Afghanistan, UN member states believe the security threat emanating from the country is a "continuing driver of instability in the region and beyond". The presence of terror groups in Afghanistan also poses a "serious challenge to the stability of the country", and to the security of Central Asian and other neighbouring states, reports HT.

The threat posed by the ISIL-K is reflected in the group's attacks targeting Taliban authorities and religious and ethnic minorities in Afghanistan, as well as terrorist



At UN, Iran raises concern over resurgence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan.  
Pic – The Statesman

attacks as far away as Europe. The killing of the Taliban's acting minister of refugees, Khalil Ahmed Haqqani, in a suicide bombing on December 11 that was claimed by ISIL-K marked the highest-profile casualty since the Taliban takeover of Kabul in 2021.

In the case of al-Qaeda, the report said, the permissive environment maintained by the Taliban has allowed the group to consolidate and establish safe houses and training camps across Afghanistan.

Low-profile al-Qaeda members continue to live in Afghanistan with their families "under the protection of the Taliban intelligence service" in Kabul neighbourhoods such as Qala-e-Fatullah, Shar-e-Naw and Wazir Akbar Khan, while senior leaders are based in rural areas in Kunar, Ghazni, Logar and Wardak provinces.

The report pointed to increased collaboration between the Pakistan Taliban, Afghan Taliban and al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), which have conducted attacks under the banner of Tehrik-e Jihad Pakistan (TJP).

The report noted that while the Islamic State or Da'esh was unable to mount large-scale attacks in India, its "handlers tried to incite lone actor attacks through India-based supporters". The report added: "The pro-ISIL (Da'esh) Al-Jauhar Media continued to spread anti-India propaganda through its publication Serat ul-Haq."

## Risk of asteroid hitting Earth reduces from highest-ever impact probability

The risk of a huge asteroid hitting Earth has dropped after Nasa reported its highest-ever impact probability for an object of its size. Space rock 2024 YR4, estimated to be 130 to 300 feet wide (40 to 100 metres), now has a 1.5% chance of colliding with Earth in December 2032, the agency said.



The risk of 2024 YR4 colliding with Earth has reduced. Pic - AnewZ

On Tuesday, Nasa put the impact probability at 3.1%, the highest ever recorded for an object of its size. It is too soon to know where it might land if it did hit Earth. However, the UK is not within the current predicted "impact risk corridor", which is the area where the asteroid could land, according to the International Asteroid Warning Network, reports PA Media.

This corridor stretches across the eastern Pacific Ocean, northern South America, the Atlantic Ocean, Africa, the Arabian Sea, and South Asia, the IAWN said. If the asteroid hits it could cause "severe blast damage" as far as 50 km (31 miles) from the impact site, scientists say. Experts expect the probability of collision will change as more observations are made. There is a 0.8% chance the asteroid will impact the moon, Nasa said. The asteroid was first spotted in December by a telescope in Chile.

## Aviation experts explain what it takes to survive an aircraft accident

All the 76 passengers of Delta Airlines escaped with minor injuries after their jet caught fire upon landing on a Toronto runway in Canada on Monday. Aviation experts speaking to the Associated Press attributed the miraculous escape to advances in plane design and a skilled crew that flawlessly executed an evacuation plan.

Michael McCormick, an assistant professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida, said, "It was absolutely astounding to watch the people actually climbing out."

"When I first saw (footage of) that aircraft upside down at the airport, I was like: 'How can that happen? And how can anybody survive that?' he wondered.

Aviation experts said that the passenger jet design and engineering have greatly improved, reports HT.

Fuel tanks are now stored in the aircraft's wings and are designed to



Delta Airlines fire accident.

The seat belts restrained the suspended passengers when the plane slid to a halt on the Toronto runway. "The odds of getting injured or killed in a commercial airline accident is far less than driving in your car," Guzzetti told AP.

Experts also lauded the aircraft crew for quickly evacuating passengers before the arrival of emergency rescue personnel. Deborah Flint, CEO of Greater Toronto Airports Authority, called the flight crew "heroes."

Delta CEO Ed Bastian praised their response as a "testament to the safety that's embedded in the systems."

A Canadian official probing the crash refused to comment on the preliminary theories. "At this point, it's far too early to say what the cause of this accident might be," said senior investigator Ken Webster.

break off in the event of a crash. The tail-like fin called the vertical stabilizer can also break to help a flipped-over aircraft stay flat on the ground and help passengers evacuate.

McCormick cited these technological advancements to assert that, "Aviation is and remains the safest form of transportation."

Jeff Guzzetti, an airline safety consultant and a former investigator for the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, said, the improved seats and belts also helped prevent fatalities during the

## Ceasefire with Russia possible this year: Ukraine military spy chief

The head of Ukraine's GUR military intelligence agency, Kyrylo Budanov, believes a ceasefire in the war with Russia could happen this year.

"I think it is going to happen. There are most of the components for it to happen," Budanov said in a YouTube interview with journalist Eynulla Fatullayev, reports Reuters.

He gave no details. Ukrainian officials largely dismiss the idea of a ceasefire, warning it will only give Russia time to rearm and prepare for further aggression.

"How long it will be, how effective it will be - is another question," Budanov added.

Discussions about a possible ceasefire intensified after Donald Trump, who promised a quick end to the war, returned to the White House for his second presidential term.

Fast-moving diplomacy on Ukraine, beginning with a Trump call with Russian President Vladimir Putin a week ago, has triggered alarm in Kyiv and other European capitals.

They fear the two leaders could cut a quick deal that ignores Europe's security interests, rewards Moscow for its invasion and leaves Putin free to threaten Ukraine or other countries in the future.





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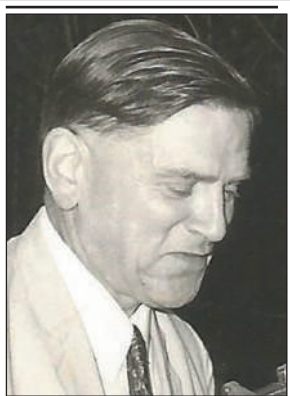
From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

5th Year No 296

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 29 April, 1960

• "How enormous appear the crimes we have not committed." — Mme Necker



Peter Ibbotson

# The Colonel's Lady and Judy O'Grady

According to Rudyard Kipling, these two ladies are "sisters under the skin", despite their differing backgrounds. So, it is with employers — in a capitalist society, they are the same the world over, in the UK in Jamaica, in Mauritius, anywhere you care to name. Their interest is the maximisation of profits; if profits can

be maximised by a policy of treating the employees kindly, then the employers will provide this, that and the other benefit in addition to the wages paid. But if maximisation of profits can come only by paying as little as possible in wages, then low wages will surely be the order of the day.

The estate owners in Mauritius belong to the second category of employers. They maximise their profits by paying as little as they can in wages. And unfortunately, the labourers' unions are not yet strong to combat this policy of depressing wages.

Nor, thanks to the confusion caused by demagogues, and their propaganda, have we yet a national wages policy and Wages Boards for the sugar employees. Any application by the workers for higher pay tends to be dismissed out of hand by the estate owners, who claim always to be unable to pay more. Yet the annual reports of the income tax department show that the sugar estates are in a very healthy condition and can pour out millions of rupees annually to their fortunate shareholders! Some of those millions paid in dividends ought to be used to increase wages among the estate labourers first and the artisans second; and if the shareholders still expect their kilo of flesh, let the *état-major* suffer a cut in salaries and - more important - perquisites.

My reflections have been sparked off by reading in *The Times* of April 14 the statement of the Chairman of Tate & Lyle Investments Limited at the company's annual general meeting in London the previous day. The statement referred to the Group's trading activities, which are carried on in Jamaica, among other places. He said that a severe drought had affected the 1959 crop, and profits had suffered accordingly. In 1959, too, he said, "Unpleasant labour troubles were also experienced. These arose in connexion with the



collective wages agreement between the unions and the Sugar Manufacturers' Association to which we were a party. Selective strikes were called at seven out of the 20 estates. The issues were not, however, resolved and the outcome was the appointment by the Government of a Commission of Enquiry which was reported earlier this year."

The Chairman, Sir Ian D. Lyle, then quoted part of the Commission's report:

"While profits in 1958 and 1959 would not in themselves justify a wage increase, the Commission is of the opinion that the results for those years cannot be considered in isolation but should be weighed in conjunction with those of the preceding 17 years. When account is taken of the longer-term results and of the fact that the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement guaranteeing the Negotiated Price Quota has been extended to December 31, 1967, it may be concluded that the unfavourable results of 1958 and 1959 will not continue. Considering these and related findings, the Commission has concluded the sugar workers are entitled to receive an increase."

The increase recommended, which has been accepted by the unions and the employers, was for a 12½ percent, crop bonus for 1959, and a 12½ percent increase in all wage rates from the start of the 1960 crop. The additional cost to the West Indies Sugar Company (Tate & Lyle's interest in Jamaica goes under that name) is £201,000 for 1959 (say, Rs 2½ million); and £275,000 (say, Rs 3½ million) in a full

year. "It is," said Sir Ian Lyle, "a heavy bill to pay in a year of very poor results."

This comment reveals the workings of the mind of the modern employer, the present-day entrepreneur. It shows only too well that employers everywhere are interested in one thing - their profits; and as long as their sacred cow is secure, the rest can go hang.

What is interesting, however, is the basis on which the Commission of Enquiry worked in assessing the ability of the sugar industry to bear higher wage rates. The Commission was not concerned with one year only and its financial result; it was not concerned with two years only; instead, it examined the profitability of the industry over the last 17 years, and its probable profitability over the next 7. On that basis — the profitability, real or

estimated, of the industry over 24 years — did the Commission make its recommendation for an increase in wages. There is a lesson here for the Mauritius unions, and for all indeed who are striving to better the lot of the Mauritian worker and who are not prepared to be diverted from their task by enemies or so-called friends who play upon their weaknesses, be those weaknesses wine or women — or come, to that, song.

I hope that the Meade Commission will be able to unearth facts about the profitability of the estates. If not, the Government will have no option but to appoint an *ad hoc* commission of enquiry into the financial aspect of the Mauritius sugar industry with power to call for documents and to publish them. Up to date, there is too much secrecy shrouding the financial set-up of Mauritius basic industry: sugar.

\* \* \*

## Postscript to a Memorandum

I would have liked to have added some more to my memorandum for the Meade Commission. Perhaps someone may like to take up these suggestions in oral evidence: severe taxation of land which is either not utilised or under-utilised; an arbitration tribunal to be set up to fix rents for sub-tenants of Crown Lands and to grant security of tenure; all tenants of Crown Lands to be asked for information as to what use they themselves make of their rented land, with a view to the more equitable granting of future leases.



## Tree of Knowledge

Every person on this planet has a story to tell, something that makes them unique, adding to the whole.

It's easy to forget sometimes, but everyone has a story to tell — if we take the time to listen. We are so accustomed to hearing the stories of people in the news that we lose track of the fact that the random stranger on the bus also has a fascinating story about where they came from and how they got to be where they are. The sheer variety of paths taken in this world,

from farmers to CEOs to homeless people to world tra-vellers, is indicative of how much we can learn from each individual. Sometimes the shy, quiet person at work has the most amazing life story and the biggest dreams. It is up to us to take the time to find out.

Some people travel a path of wealth and privilege, while others struggle with only themselves to rely on. Both have great stories to tell. Each person learns lessons, makes choices, and develops a unique perspec-

## Everyone Has a Story



tive, which only they can claim and share. Even two people who have had very similar lives will have different experiences,

leading them to a particular point of view. Each person remains a treasure trove waiting to be explored. When we take the time to ask questions and listen, we find that every person has a fascinating story and an utterly unique perspective from which to tell it.

Bearing this in mind, we have the opportunity to approach the world around us in a new way. There is never any reason to be bored at a party, or on the bus, or in a conversation with a stranger. When we retain the spark of curiosity and the warmth required to open someone up, we always have the makings of a great story right in front of us. All we have to do is ask.



Quatre sœurs unies par la passion du droit

## De la salle d'étude à la salle d'audience: un engagement familial pour la justice

Ojaswi et Deshnah Oomeer, deux sœurs, ont prêté serment en tant qu'avocatesses le 7 février 2025 à la Cour suprême de Maurice. Leur prestation de serment devant la Senior Puisne Judge, Madame Nirmala Devat, marque une étape significative pour la famille Oomeer, qui célèbre désormais la réussite de ses quatre filles admises au barreau d'Angleterre et du Pays de Galles, dont trois également inscrites au barreau de Maurice.

L'aînée, Me Ladlee Oomeer-Callychurn, exerce en tant qu'avocate à Maurice depuis deux ans. Ancienne élève du Lorette de Rose-Hill, elle souligne l'influence déterminante de son père, Assistant Surintendant de Police: «Il m'a toujours encouragée à avoir une voix et à être celle de ceux qui n'ont pas l'opportunité de se faire entendre.»

Me Ojaswi Oomeer, deuxième fille de la famille et ancienne élève du Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School, exprime sa vocation précoce pour le droit: «Dès mon plus jeune âge, j'étais fascinée par le travail des avocats et leur impact sur la société. Aujourd'hui, en prêtant serment, j'embrasse un engagement à vie envers la justice, le service et l'intégrité.»

La troisième sœur, Motisiri Oomeer, Senior County Court Advocate, exerce au Royaume-Uni depuis deux ans. Ancienne élève du Lorette de Rose-Hill, elle partage son expérience: «Je me sens accomplie lorsque je plaide en



De gauche à droite: Ladlee Oomeer-Callychurn, Ojaswi Oomeer, Motisiri Oomeer et Deshnah Oomeer.

cour. Ma pratique en Angleterre m'a permis d'acquérir une expertise précieuse, renforçant ma capacité à servir la profession juridique.»

Me Deshnah Oomeer, la benjamine et ancienne élève du Lorette de Rose-Hill, évoque l'influence de ses parents dans son parcours: «Ma mère m'a inculqué l'idée que la seule compétition valable est celle que l'on mène avec soi-même, tandis que mon père nous a toujours encouragées à

embrasser cette profession, tout en respectant un principe fondamental: la justice doit être accessible à tous.»

### Un parcours de détermination et d'engagement

Le chemin de ces quatre sœurs vers le barreau a été marqué par un travail acharné, des sacrifices et une détermination sans faille. Elles ont toutes obtenu leur diplôme en droit anglais et mauricien à l'University of Central Lancashire (Campus de Maurice) avant de poursuivre leur formation au barreau en Angleterre. Aujourd'hui, elles forment une équipe unique, unie par une passion commune pour le droit et un engagement indéfectible envers la justice.

Avec l'une d'elles exerçant en Angleterre et les trois autres évoluant dans le système judiciaire mauricien, elles aspirent à apporter une contribution significative à cette noble profession. «Pour nous, le droit est bien plus qu'une carrière; c'est une vocation. Nous avons choisi ce parcours avec la conviction de servir notre pays et de faire respecter l'État de droit. Cette vision commune nous a motivées à suivre une formation juridique rigoureuse afin de défendre la justice avec intégrité et équité.»

Alors qu'elles entament leur carrière, elles se disent inspirées par la vision du Procureur Général, l'Hon Gavin Glover, SC.:

«Our profession is not a trade, but a calling of the highest order. To be a barrister is to stand, often alone, between power and the powerless, to give voice to the voiceless, and to ensure that the rule of law triumphs over the whims of men.»

Leur histoire est un témoignage de persévérance, de soutien familial et d'ambition partagée. Au-delà de leur propre engagement, elles espèrent inspirer d'autres jeunes, en particulier les jeunes femmes: «Nous espérons que notre parcours servira de rappel que la profession juridique n'est pas réservée à une élite privilégiée, mais à ceux qui sont déterminés à faire une différence.»

### MAHATMA GANDHI SECONDARY SCHOOL (FLACQ) PTA

REG No: 7630

Date: February 18, 2025

#### RE: Annual General Meeting

All compliant members of the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School (MGSS) Flacq Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the above-mentioned Association on **Thursday 27 March 2025 at 1:00 pm** at the seat of the school.

#### AGENDA:

1. Welcome Address by the President of MGSS Flacq PTA, Mr D. Badal
2. Welcome Address by the Head of School of MGSS Flacq, Rector, Mr S. Ramful
3. Reading & Approval of Minutes of AGM 2023 (14 March 2024)
4. Matters Arising
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Private Motion(s)
8. Election of members for the Executive Committee (2025-2027)
9. A.O.B.

Any private motion from members should be sent by registered post to reach the Secretary no later than **Thursday, March 6, 2025, by 1:00 pm.**

**NOTE:** If there is **NO QUORUM** on Thursday 27 March 2025, the AGM will be adjourned to **Thursday, 04 April 2025 at 1:00 pm** at the same venue, with the same agenda.

Members wishing to join the Executive Committee should send their letter of candidature by registered post to **The Secretary, Miss Prajakta Auree - Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Flacq, François Mitterrand Street, Central Flacq by Thursday 6 March 2025.**

**Miss P. Auree**  
The Secretary,

Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Flacq  
François Mitterrand Street, Central Flacq

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21 February 2025

### Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times





Mr Kresh Goomany, CEO of Emtel

## Emtel crowned Mauritius' fastest internet provider by nPerf

In a testament to its commitment to innovation and reliability, Emtel has once again been recognized as Mauritius' fastest mobile internet provider. This prestigious award, bestowed by nPerf, a renowned French network performance measurement company, reaffirms Emtel's leading position in the nation's telecommunications landscape.

nPerf's rigorous evaluation process considers a range of key performance indicators, including download and upload speeds, to provide a comprehensive assessment of user experience across all mobile networks in Mauritius. Emtel emerged as the frontrunner, achieving impressive scores across the board.

Throughout 2024, Emtel subscribers enjoyed an unparalleled mobile internet experience, characterized by lightning-fast download speeds averaging 159.36 Mbps and highly efficient upload speeds averaging 52.62 Mbps. These remarkable results underscore "Emtel's unwavering dedication to providing its customers with the best possible connectivity while driving progress toward a more reliably and effectively connected society".

Kresh Goomany, CEO of Emtel, expressed his delight at this achievement, stating, "This recognition as Mauritius' fastest mobile network is a testament to our steadfast pursuit of excellence. At Emtel, we strive to deliver an unmatched connectivity experience to our users, combining speed, reliability, and performance."

nPerf's methodology relies on a free user-friendly application that allows individuals to assess the quality of their internet connection. Every day, thousands of users across the country conduct speed tests, contributing to a vast database that powers nPerf's network analysis.

To ensure the accuracy and representativeness of its results, nPerf employs a sophisticated filtering technique that faithfully reflects the user experience on a specific network. The tests are conducted directly by subscribers, guaranteeing an authentic representation of the internet quality as experienced by users in real-world conditions.

This accolade from nPerf solidifies Emtel's position as a driving force in Mauritius' telecommunications sector, consistently delivering cutting-edge technology and exceptional service to its customers.

## ABC Motors unveils the new Nissan Magnite: A city SUV redefining value

ABC Motors has officially launched the latest iteration of the Nissan Magnite, a city SUV that marks a new milestone in the model's evolution. This revamped Magnite embodies the vision of modern urban mobility where assertive design naturally blends with the latest technological advancements.

The Magnite's cabin reveals a premium universe designed down to the smallest detail. In the Acenta CVT Plus version, the two-tone leather upholstery, which is UV resistant, harmonizes with subtle ambient lighting to create a refined atmosphere. The technological experience is not to be outdone with a 7-inch digital screen that is associated with

system.

Safety, the cornerstone of this new proposal, is expressed through passive protection reinforced by 6 airbags, standard on all versions, complemented by advanced driving assistance technologies. Under the hood, the 1.0L turbo engine, combined with an automatic or manual gearbox, offers a remarkable balance between dynamism and sobriety, adapting as well to the demands of urban driving as to road escapes.

Note that this new version of the Magnite also benefits from a 5-year or 100,000 kilometer manufacturer's warranty. Offered from Rs 9,496 per month, this urban SUV redefines the standards



Nissan MAGNITE

Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay® systems. The 360° 'Intelligent AroundView Monitor' camera system and wireless charging for smartphones further enrich this technological offering. The technology offering of this new edition of the Magnite is complemented by technological tools such as the i-key keyless start

of its class in terms of value for money.

For Fabrice Descombes, Marketing Manager of ABC Motors: "The Nissan Magnite represents our vision of accessible contemporary mobility. It embodies our commitment to offering vehicles that concretely enrich the daily lives of our customers."

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

New adventures are on the horizon — consider a short trip or exciting opportunity. Your career takes a positive turn as your ideas gain traction. Romance is fun but keep expectations in check. Financial growth continues with careful planning.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 14, 17, 24, 28, 36  
**CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19**

Focus on discipline at work, and rewards will follow soon. A loved one may need your advice or support. Love life remains steady but manage finances carefully. Recharge mentally to avoid burnout.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 11, 18, 23, 27, 33  
**AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18**

Innovation and creativity bring career breakthroughs. Relationships deepen as you embrace vulnerability. A financial windfall is

## YOUR STARS

possible but be mindful of how you spend it.

Keep up with wellness routines.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 13, 20, 25, 31, 40

**PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20**

Creativity soars, making it a great time for artistic pursuits. Your career sees gradual progress. In love, things are dreamy but stay grounded. Be cautious with finances and maintain a healthy balance. **Lucky**

**Numbers:** 5, 8, 14, 21, 30, 37

**ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19**

A burst of energy propels you toward new opportunities. At work, a bold move could pay off but be mindful of impulsive decisions in relationships. Health is steady, but don't overexert. Financially, minor gains.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 7, 15, 22, 29, 38

**TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20**

Steady progress works best now. Patience is key in your career, while personal relationships need clear communication. Avoid major financial investments this week.

Prioritize self-care to keep your energy balanced.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 10, 17, 24, 30, 36

**GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20**

Your charisma attracts new contacts and opportunities. Networking is your strength, and a new project may arise. In love, open communication smooths things out. Financially, keep an eye on spending.

Channel energy into exercise for balance.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 14, 19, 27, 33

**CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22**

Clarity in emotions will help you navigate personal matters. Work decisions require careful planning — avoid rushing into anything. Romance improves with calm and understanding. Be cautious with spending, and ensure you get enough rest.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 11, 18, 23, 31, 37

**LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22**

This is a week for bold moves. A leadership opportunity could present itself at work. Romance is full of passion but watch out for ego clashes. Financially, stability grows if you manage resources well. Keep up with physical activity for energy.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 5, 13, 20, 25, 34

**VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22**

Work requires attention to detail, and an old friend may reach out. Love life benefits from open communication and patience. Avoid

unnecessary purchases; focus on saving.

Stress management is essential for overall well-being.

**Lucky Numbers:** 9, 16, 21, 28, 32, 39

**LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22**

Social connections are favoured, bringing joy and potential collaborations. Work requires diplomacy — stay tactful. Your romantic life flourishes with deeper conversations. Financially, a steady flow continues but keep an eye on expenses.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 12, 19, 26, 30, 35

**SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV**

Trusting your intuition — t leads to career breakthroughs. Love life requires trust, and a deeper connection is possible. Financially, avoid risky decisions, and stick to a budget. Boost vitality by staying active this week.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 10, 15, 22, 29, 38



## Singles versus Partners

*How relationship status influences personality and life satisfaction*

**A**lthough marriage or long-term partnerships are often viewed as the societal norm, an increasing number of people are choosing to remain single for life. However, being single -- especially later in life -- can bring economic and medical challenges when support from a partner is lacking.

New research published in *Psychological Science* reveals that lifelong singles report lower life satisfaction and exhibit distinct personality traits compared to their partnered counterparts. These differences highlight the importance of cultivating strong social networks tailored to the needs of single individuals.

"When there are differences, they might be especially important in elderly people who face more health issues and financial issues," said Julia Stern, one of the lead authors and a senior researcher at the University of Bremen in Germany. "They need more help, and the help is usually the partner."

Stern and her colleagues examined life satisfaction ratings alongside the Big Five personality traits -- open-



ness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism -- in a survey of more than 77,000 Europeans aged 50 and older. This study, the first of its kind to compare lifelong singles and partnered individuals across cultures, found that lifelong singles tend to be less extraverted, less conscientious, and less open to experience, in addition to reporting lower life satisfaction scores than those in relationships.

Earlier studies have often used varying definitions of "single," sometimes distinguishing between those who

are currently single, never married, or never cohabited. Stern's study addressed these differences by grouping respondents into categories such as currently partnered, never lived with a partner, never married, and never been in any long-term relationship. Notably, individuals who had never experienced a serious long-term relationship scored lower on extraversion, openness, and life satisfaction than those who were single but had previously lived with a partner or been married. Overall, all single groups scored lower on these measures compared to people in current relationships.

While the study cannot definitively determine whether these personality differences are a result of selection -- meaning that people with certain traits are less likely to form long-term relationships -- or socialization -- wherein relationships influence personality -- the evidence suggests that selection plays a larger role. Stern noted that any personality changes resulting from being in a relationship tend to be small and temporary. For example, although an extraverted person may become more reserved when beginning a new relationship, their natural extraversion typically returns over time.

This research underscores the complex interplay between relationship status, personality, and overall life satisfaction, pointing to the need for supportive networks that cater to single individuals, particularly as they age.



## Are animals smart? From dolphin language to toolmaking crows, lots of species have obvious intelligence

Many animals show signs of high intelligence, including strong memory, self-awareness and communication skills.

**I**t's a fascinating question that intrigues millions of pet owners, animal lovers, veterinarians and scientists all over the world: Just how smart are animals?

Scientists once believed a brain with billions of neurons was a requirement for intelligence. After all, that's why you're able to think -- neurons are the nerve cells in the brain that connect and transmit messages to each other.

For the record, the human brain has about 86 billion neurons. For comparison, dogs and cats have less than one billion.

Yet the more that scientists like me study animal emotion and cognition -- the ability to learn through experiences and thinking -- the more we find that humans are not very special at all. Many nonhuman species can do these things too.

Right now, there's no agreement on how to decide whether a particular animal species is intelligent. But most scientists who study animal cognition have observed that many animals are able to solve problems, use tools, recall important information about their environment and recognize themselves in the mirror.

### Toolmaking bears and crows

Memory is a marker of intelligence. Of all animals, humans possess the most accurate and sophisticated memory. But elephants can recognize as many as 30 traveling companions at a time. They also learn to migrate away from drought-prone areas, based on memories of earlier droughts.

That kind of recall -- known as



Dolphins communicate using a sophisticated combination of clicks and whistles.  
Stephen Frink/The Image Bank via Getty Images

episodic memory -- is the ability to remember an event, including when and where it occurred. Until recently, scientists thought only humans had it. But now researchers have learned that some birds, cats, rats, monkeys and dolphins have it too.

Animals may not remember every experience -- neither do people -- but they do recall things critical to their survival. For example, birds know where they stored food. Monkeys know the presence of a predator.

Scientists once thought tool use was an exclusively human ability, but that's not so. Chimpanzees use sticks to catch termites and stones to crack nuts open. Crows can even manufacture tools. By bending a wire, they can make a hook to retrieve a food reward that's otherwise out

of reach.

Researchers presented eight captive brown bears with this food challenge: Three objects -- a large log, a small log and a box -- were placed in an outdoor enclosure. A food reward was suspended above them. Six of the eight bears were able to move the logs and box into positions that enabled them to fetch the reward. Essentially, they used the three objects as tools.

### Dolphin, chimpanzee communication

Language is another measure of intelligence. People, of course, have enormously sophisticated communication skills. But dolphins have complex dialects in the form of crackles, squeaks and whistles. Many researchers say the noises

are a language. Chimpanzees and gorillas have used sign language to express emotions and ask for things from people.

Self-awareness -- the ability to recognize yourself as an individual -- signals intelligence. Babies don't recognize themselves in the mirror until they are about a year and a half old. Up until then, they probably think the mirror image they see is another baby.

Many other species, including dolphins, ravens and elephants, recognize themselves in the mirror. Researchers put a red dye mark on chimpanzees under anesthesia; once awake, the chimps saw their reflection in a mirror. Instead of touching the red mark on their reflection in the glass, they touched the red mark on themselves, indicating self-recognition.

Just because animals can't do certain things, it doesn't mean they're unintelligent. After all, humans can't fly like a bird or swim like a fish. Nor is there a need for us to have the incredible sense of smell a dog has. We'd be sniffing hundreds of different smells from miles away -- the scents from perfumes and pollution, gardens and garbage. From an evolutionary standpoint, that wouldn't help us much. Plus, we'd get sick of it very quickly.

But all animals, including humans, have developed a wide range of capabilities so they can succeed in the environment they live in. Put simply, we're all using our brains. Now that's intelligent.

**Leticia Fanucchi**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Oklahoma State University





## Sabre-rattling Trump

The sabre-rattling by loony Trump -- aka Yankee Nero -- over annexing Canada and Greenland has left his northern neighbours and European partners dumbstruck.

Conversely, Xi Jinping and Putin were heard laughing their heads off!

With an ally like the US, who needs enemies?

Or, as Sir Humphrey memorably put it in 'Yes, Prime Minister' when discussing education being turned into a joke by local councillors:

"Half of them are your enemies, and the other half are the sort of friends that make you prefer your enemies!"

\*\*\*

### Spelling Surprise

A kid was practising spelling with magnetic letters on the refrigerator. "Cat," "dog," and "dad" had been proudly displayed for everyone to see.

One morning, while preparing for the day, he bounced into the room with his arms outstretched. In his hand were three magnetic letters: "god."

"Look what I spelled, Mummy!" he said with a proud smile.

"That's fantastic! Now go and place them on the fridge so your dad can see it when he comes back from the office tonight," his mummy praised him, happily thinking that her son's Catholic education was having an impact.

Just then, a little voice came from the kitchen, "Mum, how do you spell 'zilla'?"

\*\*\*

### Telepathy or Coincidence?

A kid asked his father, "Daddy, what's telepathy?"

"It's when two persons are thinking the same thought at the same time," replied the father.

"Like you and Mummy?"

"No, son, when Mummy and I are thinking the same thing, that's called coincidence."



\*\*\*

### One Last Cookie

An old man lies on his deathbed. It's been months since he could get out of bed on his own. As he closes his eyes, thinking it might be his last moment, he suddenly smells something familiar -- one of his favorite scents in the world: his wife's chocolate chip cookies.

He thinks about his wife, who stood by him for 50 years, who gave him three wonderful children, who cared for him through his long illness. Now, she's in the kitchen, baking his favourite treat one last time. Tears fill his eyes. It gives him the strength to raise his head, sit up, and place his feet on the floor.

Slowly, he makes his way out of the room and down the stairs, nearly collapsing several times but driven by the irresistible smell of those cookies. He finally reaches the kitchen, where he sees dozens of worms, inviting cookies on a platter. His mouth waters as he stretches out a shaky hand.

Suddenly, his wife smacks the back of his hand with a spatula. "Don't touch those!" she exclaims. "They're for the funeral!"



\*\*\*

An old man is lying on his deathbed with his wife by his side. They had three kids, but the last one, Steve, looked nothing like the first two, so he had always been suspicious. The old man looks at his wife and says, "Honey, it doesn't matter at this point, but I need to know. Is Steve my son?"

His wife smiles and reassures him, "I swear to you, he is your son."

The old man then dies peacefully.

Afterward, his wife breathes a sigh of relief and says, "Thank God he didn't ask about the first two."

\*\*\*

An Irishman walks into a bar, orders two shots, drinks them both, and leaves.

The next day, he returns, orders two more shots, drinks them both, and leaves.

He keeps up this routine for some time, until one day the bartender finally asks, "Why do you always order exactly two shots?"

The Irishman replies, "Well, you see, my brother and I used to go out drinking together every night, but now he lives across the country. So, every night, I order two drinks -- one for me, and one for my brother."

A while later, the Irishman comes in and orders just one shot. The bartender, concerned, asks, "Why only one shot today? Is something wrong with your brother? Is he okay?"



The Irishman answers, "Oh, no, my brother's fine. I just quit drinking."

\*\*\*

A penguin has car trouble, so he takes his car to the garage. The mechanic tells him it'll take about an hour to check the issue.

While waiting, the penguin spots an ice cream shop across the street and decides to grab a snack.

It's tricky for him to eat with his flippers, and he makes quite a mess.

Afterward, he returns to the mechanic to find out what's wrong with the car.

The mechanic says, "Looks like you blew a seal."

The penguin replies, "Ha, no... that's just a little ice cream."

\*\*\*

### A Collection of Light-hearted Jokes

A new priest is nervous about hearing confessions, so he asks the older priest to accompany him during his sessions. The new priest hears several confessions, then asks the senior priest to step out of the confessional for a few suggestions.

The old priest says, "Cross your arms over your chest and rub your chin with one hand." The new priest obeys.

The old priest then suggests, "Try saying things like, 'I see,' 'Yes,' 'Go on,' and 'I understand. How did you feel about that?'" The young priest tries them out.

The old priest concludes, "Now, don't you think that's a little better than slapping your knees and saying, 'No way! What happened next?'"

\*\*\*

A girl knelt in the confessional and said, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."

"What is it, child?"

"Father, I have committed the sin of vanity. Twice already, I have gazed at myself in the mirror and told myself how beautiful I am."

The priest turned, took a good look at the girl, and said, "My child, I have good news. That isn't a sin -- it's a mistake."

\*\*\*

A guy went to a restaurant and ordered a boiled egg.

When it was brought, he didn't like it. So, he informed the waiter that the egg was bad.

The reply came, "I don't lay eggs, sir. I only lay the table."



A Short Valuable Story

# Do I really need friends in life?

A young girl asked an elderly woman: "Do I really need friends in life?"

The elderly woman responded: "Yes. Life is truly very rough. There should be someone by your side with whom you can talk for hours without feeling judged; someone on whose shoulders you can cry, who will give you emotional support. When no one else is there for you, they should be there. One who will help you share the good times and overcome the difficult ones."

The young girl asked: "Is it true that a fake friend is more dangerous than an enemy?"

The elderly woman responded: "Yes. It's because you know who your enemy is, and you're not going to let them get close to you. But a false friend pretends while gaining your trust. They find out your vulnerability, your secrets, and your dreams. They know which buttons to press and how to stab you in the back."

The young girl asked: "How do I avoid being surrounded by fake friends?"

The elderly woman paused for a short moment, then asked, "Between a small garden and a forest, which one has more snakes and scorpions?"



The young girl responded: "The forest, sure!"

The elderly woman smiled and then said: "Good! When you keep your circle of friends small like a small garden, the fewer snakes, scorpions, and even rats you have to worry about. The fewer people you hang out with, the fewer problems you have to deal with. When I was young, I had a very big group of friends. But as I grew older and wiser with experience, my circle of friends became smaller. I realized that quality outweighs quantity when it comes to friendship. Don't fool yourself into holding onto the illusion that everyone is your friend. You may have numerous acquaintances, but real friends will always be just a few people you love and trust. The best way to prevent yourself from falling into the fake friend trap is by being more mindful about the size of your circle."

# Only Time Can Understand Love

Once upon a time, on an island, all the feelings lived together: Happiness, Sadness, Knowledge, and all the others — including Love.

One day, it was announced that the island was going to sink, and everyone needed to leave. All the feelings prepared their boats and set off. Love, however, decided to stay until the very last moment.

When the island started sinking, Love realized he needed help.

Wealth passed by in a magnificent boat. Love called out, "Wealth, can you take me with you?"

Wealth replied, "No, I can't. My boat is full of gold and silver — there's no room for you."

Love then saw Vanity and asked,



"Vanity, please help me!"

Vanity responded, "I can't, Love. You're all wet and might ruin my boat."

Sadness was nearby, so Love turned to her. "Sadness, let me go

with you."

Sadness sighed, "Oh, Love, I'm so sad I need to be alone."

Happiness also sailed past, but she was so caught up in her joy that she didn't even hear Love calling.

Suddenly, a voice called out, "Come, Love, I will take you." It was an elder. Overjoyed, Love climbed into the boat, but in his happiness, he forgot to ask the elder's name.

When they reached dry land, the elderly went on her way. Curious, Love approached Knowledge and asked, "Who was the elder who helped me?"

"That was Time," Knowledge replied.

"Time? But why would Time help me?" asked Love.

"Because only Time understands how valuable Love truly is," said Knowledge.

# Leadership and the Art of Growing Up

In his thought-provoking book *Reboot: Leadership and the Art of Growing Up*, Jerry Colonna offers a refreshing and deeply introspective perspective on leadership. Rather than focusing on external success or traditional management techniques, Colonna invites readers on an inner journey, encouraging them to confront their fears, embrace vulnerability, and cultivate authentic, compassionate leadership.



The book presents a powerful framework for personal and professional growth, grounded in the belief that true leadership begins with knowing and accepting oneself. By weaving together personal anecdotes, coaching insights, and timeless wisdom, Colonna helps us to understand that leadership is not about having all the answers but about being present, self-aware, and open to learning.

Here are the key takeaways from *Reboot*...

- 1. Leadership is a journey, not a destination.**
  - \* We are all on a journey of growth and development, and leadership is a part of that journey.
- 2. Radical self-inquiry is essential for leadership.**
  - \* We need to be willing to look honestly at ourselves and our blind spots in order to become the best leaders we can be.
- 3. We need to embrace our shadow selves.**
  - \* We all have a shadow self, which is the part of us that we keep hidden from the world. However, in order to grow as leaders, we need to embrace our shadow selves and learn to integrate them into our whole selves.
- 4. We need to learn to stand still.**
  - \* In today's fast-paced world, it can be difficult to slow down and take the time to reflect. However, in order to grow as leaders, we need to learn to stand still and be present in the moment.
- 5. We need to create space for others to grow.**
  - \* As leaders, we need to create space for others to grow and develop. This means being willing to let go of control and allowing others to take risks.

By applying these lessons, readers are encouraged to lead with heart, courage, and wisdom, fostering environments where both they and their teams can thrive.

# Quotable Quotes from Wise Thinkers

- "True evil comes from someone who was once kind." — *Cesare Pavese*
- "I don't mind losing those who don't want me, for I've lost those I wanted, and I'm still alive." — *Karl May*
- "One conversation with a wise man is better than ten years of studying books." — *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*
- "The corruption of justice leads to the downfall of nations." — *Ibn Khaldun*
- "If you want to conquer anxiety and start living, count your blessings instead of your troubles." — *Dale Carnegie*
- "If you want to fail, try to please everyone." — *Erwin Rommel*

- "No one harmed me except those I knew; may God bless everyone I don't know!" — *Abu Al-Alaa Al-Ma'arri*
- "This world crushes justice with disgrace every single day." — *Ghassan Kanafani*
- "If you see the lion's fangs bared, don't assume the lion is smiling!" — *Al-Mutanabbi*
- "To be honest is to be an enemy to all." — *Gibran Khalil Gibran*
- "The first obstacle to an individual's development is the family." — *Leo Tolstoy*
- "Increased awareness intensifies pain, and most sufferers of psychological depression are intellectuals." — *Adel Sadeq*
- "When you respect me well and treat me with courtesy, it's not a feather in my cap; instead, you'll be the crown on my head!" — *Ibrahim El-Fiky*
- "You need to have wished for death to truly value life." — *Winston Churchill*

- "Kindness in words creates confidence, kindness in thinking solves every difficulty, and kindness in giving creates love." — *Lao Tzu*
- "Sadness is a psychological state that allows awareness to reflect on oneself and society." — *Jean-Jacques Rousseau*
- "Often, the words you fear saying are the ones that most need to be spoken." — *George Bernard Shaw*
- "Try staying away from the internet for a while, and you'll realize you missed nothing online but a lot out side it —like your mother aging unnoticed!" — *Abdullah Al-Mughlooth*
- "Life is hope; without hope, life is lost." — *Plato*
- "A day without laughter is a day wasted!" — *Charlie Chaplin*
- "No one can ambush you except those who know your moves well. Don't share your thoughts with anyone to reach your destination safely!" — *Htr*



# Stop Wasting Time!

*Start today and make every moment count!*

Do you ever feel like you could be using your time better? Try these tips and tricks to help you avoid wasting another minute. We're talking about "big-picture" goals for both your work and home life. For example, you may want to find a better work-life balance, get more exercise, and be more involved in your children's after-school activities. Once you know what they are, you can break them into smaller tasks and focus on how to fit them into your life. Read on:

## Keep Track

It can help to take a week or so and note how long it really takes you to do things you do all the time — laundry, making breakfast, making your bed. Most people overestimate how long it takes to do something simple, like taking a shower, and underestimate the time needed for bigger tasks, like writing a term paper. Knowing exactly how you spend your time can help you manage it better.

## Prioritize

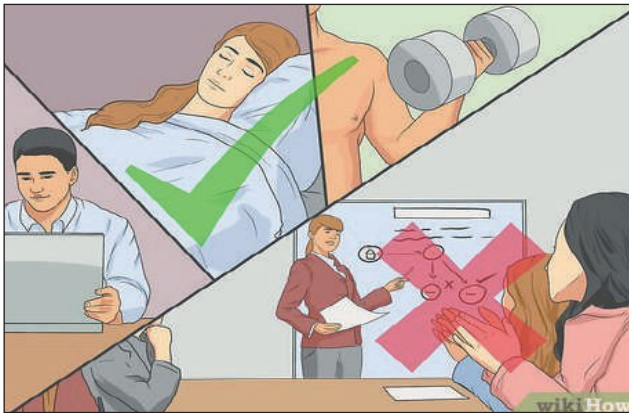
Put to-dos in four groups:

- Urgent and important
- Not urgent but important
- Urgent but not important
- Neither urgent nor important

The goal is to have as few things under "urgent and important" as possible. Those cause stress when they pile up. If you manage your time well, you'll probably spend most of your time on "not urgent, but important" — that's where you can get the most useful things done and keep from feeling overwhelmed later.

## Schedule Your Day

Once you know just how long things take and what's most important, start to plan things out. Be flexible. Do you get more done in the late afternoon or early morning? Do you like to have your evenings free to relax? Are you more likely to do yardwork if you have a chunk of time to do it all at once or spread it out over the course of a week? Think about what works best for you, and don't be afraid to change things up.



## Do the Hard Stuff First

Mark Twain said, "If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first." In other words, if you have something hard to do, get it out of the way so you don't have to worry about it the rest of the day.

## Write It Down

A "to-do" list is tried and true. But you can use other tools, too — the main thing is to write it down somewhere. It's better to have just one list and keep it with you wherever you go — on your cell phone, for example. Some kind of list keeper or calendar app is probably already on your phone.

## Is It Worth Your Time?

Remember your big-picture goals and ask yourself if what you're doing is likely to help you get there. That extra hour spent at work on something no one asked you to do might have been better spent at the gym, on the piano, or at your child's baseball game.

## Don't Cheat

If you schedule a work session at 9 a.m., stick to it — 9:17 a.m. won't do, even if you work alone. Missing one start time makes you more likely to miss others. If you want some flexibility, allow yourself a choice — return emails or file papers, for example — but stick with the schedule as if it's set in stone. If it doesn't work for you, you can always change it.

## Just Start It!

If you feel a strong urge to put things off, find a way to push past it and take even a small step forward. You'll feel

better once you make a little progress and may soon find yourself in a real groove. That's because your attitude often comes from your behavior — and your results — rather than the other way around.

## All Your Time Counts

You've got a free 15-minute chunk of time before you have to be somewhere — time to surf the web and check social media, right? You might be surprised by what you can get done in that time. Four 15-minute chunks spread through the day is an hour of productivity. And you'll feel better about kicking back later.

## Your Computer Can Help

Technology — the web, email, social networking sites — can distract you for hours on end. But it can help, too. Look for tools to help you track and schedule your time, remind you when you need to do something, or even block you from the time-sucking websites that tempt you most.

## Set Time Limits

Set a maximum allowable time for each task. You may get it done sooner, but if not, the limit helps keep you from overdoing it. Once you hit the limit, move on.

Email: The Black Hole of Time-Wasting

Try "The Four Ds" for managing your email:

- **Delete:** If it doesn't concern you or isn't something you need to know, get rid of it.
- **Do:** If it's urgent or can be done quickly, respond to it.
- **Delegate:** If it's better handled by someone else, forward it and move on.
- **Defer:** If it's going to take more time than you have at the moment, set aside time for it later.

## Take a Lunch Break

It may seem "efficient" to work through lunch, but it can backfire. A 30-minute break will help you work better in the afternoon. If you're not hungry, go for a walk outside or do some stretching. You'll likely come back with more energy and focus.

## Schedule Good Stuff

The whole point of getting better with your time is to make more time for the things you want to do. Sprinkle fun, healthy, non-work stuff throughout your week to stay positive and motivated. This includes breaks, snacks, recreation, exercise, and even vacations — especially when you finish an important task.

## Taking Care

# Things You Can Do for Your Health Today

Taking care of your health doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming. Small, intentional actions can have a big impact on your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Here's a list of simple things you can do today to feel better and live healthier, as medically reviewed by Jennifer Robinson, MD of WebMD

## Eat Slowly

Give your brain time to signal that you're full, reducing the risk of overeating. Eating slowly also helps you make mindful, healthy food choices.

## Socialize

Quality connections matter more than quantity. Strong relationships improve happiness, productivity, and overall

health. Call a friend, join a club, or schedule a social outing.

## Ditch the Juice, Eat the Fruit

Whole fruits provide fiber, vitamins, and fewer hidden sugars compared to processed juices. Choose an orange over orange juice for better nutrition.

## Take Time Off

Vacations improve mental and physical health, strengthen relationships, and may even extend your lifespan. Make time for breaks and relaxation.

## Watch the Fat

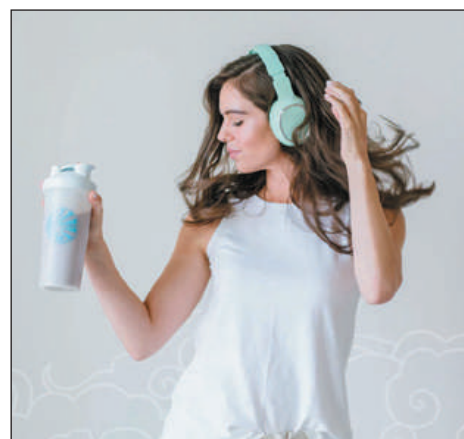
Avoid trans fats found in processed foods, but include healthy fats from dairy, eggs, fish, avocado, and nuts. High-fat dairy may even aid weight loss by keeping you fuller longer.

## Manage Your Stress

Chronic stress can lead to high blood pressure, ulcers, and heart disease. Practice relaxation techniques, deep breathing, or mindfulness to stay calm and resilient.

## Cut Back on Sugar

Excess sugar leads to energy crashes, weight gain, and mood swings. Reduce



added sugars to maintain stable energy and a healthier diet.

## Be Active

Regular exercise benefits your physical and mental health. A 30-minute workout, walk, or gardening session a few times a week can make a big difference. Find a social activity to stay motivated.

## Keep Moving

If you have a sedentary job, stand up and walk around every hour. A standing desk or short breaks can improve circulation, burn calories, and reduce health

risks.

## Eat Your Greens

Leafy greens like kale, spinach, and bok choy are packed with nutrients, fiber, and low calories. Add them to your meals for better digestion and overall health.

## Dance

Dancing sharpens the mind, provides a fun workout, and fosters social connections. Enjoy the health benefits without feeling like you're exercising.

## Have Sex

A healthy sex life is linked to heart health, brain function, longevity, and happiness. Practice safe sex and get tested regularly to protect your well-being.

## Get Your ZZZs

Sleep deprivation increases the risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and depression. Adults need 7-9 hours of quality sleep per night for optimal health.

## Get Outside

Sunlight helps regulate your sleep cycle, increases vitamin D levels, and promotes physical activity. Protect yourself with sunscreen while enjoying the outdoors.



## Chhaava storms the box office

Vicky Kaushal's latest film, *Chhaava*, has taken the Bollywood box office by storm, opening to impressive numbers and sparking comparisons with other historical epics like *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* and *Kesari*. Released on February 14th, the film, also starring Rashmika Mandanna and Akshaye Khanna, has clearly captured audience interest.

*Chhaava* enjoyed a phenomenal first three days. Its opening day collection of Rs 131 million (Mauritian rupees) dwarfed *Tanhaji's* MUR 63 million and *Kesari's* MUR 89 million. The momentum continued during the following days.

*Chhaava's* remarkable start suggests it has the potential for a record-breaking run. Made on a reported budget of MUR 549 million, it has a slight advantage over *Tanhaji's* MUR 507 million budget.

While *Chhaava's* initial numbers are impressive, it's important to remember that a film's ultimate success depends on its long-term performance. A general rule of



thumb is that a movie needs to earn double its production budget to break even, accounting for production and marketing expenses. Additionally, theaters typically retain 40-50% of box office revenue, meaning that producers receive only a portion of the total earnings. Therefore, *Chhaava* still has a way to go before its profitability can be definitively assessed. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether *Chhaava* can sustain its initial momentum and emerge as a true box office champion.

## Hina Khan inspired by Sanjay Dutt's cancer battle: "What a courageous man!"

Hina Khan, who recently revealed her own breast cancer diagnosis, has shared an inspiring post about Sanjay Dutt's battle with stage 4 cancer. Khan, currently undergoing treatment herself, praised Dutt's courage and determination.

On Instagram, Khan shared a video clip of Dutt discussing his cancer journey and recovery. She highlighted a particularly striking detail from his treatment: "Wow, Fourth stage cancer survivor. Six hours he was hung upside down right after his chemotherapy (that's Dr @sewantilimaye voice)? What a Man, What Power and What

Determination. This is the first time I am seeing this clip, what a courageous man, what an inspiration."

Khan emphasized her personal connection to Dutt's approach, explaining, "I resonate with every word he's saying. It's never easy to push yourself when the entire world seems to be pulling you the other side. But I chose this just like him, unknowingly yet I did. I always say that this is my personal journey, this is How I chose to deal with it, this is my body's capacity, this is my individual story. To be determined that I will Not Stop Living even when things are hard, I will listen to my doctors and I will make things better

no matter what."

Khan's post underscores the power of sharing personal health journeys and the inspiration that can be drawn from others' experiences. Dutt's public battle with cancer and his eventual recovery have clearly resonated with Khan, offering her strength and reinforcing her own determination to face her challenges head-on.

Sanjay Dutt revealed his stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis in August 2020. After treatment in Mumbai and the US, he announced his recovery in October of the same year.

## Sharmila Tagore's advice to Soha: "Never marry an actor!"

Soha Ali Khan, daughter of Bollywood legend Sharmila Tagore and cricket icon Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, recently revealed her mother's surprising advice when she entered the film industry: "Never marry an actor!"

Despite Sharmila Tagore's own marriage to someone outside of Bollywood, she cautioned Soha against marrying an actor, citing "big egos" and "mood swings" as potential complications. Ironically, Soha's brother, Saif Ali Khan, married actresses twice, with his first marriage to Amrita Singh ending in divorce.



Soha, however, didn't heed her mother's advice and married actor Kunal Kemmu. The couple celebrated their 10th anniversary last month. Soha, reflecting on her mother's words, admitted that actors can be sensitive and require a specific type of partner, a role she believes she fills well.

She humorously contrasted her father's calm demeanor with her mother's occasional "sensitive moments," noting that Kunal Kemmu is the only one who can truly "push her buttons."

Soha's experience highlights the complexities of relationships within the film industry and the challenges of navigating personal and professional life as an actor. It also underscores the diverse perspectives within families, even when it comes to matters of love and marriage.

## Aamir Khan opens up about his secret exit from Bollywood

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan, known for iconic films like *Lagaan* and *3 Idiots*, recently revealed that he secretly quit the film industry during the Covid-19 pandemic to spend more time with his family. The actor, whose every move is closely followed by millions of fans, shared in an exclusive interview with BBC News how his decision went unnoticed during the global crisis.

### A Quiet Exit During the Pandemic

"I told my family I'm done with acting and films," Khan admitted. "I [didn't] want to produce or direct or act. I just wanted to be with the family." However, with the entertainment industry largely shut down during the pandemic, his decision didn't make headlines.

Khan explained that his children eventually persuaded him to return. "They said, 'We can't spend 24 hours with you. So get real and get a life.' They gently nudged me back into films," he shared with a smile.

### Return with *Laapataa Ladies*

After his brief hiatus, Aamir Khan returned to produce *Laapataa Ladies* (*Lost Ladies*), a socially impactful film



that is now India's official entry for the Oscars in the Best International Feature Film category. Directed by his ex-wife Kiran Rao, the movie explores themes of women's independence and social justice with a satirical touch.

Khan described the film as "a bit Shakespearean" and emphasized its underlying message about women's rights. "Women all over the world face many challenges, and this story brings that out beautifully," he said.

### On His Collaboration with Kiran Rao

Despite their separation in 2021, Khan and Rao continue to share a strong professional and personal bond. "We get along really well. Our relationship may have changed slightly, but our love and respect for each other remain intact," he said.

### Balancing Work and Life

Khan revealed that therapy and advice from his children have helped him find a work-life balance. "My son told me, 'You're an extreme person. Try to find a middle ground.' And that's what I've been doing — working hard, but not after 6 PM."

Looking ahead, Khan is set to release his next film, *Sitaare Zameen Par*, in 2025. He also dreams of adapting the Indian epic *Mahabharat* for the big screen.

As Bollywood continues to make strides on the global stage, Khan remains hopeful about India's chances at the Oscars and the industry's potential to cater to a global audience. For now, fans can celebrate his return and eagerly await his upcoming projects.





Vendredi 21 fevrier - 20.10

# EVITA

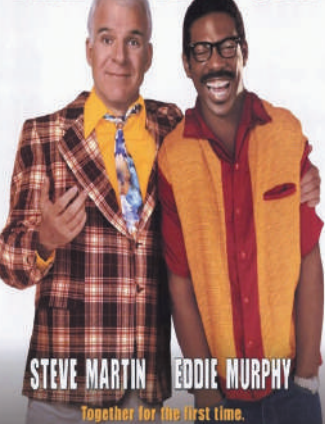


BANDERAS MADONNA



Samedi 22 fevrier - 20.10

# THE CON IS ON.

STEVE MARTIN EDDIE MURPHY  
Together for the first time.  
BOWFINGER

Dimanche 23 février -21.40

# ANTLERS



## Programme TV



SERIAL



### MBC 1

07.35 Serial: Briarpatch  
08.43 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi  
09.35 Film: Patch Adams  
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: Skyscraper  
17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.00 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Film: Evita  
22.01 Tele: Wildflower  
23.30 Le Journal  
00.05 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
00.31 Serial: Billions  
01.26 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin  
01.51 Mag: Red Carpet

### MBC 2

06.00 Nou Later Nou Lamer...  
06.26 Local: En Forme  
07.30 Rodrig: Nou La Ter  
10.30 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
12.00 Local: Groov'in  
13.05 Nou Later Nou Lamer...  
13.31 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
14.15 Local: Artisan  
15.18 Local: En Forme  
16.29 Local: Lancement Du Livre  
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 Journal Kreol Redifusion  
23.20 Local: En Forme  
23.34 Local: Couleur Marine  
00.01 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanfan  
00.15 Local: Tous Egaux

### MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama  
07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
08.10 Local: Amrit Vani  
10.00 Serial: Agniphera  
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Nadaan  
Starring: Navin Nischol, Asha Parekh  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar  
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron  
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
18.41 Loca: Mati Ke Mol  
19.00 Local: Bhajanavali  
20.00 Local: Shiva The Universe  
21.00 Film: Dulhania London Se Layenge  
Cast: Khesari Lal, Madhu Sharma  
23.22 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.37 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar

### Cine 12

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
09.27 Doc: Inside The Exotic...  
10.52 Mag: Healthy Living  
11.37 Mag: Shift  
11.49 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
12.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
13.00 Doc: Children Of Peace  
14.35 Mag: Shift  
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.26 D.Anime: Patamuse  
15.46 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.17 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.02 Serial: Hiccup AND Sneezee  
17.30 Mag: Eco India  
18.00 Doc: A World Without Bees?  
18.42 Mag: Mapped Out  
19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
20.50 Doc: Saving Our Soil  
21.31 Doc: Riding The Rails...  
22.18 Doc: Better Brain Health

### Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
14.55 Serial: Doree  
15.30 Film: Munna Michael  
Cast: Tiger Shroff, Nidhi Agerwal, Nawazuddin Siddiqui  
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: Munna Michael  
Cast: Tiger Shroff, Nidhi Agerwal, Nawazuddin Siddiqui  
02.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya

vendredi 21 fevrier

samedi 22 fevrier

dimanche 23 fevrier

lundi 24 fevrier

03.44 Serial: Briarpatch  
04.32 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani  
06.20 Tele: All The Flowers  
06.45 Serial: Pearson  
08.16 Serial: For Life  
09.00 Serial: Briarpatch  
09.45 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani  
10.45 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: Evita  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Film: Bowfinger  
21.42 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani  
22.38 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
23.32 Le Journal

02.55 Serial: The Last Kingdom  
04.56 Serial: Gout De L'amour  
05.45 Tele: All The Flowers  
06.11 Film: Bowfinger  
07.45 Serial: Airwolf  
08.31 Film: Le Dernier Metro  
10.45 Serial: F.B.I  
11.30 Tele: All The Flowers  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.35 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins  
15.22 Film: Fast And Furious  
17.30 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge  
18.00 Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il...  
19.18 Sayings Radha Krishna  
19.30 Le Journal Televisé  
20.10 Film: Right In Front Of Me  
21.32 Serial: Airwolf  
22.19 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
23.13 Mag: Red Carpet  
23.30 Le Journal

02.20 Tele: Wildflower  
03.09 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
05.08 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
06.01 Serial: Amour Secret  
07.41 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man  
08.50 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
09.42 Film: Antlers  
11.35 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.17 Tele: Wildflower  
13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
14.10 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man  
15.00 Samachar  
15.20 Film: Right In Front Of Me  
17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.00 Samachar  
18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.07 Serial: Doree  
20.15 Serial: Hawaii  
21.00 Serial: For Life  
21.45 Tele: Wildflower  
22.34 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

06.00 Local: Couleur Marine  
06.41 Local: Retrovizer  
07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...  
08.56 Local: Lir - Ekir Kreol  
10.00 Local: J'ai Faim  
10.35 Local: Dance Fever  
12.05 Rodrig: Koze Zom  
13.05 Local: Nos Aines  
13.27 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
13.38 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik  
14.47 Local: Retrovizer  
15.00 Local: Tous Egaux  
16.00 Local: Moments Forts De...  
16.30 Local: Dance Fever  
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.40 Rodrig: Coin Zen  
20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies  
20.30 Trubute To Seggae And Reg...  
21.30 Local: Glwar Dantan  
22.00 Rodrig - D'Jam

06.21 Local: Coin Jardin  
07.05 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
09.05 Local: Les Petits Genies  
10.11 Local Production MBC 2  
11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn  
12.00 Local: Proze Dime  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
14.45 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
16.45 Local: Tous Egaux  
17.05 Local: Les Petits Genies  
17.30 Local: Glwar Dantan  
18.05 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.24 Local: Info En Langue...  
20.20 Local: Les Klips  
21.14 Local: Exceptionnelles  
21.36 Local: Konser Omaz Kaya...  
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.01 Journal Kreol  
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin

07.00 Local: Itinerer Moris  
09.45 Local: Clin D'oeil  
10.01 Local: Exceptionnelles  
10.33 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef  
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  
16.39 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
17.07 Maha Shivratree 2025  
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: Business Connect  
21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
22.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
22.35 Local: Les Grands Moments  
22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.00 Journal Kreol  
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness  
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog  
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.40 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
12.55 Local: Bhajanavali  
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
14.30 Mag: Talaash  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Film: Phir Bhi Jaane Do Mitro  
18.00 Live From Kashi  
Vishwanath Mandir, Ganga Talao  
20.00 Mahashivratri Sandesh  
21.00 Film: Raid  
Cast: Ajay Devgan, Ileana D Cruz  
23.11 Mahashivratri Sandesh  
23.16 Bhajanavali  
23.36 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness  
08.26 Mahashivratri Sandesh  
08.52 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek  
12.00 Film: Flight  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Mahashivratri Sandesh  
17.00 Bhajanavali  
18.00 Live From Ganga Talao  
18.30 Planet Bollywood  
20.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare  
20.31 Serial: Porus  
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein  
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol  
22.15 Serial: Naagin  
22.54 Serial: Bahubali  
02.09 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...  
04.25 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare  
04.56 Film: Flight

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
07.00 Tenali Rama  
07.12 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
07.23 Lambu G Tingu G  
08.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare  
09.40 Serial: Bahubali  
10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...  
11.30 Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Padosan  
15.00 Samachar  
15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna  
15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar  
15.50 Kundali Bhagya  
17.30 Local: Shivopasna  
18.00 Live From Ganga Talao  
19.45 Mahashivratri Sandesh  
20.15 Live From Divine Museum Ganga Talao  
22.45 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek  
23.27 Serial: Mere Sai

06.00 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
07.07 D.Anime: Croco Doc  
08.05 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis  
09.46 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes  
10.08 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
11.03 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...  
12.53 Doc: Saving our Soil  
13.39 Doc: Riding The Rails...  
15.08 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.26 D.Anime: Patamuse  
16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.02 Serial: Hiccup AND Sneezee  
17.30 Doc: Madam Chutney And...  
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: Hereditary  
23.50 Doc: Barbie-The Perfect...  
00.32 Doc: Urban Rats: Unknown  
02.02 Mag: In Good Shape  
02.28 Doc: Top Dive Sites

08.19 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis  
09.23 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget  
09.44 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes  
09.59 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
10.10 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.  
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 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.13 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis  
15.38 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob  
15.50 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.06 Serial: Hiccup AND Sneezee  
18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens  
18.30 Doc: Submerged Universe  
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
20.00 Tele: All The Flowers  
21.40 Film: Antlers  
Cast: Keri Russell, Jesse Plemons, Jeremy T. Thomas

06.25 Doc: Submerged Universe  
07.24 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
08.30 Doc: New Boats, Empty Nets  
09.16 Doc: The War Diary  
10.51 Doc: The Timber Mafia's...  
11.34 Doc: Ageless Gardens  
12.00 Doc: Submerged Universe  
12.49 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
13.19 Doc: Reversing Extinction  
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.27 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles  
15.38 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob  
15.49 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.20 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.04 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneezee  
17.30 Doc: A Place To Feel Safe  
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: Don't Breathe 2  
Cast: Stephen Lang, Madelyn Grace...

08.00 Dharam Patni  
09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
10.02 Mithai  
12.00 Udaariyaan  
13.50 Anupamaa  
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
17.36 Vidrohi  
18.30 Film: U Me Aur Hum  
With: Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Sumeet Raghavan



21.05 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
21.22 Keh Doon Tumhein

00.00 Mithai  
01.49 Udaariyaan  
03.530 Anupamaa  
05.55 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
07.16 Vidrohi  
07.41 Tenali Rama  
08.12 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
10.22 Kundali Bhagya  
12.03 Rajaa Betaa  
14.00 Doree  
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.38 Film: Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi  
Cast: Sonakshi Sinha, Diana Penty, Jimmy Shergill  
20.44 Tenali Rama  
21.00 Mahabharat  
21.49 Dance India Dance Super...  
22.32 Rajaa Betaa  
00.37 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey



14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.51 Doree  
15.25 Film: Chhalo Driver  
Starring: Vickrant Mahajan, Kainaz Motivala, Prem Chopra  
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 25 fevrier - 20.10



Mercredi 26 fevrier - 21.00



Jeudi 27 fevrier - 22.17



## Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
05.20 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 05.56 Serial: Amour Secret 08.17 Tele: All The Flowers 09.15 Film: Don't Breathe 2 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: Lonely Are The Brave 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: The Descendants 21.55 Tele: Wildflower 22.49 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal 00.05 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 01.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	07.35 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 13.30 Rodrig: It's My Day 14.05 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 15.05 Local: Fee Main 15.25 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard 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: Maha Shivratrie 20.35 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 07.26 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.10 Mahashivratrie Sandesh 10.07 Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Narad Vivah 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 17.40 Serial: Bhajanavali 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.40 Local: Bhakton Ka Utsa 19.36 Local: Shiv Bhajans 20.30 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey 21.00 Excerpt From Shiv Abhishek 21.40 Film: Shravan Kumar 23.49 Serial: Mere Sai 00.35 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.58 Mahashivratrie Sandesh 01.08 Bhakton Ka Utsa	06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 07.23 Mag: In Good Shape 07.49 Mag: Travel 08.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today 11.28 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.26 Mag: In Good Shape 13.00 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.31 Mag: Washington Forum 15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.25 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles 15.50 D.Anime: The Deep 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.30 Mag: Eco Africa 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.30 Mag: Global US 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi 21.59 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.29 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Chaar Din Ki Chandni Cast: Kulraj Randhawa, Tusshar Kapoor 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 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.04 Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Chaar Din Ki Chandni Cast: Kulraj Randhawa, Tusshar Kapoor
06.01 Serial: Amour Secret 06.53 Serial: Columbo 08.07 Tele: All The Flowers 09.44 Film: Right In Front Of Me 11.30 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: Seref Meselesi 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 21.45 Tele: Wildflower	07.08 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 08.05 Local: An Eta Dalert 09.30 Local: Le Mag 11.00 Local: Profil 12.00 Local: Inspiration 12.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Ragard 13.41 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.30 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 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Mahashivratrie Sandesh 09.30 Live From Prof S Jugessur 12.00 Film: Bhrahmastra Part One-Shiva Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt 15.20 Serial: Radha Krishna 15.33 Shiva The Universe 16.30 Local: Bhajanavali 17.30 Local: Virasat 18.00 Live From 1st Pahar Ki Pooja 20.00 Local: Bhajanavali 21.00 Live From Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Ganga Talao 23.00 Local: Bhajanavali 00.00 Live From Plaine Magnien Vishwanath Mandir	07.00 D.Anime: Croco Doc 08.15 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 09.51 Film: Strange Magic 11.32 Mag: Initiative Africa 12.43 Doc: Europe's Oak Trees 14.56 Film: Le Dernier Des Dinosaures 16.27 D.Anime: Sam le Pompier 16.36 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.59 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze 18.30 Mag: Business Beyond 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: A Mediterranean... 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Choices 21.05 Film: Luce 22.35 Mag: Close Up 23.22 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.48 Doc: Artificial Immortality	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Entertainment Cast: Akshay Kumar Tamannaah Bhatia 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: Entertainment Cast: Akshay Kumar Tamannaah Bhatia 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan
06.01 Tele: Amour Secret 08.15 Serial: All The Flowers 08.41 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.43 Film: Le Déserteur De Fort Alamo 11.30 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: Luce 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: Lekar Hum Deewana Dil Stars: Armaan Jain, Deeksha Seth, Nikita Dutta 22.22 Tele: Wildflower	06.39 Local: Metie 08.27 Local: Toc Toc Doc 08.45 Local: En Forme 10.34 Local: Saveurs Plus 12.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel 14.36 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.56 Local: Metie 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 20.45 Local: Mots & Ecrits 21.00 Local: Le Mag 22.38 Local: Metie 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.23 Lambu G Tingu G 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Ujala Hi Ujala Cast: Vinod Mehra, Yogeeta Bali, Rakesh Pandey 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.00 Agnipheera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.31 Local: Amrit Vani 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 22.00 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.26 Mere Sai 23.12 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.47 Mag: Choices 08.31 Doc: Focus On Europe 10.22 Doc: The Lives Of The Amish 11.09 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.06 Mag: Close Up 13.37 Mag: Focus On Europe 15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.06 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.25 Idefix Et Le Irreductibles 15.34 D.Anime: The Deep 16.04 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 16.14 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.55 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze 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 22.03 Film: The Shape OF Water	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: Chatur Singh Two Star 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: Chatur Singh Two Star 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan



Jeudi 27 fevrier - 15.30



Jeudi 27 fevrier - 20.10

Stars: Armaan Jain, Deeksha Seth, Nikita Dutta







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# Ukraine isn't Invited to Its Own Peace Talks

History is full of such examples – and the results are devastating

Ukraine has not been invited to a key meeting between American and Russian officials in Saudi Arabia this week to decide what peace in the country might look like.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine will “never accept” any decisions in talks without its participation to end Russia’s three-year war in the country.

A decision to negotiate the sovereignty of Ukrainians without them – as well as US President Donald Trump’s blatantly extortionate attempt to claim half of Ukraine’s rare mineral wealth as the price for ongoing US support – reveals a lot about how Trump sees Ukraine and Europe.

But this is not the first time large powers have colluded to negotiate new borders or spheres of influence without the input of the people who live there.

Such high-handed power politics rarely ends well for those affected, as these seven historical examples show.

## 1. The Scramble for Africa

In the winter of 1884-85, German leader Otto von Bismarck invited the powers of Europe to Berlin for a conference to formalise the division of the entire African continent among them. Not a single African was present at the conference that would come to be known as “The Scramble for Africa”.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (centre) arriving in Riyadh for the US-Russia talks over Ukraine. Pic - Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service handout/EPA

Among other things, the conference led to the creation of the Congo Free State under Belgian control, the site of colonial atrocities that killed millions.

Germany also established the colony of German South West Africa (present-day Namibia), where the first genocide of the 20th century was later perpetrated against its colonised peoples.

## 2. The Tripartite Convention

It wasn’t just Africa that was divided up this way. In 1899, Germany and the United States held a conference and forced an agreement on the Samoans to split their islands between the two powers.

This was despite the Samoans expressing a desire for either self-rule or a confederation of Pacific states with Hawai’i.

As “compensation” for missing out in Samoa, Britain received uncontested primacy over Tonga.

German Samoa came under the rule of New Zealand



From left to right: Neville Chamberlain, Édouard Daladier, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Italian Foreign Minister Galeazzo Ciano before signing the Munich Agreement, which gave the Sudetenland to Germany. Pic - German Federal Archives

after the first world war and remained a territory until 1962. American Samoa (in addition to several other Pacific islands) remain US territories to this day.

## 3. The Sykes-Picot Agreement

As the first world war was well under way, British and French representatives sat down to agree how they’d divide up the Ottoman Empire after it was over. As an enemy power, the Ottomans were not invited to the talks.

Together, England’s Mark Sykes and France’s François Georges-Picot redrew the Middle East’s borders in line with their nations’ interests.

The Sykes-Picot Agreement ran counter to commitments made in a series of letters known as the Hussein-McMahon correspondence. In these letters, Britain promised to support Arab independence from Turkish rule.

The Sykes-Picot Agreement also ran counter to promises Britain made in the Balfour Declaration to back Zionists who wanted to build a new Jewish homeland in Ottoman Palestine.

The agreement became the wellspring of decades of conflict and colonial misrule in the Middle East, the consequences of which continue to be felt today.

## 4. The Munich Agreement

In September 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and French Prime Minister Édouard Daladier met with Italy’s fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini, and Germany’s Adolf Hitler to sign what became known as the Munich Agreement.

The leaders sought to prevent the spread of war throughout Europe after Hitler’s Nazis had fomented an uprising and began attacking the German-speaking areas of Czechoslovakia known as the Sudetenland. They did this under the pretext of protecting

German minorities. No Czechoslovakians were invited to the meeting.

The meeting is still seen by many as the “Munich Betrayal” – a classic example of a failed appeasement of a belligerent power in the false hope of staving off war.

## 5. The Évian Conference

In 1938, 32 countries met in Évian-les-Bains, France, to decide how to deal with Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Nazi Germany.

Before the conference started, Britain and the US had agreed not to put pressure on one another to lift the quota of Jews they would accept in either the US or British

Palestine.

While Golda Meir (the future Israeli leader) attended the conference as an observer, neither she nor any other representatives of the Jewish people were permitted to take part in the negotiations.

The attendees largely failed to come to an agreement on accepting Jewish refugees, with the exception of the Dominican Republic. And most Jews in Germany were unable to leave before Nazism reached its genocidal nadir in the Holocaust.

## 6. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

As Hitler planned his invasion of Eastern Europe, it became clear his major stumbling block was the Soviet Union. His answer was to sign a disingenuous non-aggression treaty with the USSR.

Joseph Stalin and Joachim von Ribbentrop after the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. German Federal Archives/Wikimedia Commons

The treaty, named after Vyacheslav Molotov and Joachim von Ribbentrop (the Soviet and German foreign ministers), ensured the Soviet Union would not respond when Hitler invaded Poland. It also carved up Europe into Nazi and Soviet spheres. This allowed the Soviets to expand into Romania and the Baltic states, attack Finland and take its own share of Polish territory.

Unsurprisingly, some in Eastern Europe view the current US-Russia talks over Ukraine’s future as a revival of this kind of secret diplomacy that divided the smaller nations of Europe between large powers in the second world war.

## 7. The Yalta Conference

With the defeat of Nazi Germany imminent, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and US President Franklin D Roosevelt met in 1945 to decide the fate of postwar Europe. This meeting came to be known as the Yalta Conference.

Alongside the Potsdam Conference several months later, Yalta created the political architecture that would lead to the Cold War division of Europe.

At Yalta, the “big three” decided on the division of Germany, while Stalin was also offered a sphere of interest in Eastern Europe.

This took the form of a series of politically controlled buffer states in Eastern Europe, a model some believe Putin is aiming to emulate today in eastern and southeastern Europe.

## ZELENSKY CONFIRMS UKRAINE NOT PART OF UKRAINE TALKS?

