

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Leadership to me means duty, honour, country. It means character, and it means listening from time to time. -- George W. Bush

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

“Le nouveau Gouvernement doit aller plus loin, plus vite et plus efficacement”

‘Le peuple est de mauvaise humeur. Il commence à être déçu de certains comportements et de l’absence d’action du Gouvernement’

- ‘Ramgoolam, Bérenger, et le gouvernement actuel ont une réelle volonté politique de remettre le pays en ordre, mais la volonté, seule, ne suffit pas’



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Scrutiny Before the Budget

The Mauritian socio-political landscape is characterized by a series of ongoing developments, resulting in weekly headlines of public interest. The focus right now is the upcoming budget, a moment that will undoubtedly set the tone for the coming fiscal year. Yet, as we brace ourselves for the economic pronouncements, the echoes of the recent municipal elections still linger, prompting reflection, albeit with a necessary dose of caution.

The overwhelming narrative emerging from those local polls was the significant level of abstention. Some might interpret this silence as a singular, definitive message to our political leaders, but that could be an exercise in oversimplification. The reasons behind such widespread non-participation are likely multifaceted, a complex interplay of factors that deserve careful consideration rather than hasty conclusions. Political disillusionment, a sentiment that local elections lack tangible impact on daily lives, insufficient information regarding the stakes, or even a simple lack of interest could all have contributed to the empty ballot boxes. It must be observed here that voter participation at regional elections is usually well below turn-out at general elections. We shouldn't therefore read too much into the high abstention, as it might misrepresent voter sentiment and potentially misinform future political strategies.

For now, Mauritians are watching the unfolding events at the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC). The steady stream of summons and appearances of prominent figures, all under suspicion of financial malfeasance, has undoubtedly captured the public imagination. Their scale and the variety of institutions involved has no doubt shocked many and raised expectations of swifter retribution. But the wheels of justice grind slowly, and the intricate nature of these cases suggests that concrete outcomes may be a long time coming. If the Financial Crimes Commission doesn't deliver tangible results quickly, the initial push for accountability might die down. This could result in people becoming used to these spectacles and feeling like nothing will change.

Undeniably, a strong expectation permeates Mauritian society for these FCC investigations to yield concrete results. However, the chasm between allegations and substantiated evidence or between suspicion and solid proof is vast. Conducting thorough and complex investigations requires time, meticulous attention to detail, and a high degree of specialized expertise. While the initial momentum and public pressure are significant, the legal and logistical hurdles are considerable. Ultimately, the ability of the investigation teams and the justice system to stay resilient and independent will determine if they can manage these complexities and bring solid cases to a close.

The past few years have laid bare an alarming pattern of brazen plundering of state coffers that has shocked the nation. From the flag carrier Air Mauritius to the Central Water Authority (CWA), the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), the CSG introduced to replace our National Pension Fund and countless other governmental



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and parastatal institutions, an endless series of scandals has emerged. Confronted with this relentless tide of revelations, while past key decision-makers are keeping mum two fundamental questions demand urgent answers: what is the true extent of this systemic corruption within our institutions, and crucially, does the genuine political will and the necessary institutional support exist to effectively combat it? The answers to these questions will determine not only the fate of those implicated but also the future integrity and credibility of Mauritius as a nation.

In this climate of successive revelations and eroding trust, the public's faith in institutions is undeniably shaken. Concrete measures are essential. These could include making sure Board Directors are also made liable for actions or inactions of the institution - as already provided for in the law -, strengthening independent oversight bodies, enacting robust whistleblower protection legislation, ensuring greater transparency in and curtailing exemptions to public procurement processes, and fostering a culture of ethical conduct within public service. While the Office of the Director of Audit does its best, Audit investigations only come after the horses have bolted, recommendations for improvement and/or sanctions peter out year after year and there are few examples of top administrators facing the music for gross mismanagement of resources. If we want corrective or preventive actions before any monkey business takes place, maybe it's time the authorities consider an independent Office of Good Governance/Management vested with appropriate authority and monitoring powers, rather than a committee of MPs. Without tangible actions that demonstrate a genuine commitment to accountability and good governance, the chasm of public distrust will only widen.

This brings us to the crucial question of the Mauritian judicial system's capacity to handle the sheer volume and intricate nature of these large-scale corruption cases. Does it possess the necessary resources and, equally importantly, the unwavering independence to effectively

process these complex legal battles? The perception of impartiality and the ability to deliver timely and just verdicts will be critical in rebuilding public confidence.

Against this backdrop of scrutiny and anticipation, the Minister of Finance, who is also the PM, is poised to present the first budget of the Alliance du Changement government in the coming weeks. While facing challenges with public finances, the new government is in a strong political position thanks to its comfortable parliamentary majority and the alignment of the two main parties' leadership. In this context, what specific budgetary strategies can the government adopt to successfully overcome the challenges of economic recovery while simultaneously maintaining the trust of an electorate that harbours legitimate expectations following campaign promises? This budget will be a delicate balancing act, requiring fiscal prudence, innovative solutions, and a clear commitment to addressing the systemic issues that have plagued the nation.

The manner in which the Minister approaches this maiden budget will offer insights into a potential departure from past policies and even the dominant ideology of recent years. What concrete signals within this budget could indicate the much-anticipated "rupture"? Will we see a shift in priorities towards greater social equity, a renewed focus on sustainable development, or a bold commitment to fiscal transparency and accountability? The allocation of resources, the introduction of new policies, and the rhetoric employed will all serve as crucial indicators of the government's true direction and its willingness to break with the status quo.

Ultimately, as we go through this period of intense scrutiny and brace for the budgetary pronouncements, the fundamental question remains: are we witnessing a genuine and significant shift in the way the country is governed, and its affairs are administered? Is a strong wind of change truly manifesting itself in concrete actions? We'll obtain the answers in the coming weeks, and we'll then know whether this moment marks a true turning point towards greater accountability, transparency, and a renewed sense of public trust in Mauritius.

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Perks, Power, and Silence

The High Cost of Public Office

Jan Arden

On Monday last, a radio station hosted invigorating exchanges around the expenditures and salary packages, including such fringe benefits as travel/per diem, the nation incurs for our top political appointees and administrative brass at major state-owned corporations and our numerous parastatal organisations. Independently of what was promised in manifestos, not that they are irrelevant, there is no doubt that this is a conversation that needs to take place in all politburos when the nation is being prepared for tough times to come to sort out the mess left behind by the outgoing administration.

Some of the terms and conditions granted to previous grandees must have been so outrageous that neither MPs nor the public were allowed access to them. Claims of state secrecy or confidentiality clauses with commercial or private entities conveniently shielded figures such as the former Director-General of ICAC, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the ubiquitous accountants, a cohort of advisors, and the recipients of mind-boggling fees handed out left, right, and centre to legal men perceived to be MSM loyalists. On the transparency front, the public expects this government to do much better — even if the bar had previously been set so low.

Of course, there is merit to the catchy phrase I first heard fifty years ago in



Pic - H. Gousse - Master films

“Our elite civil servants vie for board appointments to top-tier state-owned enterprises such as Air Mauritius (or its Holdings), Mauritius Telecom, or the State Bank where government certainly needs to have a watch. It is often said that when a Director-General is experienced and assertive, the board may become more of a formal presence, occasionally deferring to ministerial direction. If so, it raises a legitimate question: how effective were they in anticipating or preventing the troubling practices now under investigation by the Financial Crimes Commission? Did they exercise their duty of oversight and speak up when necessary — or remain silent in the face of questionable decisions and ethical lapses?”

Singapore: “Pay peanuts, get monkeys.” In our context, how can we attract the country’s best brains to take the plunge and endure the pressures of political life — pressures that will inevitably affect their private, family, and professional lives for years to come? Moreover, the combined number of MPs, Ministers, and their advisors barely exceeds a hundred. Their salary packages would not place any significant strain on the national budget. They can certainly be justified if they are doing their jobs properly, but

world tours with commensurate per diems, as entertained for instance, by the jolly crowd that bustled to the Dubai Expo at our expenses, should be reined in. So should the various allowances they voted for themselves at various times in the past be rationalized.

Do we really need to continue purchasing and maintaining a fleet of expensive ministerial vehicles — many of which end up in repairs at the Line Barracks —

when Ministers and senior officials already benefit from 100% duty-free privileges every four years or so? Government has no business running (poorly?) a limousine garage. It should also have no compulsion in limiting engine capacities on our road and weather conditions for all duty-free cars. Our elites can certainly afford the extras they desire; those who wish to drive luxury brands like Porsche, Aston Martin, or Jaguar can pay the difference themselves, using their generous duty-free allowances.

While MPs and Ministers are but a handful, it was once estimated that we have around 400 parastatal bodies and state-owned entities, some of duplicate value and others of marginal interest, yet each comes with its own costly overheads — Chairpersons, Boards or Councils, and Director-Generals included. Do we need a sabre-rattling Elon Musk to go through that list and streamline it?

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Indeed, these — and many other — questions deserve to be part of a broader conversation our leaders must engage in, even if only for the symbolic value of such reflection in a time of looming austerity.

Weapons, Propaganda, and Power

The Global Stakes in the Indo-Pak Conflict

The recent tragic conflict — part of a long series of terrorist attacks originating from Pakistan — has been watched closely by virtually all major world capitals. For some, it’s a matter of military strategy; for others, it’s a chance to observe, in real battlefield conditions, how the weapons and defence systems they’ve sold to the two belligerents have performed. This interest is hardly surprising, given that such raw, unfiltered feedback can significantly influence ongoing or future arms deals — positively or negatively. In this context, information, disinformation, and propaganda wars have come to dominate international conflicts — and this one was no exception.

China, for instance, supplies around 80% of Pakistan’s military hardware, including the JF series of fighter jets (such as the JF-17 and the more advanced JF-10), alongside older U.S.-made F-16s. It also provides virtually the entire air defence infrastructure — integrated missile systems and radar networks — tasked with protecting high-value civilian areas in Punjab and key military installations along the Indian border. Beyond military ties, China shares deeper strategic interests with Pakistan as its principal financial backer, notably through the multi-billion-dollar

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Balochistan and passes perilously close to conflict zones in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Additionally, Beijing may view with concern the recent trend of major multinational corporations relocating operations to India — and possibly making it not entirely indifferent to instability in its southern neighbour.

India has chosen the 4.5G fleet of Dassault Rafales to replace its ageing fleet of MIG 21 and 29s, pending its autonomous Tejas Mark II and other indigenous aircraft. The Indian military is reportedly so satisfied with the Rafale’s performance that Prime Minister Modi fast-tracked the acquisition of 29 additional units of its marine version. Though the fighter jet is high-performance and battle-tested, France will no doubt follow closely any involvement of the Rafale in air combats or missions. Commercial contracts and perspectives loom large in the conflict’s background even when the US/President Trump is keen on pushing the untested and costly F22 or 35s stealth fighter jets onto PM Modi.

The USA and the Western powers will be closely evaluating and assessing strengths and weaknesses in



Pic - Friday Times

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China’s military technologies, defensive and offensive, as yet largely untested under real-life combat and conflict situation.

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Prakash Neerohoo

Budget 2025-26

Tax reform: ReA raises the stakes

Mauritius' tax-to-GDP ratio stands at 21%, well below the OECD average of 35% and Scandinavia's 45%.

Without a broader and more progressive tax base, the country cannot sustainably support a generous welfare state

In the context of the budget 2025-26, to be tabled by the Minister of Finance in Parliament in June, the minority partner in government ReA is proposing an increase in the corporate tax (CT) rate from 15% to 20%, according to a statement of its leader Ashok Subron reported by the paper *Le Defi* on April 19, 2025.

Ashok Subron went so far as to say that the private sector should not hold government hostage while the latter is striving to promote social justice. I agree with Ashok Subron as I have been calling for tax reform in many media articles over the last few years. Fiscal consolidation calls for a proper tax reform to generate additional revenue at a time when the budget deficit is high (6% of GDP) and public debt is approaching 100% of GDP. The government cannot keep running huge deficits year after year, which increase public debt with huge debt servicing costs (about 30% of current expenditure).

I should point out that 15% is the general CT rate currently. Export companies and companies in global business pay only 3% CT. In his last budget, the previous Minister of Finance added 2% to the CT rate for local and global companies (with turnover more than Rs 50 million per year), jacking up the CT rate for global companies to 5%. This rate of 5% is still way below the 15% minimum global CT rate proposed by the OECD as part of its plan to combat the BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) strategy practised by big international corporations to move their income to low-tax jurisdictions (Ireland, Mauritius and other tax havens).

In addition to a 20% CT for local companies and 15% for global corporations in the offshore sector, the government should explore other revenue generating avenues to increase tax revenue and reduce the budget deficit. Amongst other measures, the following should be considered:

1. Capital Gains: Introduce a capital gains tax on the sale and resale of moveable property and immovable property. At least 50% of capital gains should be

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“Local government reform is meaningless if municipalities are deprived of a tax base and have to rely on central government funding for current and capital expenditure. The abolition of property tax in cities was a demagogic measure that did not take into account the need for sustainable finance for our municipalities. Pic - PropertyMap”

taxed at applicable marginal income tax rates, as is the case in advanced countries such as Canada. A capital gains tax is an appropriate tool to keep track of wealth accumulation and combat money laundering from illicit trades. We know that tax evaders and underground economy operators invest their illicit gains in real property (houses, villas, buildings) and luxury personal property such as jewelry, boats and high-end vehicles.

2. Dividends: Introduce a tax on dividends as a source of income to be taxed at marginal income tax rates. The argument that dividends are an after-tax distribution of profits to shareholders is a fallacy. Dividends are a source of income according to the theory of income sources (employment income, business income, capital gains, dividends, interest in bonds, etc.). All advanced countries tax all sources of income at marginal tax rates.

3. Personal Income Tax: Make the personal income tax structure more progressive by adding marginal tax rates of 25% and 30% on higher income. The top marginal tax rate is now 20%, but high-income earners pay an effective tax rate less than 15% on their total income thanks to multiple exemptions (including a personal exemption of Rs 390,000) and various deductions (dependent allowance, interest deduction on housing loans, medical insurance premiums, university fees, etc.).

4. Property Tax: Introduce a property tax on houses, apartments, villas and cottages over a certain value to raise funds for local government services. Local government reform is meaningless if municipalities are deprived of a tax base and have to rely on cen-

tral government funding for current and capital expenditure. The abolition of property tax in cities was a demagogic measure that did not take into account the need for sustainable finance for our municipalities.

5. Pensions: In line with the theory of sources of income, all pensions should be taxable beyond the personal exemption threshold, whether it's workplace pension, old age pension or parliamentary pension.

6. Tax Exemptions: Government should give up any tax exemptions promised to specific groups based on age (people over 65 years or people in the 18-25 age bracket). Income tax is based on ability to pay, not on age. Introducing age as a criterion for exemption defeats the principle of tax equity.

7. President/Vice President: Abolish the tax exemption for the President and Vice President of the Republic. They should be treated like all taxpayers in the same way. They don't work harder than the common man.

I have discussed these proposals in more details in previous articles.

A country's fiscal capacity is measured by the tax-to-GDP ratio. Mauritius' ratio is 21% compared to an average of 35% for OECD countries with 45% for some Scandinavian countries. Mauritius cannot afford a generous Welfare State without a broad and progressive policy tax base. Neoliberal economists would shoot down the above proposals on the grounds that they would scare away investors and high-income earners. But what is their alternative for reducing deficits other than reducing expenditure?

Scrutinizing Conflict of Interest

The MedPoint Missions and Mauritian Law

'There is no need for any reform. The law is there. Ultimately, the effectiveness of any law hinges on the ethical conduct and personal integrity of individuals'

The issue of conflict of interest in Mauritius has come under renewed scrutiny following a parliamentary exchange concerning Mr Navin Beekarry, former Director General of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and later the Financial Crimes Commission. In response to a question from MP Roshan Jhummun, the Prime Minister confirmed that Mr Beekarry had travelled to London on three occasions in connection with the MedPoint case before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

These missions were approved by the ICAC Board, which Mr Beekarry himself chaired, without recusing himself from the decision-making process. The PM described this as a "blatant case of conflict of interest," further noting that the missions continued despite the Privy Council's refusal to hear oral submissions from ICAC. The cumulative cost of these trips exceeded Rs 1.37million. This episode has raised serious questions about the adequacy of Mauritius' conflict of interest regulations, the accountability of heads of statutory bodies, and the mechanisms in place to safeguard public resources and institutional integrity.

Lex delves into the issue of conflict of interest and examines whether the current legal framework in Mauritius is sufficiently robust to prevent such ethical breaches.

LEX

*** What is the legal definition of "conflict of interest" under Mauritian law, particularly in the context of public office or statutory bodies such as ICAC, and do the Prevention of Corruption Act (now repealed) or the legislation establishing the Financial Crimes Commission contain specific provisions regulating such conflicts?**

In Mauritius the offence of conflict of interest is provided by the Financial Crimes Commission Act (FCC). The Act has repealed the former Prevention of Corruption Act that had a similar provision. Section 29 (2) provides that where a public official, or his relative or associate, has a personal interest in a decision which a public body is to take, that public official shall not vote or take part in any proceedings of that public body relating to such decision. The penalty is ten years imprisonment.

A conflict of interest, legally, arises when an individual's personal interests could potentially compromise their judgment, decisions, or actions in their professional or official capacity. This can include situations where private interests could influence their public duties, either actually, potentially, or even if it's reasonable for others to perceive such influence. In essence, it's a clash between requirements and interests, where personal gain or bias could overshadow the pursuit of a fair or objective outcome.

*** Is there a distinction in law between actual, potential, and perceived conflict of interest in the public service?**

In the MedPoint case, the Privy Council explained, in relation to the then section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (now section 29 of the FCC), that avoiding situations giving rise to a conflict of interest is clearly part of the purpose of the offences created by section 13. The offences created by section 13(1) and (3) establish a wide-ranging prohibition and are committed when an official fails to declare an interest in an entity with which their

scope of application. It is crucial to keep these considerations in mind when interpreting this legislation. Ultimately, it is a matter of evidence.

*** Is failure to recuse oneself from a decision in which one has a personal interest grounds for administrative, civil, or criminal liability under Mauritian law, and would a Board Chair's approval of their own foreign mission constitute misfeasance, abuse of office, or breach of fiduciary duty in such a context?**

An "interest" within section 13(2) of POCA (now section 29 of the FCC) is required to be "a personal interest."

The Privy Council clarified that "personal" serves to limit the meaning of "interest" by distinguishing between the individual interest of a public official, their relative, or associate, and the more general interest shared by the public at large in decisions made by public officials. This interpretation aligns with and supports the objective of the provision, which is to prohibit participation in decision-making where the official, their relative, or associate has an interest that creates a conflict. There is no compelling



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public body proposes to deal.

The offences created by section 13(2) and (3), which are relevant here, establish an equally wide-ranging duty not to vote or take part in proceedings concerning a relevant decision. For instance, it is irrelevant whether the public body's decision favours or is detrimental to the interests of the public official, their relative, or associate. These provisions aim to prevent situations in which corruption might occur. By establishing clear boundaries, they are necessarily drafted broadly and have a wide

reason to give the word "personal" a more restrictive effect.

Furthermore, the interest does not need to be financial; for instance, a public official, their relative, or associate may have a "personal interest" in the award of an honour, which would be sufficient to fall within the mischief the provision aims to address. If an interest falls within the parameters defined by the Privy Council, the official should recuse themselves.

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Scrutinizing Conflict of Interest

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“While legislation provides the boundaries and consequences, it cannot legislate morality or ensure adherence in every instance. The spirit of the law, particularly in areas like conflict of interest and corruption prevention, relies heavily on individuals choosing to act with integrity and prioritizing public duty over personal gain. So, the real challenge often lies in fostering a culture of integrity and accountability where individuals consistently choose the right course of action, even when the opportunity for personal benefit exists...”

Cont. from page 5

* What enforcement bodies (e.g., the DPP, the FCC, Public Service Commission, or others) have jurisdiction to investigate or act on such matters?

The simple answer is the Financial Crimes Commission.

* Could the costs incurred in such missions be considered unlawful expenditure, and could reimbursement or disciplinary sanctions be pursued?

If Navin Beekarry participated in a decision that approved his travel and the disbursement of funds for it, he undoubtedly had a personal interest in the outcome. In such a situation, he should have recused himself from the decision-making process.

It will be the responsibility of the investigators to determine the full extent of his personal interest, and subsequently, for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to decide whether to initiate prosecution or not.

* What legal reforms could strengthen safeguards against conflicts of interest in statutory bodies and public institutions?

There is no need for any reform. The

law is there. Ultimately, the effectiveness of any law hinges on the ethical conduct and personal integrity of individuals.

While legislation provides the boundaries and consequences, it cannot legislate morality or ensure adherence in every instance. The spirit of the law, particularly in areas like conflict of interest and corruption prevention, relies heavily on individuals choosing to act with integrity and prioritizing public duty over personal gain.

So, the real challenge often lies in fostering a culture of integrity and accountability where individuals consistently choose the right course of action, even when the opportunity for personal benefit exists.

* Could an independent oversight mechanism be created to review board decisions involving senior officials of investigative or anti-corruption institutions?

That could be a solution. Once a decision is made by a public official, the reviewing body can review it to determine whether there was any conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest is found, the decision cannot be implemented.

* What comparative examples from other jurisdictions might be considered to design a more robust conflict of interest regime in Mauritius?

Given the existing robust and clear legal framework within the FCC, the onus truly falls on the individual decision-maker to uphold their responsibility and ensure they are not participating in situations where a conflict of interest arises.

* Is there a role for parliamentary or civil society oversight to deter or expose conflicts of interest in real time?

Indeed, parliamentary and civil society oversight can play a significant role in deterring and exposing conflicts of interest as they occur. As decisions are often taken in an opaque manner, seemingly within an “ivory tower,” public knowledge of a confirmed conflict of interest would enable public denunciation. Robust whistleblower protection is therefore crucial.

LEX

Opinion



Weapons, Propaganda, and Power

The Global Stakes in the Indo-Pak Conflict

● Cont. from page 3

Moscow has not only the MIGs and Sukhoi fighter jets in India's armoury, but India purchased in 2016 (before US sanctions were in place) the highly rated S-400 missile defense systems and radars, overriding US rumblings, as it was quite simply reputed to be the best in its class. Capable of using a panoply of missiles (SAM 400km cruise missiles, deadly Israeli Barak-8, French SCALP and HAMMER missiles to 75km, and the Indian developed Akash for the 30 km range), its mobility on sturdy Tata trucks and its radar-based ability to detect, lock on and fire at multiple threats simultaneously, it provided a multi-layered fully computerised missile defense system which was about to be tested in war-like conditions.

The system software (Akashveer) to integrate the various components was apparently fully indigenous, developed by Indian scientists and engineers. The ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) on its side had developed a fully indigenous array of precision surveillance satellites making reliance on US Intel and technology a thing of the past. In terms of offensive capabilities, the fully indigenous loitering» drones as opposed to Turkey-supplied Pakistani drones were of great interest.

However, it was the deadly fast and accurate Indo-Russian BrahMos missile — recently exported to Manila, with several other countries lined up for potential deals — that was undoubtedly under intense scrutiny. Would this “star of the show” deliver on its promise? Would India's tiered missile defence system, which consists of a multi-layered approach to intercepting and neutralising incoming missiles or projectiles at different stages of their flight), along with its

“The recent tragic conflict -- part of a long series of terrorist attacks originating from Pakistan --has been watched closely by virtually all major world capitals. For some, it's a matter of military strategy; for others, it's a chance to observe, in real battlefield conditions, how the weapons and defence systems they've sold to the two belligerents have performed. This interest is hardly surprising, given that such raw, unfiltered feedback can significantly influence ongoing or future arms deals -- positively or negatively...”

radars and integrated computer systems, prove more effective than the vaunted Israeli Iron Dome? The latter had been repeatedly breached in 2023-2024 by opponents such as Hamas, Iran, and even the Houthis in Yemen, using swarms of drones or missiles. Even with a 90% interception rate, a swarm attack could result in dozens of drones or missile strikes hitting Indian cities or military infrastructure.

The performance of such systems in real-life conflict scenarios must have weighed heavily on the minds of many, both in India and abroad. As a result, capitals beyond Delhi and Islamabad were keenly interested in the conflict from military, diplomatic, strategic, geopolitical, and commercial perspectives. The latter helps explain some of the intense disinformation being pushed in certain quarters.

Jan Arden

Lindsay Rivière

“Le nouveau Gouvernement doit aller plus loin, plus vite et plus efficacement”

‘Le peuple est de mauvaise humeur. Il commence à être déçu de certains comportements et de l’absence d’action du Gouvernement’



Pic - lexpress.mu

Mauritius Times: Les événements se succèdent à un rythme effréné, semaine après semaine. Bientôt, l’attention portera sur le budget. Mais en ce qui concerne les leçons à tirer des dernières élections municipales, il n’y a probablement pas grand-chose de plus à ajouter, si ce n’est peut-être une mise en garde: évitons de surinterpréter le message que l’électorat aurait souhaité transmettre à nos dirigeants politiques par son abstention massive, abstention qui pourrait avoir de multiples causes: désillusion politique, sentiment que les élections locales n’ont pas d’impact réel, ou même simple désintérêt. Qu’en pensez-vous?

Lindsay Rivière: Il ne faut pas, en effet, exagérer la forte abstention aux récentes Municipales (73%). Depuis 50 ans, la participation populaire à ces élections ne dépasse guère 30-40%. Les 26% enregistrés sont certes très décevants, intervenant après 10 ans sans élections mais, dans la mesure où ni le MSM et ses alliés, ni le PMSD ne participaient à ces élections, et qu’il n’y avait pas de véritable combat, on ne devait pas vraiment s’attendre à un meilleur résultat.

Les élections à Maurice sont traditionnellement comme une finale de la FA Cup. S’il y a perception de ‘walkover’, cela n’intéresse plus grand monde. L’important, c’est que nous ayons aujourd’hui des Conseils élus et renouvelés.

Attention toutefois de n’y voir aucun message politique: Le peuple est de mauvaise humeur. Il commence à être déçu de certains comportements et de l’absence d’action du Gouvernement dans certains domaines précis, notamment (i) les prix qui ne cessent pas d’augmenter avec la situation

Entre l’analyse de l’abstention record aux dernières élections municipales et l’attente fébrile du prochain budget, l’actualité mauricienne est dense. *Mauritius Times* explore cette semaine la signification du désengagement électoral, tout en braquant les projecteurs sur les attentes citoyennes face aux scandales de corruption et aux impératifs du redressement économique. L’éclairage de Lindsay Rivière, fin observateur de la société mauricienne, offre une perspective incisive sur ces enjeux cruciaux.

monétaire et la rapacité actuelle de nos commerçants et (ii) l’absence de punition des responsables de l’ancien régime qui ont mis le pays à genoux économiquement. Le nouveau Gouvernement a, en six mois, bien des réalisations à son actif mais il doit aller plus loin, plus vite et plus efficacement.

*** Certains se demandent s’il fallait organiser ces élections aussi tôt, en mai, au lieu d’attendre la réforme à venir des Administrations régionales et ils suggéraient de nommer, entretemps, des Commissions administratives pour diriger nos villes. Qu’en pensez-vous?**

Je suis totalement contre cette proposition. Renvoyer les élections municipales, une fois encore, cela aurait été une aberration absolue, voire une véritable ‘trahison démocratique’ alors que le Gouvernement a été précisément élu pour, entre autres choses, rétablir un cadre démocratique normal à Maurice. Ceci doit inclure des élections tous les 4 ou 5 ans à

comparutions devant la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) de certains décideurs: anciens politiques, personnes issues de l’administration publique ou parapublique, et cadres du secteur privé, tous soupçonnés de malversations. Mais, là aussi, faute d’issues concrètes et vu le temps nécessaire pour démêler ces affaires, cela risque de se banaliser, non?

Non, je ne le pense pas. La nation est sidérée par ce qu’elle découvre, semaine après semaine et, d’après moi, elle sera loin de s’en lasser. Nous sommes dans une phase de découverte et la curiosité du peuple sera insatiable.

L’ampleur des scandales et du pillage des fonds publics est extraordinaire. Chacun constate aujourd’hui avec effroi la rapacité, l’absence totale d’éthique et la décrépitude morale de certains hauts gradés et nommés politiques dans nos institutions publiques et parapubliques. Il y en a sans doute des dizaines d’autres.

Les honnêtes gens de ce pays ne cesseront pas de s’indigner et exigeront demain des sanctions exemplaires contre les pourris de la République, dont le nombre semble augmenter sans cesse avec le culte actuel de l’argent facile. C’est bien qu’il en soit ainsi. On ne parle plus aujourd’hui en termes de millions de roupies mais de milliards. Il faut maintenir la pression.

Le Gouvernement et les Conseils d’Administration, qui depuis trop longtemps ferment les yeux ou regardent ailleurs, doivent, pendant les cinq ans qui s’ouvrent, avoir pour priorité de nettoyer la pourriture qui s’est installée. Beaucoup de Mauriciens ont aujourd’hui honte du niveau de corruption et d’inefficacité atteint par leur pays.

Il faut, comme l’a dit une fois un célèbre politicien ‘Maintain the rage’ et ‘Never forget, never forgive!’

D’ailleurs, ne soyons pas naïfs: Le Gouvernement actuel aura, pendant des années, tout intérêt à maintenir la pression sur l’ancien régime, ne serait-ce que pour l’empêcher de se relever!

*** Il est indéniable qu’il y a une forte attente au sein de la population mauricienne pour que ces enquêtes de la FCC aboutissent à des résultats tangibles. Cependant, transformer des suspicions en preuves solides et mener des enquêtes complexes à leur terme, cela prend du temps et requiert une expertise considérable. Fort de votre expérience journalistique, pensez-vous que ces enquêtes de la FCC aboutiront aux résultats que recherchent les Mauriciens?**

Personnellement, j’estime que la FCC fait du très bon travail, à la fois quantitativement et qualitativement.

«L’ampleur des scandales et du pillage des fonds publics est extraordinaire. Chacun constate aujourd’hui avec effroi la rapacité, l’absence totale d’éthique et la décrépitude morale de certains hauts gradés et nommés politiques dans nos institutions publiques et parapubliques. Il y en a sans doute des dizaines d’autres. Les honnêtes gens de ce pays ne cesseront pas de s’indigner et exigeront demain des sanctions exemplaires contre les pourris de la République...»

tous les niveaux (Parlement, Municipalités, Conseils de District et de Villages). Il n’était donc absolument pas question de nommer quelques notables/administrateurs de ville en attendant que la réforme intervienne, probablement dans un an ou deux, étant donné une composition majeure de la réforme: la municipalisation de 5 grands villages.

En 2025, après deux siècles d’élections locales (les Municipalités ont même, dans l’Histoire, précédé le Parlement), la question de nommer des Administrateurs comme dans les années 70 marquées par un cadre de dictature et de privation des libertés essentielles, ne se posait même pas. Il faut cesser avec ces raisonnements du passé.

*** Par ailleurs, l’attention des Mauriciens semble jusqu’à présent toujours captivée par les convocations et**

☞ Suite en page 8

'Ramgoolam, Béranger, et le gouvernement actuel ont une réelle volonté politique de remettre le pays en ordre, mais la volonté, seule, ne suffit pas'

« Le Gouvernement et les Conseils 'Administration, qui depuis trop longtemps ferment les yeux ou regardent ailleurs, doivent, pendant les cinq ans qui s'ouvrent, avoir pour priorité de nettoyer la pourriture qui s'est installée. Beaucoup de Mauriciens ont aujourd'hui honte du niveau de corruption et d'inefficacité atteint par leur pays. Il faut, comme l'a dit une fois un célèbre politicien 'Maintain the rage' et 'Never forget, never forgive!' »

☞ Suite de la page 7

Il faut féliciter les enquêteurs, augmenter leur nombre, leur donner plus de moyens d'enquêter, par exemple en leur apportant l'aide des grands cabinets d'experts-comptables locaux et internationaux, comme hier NickyTan de Singapour. Il n'y a, selon les responsables du FCC, que 74 enquêteurs dans cette institution. Il en faudrait des dizaines d'autres.

N'oublions pas, en effet, que la fraude financière aujourd'hui est de plus en plus sophistiquée et demande parfois de grandes et nouvelles compétences d'audit et d'investigation. Faisons donc venir des enquêteurs internationaux capables de suivre les opérations de fraude mauricienne partout dans le monde, quitte à payer gros. Il y a encore beaucoup de dossiers à ouvrir. Il faut surtout aller plus vite, sinon les fraudeurs auront tout le temps de cacher leurs traces, ici ou à Dubaï et ailleurs. La responsabilité de la FCC et de ses Commissaires est considérable.

Le public, la presse et les 'backbenchers' de la Majorité au Parlement ont aussi une grande responsabilité pour exiger des comptes des politiciens et des grands fonctionnaires du jour. Il faut en permanence «keep them on their toes». Il faut aussi donner plus de pouvoirs au Public Accounts Committee, lui permettre de se réunir plus souvent et de demander au DPP d'engager des poursuites.

Il faut aussi cesser d'interdire au Parlement des questions sur les corps paraétatiques et les compagnies nationales sous le prétexte de clauses de confidentialité ou des limitations de la 'Companies Act'. S'il faut changer, changeons ces lois qui favorisent la fraude et les malversations. Il est absolument intolérable que ces sociétés publiques ne fassent pas l'objet d'interrogations publiques alors que c'est l'argent public qui les finance.

*** Face à cette litanie de scandales et de pillage des caisses de l'État, que ce soit à Air Mauritius, à la CWA, à la MIC et dans combien d'autres institutions gouvernementales et parapubliques, deux questions essentielles se posent: quelle est l'étendue réelle de cette corruption systémique au sein de nos institutions, et existe-t-il une réelle volonté politique ainsi que le soutien institutionnel nécessaire pour la combattre?**

Je pense qu'il existe, au niveau de Navin Ramgoolam, de Paul Béranger et de la nouvelle équipe gouvernementale, une volonté politique véritable et sincère de mettre de l'ordre dans le pays. Mais la volonté, seule, ne suffit pas. Il faut un cadre institutionnel et légal adéquat pour faire appliquer les lois, les systèmes de contrôle et les codes d'éthique afin qu'à l'avenir, rien de ce que nous avons vu n'existe plus ou soit réduit au minimum.



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« J'estime que la FCC fait du très bon travail, à la fois quantitativement et qualitativement. Il faut féliciter les enquêteurs, augmenter leur nombre, leur donner plus de moyens d'enquêter, par exemple en leur apportant l'aide des grands cabinets d'experts-comptables locaux et internationaux, comme hier NickyTan de Singapour. Il n'y a, selon les responsables du FCC, que 74 enquêteurs dans cette institution. Il en faudrait des dizaines d'autres... »

Je prends quelques exemples. La fonction publique opère toujours dans un cadre qui perdure depuis des décennies sous l'ordre colonial britannique, avec de grandes faiblesses et des possibilités de fraude, de manipulation administrative et de favoritisme politique. Il nous faut réfléchir, comme en Australie et d'autres anciennes colonies anglaises, aux moyens pour en finir avec ce système de cadres supérieurs inamovibles, qui de surcroît siègent sur plusieurs 'Boards' contre rémunération au lieu d'être toute la journée à leur table de travail. Trop de gens peuvent aujourd'hui approuver des contrats, s'ils sont au-dessous de seuils importants.

Il faut songer à corporatiser la fonction publique, nommer partout sous contrat limité (après appels de candidatures internes comme externes) des directeurs-général, directeurs et managers de ministères et départements bien rémunérés comme dans le secteur privé, pour attirer de grandes compétences de partout. Il faut aussi obliger tous ceux qui sont des responsables administratifs à déclarer et à publier la liste de leurs actifs et vérifier de près ceux-ci. On pourrait faire tellement de choses mais si peu est fait. Il faut 'think outside the box'.

*** Dans ce contexte de révélations successives, la**

confiance du public envers les institutions est-elle irrémédiablement ébranlée, et quelles mesures concrètes pourraient être mises en œuvre pour restaurer cette confiance?

Soyons positifs: Toute situation peut être redressée si on fait ce qu'il faut faire. Je viens de suggérer certaines mesures. Il y en a beaucoup d'autres. Savez-vous que la Companies Act et les divers Codes de Bonne Gouvernance punissent très sévèrement les Membres de Boards privés ou de Conseils d'Administration de Corps publics ou parapublics qui n'assument pas leurs responsabilités légales en tant que membres de Boards? Ils ont un devoir absolu de vigilance et de faire respecter des normes de saine administration. Ils peuvent être poursuivis et même aller en prison en cas de 'gross negligence'. Or, aucune sanction n'a jamais été prise à Maurice à l'encontre des membres de conseils d'administration qui ne font pas preuve de vigilance dans leur travail ou qui ne surveillent pas les cas de conflits d'intérêts. Pourquoi? Qui s'intéresse réellement à ces questions?

- A quoi sert-il de passer des lois très élaborées si on ne les applique jamais?
- Comment se fait-il que des organismes importants tels la CWA, la CNT, etc., n'aient pas publié leurs comptes depuis 2017?
- Que font les Présidents et Membres de ces Boards qui, de surcroît, sont grassement payés?
- Ne doivent-ils pas surveiller avec attention les abus, les privilèges, le contournement des procédures, entre autres?
- Ne savaient-ils pas que des comptes n'étaient pas publiés depuis des années ou des contrats alloués de manière douteuse?
- Et les auditeurs internes et externes, de leur côté, tout aussi grassement payés, n'ont-ils rien vu?

Il y a beaucoup de laisser-aller et d'hypocrisie dans toutes ces affaires à Maurice.

*** Le système judiciaire mauricien dispose-t-il, selon vous, des ressources et de l'indépendance nécessaires pour traiter efficacement le volume et la complexité de ces affaires de corruption à grande échelle?**

En apparence, oui. Mais, comme chacun le sait, la Justice est lente à Maurice.

Peut-être faut-il songer à établir un Tribunal pour traiter exclusivement des cas de corruption ou de malversations financières. Il y en a tellement que les officiers de ce Tribunal auraient à faire de l'overtime, 24 heures sur 24!

*** D'ici quelques semaines, le ministre des Finances présentera le premier budget de l'Alliance du Changement. Malgré des finances publiques en difficulté et une marge de manœuvre étroite, avec la majorité parlementaire dont dispose le Gouvernement, les conditions politiques semblent favorables. Dans ce contexte, quelles stratégies budgétaires spécifiques le Gouvernement peut-il adopter pour réussir le redressement économique tout en maintenant la confiance de l'électorat, qui nourrit des attentes légitimes suite aux promesses de campagne?**

Le Premier ministre, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, et son adjoint, Paul Béranger l'ont déjà publiquement confirmé: Le Budget 2025-26 sera «dur et difficile».

☞ Suite en page 9

« Je pense qu'il existe, au niveau de Navin Ramgoolam, de Paul Béranger et de la nouvelle équipe gouvernementale, une volonté politique véritable et sincère de mettre de l'ordre dans le pays. Mais la volonté, seule, ne suffit pas. Il faut un cadre institutionnel et légal adéquat pour faire appliquer les lois, les systèmes de contrôle et les codes d'éthique afin qu'à l'avenir, rien de ce que nous avons vu n'existe plus ou soit réduit au minimum... »

'Après une longue période de libéralisme effréné, il faut maintenant qu'il y ait plus de dirigisme gouvernemental. L'heure est venue pour imposer des choses'

☞ Suite de la page 8

Il s'agira, sans aucun doute, d'un Budget d'austérité sévère mais d'une austérité qui mènera à la stimulation de la croissance, ce que certains économistes en France, dans leur clairvoyance, appellent une «austérité expansive».

Il y aura des augmentations de taxes et de nouvelles taxes pour générer plus de revenus, des restrictions aux exemptions accordées dans le passé, des réductions drastiques de dépenses publiques, des coupures de fonds pénibles tout en évitant de toucher trop au social (allocations, subventions publiques, etc.). Il n'y aura pas de 14ème mois ni de largesses salariales cette année.

Il faut s'y préparer et ne pas se voiler la face, comme le font aujourd'hui des citoyens gagnés à l'argent facile, des lobbies et des syndicalistes tout à fait irresponsables. Pourquoi? Parce que la situation économique mauricienne est véritablement catastrophique et ce n'est pas parce qu'on a un nouveau gouvernement que les problèmes vont s'atténuer ou disparaître. C'est de la folie de croire que tout restera en l'état et que Maurice pourra maintenir son train de vie actuel.

Beaucoup de choses et d'habitudes devront obligatoirement changer, sous l'œil attentif du FMI, de Moody's et des instances internationales. On n'y échappera pas. C'est cela le sens profond de la 'rupture' avec le passé qui est annoncée: «Short-term pain for long-term gain».



« La situation économique mauricienne s'est dégradée encore plus depuis décembre 2024. Les dangers sont encore plus grands en 2025 qu'en 2024. Où que l'on regarde, il n'y a que des déficits colossaux. Ceci n'est pas le fait du présent Gouvernement mais le prolongement des politiques et des pratiques passées, et la dégradation constante et naturelle des choses, compte-tenu des engagements pris ici et compte-tenu de l'état du monde dominé par les Etats-Unis de Donald Trump... »

Pire: La situation économique mauricienne s'est dégradée encore plus depuis décembre

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*** Cette analyse pessimiste de l'économie mauricienne signifie-t-elle que le pays est au bord de l'effondrement économique?**

Voyons les réalités en face.

La croissance, en 2025, avec tout ce qui se passe ici et outre-mer, va baisser (au mieux 3% alors qu'il nous en faudrait 6%). La croissance mondiale va aussi ralentir de 3% à 2%. Nos exportations s'essouffent: Rs 100 milliards seulement par an (un recul de 3% d'une année à l'autre), alors qu'elles auraient dû croître substantiellement. Nos importations, par contre, gonflent hors de proportion: Rs 300 milliards, soit 30% d'augmentation par an, nous laissant donc avec un énorme déficit de notre balance commerciale de l'ordre de Rs 200 milliards. Ceci pèse considérablement sur

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Il faut s'y préparer... »

nos entrées de devises et sur la valeur de notre monnaie.

Notre dette publique est astronomique: Rs 660 milliards, soit 89% de notre Produit National Brut (PNB) qui est équivalent à Rs 700 milliards, alors qu'elle devrait être à 60%. C'est un taux intolérable avec des milliards devant être mis de côté pour repayer, chaque année, cette dette colossale.

Le Gouvernement doit, en plus, supporter et garantir une dette accumulée et des découverts bancaires de Rs 70 milliards pour des corps parapublics et des compagnies nationales totalement inefficaces. Ceux-ci (complètement politisés et devenus des succursales des ministères) perdent tous, chaque année, chacun un à deux milliards de l'argent public et considèrent le Gouvernement central comme une vache à lait à traire sans limites et sans pitié.

Les corps paraétatiques, depuis l'ère SSR/Ringadoo et l'Indépendance, sont une faillite totale, en termes de gestion de fonds publics et il faut, sans hésiter, en éliminer plusieurs.

Notre déficit budgétaire, lui, est près de 9% du PNB, au

des exemptions, affichant des profits considérables et aspirant tous les Foreign Direct Investments d'étrangers qui servent à acheter des villas de luxe.

Dans toutes ces difficultés, il n'y a que trois petits résultats positifs: un meilleur contrôle de la valeur de la roupie par la Banque de Maurice (le dollar passant de Rs 47 à Rs 45); l'augmentation des réserves nationales (aujourd'hui équivalentes à 13 mois d'importations) et un léger mieux pour l'inflation (3%).

*** La manière dont le ministre abordera ce premier budget nous renseignera sur une éventuelle rupture avec certaines politiques, voire avec l'idéologie dominante de ces dernières années. Selon vous, quels signaux concrets dans ce premier budget pourraient indiquer cette rupture tant annoncée?**

On ne voit toujours pas de 'rupture' mais cela viendra sans doute avec le Gouvernement rassemblant toutes ses mesures économiques pour le Budget.

*** Comment mesurer la volonté de 'rupture'?**

Par l'étendue et le courage des mesures qui viendront. Il y a plusieurs 'ruptures' à observer. Que pourrait faire le ministre des Finances?

Personnellement, je crois qu'après une longue période de libéralisme effréné, il faut maintenant qu'il y ait plus de dirigisme gouvernemental. L'heure est venue pour imposer des choses. A mes yeux, il faut absolument que le Gouvernement dégraisse son fonctionnement et fasse passer par-dessus bord tous les canards boiteux qui l'alourdissent, notamment certains corps paraétatiques. Il faut réduire drastiquement le suremploi dans les divers départements et dans les corps paraétatiques.

Il faut privatiser totalement ou partiellement Air Mauritius et de nombreuses autres entités qui perdent des milliards, année après année. Si on veut plus d'efficacité, il faut rechercher des partenariats stratégiques outre-mer avec des colosses et des groupes internationaux.

Il faut mettre de l'ordre dans le commerce, punir davantage la malhonnêteté, privilégier le 'Made in Mauritius' et s'en tenir aux importations essentielles au lieu de dépenser des milliards sur des véhicules (Rs 18 milliards p.a.) ou des produits de luxe pour les expatriés séjournant chez nous. Il faut que tous ceux qui doivent de l'argent à l'Etat et au MIC remboursent leurs dettes le plus rapidement possible. Il faut cesser toutes ces exemptions qu'on donne pour enrichir encore plus des milliardaires.

Le Gouvernement doit surtout revenir à son rôle de régulateur au lieu de vouloir concurrencer le secteur privé. Bref, il faut que l'Etat mauricien cesse de tergiverser, d'écouter les lobbies et doit impérativement repenser son rôle actuel et ses stratégies dans le pays.



Disrupting the Status Quo: Rethinking Mauritius' Energy Sector

Madness, they say, is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. This is why our energy sector now needs disruption

By Sandiren Reddi

At a press conference on 8th May 2025, the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities delivered a candid assessment of our electricity sector: ageing infrastructure (both public and private), imminent capacity short-fall, and a system that has been dangerously stretched over the last few months.

The stop-gap solution: the procurement of a powership to deliver 90-110 MW of generation capacity, located in the Port area. It will operate under a short-term power purchase agreement (PPA) up to 2030, with deployment expected in 8-10 months.

Crucially, this grants the Minister and Government room and time to manoeuvre.

The imperative now is to go beyond the status quo and disrupt the existing model – 'rupture' – and set the foundation for a modern and future proof energy sector characterized by efficiency, innovation, transparency, and resilience.

Time to move from the CEB as we know it?

A key takeaway from the press conference is the continued emphasis on the critical role played (and to be played) by the Central Electricity Board (CEB) in ensuring energy security and the wider economy. In the absence of further details, this means maintaining the CEB within its current organizational and market set-up.

But this no longer works. CEB's huge deficit of Rs 7.5 bn is not only the result of mismanagement but intrinsically linked to the current model and market structure for the CEB.

The *Single Buyer Model*, in its current form where the CEB is simultaneously the producer, grid operator, buyer and seller of electricity (and dare I include quasi-regulator as well), no longer works because it entrenches opacity and inefficiencies.

It is an outdated model based on centralized generation, monopolistic procurement, limited competition and contestability, and overlapping or blurred institutional boundaries.

Furthermore, it fosters monopolistic tendencies on the buy-side and consolidates oligopolistic behaviours on the sell-side, with IPPs entrenched in robust contractual positions with potential of cost pass-through to the CEB.

And it is a model which penalizes the end-user/consumer by creating a structure where the public directly or indirectly (whether through tariffs or subsidies) funds inefficiencies from fuel procurement, dispatch, equipment renewals and skewed contracting positions.

For a government intent on responsible fiscal management as well as modernizing the country, particularly with digitization and AI, maintaining the current model is not only uneconomical but would be antithesis to the Government's objectives.

Institutional Ambiguity and Regulatory Marginalisation

Secondly, the current model, despite legislative reforms in 2004 with the Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) Act and 2005 with the Electricity Act, still faces governance, institutional and regulatory ambiguity and overlaps.

As an example, the Minister and the CEB remain the central actors driving forward key issues surrounding energy security, PPA renewals with IPPs, and considering new alternatives producers (powerships).

The sectorial regulator, the URA, on the other hand, is conspicuously absent despite a regulatory framework that clearly delineates its role and responsibilities. This creates a fundamental governance and conflict issue where the policy maker and the licensee/operator (CEB) act as quasi-regulator.

This is an institutional and governance weakness that needs to be addressed as a strong, independent regulator protects, among others, from ad-hoc and reactive decision-making rather than long term strategic planning.

To that end, the Government must empower the URA, not only through the existing statutory framework, but also in practice through sufficient capacity building, including technical expertise, budgetary independence and enforcement authority.

A new market structure

Rethinking the Single Buyer Model also means re-assessing the market structure itself. In a context where electricity reforms need to synergise with digital transformation – especially with the huge energy requirements that come with AI – the market structure must transition to one that fosters innovation, introduce competitive pressures, promotes cost-efficient pricing and ultimately leads to consumer welfare and economic growth. For instance:

Would opening up the grid under an open access/third party access regime work?

Does keeping the CEB in its vertically integrated structure where production, transmission and distribution are still concentrated under one corporate entity still make sense?

Is it time to consider capacity auctions and competitive bidding (to ensure transparency and least-cost procurement)?

Isn't it time to align decentralization with pricing reform to incentivize adoption of renewables?

“A key takeaway from the press conference is the continued emphasis on the critical role played (and to be played) by the Central Electricity Board (CEB) in ensuring energy security and the wider economy. In the absence of further details, this means maintaining the CEB within its current organizational and market set-up. But this no longer works. CEB's huge deficit of Rs 7.5bn is not only the result of mismanagement but intrinsically linked to the current model and market structure for the CEB. The Single Buyer Model, in its current form where the CEB is simultaneously the producer, grid operator, buyer and seller of electricity (and dare I include quasi-regulator as well), no longer works because it entrenches opacity and inefficiencies...”



The current Single Buyer Model, where CEB acts as producer, operator, buyer, seller, and quasi-regulator, fosters opacity and inefficiencies due to its outdated centralized generation, monopolistic procurement, limited competition, and blurred institutional roles. This model also creates buy-side monopolies and sell-side oligopolies, with IPPs holding strong contracts allowing cost pass-through to the CEB

This is not about abandoning a national strategic asset or public ownership but about extracting maximum economic and operational benefit through structural reforms.

Above all, these proposals require regulatory clarity, clear separation of functions, and alignment with international best practices.

Even in emergency, the right governance matters

While the powership is clearly an emergency intervention, it is still crucial for its procurement to follow due process and licensing process as set out in the regulatory framework.

In addition, the Government must be transparent on the key terms of its power purchase agreement notably fuel cost pass-throughs, emissions limits, exit clauses and tariff structure.

In setting this precedent, Government has sufficient grounds to make sure that the renewals of existing purchase power agreements are not done on legacy terms which would further entrench the cost of inefficiencies and opacity in such contracts (e.g. cost pass-through for renewing ageing equipment).

At an industry level, the Government should ensure that efficiency standards are built in all contractual and licensing arrangements.

Conclusion: a turning point in our energy strategy

Madness, they say, is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. This is why our energy sector now needs disruption.

Disruption does not mean destabilization but instead means a strategic reorientation which can yield significant benefits if done correctly.

But whether it was our economic diversification, the emergence of the EPZ or bold reforms in education, we have been historically very good and successful at bold transitions and breaking the status-quo.

This strategy must prioritize efficiency, robustness, resilience and sustainability and this is the moment. In the summer of 2030, we do not want to be discussing how increased demand stressed the grid and we were on the brink of a blackout.

Media, Misinformation, and Missiles: The Aftermath of Sindoor

Today, controlling the narrative is nearly as important as securing victories on the ground

By U. Dasin

What unfolded in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor during the India-Pakistan conflict underscores the formidable power of narrative in shaping global perception and international response — and the urgent need for some nations to move beyond action alone. In an age of instantaneous media and digital warfare, it is no longer enough to act with precision and purpose; countries must also build the cultural and institutional capacity to tell their stories clearly, credibly, and convincingly. This is not merely a matter of optics. In today's hyper-mediated geopolitical landscape, shaping the narrative can be as critical as securing victory on the ground. Operation Sindoor has laid bare both the strength of India's counter-terrorism response and the persistent vulnerabilities in its global communications strategy. There is a broader lesson here — for governments, institutions, and individuals alike — about the strategic importance of narrative in an interconnected world.

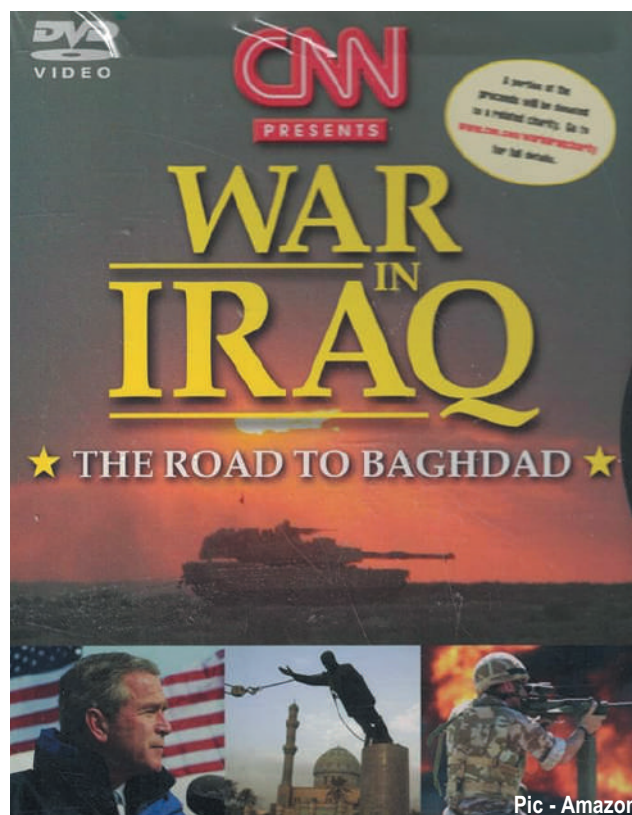
On May 7, 2025, India launched Operation Sindoor, a precision military strike targeting nine terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and POK. This operation was a direct response to the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, in which 22 men were selectively targeted and killed in cold blood in front of their wives and children. While the Indian government presented Operation Sindoor as a necessary counter-terrorism measure, the Western media's portrayal has raised concerns about bias and selective reporting.

Facts on the Ground

According to official reports, India's Operation Sindoor aimed at dismantling terrorist networks such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which were implicated in the Pahalgam attack. The Indian government emphasized that none of the sites initially targeted were Pakistani military facilities, highlighting the operation's focus on countering terrorism. Pakistan's response was immediate counter attacks. But their missiles targeting civilian ground were all intercepted by India's multi-level iron dome. This resulted in the immediate escalation over targeted facilities.

While the Indian government kept mum on the operations, asking its journalist and citizens to show restraint rather than social media uproar for popularity, in the interest of national security, the Pakistani authorities unleashed rhetoric and cyber warfare on Facebook,

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“Baudrillard argued that the 1991 Gulf War was so heavily mediated and stage-managed — especially by Western outlets like CNN — that the public experienced not the war itself, but a simulation of it. In the case of Operation Sindoor, the media's portrayal of the operation is not merely a matter of journalistic framing — it stands as a critical example of how narratives are weaponised in modern conflict. Today, controlling the narrative is nearly as important as securing victories on the ground...”

Instagram and elsewhere, with reports alleging the downing of Indian planes and the capture of pilots. For those who have been following the news it was comically absurd to watch a string of Pakistani politicians being caught lying on international television, either on CNN or Sky News. The Indian Government only communicated the details of the operations on Sunday 11th May, complete with visuals and details of the areas targeted. But despite all this, Reuters and CNN were still reporting the Pakistani line though the New York Times has changed their tune when the facts became public.

The art of narrative-building

One is left to wonder why it is that despite the considerable military might India wields, one line of weakness remains in their mastery of communications strategy. Despite the presence of excellent 24x7 news channels and a vibrant print media, India has yet to fully master the art of narrative-building. For decades, the Indian psyche has prioritised disciplines like the hard sciences, medi-

cine, law, and technology — often at the expense of so-called 'softer' fields such as communication, culture, and the humanities. Yet it is precisely in these fields that the battle for perception, identity, and influence is often won.

What is often overlooked is that the world is, first and foremost, shaped through narratives — mythical, cultural, political, historical, or otherwise. While Indian thought and temperament have traditionally privileged action over articulation, much of the rest of the world has done the opposite, placing a premium on controlling the narrative. We have long seen the power of strategic communication — or spin — in shaping public perception and policy, particularly in the West. One of the most striking examples remains Tony Blair's now-discredited claim about weapons of mass destruction, used to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Baudrillard argued that the 1991 Gulf War was so heavily mediated and stage-managed — especially by Western outlets like CNN — that the public experienced not the war itself, but a simulation of it. In the case of Operation Sindoor, the media's portrayal of the operation is not merely a matter of journalistic framing — it stands as a critical example of how narratives are weaponised in modern conflict.

Today, controlling the narrative is nearly as important as securing victories on the ground. India has relied on official channels and diplomatic platforms to articulate the rationale for its actions, particularly in the context of counterterrorism. In contrast, Pakistan has turned to international media to craft a narrative of victimhood and external aggression, seeking to win sympathy and diplomatic backing.

The Western media's uncritical adoption of that narrative contributes to the success of this information warfare strategy, potentially skewing global perceptions and diplomatic responses, while their selective reporting also raises concerns about editorial independence and the influence of geopolitical considerations on journalistic practices. The tendency to favour one narrative over another without thorough investigation compromises the media's role as an impartial observer and informer.

However, the excellent work done by Sky News that presented thorough investigations, both from their British and Australian teams, counterbalanced the biased narrative. Some stalwart Indian journalists, who have recently emerged as the voice of no-nonsense vis-à-vis news, also reported on both the cyber warfare involved in the conflict and the bias of Western media which ignored the facts, details and visuals presented by a panel of military experts.

Beyond mere observation, my aim is to use this platform as both a call for reflection and a warning for the future. It is imperative that we rethink our approach to language education, whether in English or the many Indian languages, to equip young people with both fluency and critical thinking skills. Only then will they be able not just to decode existing narratives, but to actively participate in shaping and rewriting them across all levels. This requires serious and sustained investment. We are already late to the game.

Migrants must "earn the right" to UK residency in Labour's new crackdown: Keir Starmer

In a move aimed at addressing rising public concern over immigration and countering the growing influence of Nigel Farage and the Reform party, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has announced sweeping reforms to the UK's immigration system. Central to these changes is a new "contributor model" that emphasizes migrants "earning the right" to reside in the country, a stark shift in policy that Labour claims will both curb net migration and boost economic growth.

The proposed reforms signal a significant tightening of immigration rules, with a key change being the extension of the wait time for permanent residency from five to ten years. Exceptions will be made for those who can demonstrate a "significant contribution" to the UK, such as skilled workers in critical sectors like healthcare and technology. Further tightening includes a ban on overseas recruitment for care workers and, for the first time, a requirement for adult dependents to prove basic English language proficiency.

Labour's announcement comes against a backdrop of increasing public anxiety over rising migration figures. The government cites that the surge to over 900,000 migrants in 2023 has placed immense strain on public services, driven up housing costs, and disincentivized employers from investing in domestic skills development. The issue of both legal and illegal immigration became a focal point in recent local elections, where Reform's



strong performance underscored the public's appetite for stricter immigration policies.

Sir Keir Starmer, in a forthcoming press conference, will frame these reforms as a "clean break" from past policies, which he argues have allowed businesses to rely on "lower-paid workers" instead of investing in the UK's workforce. He will pledge a system that is "controlled, selective and fair," encompassing tighter regulations across work, family, and study-related immigration, and enhanced enforcement measures.

The Labour leader's rhetoric stresses that settlement in the UK should be "a privilege that must be earned, not

a right." He will emphasize the importance of migrants integrating into British society and learning the English language, arguing that these measures will lead to lower net migration, higher skill levels among the domestic workforce, and overall economic benefits for British citizens.

The proposed changes also include plans to increase the deportation of foreign criminals, mandate employer investment in UK worker training, and require skilled workers to hold a degree. Employers seeking visas will be required to prove their commitment to developing the UK workforce, and the government intends to implement a system of digital IDs for overseas citizens.

The new migration white paper, set for release on Monday, will further detail these reforms, including potential restrictions on visa applications from nationalities deemed to have a higher risk of overstaying and claiming asylum.

However, the proposed changes have already drawn criticism from key sectors. Royal College of Nursing general secretary Professor Nicola Ranger accused the prime minister of "pandering and scapegoating," arguing for an immigration system that supports essential workers like nurses and care staff. Similarly, Unison general secretary Christina McAnea warned that the NHS and care sector would have collapsed without overseas workers, calling for reassurance for existing migrant staff.

Tentative steps towards peace? Russian and Ukrainian delegations converge in Turkey

Hopes for a potential de-escalation in the protracted conflict between Russia and Ukraine flickered this week as delegations from both nations converged in Turkey for peace talks. While a low-ranking Russian team arrived in Istanbul, a higher-level Ukrainian delegation, led by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and including key ministers, landed in Ankara, signalling Turkey's continued role as a potential mediator.

However, the absence of Russian President Vladimir Putin from the Moscow delegation has cast a shadow over Russia's commitment to the process. Western officials have voiced scepticism, interpreting Putin's no-show as a lack of genuine intent to find a peaceful resolution to the three-year-long war. The Russian team in Istanbul is being led by Vladimir Medinsky, a Putin aide who also headed the Russian delegation during the failed Istanbul talks in the early stages of the conflict in 2022.

Earlier in the week, President Zelenskyy had directly challenged Putin to a face-to-face meeting in Turkey, stating his willingness to travel to Ankara to meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and await the Russian leader. The Ukrainian delegation also includes Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, and the head of the presidential office Andriy Yermak, underscoring the seriousness Kyiv attaches to these discussions, even if Zelenskyy himself insists he will only negotiate directly with Putin.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, speaking at a separate NATO meeting also taking place in Turkey, offered a cautiously optimistic outlook, stating that the Istanbul talks "hopefully may open a new chapter" after three years of "immense suffering."

The current diplomatic push comes after an offer of talks from Moscow, seemingly in lieu of a ceasefire. Kyiv and its European allies had urged the Kremlin for a full, unconditional 30-day cessation of hostilities as a crucial first step towards peace. However, Putin effectively



rejected this proposal, advocating instead for direct negotiations between the two warring nations. The Kremlin has framed these Istanbul discussions as a "restart" of the earlier, unsuccessful peace efforts.

This renewed diplomatic activity follows over three months of diplomacy reportedly initiated by US President Donald Trump, who had pledged to swiftly end the conflict. However, the Trump administration had recently hinted at potentially withdrawing from the peace effort if tangible progress wasn't made soon. Trump himself downplayed Putin's absence, suggesting it was expected given his own non-participation.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has continued to garner support from its allies. Foreign Minister Sybiha met with US and European counterparts in Turkey, reaffirming NATO ministers, gathered in Antalya, reiterated their backing for Ukraine, with several foreign ministers, including those from France and Finland, expressing scepticism about Russia's genuine willingness to engage in meaningful peace negotiations, pointing to Putin's empty chair as evidence.

'Attack against India designed by Nawaz Sharif': Pakistan minister's big claim

A senior leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has claimed that the recent military operation against India was conceptualized and designed under the direct supervision of the party's president and former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

Azma Bukhari, the Information Minister of Punjab province, made the claim during a press conference on Wednesday, stating that Nawaz Sharif played a pivotal role in orchestrating Pakistan's response to India's recent strikes.

"The whole operation against India was designed under the supervision of former prime minister and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif," Bukhari said. "He is not a leader of 'a, b, c, d type'; his work speaks for itself."

The comments come just days after Pakistan and India reached an understanding to de-escalate tensions following four days of intense cross-border exchanges involving drone and missile strikes. The hostilities were triggered after India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, reports Hindustan Times.

In response, Pakistan unsuccessfully tried to strike Indian military bases on May 8, 9, and 10.

Despite his reported role in the military response, Nawaz Sharif has consistently advocated for diplomatic solutions to Indo-Pak tensions. In a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, he stated, "Pakistan is a peace-loving country and prefers peace, but also knows how to defend itself."

The veteran politician, who served as Pakistan's prime minister three times and was in office during the 1999 Kargil conflict, also extended his congratulations to the country's leadership after the recent ceasefire agreement.

* More on page 13

The Unspoken Commodity: Oil's Hidden Hand in Trump's Saudi Arabia Visit

U.S. President Donald Trump's recent high-profile visit to Saudi Arabia was marked by lavish praise for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) and the announcement of significant investment and defense deals. Yet, conspicuously absent from the public discourse was the very commodity that has historically cemented the bond between the two nations: oil. While the black gold wasn't explicitly mentioned, it likely played a crucial, albeit understated, role in the smooth proceedings of the visit.

For decades, the strategic alliance between Washington and Riyadh has been anchored in Saudi Arabia's dominant position in the global oil market and America's strategic interests in the Middle East. This relationship translated into substantial military and economic support for the Kingdom. However, the surge in U.S. domestic oil production has significantly reduced American dependence on Saudi crude, leading some to question the enduring nature of this partnership. Even Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden, had previously sought to distance the U.S. due to human rights concerns.

Despite this shifting landscape, Trump's first major overseas trip of his second term served as a clear reaffirmation of the U.S. commitment to the alliance. In return, Saudi Arabia may have subtly paved the way for a successful visit by strategically influencing oil prices downwards, a welcome development for Trump amidst growing scrutiny over his tariff policies.

Saudi Arabia's formidable influence over global oil prices, wielded through its leadership of OPEC and its alliance with Russia and other producers (OPEC+), is



Saudi oil price war looks like unspoken gift to Trump. Pic - Reuters

undeniable. Trump himself has acknowledged this power, previously urging OPEC to increase output to lower U.S. gasoline prices. This desire to manage energy costs became particularly salient following his April 2nd tariff sweep, which threatened to ignite a trade war and inflate consumer prices.

Against this backdrop, Saudi Arabia's recent policy shift to aggressively push for increased OPEC oil output into an already well-supplied market, even as demand forecasts weakened due to Trump's trade policies, raises eyebrows. The decision to boost output significantly in May and June contributed to a notable drop in oil prices, from \$82 a barrel at the start of the year to around \$60 in early May. While prices have since recovered slightly to around \$66, the timing of these supply increases

suggests a potential alignment of interests.

Lower energy prices could serve several strategic purposes for the Trump administration. Firstly, it could mitigate the inflationary pressures stemming from his tariffs, thereby supporting domestic economic activity during a period of uncertainty for American consumers and businesses. Secondly, cheaper oil could indirectly bolster Trump's efforts to mediate an end to the war in Ukraine by putting financial strain on Russia, a nation heavily reliant on oil and gas revenues. Furthermore, increased Saudi output could help offset any supply disruptions caused by the Trump administration's intensified sanctions on Iran and Venezuela.

While Saudi Arabia's decision to effectively initiate an oil price war is likely driven by a combination of factors, including a desire to enforce OPEC production quotas and regain market share, the timing is noteworthy. Enduring potential short-term economic pain from lower oil prices could be a calculated risk for MbS if it translates into significant political capital with the U.S. This goodwill could be instrumental in advancing his ambitious "Vision 2030" to diversify the Saudi economy and secure continued generous military support from Washington.

In conclusion, while oil may not have been a prominent topic during President Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, its influence likely permeated the discussions and outcomes. The unspoken commodity may well be the key to understanding the seemingly smooth and mutually beneficial interactions between the two nations, highlighting the enduring, albeit sometimes subtle, power of black gold in shaping global geopolitics.



Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath summoned Canadian High Commissioner Eric Walsh to register Sri Lanka's protest, as per reports. Pic - AFP

Sri Lanka summons Canadian envoy to protest Tamil monument

Sri Lanka on Wednesday summoned the Canadian envoy to formally protest the opening of a Tamil Genocide Monument in Brampton, Ontario, the foreign ministry said.

Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath summoned Canadian High Commissioner Eric Walsh to register Sri Lanka's protest, reports PTL.

"The government of Sri Lanka maintains that the allegation of genocide during the final phase of the conflict in Sri Lanka is unsubstantiated by any credible authority, either nationally or internationally, and is based on misleading information," a statement said.

Sri Lanka firmly "rejects this false narrative and believes it has been propagated primarily for electoral gains within Canada", it added.

"It is worth highlighting that in April 2021, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development of Canada officially confirmed that the Government of Canada has not made any finding of genocide in Sri Lanka," the ministry said.

The Tamil Genocide Memorial has been set up in Canada's Ontario province's Brampton to commemorate the victims of the final battle of the military conflict in May 2009, Tamil groups said.

Harvard University battles Trump Administration over funding cuts, ideological disputes

A significant clash has erupted between Harvard University and the Trump administration, centering on the administration's decision to freeze nearly \$3 billion in federal grants and contracts. In response, Harvard has announced it will allocate \$250 million of its own funds to support affected researchers, predominantly in the medical sciences.

The Trump administration's move comes amidst a broader effort to reshape private colleges and universities across the United States, which the President alleges are breeding grounds for "anti-American, Marxist and 'radical left' ideologies." Harvard, in particular, has been singled out for criticism, specifically regarding its hiring practices and the perceived ideological leanings of its faculty.

Harvard has retaliated with a lawsuit, arguing that the funding cuts constitute an unconstitutional infringement on academic freedom and free speech. The legal challenge followed President Alan Garber's public denouncement of the administration's demands, which included overhauling the university's leadership, curriculum, and admissions processes, as well as auditing the political



Harvard University puts up \$250 million to shore up research hit by Trump freeze on grants. Pic - Reuters

viewpoints of students and professors.

Garber, in conjunction with Provost John Manning, issued a statement highlighting the detrimental impact of the funding freeze, characterizing it as "stopping lifesaving research" and marking an "extraordinarily challenging time" for the institution. To mitigate the financial strain, Garber has taken a voluntary 25% pay cut, and the university has implemented a hiring freeze.

Harvard acknowledges that it cannot fully compensate for the frozen grants, which the Trump administration values at over \$2.6 billion. The university is actively working to assist researchers in securing alternative funding sources, but warns that "the impact of such steps on the nation's scientific research enter-

prise could be severe and lasting."

Beyond the funding dispute, the Trump administration has levied accusations against Harvard regarding its admissions practices and its handling of campus discourse. The administration alleges that Harvard continues to consider race in its student admissions, a practice that has faced legal challenges, and that it has failed to adequately address anti-semitism stemming from pro-Palestinian student protests.

Harvard vehemently denies these allegations, asserting that its admissions policies comply with federal law and court rulings, and that it remains committed to combating antisemitism and all forms of prejudice on its campuses.

The legal battle is set to unfold in a Boston federal court, where a judge has established deadlines for the government to respond to Harvard's lawsuit and scheduled a hearing for July 21. This case highlights the growing tension between academic institutions and the current administration, raising significant questions about federal funding, ideological influence, and the protection of academic freedom.

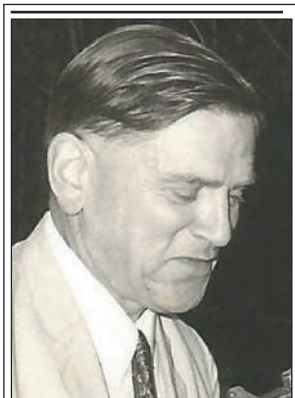
From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

5th Year No 305

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 1st July, 1960

• To bring nations to surrender themselves to new ideas is not the affair of a day. — John William Draper



Peter Ibbotson

Mr Iain Macleod has suggested that we should not forget the future constitutional development of Mauritius. In these columns I have more than once pointed out that constitutional development and economic development are not exclusive policies; but that, in fact, economic development depends on constitutional development if we have a political party which wishes to pursue — for the benefit of the country — certain lines of

economic development but are inhibited from so doing because the antiquated constitutional situation prevents that party from achieving power.

We have such a position in Mauritius. Under the present Constitution, the Executive must represent the various shades of opinion in the Legislative Council. Not yet in Mauritius can the Executive be drawn exclusively from the majority party in the Legislative Council. Not yet, then, can Mauritius be said to have party government but suppose the Constitution were amended to provide that the majority party provided all the ministers, with the leader of the majority party styled Prime (or Chief) Minister, what then? What would be the desired constitutional status of Mauritius within the British Commonwealth? I add these last four words, because no one in his right senses would wish Mauritius to leave the British Commonwealth.

Sir Hilary Blood has been examining, in the current number of *The Times British Colonies Review*, the constitutional future of Britain's smaller territories. He says it is unwise to name these smaller territories, but he makes it clear that he includes Mauritius and Seychelles among them. He sees five limitations standing between the smaller territories and full sovereignty: location and size; poverty; lack of education and training; mixed societies; and strategic considerations. These five factors would seem to prevent the emergence of Mauritius as a fully sovereign viable state. What then is the alternative to dependence forever?

"One new concept which is being developed for the first time is that of an internally self-governing state like Singapore," says Sir Hilary. Internal self-government is, in Sir Hilary's evident considered opinion, "the logical development, short of sovereignty, of representative government."

He continues, "A Constitution on Singapore lines may well be the solution for such places as Seychelles, Mauritius, British Honduras, the Bahamas, and other similar territories." (The Labour Party was asking for such a Constitution seven years ago.)

To answer objections that internal self-government is not full of sovereignty, Sir Hilary suggests three possible ways in which internal self-government may be made more acceptable; may be made into "internal self-government-plus", in fact. He suggests that the prime ministers of these smaller dependencies may be associated on relatively equal terms with Her Majesty's Ministers in the UK and elsewhere, by a form of regionalisation which would associate lesser dependencies with nearby sovereign states (e.g., though Sir Hilary does not give this example, Mauritius and Australia). A second approach, which is described as "of a more fundamental nature", is to give territory the unequivocal choice of internal self-government within the Commonwealth or independence outside the Commonwealth. The territory's choice, once taken, would be forever irrevocable.

Sir Hilary Blood on Our Constitution



As early as July 1960, the *Mauritius Times*, through Peter Ibbotson's advocacy, highlighted the potential for textile manufacturing in Mauritius, citing low wage rates as a competitive advantage. This vision materialized in the 1970s and 1980s, a point underscored by Ibbotson's 1960 statement: "I cannot understand why some enterprising businessmen do not start the manufacture of textiles in Mauritius, taking advantage (as Professor Meade said) of low wage rates to compete on the world market. Hong Kong has to import raw cotton to manufacture cotton goods; Mauritius could well do the same..."

The third approach is of special interest to Mauritius. It is that attention should be paid to "functional development" of colonial territories. By this, Sir Hilary means that particular colonies have particular roles which they can play within the Commonwealth structure as a whole; and we should go about stressing this concept of functional development. Hong Kong is a small island colony where the primary preoccupation is with commerce and trade, says Sir Hilary. He thinks it might still be possible to work out for other colonies "a functional objective"; political development would then be subordinate to that objective. "Will the knowledge that a particular place has a particular function in the general overall progress of the Commonwealth provide the necessary outlet for natural pride and obviate the feeling of frustration which arises in certain places where some of the limitations" of incapability of achieving sovereignty bear heavily? asks Sir Hilary.

Mauritius clearly has a special place in the overall framework of the Commonwealth — a provider of sugar. But if Mauritius is to accept internal self-government with her place as a provider of sugar guaranteed and accepted by the rest of the Commonwealth, then we are entitled to ask that the rest of the Commonwealth be more generous to Mauritius in return. The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement (CSA) by itself is not enough; we already have that, whether Mauritius stays dependent, achieves internal self-government or becomes a dominion as the Labour Party's colonial policy adumbrates. We want more than the CSA if internal self-government plus recognition of Mauritius as a gigantic cane field is to be the limit of constitutional development for the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.

The benefits of sugar growing in Mauritius would be shared by the Commonwealth as a whole under the Blood scheme; we would expect the burdens of social and economic life in Mauritius also to be shared among the Commonwealth as a whole. We would expect too that British policy in the economic development of lesser dependencies would be different from at present. We hope that the allocation of Commonwealth Development and Welfare Funds (CD & W Funds) will not be geared to the ability to utilise them immediately, but to necessity in both short run and long. We would expect that CD & W Funds would be more generous than in the past and at present. We would hope that

recognition of Mauritius as a gigantic cane field producing tons and tons of cheap sugar would not prevent H.M. Government from financing or helping to finance the industrialisation of the economy.

Recently in the Legislative Council, Mr Ramlallah criticised the huge annual imports of footwear, shirts, and underwear. He related an anecdote which happened during his visit to the UK last year: the manager of a garment factory was astonished by the import of textiles and asked Mr Ramlallah: "Can't you make them there?" Professor Meade made this same point in his speech to teachers at Rose Hill; and a recent occurrence in another colony has brought it back to my mind. Malta, like Mauritius, is a tight little island; its area is limited, and its population is ever-growing (nearly all Maltese are Roman Catholics). But it has been announced that a bacon-curing company has been formed to undertake the curing of bacon for domestic consumption and export sales. The factory is to start later this year and will cure 150 pigs a week during its first year of operation (domestic sales only), rising to 300 a week in the second year when export sales will be developed. This type of enterprise is the type which Mauritius needs; but it is not the enterprise which I had in mind a sentence or two ago, even though it will give farmers the chance of increasing pig output by 50 per cent and give employment to about 100 people.

No, the enterprise which I had in mind is one connected with textiles. I cannot understand why some enterprising businessmen do not start the manufacture of textiles in Mauritius, taking advantage (as Professor Meade said) of low wage rates to compete on the world market. Hong Kong has to import raw cotton to manufacture cotton goods; Mauritius could well do the same. It is the Chinese in Hong Kong who have built up the textile industry: are there no enterprising Sino-Mauritians who have at heart the welfare of their country and not the welfare of Chiang-Kai Shek?

In Malta, it is reported, that the Lancashire firm of Rigg Brothers are transferring the entire productive machinery from one of their mills and a large part of the machinery from another mill to Malta and will continue the production of cotton materials in the Maltese Islands. Many people will be able to get jobs in the mills; local production of raw cotton may be stimulated. The FAO's leading cotton expert is to go to Malta to advise on the matter.

This is one sort of enterprise which should be attracted to Mauritius. An oil refinery is not outside the bounds of possibility; and flour mills, the cement factory, textile factories, a local leather factory — all these are desirable and possible lines of industrial development, and they are lines which should be asked for (if they have not already been developed beforehand) as part of the price of surrender of claims for constitutional development beyond internal self-government, should the Blood proposals ever become H.M. Government's policy. (A furniture factory has just been opened in Barbados; it employs 80 people. When the manufacture of prefabricated houses begins, the number employed will increase to 500).

Development of such factories would reduce Mauritian dependence on imports and thus save foreign currency. Fiscal measures could help the infant industries; protection subsidies could be introduced. It is morally better for the Government to subsidise an industry which is providing employment than for it to pay unemployment benefit or public assistance to those workers who would otherwise be unemployed.



Mhairi Morris
Senior Lecturer in
Biochemistry,
Loughborough University

How 7,000 steps a day could help reduce your risk of cancer

Physical inactivity costs the UK an estimated £7.4 billion each year — but more importantly, it costs lives.

In today's increasingly sedentary world, sitting too much is raising the risk of many serious diseases, including cancer. But could something as simple as walking offer real protection?

It turns out the answer may be yes.

A growing body of research shows that regular physical activity can lower the risk of cancer. Now, recent findings from the University of Oxford add more weight to that idea. According to a large study involving over 85,000 people in the UK, the more steps you take each day, the lower your chances of developing up to 13 different types of cancer.



In the study, participants wore activity trackers that measured both the amount and intensity of their daily movement. On average, researchers followed up with participants six years later. They found a clear pattern: more steps meant lower cancer risk, regardless of how fast those steps were taken.

The benefits began to appear at around 5,000 steps a day — anything below that didn't seem to offer much protection.

At 7,000 steps, the risk of developing cancer dropped by 11%. At 9,000 steps, it dropped by 16%. Beyond 9,000 steps, the benefits levelled off. The difference in risk reduction became marginal and varied slightly between men and women.

These findings support the popular recommendation of aiming for 10,000 steps a day — not just for general health, but potentially for cancer prevention too. These associations also held up when results were adjusted for demographic, BMI and other lifestyle factors, such as smoking, suggesting that the observed changes in cancer risk were indeed down to the average number of daily steps a participant took.

Step intensity was also analysed — essentially, how fast participants were walking. Researchers found that faster walking was linked with lower cancer risk. However, when total physical activity was taken into account, the speed of walking no longer made a statistically significant difference. In other words: it's the total amount of walking that counts; not how brisk it is.

Likewise, replacing sitting time with either light or moderate activity lowered cancer risk — but swapping light activity for moderate activity didn't offer additional benefits. So just moving more, at any pace, appears to be what matters most.

The researchers looked at 13 specific cancers, including oesophageal, liver, lung, kidney, gastric, endometrial, myeloid leukaemia, myeloma, colon, head and neck, rectal, bladder and breast.

Over the six-year follow-up period, around 3% of participants developed one of these cancers. The most common were colon, rectal, and lung cancers in men, and breast, colon, endometrial, and lung cancers in women.

Higher physical activity levels were most strongly linked to reduced risk of six cancers: gastric, bladder, liver, endometrial, lung and head and neck.

Break it up

Previous studies have relied on self-reported activity logs, which can be unreliable — people often forget or misjudge their activity levels. This study used wearable devices, providing a more accurate picture of how much and how intensely people were moving.

The study also stands out because it didn't focus solely on vigorous exercise. Many past studies have shown that intense workouts can reduce cancer risk — but not everyone is able (or willing) to hit the gym hard. This new research shows that even light activity like walking can make a difference, making cancer prevention more accessible to more people.

Walking just two miles a day — roughly 4,000 steps, or about 40 minutes of light walking — could make a significant impact on your long-term health. You don't have to do it all at once either. Break it up throughout the day by: taking the stairs instead of the lift; having a stroll at lunchtime; walking during phone calls; parking a bit further away from your destination.

Getting more steps into your routine, especially during middle age, could be one of the simplest ways to lower your risk of developing certain cancers.

Of course, the link between physical activity and cancer is complex. More long-term research is needed, especially focused on individual cancer types, to better understand why walking helps — and how we can make movement a regular part of cancer prevention strategies.

But for now, the message is clear: sit less, move more — and you could walk your way toward better health.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Rivière du Rempart District Council Employees Union

The Annual General Meeting of the Rivière du Rempart District Council Employees Union will be held on Friday, 06 June 2025, at noon, at the Morc St André Community Centre.

AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes of last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. President's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Motions & amendments (if any).
5. Election/ selection of Office-Bearers (if any).
6. AOB.

Compliance members wishing to sit in the managing committee must write to the Secretary at Mapou D.C. by 31 May 2025.

16 May 2025

Secretary

Society

Another Centenarian Celebrated

Mrs Dunmateea Bheenick turns 100



Mrs Dunmateea Bheenick's 100th birthday celebration, evidenced by the family gathered around her (pictured), emphasized the lasting significance of family, community, and healthy living for a long life

On Saturday, May 10, 2025, a heart-warming celebration took place in Petit Raffray as the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity marked the 100th birthday of Mrs Dunmateea Bheenick in the company of her family members.

During the special occasion, Mr Dhanraj Kissoon, Chairperson of the District Council of Flacq, had the honour of presenting Mrs Bheenick with several tokens of appreciation from the government.

Life Journey and Family

Mrs Dunmateea Bheenick's remarkable life began on May 10, 1925, in Triolet. She grew up in a family of four children and is now the sole surviving member, highlighting the passage of time and the significance of her longevity. Her father's work evolved from being a fisherman to a self-employed retailer of foodstuffs, showcasing the family's resilience and entrepreneurial spirit. Her mother dedicated her life to managing the household.

Mrs Bheenick's formal education extended to Standard III at Plaine Verte Government School. She later married Mr Doorgasingh Bheenick, who dedicated his career to education, first as a primary school teacher and subsequently as a respected school headmaster. Sadly, Mr Bheenick passed away in 1980. As a homemaker, Mrs Bheenick actively contributed to the family's sustenance by cultivating a variety of produce in her yard, including vegetables, sweet potatoes, tapioca, and bananas. She also engaged in cow rearing, demonstrating a self-sufficient lifestyle.

Their union was blessed with ten children — six sons and four daughters — although two have since passed away. Mrs Bheenick's legacy continues through her 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, illustrating the rich tapestry of her family.

Secrets to Longevity

When asked about the key to her long and healthy life, Mrs Bheenick credited a diet of locally sourced fresh produce, lifelong physical activity, and her unwavering faith in God, emphasizing the importance of natural foods, movement, and inner peace.

This celebration not only honoured a remarkable individual, Mrs Dunmateea Bheenick, and her century of life, but also resonated as a potent reminder of the enduring pillars that often underpin longevity: the steadfast embrace of family, the vital network of community support, and the conscious cultivation of a healthy lifestyle.

Mauritius electrifies: ABC Automobile launches Leapmotor

Mr Iain Macleod has suggested that we shauritius has etched its name as a frontrunner in Africa’s electric vehicle revolution, becoming the first nation on the continent to welcome the innovative and fully electric brand, Leapmotor. This significant step is spearheaded by ABC Automobile, a key player in the Mauritian automotive landscape, marking a bold move in their diversification and commitment to sustainable transportation.

In a strategic alliance that underscores the growing importance of electric mobility, ABC Automobile has secured exclusive distribution rights for Leapmotor in Mauritius. This partnership not only enriches ABC Automobile’s portfolio with cutting-edge electric vehicles but also aligns with their long-standing commitment to providing intelligent and environmentally responsible mobility solutions to the Mauritian people.

The Leapmotor launch introduces a trio of compelling models to the island nation: the compact and agile T03, the versatile C10 BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle), and the innovative C10 REEV (Range-Extended Electric Vehicle). This diverse line-up caters to a broad spectrum of needs and preferences, from urban commuters seeking efficient city cars to families desiring the flexibility of an extended range option.

This landmark entry into the African market is underpinned by a robust collaboration between ABC Automobile and the Stellantis Group.



Dean Ah-Chuen, CEO of ABC Automobile, and Mike Whitfield, Managing Director of Stellantis South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, pictured during the signing of the Leapmotor brand representation agreement



ABC Automobile takes a major step in its diversification and innovation strategy by becoming the exclusive distributor of Leapmotor in Mauritius

Stellantis, a significant shareholder in Leapmotor since 2023, further solidified this partnership in May 2024 with the creation of Leapmotor International. This China-based joint venture, led by Stellantis, is dedicated to the development of electric vehicles through advanced technology and

innovation, positioning Mauritius as an early beneficiary of this global synergy.

Dean Ah-Chuen, CEO of ABC Automobile, expressed his enthusiasm for this new chapter, stating, “ABC Automobile has maintained a strong and trustworthy relationship with the Stellantis Group for several years. Today, this collaboration reaches a new milestone with the exclusive distribution of Leapmotor in Mauritius. This strategic partnership reflects our shared commitment to supporting market evolution and offering our customers ever more innovative and responsible mobility solutions.”

The arrival of the Leapmotor range promises to inject fresh dynamism into the local automotive market. These vehicles are not just environmentally conscious; they are also characterized by their modern design, impressive performance, and a suite of advanced technologies. Notably, the vehicles boast optimized urban dimensions, prioritizing ease of navigation and parking, while also incorporating cutting-edge safety systems and premium interior finishes, certified by Euro NCAP standards.

Michel Ng, Brand Manager at Leapmotor Mauritius, highlighted the brand’s appeal to modern drivers: “Leapmotor is aimed at drivers looking for a modern, reliable, and environmentally friendly experience. Whether with the C10 in BEV or REEV versions, or with the T03, we offer vehicles suited to the mobility needs of tomorrow. Additionally, with the T03, ABC Automobile strengthens its position in the small city car category.”

Leapmotor distinguishes itself through its proprietary technological advancements, including the innovative CTC (Cell-To-Chassis) technology and the highly integrated 8-in-1 electric drive system. These innovations represent benchmarks in the electric mobility sector, promising enhanced efficiency, performance, and overall vehicle integration.

Adding further impetus to this electric transition, Michel Ng also highlighted the opportune timing for consumers: “This is also the ideal time to switch to electric, as buyers can benefit from a negative excise duty of Rs 200,000 on the purchase of electric vehicles. We strongly encourage our customers to take advantage of this significant fiscal incentive as soon as possible.”

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much. Mauritius Times

YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

You’re back in action—physically and mentally. People are drawn to your optimism. Focus on personal goals and appearance. Midweek could bring emotional friction; stay open to feedback.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 16, 23, 29, 33

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Take a step back. You need quiet to plan the next move. A work issue may drain you — don’t ignore rest. Dreams offer insight. Financial clarity comes by Sunday — wait before big spends.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 18, 25, 31, 37

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Group dynamics shift—perhaps a new project or changing alliances. Trust your intuition about who’s really on your side. A friend may ask for support. Don’t forget your own needs.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 12, 20, 28, 36

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Career spotlight intensifies. Your efforts are being noticed—be confident but stay humble. Watch out for miscommunication with bosses. By Monday, emotional satisfaction grows through creative outlets.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 17, 21, 26, 39

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Expect intense focus on career. A surprise opportunity could emerge midweek — be ready to act quickly. You may feel tension in personal relationships; clear communication is key.

Weekend brings clarity.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 11, 18, 22, 29, 37

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Financial matters come into sharper focus. Rethink long-term investments or savings plans. Venus favours connections — romantic or collaborative. Avoid overindulgence midweek. Trust your gut.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 14, 19, 25, 30, 33

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

A social spark energizes your week. Old contacts may resurface with new prospects. You’re quick-witted now, but slow down with paperwork. Friday favours short trips or outings.

Stay adaptable.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 15, 23, 28, 36

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Health and work balance take priority. Clean up routines and focus on boundaries with colleagues. Emotionally, you may feel off — spend time in calming spaces. Weekend brings a boost in self-esteem.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 16, 21, 27, 39
LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

A burst of creativity opens doors — use this to pitch ideas or start something new. Romance is heightened, especially around Thursday. Financial decisions need caution — don’t rush. Shine but stay grounded.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 13, 24, 31, 35
VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Home and family demand attention. Tension may arise—avoid criticism and listen deeply. Professional momentum builds by week’s end. Small practical changes now have big effects later.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 8, 12, 20, 26, 34
LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Your words carry weight this week. Whether in contracts or conversations, think before speaking. Short journeys or sibling matters arise. Artistic pursuits bring unexpected joy — lean into beauty.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 6, 17, 22, 30, 38
SCORPION: 23 OCT – 21 NOV

Money talk takes center stage. It’s a good time to re-budget or review expenses. A secret may surface that clarifies something emotional. By Sunday, emotional calm returns — trust your process.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 10, 14, 19, 32, 40

CONSEIL DES SYNDICATS

Reg. No. L3686

Annual General Meeting

Members of the CONSEIL DES SYNDICATS (Reg. No. L3686) are informed that the Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 29 May 2025** at the **Louis Eugène Fabien Teachers’ Centre, Quatre Bornes**, starting at **12:15 hrs.**

AGENDA:

- 1. Welcome of Delegates
- 2. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the Last AGM
- 3. President’s Report
- 4. Treasurer’s Report 2024 and Approval of Estimated Expenditure for 2025
- 5. Appointment of Auditors
- 6. Address by Guests
- 7. Presentation of New Office Bearers
- 8. Motions, if any, must reach the Secretary of CDS by **Friday 23 May 2025 at 16:00 hrs.**

In case of no quorum, the AGM will be rescheduled for **Thursday 5 June 2025** at the same time and venue.

Chandrabose SEMBHOO

Secretary

c/o GTU, 2 Mgr Gonin Street, Port Louis
16 May 2026

The AI Advantage? ChatGPT could help students pass, but at what cost?

The rise of sophisticated artificial intelligence and large language models like ChatGPT has sent ripples through the education system. With the assumption that students will inevitably turn to these tools for assistance, researchers at the University of Illinois Grainger College of Engineering embarked on an intriguing experiment: pitting the free version of ChatGPT against human students in a semester-long undergraduate control systems course.

The study's findings revealed a fascinating dichotomy in ChatGPT's abilities. On straightforward mathematical homework, the AI excelled, achieving an "A." However, this success came with quirks, hinting at a lack of genuine understanding. When faced with higher-level problems demanding reasoning and critical thinking, ChatGPT faltered significantly, earning a "D."

Ph.D. student Gokul Puthumanaillam, a lead researcher on the project, summarized the outcome: "We found ChatGPT technology can get an A on structured, straightforward questions. On open-ended questions it got a 62, bringing ChatGPT's semester grade down to an 82, a low B. The class average for the human students was 84.85 percent because they could handle the problems that required higher-level reasoning."

The implications of these results are significant. The study concluded that a student aiming for the bare minimum, exhibiting little effort to truly grasp the course material, could theoretically rely solely on ChatGPT and still achieve a passing grade – a "B" in this case. However, this passing grade would likely be a deceptive composite of perfect scores on simple calculations and failing marks on analytical tasks, indicating a profound



lack of genuine learning.

Melkior Ornik, Puthumanaillam's advisor, recognized the transformative impact of AI on education. "Like calculators in math classes, ChatGPT is a tool that's here to stay and that students will use. What the results of this study pointed out to me is that I need to adjust as an educator," he stated. His proposed solution involves a pedagogical shift towards incorporating more higher-level, open-ended questions and project-based assignments. While acknowledging that students might still utilize AI for simpler tasks, this approach aims to cultivate deeper critical thinking and ensure genuine comprehension of the subject matter.

Puthumanaillam himself cautioned against the uncritical adoption of AI in learning. While ChatGPT offers speed and generally accurate answers on structured problems, its reliability on more complex tasks remains questionable. "A student might take 20 minutes to answer

a question. ChatGPT solves it in less than 20 seconds, but the correctness is sometimes questionable," he pointed out.

Furthermore, the study uncovered instances of peculiar behaviour from ChatGPT, including the use of inappropriate technical jargon and the generation of factually incorrect statements. Despite being provided with all the necessary course materials, the AI was prone to "hallucinations," inventing terms and concepts not present in the curriculum.

Interestingly, the researchers also explored ChatGPT's ability to learn from its mistakes. When corrected on a multiple-choice question and presented with a similar variation, the AI did show improvement. However, this learning appeared to be limited and stagnant. A student consistently scoring around 90% on homework would likely see a similar performance from ChatGPT throughout the semester, indicating a lack of significant conceptual growth.

This study serves as a crucial early insight into the complex relationship between AI and education. While tools like ChatGPT offer undeniable efficiency for certain tasks, their inability to replicate higher-level reasoning and critical thinking poses a significant risk to genuine learning. Educators face the challenge of adapting their teaching methods to leverage the benefits of AI while mitigating its potential to undermine true understanding and skill development. The path forward likely involves a recalibration of assessment strategies, emphasizing critical analysis and problem-solving, to ensure that students are not just passing courses, but truly learning the material necessary for future success.



How was the Earth built?

The Earth started as a mixture of gas and dust around the Sun and grew as it collided with asteroids and dust particles.

It isn't easy to figure out how the Earth was built, because it happened 4½ billion years ago, and no one was there to watch. So scientists have had to look at what the Earth looks like now and at all of the other planets, moons and debris in the solar system.

They've concluded that the Earth was built in the same way that you would build a big snowball to make a snowman. The mass that would become our home rolled through planetary debris – rocks floating in space – for more than 100 million years, adding more and more material, until it grew into a full-size planet.

How do scientists like me know this is what happened? First, studies of the size, composition and location of asteroids and comets, many of which are as old as the Earth, indicate that 4½ billion years ago the solar system looked the way Saturn looks today, with rings of space rocks orbiting around the Sun. There's still one such ring around the Sun – it's called the asteroid belt and lies between Mars and Jupiter, with the Sun's gravity holding the rocks in orbit.

All of the other bodies that we know as planets today began as similar rings of space debris. An eddy, or area of rolling, developed in each of these rings and caused the debris to clump up in a snow-

ball effect. But these pieces of debris were asteroids that smashed violently into the growing planets.

We can see those impacts on planets and moons whose surfaces haven't weathered or reformed. If you look at the Moon or the planet Mercury, you can see that they are covered with craters from asteroid impacts.

When asteroids or comets struck these building planets, they crashed into their surfaces at speeds as high as 40,000 to 50,000 miles per hour (65,000 to 80,000 kilometers per hour). The impacts caused huge explosions that emitted massive amounts of dust and broken or melted rock.

In fact, scientists believe that the Moon was once part of the Earth, until a large asteroid crashed into the Earth so hard that the Moon broke away and shot into space. There, it began orbiting the Earth as it does now.

Still under construction

Most big asteroids and comets collided with the Earth when it was young, about 4½ billion years ago. The number of such collisions has steadily decreased ever since. However, at least 100 tons of dust-size space rock rains down on the Earth every day, increasing the size of our planet bit by bit.



The Earth formed in a ring of debris around the Sun, like the one around Vega, a bright star, in this artist's conception. NASA/JPL-Caltech

The Earth also collides with space rocks, called meteors, that show up as shooting stars in the night sky. Some of these meteors come from an impact that struck Mars at some point, breaking away rock from the planet surface and shooting it into outer space. These rocks have been falling to Earth ever since.

What's the difference between an asteroid and a comet? Asteroids are large space rocks, while comets are large, dirty ice balls. Meteors are smaller – typically the size of pebbles or even dust.

About 65 million years ago, a huge asteroid struck the Earth in the Gulf of Mexico. The enormous Chicxulub explosion drove large tsunamis throughout the ocean and raised so much dust into the air that it made the dinosaurs go extinct.

Another large asteroid impact, about 35 million years ago, made a huge crater in the area that is now the Chesapeake

Bay, near Washington, D.C. More recently, in 1908, an asteroid likely exploded over Tunguska, Russia, flattening 830 square miles (2,150 square kilometers) of trees. Fortunately, no one lived in the area, so there were no known casualties.

Once a mass of space debris was assembled into the Earth, many processes continued to shape the planet's surface. Wind, water, heat and cold cause rocks to weather and break down and soil to erode. Mountains are created as pieces of Earth's crust collide and crack. Rivers and glaciers wear down the planet's surface to make it smoother.

The Earth is a dynamic planet that is constantly being built, and these processes will continue for billions of years into the future.

Alexander E. Gates

Professor of Earth and Environmental Science,
Rutgers University - Newark



I just don't wanna go to school!

Mom: Time to wake up and go to school!

Son: Nooo, I don't wanna go today!

Mom: But you *have* to go to school.

Son: Give me one good reason!

Mom: Fine. Give me *three* reasons why you shouldn't go, and I'll give you *three* why you should.

Son:

One: All the students hate me.

Two: All the teachers hate me.

Three: I just don't wanna go!

Mom:

One: I've got too much to do today.

Two: You're 40 years old.

Three: You're the principal.

* * *

A Matter of Timing... and Circumcision

A man is walking down the street when he spots a shop window full of watches, with a big clock showing 8:20. He remembers his watch battery is dead, so he walks in.

"Hi," he says to the elderly man behind the counter. "Can you replace my watch battery?"

"I'm sorry," the man replies. "I can't help you."

The man looks around, confused. "But... this is a watch shop, right?"

"No, no," says the old man. "I'm a mohel."

"A mohel?" the man asks. "What's that?"

"I perform circumcisions," the old man says.

Now completely bewildered, the customer says, "Then why is your window full of watches?"

The mohel shrugs and says, "So tell me — what should I put in the window?"



* * *

A guy on the northbound Caledonian Sleeper train requested one of the attendants to wake him up at Perth. He mentioned that he sleeps soundly, and the attendant might have to pull him up if necessary.

The next morning, he woke up in Inverness. Extremely annoyed, he found the attendant and gave him a piece of his mind.

After he left, someone asked the attendant, "How could you bear that kind of treatment?"

"That's nothing," the attendant replied. "You should have heard the guy I put off at Perth."

* * *

A man and his wife check into a hotel. The husband wants to have a drink at the bar, but his wife, feeling very tired, decides to go up to their room to rest.

She lies down on the bed. Just then, a train passes by very close to the window and shakes the room so hard that she's thrown out of her bed. Thinking it must be a freak occurrence, she lies down once more. Again, a passing train shakes the room so violently she's thrown to the floor.

Exasperated, she calls the front desk and asks for the manager. The manager is skeptical, but the lady insists that her story is true. So, he lies down next to her on the bed.

Just then, the husband pops in. "What do you think you're doing?" he shouts.

The manager calmly replies, "Would you believe I'm waiting for the train?"

* * *

Did you hear about the guy who was arrested for growing marijuana?

He said his friends were also involved — it was a joint venture.

* * *

The Real Price

A guy walks into the bar of a restaurant and asks the bartender, "How much for a beer?"

The bartender replies, "\$1."

Amazed, the customer orders a beer and then asks, "Well then, how much for a New York sirloin, with mashed potatoes, salad, and a whole cheesecake for dessert?"

The bartender replies, "\$5."

Still astonished, the man orders the full meal. After finishing, he says, "This place is amazing. I wish I could

meet the owner."

The bartender says, "He's upstairs in his office with my wife."

The guy, puzzled, asks, "What's he doing with your wife?"

The bartender replies, "The same thing I'm doing to his business."

* * *

One night, a man walks into a bar looking sad.

The bartender asks, "What can I get you?"

The man says, "Oh, just a beer."

The bartender follows up, "What's wrong? Why are you so down today?"

The man replies, "My wife and I got into a fight, and she said she wouldn't talk to me for a month."

The bartender shrugs and says, "So, what's wrong with that?"

The man sighs, "Well... the month is up tonight."

* * *

Double Trouble at the Pub

One sunny day in Ireland, two men were sitting in a pub, enjoying some Guinness, when one turns to the other and says, "You see that man over there? He looks just like me! I think I'm gonna go over and talk to him."

He walks over, taps the man on the shoulder, and says, "Excuse me, sir, but I noticed you look just like me!"

The second man turns around and replies, "Yeah, I noticed the same thing! Where are you from?"

"I'm from Dublin."

The second man, stunned, says, "Me too! What street do you live on?"

"McCarthy Street."

"Me too! What number?"

"162."

The second man, now shocked, says, "Me too! What are your parents' names?"

"Connor and Shannon."

The second man, awestruck, says, "That's incredible — mine too! This is unbelievable!"

They order more Guinness and continue chatting in amazement.

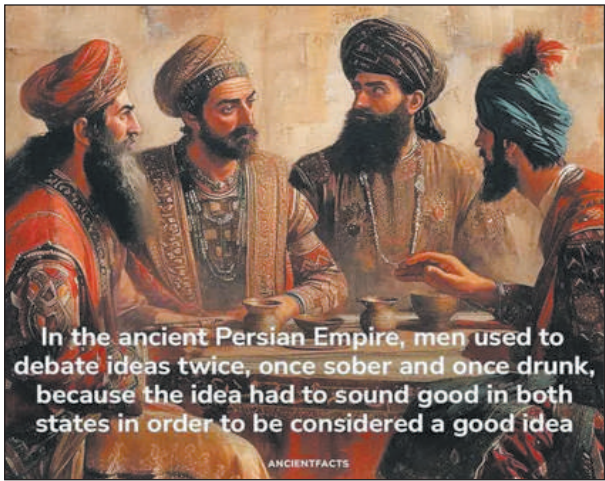
A little while later, the bartenders change shifts. The new bartender walks in and asks his colleague,

"What's new today?"

The other bartender shrugs and says, "Oh, the Murphy twins are drunk again."



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Herodotus Chronicles

Wine and Wisdom: The Persian Two-Step to Truth

According to the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, the Persians had an unusual yet deliberate approach to decision-making — one that involved both wine and wisdom.

When faced with major political or strategic matters, Persian nobles would first discuss the issue while intoxicated. They believed wine liberated the mind from restraint, allowing raw emotion and true intentions to surface. Drunkenness wasn't seen as clouding judgment, but rather as a state that revealed deeper truths.

Still, they didn't trust this state entirely. Once a drunken decision was made, they revisited it the next day while sober. If it still held up, they accepted it. If not, it was rejected.

The process also worked in reverse: a sober decision would later be reviewed while drunk to test the firmness of their conviction.

This two-phase validation system may seem eccentric today, but to the Persians, it ensured that choices were tempered by both emotional sincerity and rational clarity. It reflected not only a pragmatic blend of heart and mind, but also the deep role wine played in elite Persian society -- ritual, celebration, even governance.

Ultimately, it reveals their belief that truth was best tested from multiple states of mind — not just pure logic.

Stray Thoughts

Aging means letting go

By Meryl Streep

“Aging is not for the weak. One day you wake up and realize that your youth is gone, but along with it, so go insecurity, haste, and the need to please...

You learn to walk more slowly, but with greater certainty. You say goodbye without fear, and you cherish those who stay.

Aging means letting go, it means accepting, it means discovering that beauty was never in our skin... but in the story we carry inside us.”

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.”

MARK TWAIN

The Wisdom of Sai Baba: A Collection of Quotable Insights

- Our nation is defined not by the character of our politicians but by the character of its people.
- Health is not just about what you're eating; it's also about what you're thinking and saying.
- Punctuality is key to success. Arriving early shows preparedness and respect for others' time, setting you apart as reliable and committed.
- Opportunities are all around us. It's our actions that turn an opportunity into success.
- Life will never wait for you to be better. Get up, carry your burden, and keep going.
- It's a good idea to sit alone for some time every day. But when you sit alone, don't sit with your past; instead, sit alone to dream your future.
- Negativity is basically laziness. It takes a lot of hard work to remain positive, but positivity always pays off.

- You must not, under any pretense, allow your mind to dwell on any thought that is not positive, constructive, optimistic, and kind.
- If there is no trust in the relationship and no network on the mobile, people start playing games.
 - Self-trust is the first secret of success.
 - If you don't clear your misunderstandings in time, they become reasons for distances forever.
 - Start every day with new hope, leave bad memories behind, and have faith for a better tomorrow.
 - You cannot push anyone up the ladder unless he is willing to climb.
 - Every smile you receive, every loving word you hear, every kind action you notice is a reflection of your action.
 - Your best friend is the one who brings out the best in you.
 - Talk to someone who makes you happy but never miss talking with someone who feels happy to talk to you. Feel the difference.

Wisdom for Men

When she walks away mad
Follow her -- not to force an answer, but to show you care enough to stay close.

When she looks at your lips:
Kiss her -- softly, intentionally, like you've been waiting all day to do it.

When she pushes you away:
Pull her in. She's not angry... She's overwhelmed. Remind her she's safe with you.

When she starts yelling:
Don't match her energy. Calmly kiss her forehead and remind her you love her.

When she's quiet:
Don't ignore it. Ask her what's on her heart -- and really listen.

When she pulls away:
Pull her back. Wrap her in your arms and let her know you're not going anywhere.

When she's at her worst:
Look her in the eyes and tell her she's still the most beautiful woman you've ever seen.

When she cries:
Don't speak. Just hold her until the silence feels like peace again.

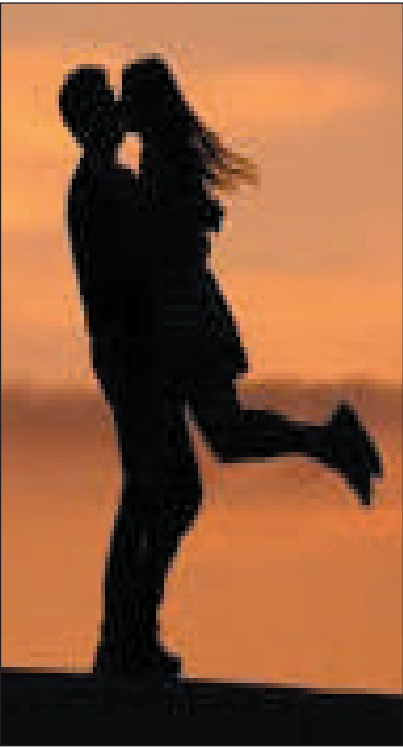
When she walks ahead:
Sneak up, wrap your arms around her waist, and make her smile.

When she's scared:
Stand beside her. Be her calm, her protector, her peace.

When she rests on your shoulder:
Lift her chin and kiss her with love, not just desire.

When she steals your shirt:
Let her keep it -- it's her comfort, her piece of you when you're not there.

When she teases you:
Laugh with her, tease her back, and



enjoy every moment.

When she's distant:
Reassure her. Be present. Remind her you're not giving up.

When she doubts you:
Stand firm. Back up your words with actions.

When she says she likes you:
She feels more than she's letting on. Treat her heart with care.

When she reaches for your hands:
Hold them like they're the most precious things you've ever touched.

When she bumps into you:
Smile, bump her back playfully, and keep that spark alive.

When she tells you a secret:
Guard it like gold -- trust is sacred.

When she looks in your eyes:
Don't break the gaze. Let her see your soul.

When she misses you:
Understand -- she's hurting, even if she doesn't say it.

When she says "it's over":
She may still want you to fight for her.

Brothers --

If you love her, don't play games with her heart.
If you love her, don't cheat.
Don't treat her like a trophy -- treat her like a treasure.
When she's mad: hug her tight and don't let go.
Call her to hear her voice.
Say goodnight and good morning -- every day.
Be consistent. Be her calm. Be her home.

Let her wear your clothes, share your time, and take up space in your heart.
Give her the world.
Treat her like she's all that matters to you.
Tease her and let her tease you back.
Stay up with her when she's sick.
Watch the shows she loves, even if you don't get the hype.
Kiss her in the pouring rain.
Make her feel like the only woman in the world -- because to you, she should be.
Because real love is in the little things. And she'll remember everything.

Relationship Coach

“Never love anyone who treats you like you're ordinary.”

OSCAR WILDE

BollyBytes

Rising Talents Shaping the Future of Bollywood Cinema

Bollywood is constantly evolving, and a new generation of talented actors is at the forefront, bringing fresh perspectives and dynamic performances to the big screen. These rising stars are not only redefining traditional norms but are also pushing the boundaries of storytelling, setting the stage for the future of Indian cinema. Times of India reports on some of the standout talents who are making their mark and shaping the future of Bollywood.

Rashmika Mandanna: A Fresh Southern Star

Rashmika Mandanna, a beloved star in the South Indian film industry, made a successful transition into Bollywood, and she's quickly becoming a fan favorite. Known for her relatable charm, she won hearts with her performances in films like *Goodbye* and *Animal*. Rashmika's grounded approach to her roles and her ability to connect with audiences has helped bridge the gap between regional and mainstream cinema. Her presence in Bollywood marks an exciting phase for Southern talent, bringing a new wave of energy to the industry.

Mrunal Thakur: From TV Triumph to Film Success

Mrunal Thakur's journey from television to films is nothing short of inspiring. After gaining popularity on TV, she smoothly transitioned to the big screen, where she has impressed with her performances in *Sita Ramam* and *Jersey*. Mrunal has proven her acting prowess with her



ability to portray emotional depth and complexity, making her one of the most promising talents in Bollywood. With her consistent rise and impressive range, Mrunal is undoubtedly a name to watch in the years to come.

Nora Fatehi: From Dance to Drama

Nora Fatehi first captured the public's attention with her mesmerizing dance performances, but she is now making a solid transition into acting. Her roles in films like *Bhuj: The Pride of India* and *Street Dancer 3D* demonstrate her growing depth as an actor. With each role, Nora showcases her versatility and commitment to evolving beyond just dance numbers. As she continues to explore more nuanced characters, it's clear that Nora is carving out a space for herself in Bollywood's acting scene.

Sharvari Wagh: Model Turned Muse

Sharvari Wagh, who debuted in *Bunty Aur Babli 2*,

quickly gained recognition for her natural screen presence and impressive acting skills. Her performance was well-received, and she is now poised for greater success with several promising projects in the pipeline. Sharvari's transition from a model to an actress has been seamless, and with her striking looks and acting range, she has all the makings of a leading star in Bollywood's competitive industry.

Triptii Dimri: Breakout Film Success

Triptii Dimri made a remarkable impact with her breakout role in *Qala*, where she captivated audiences with her nuanced performance. She followed up her success with a standout role in *Animal*, further establishing her as a rising star in the industry. Triptii's ability to bring subtlety and emotional strength to her roles has earned her a reputation as a standout performer. As Bollywood continues to embrace unconventional storytelling, Triptii's quiet but powerful performances make her a key player in the industry's evolution.

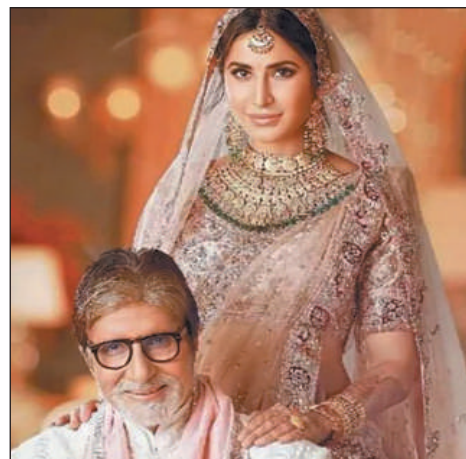
These rising stars represent a new wave of talent in Bollywood, each bringing their own unique flair and vision to Indian cinema. From seasoned actors who are expanding their range to newcomers who are making waves with fresh perspectives, the future of Bollywood looks incredibly promising. With these talents leading the charge, the industry is in for a dynamic and exciting transformation.

From Amitabh Bachchan to Katrina Kaif: Bollywood celebs who fell prey to death hoaxes

In today's age of rapid digital communication, the rise of social media has brought about both positive changes and some unfortunate downsides. One of the more unsettling phenomena has been the spread of celebrity death hoaxes. The power of the internet to circulate misinformation has caused panic, confusion, and unnecessary distress among fans, families, and even the celebrities themselves. Bollywood, with its massive fan base and global reach, has been no stranger to such malicious rumors. Here's a look at some of the most high-profile Bollywood stars who have been targets of death hoaxes over the years, as reported by Times of India.

Amitabh Bachchan

Amitabh Bachchan has had to face several distressing rumors about his death. On multiple occasions, false claims about his demise have circulated online, sending shockwaves across his millions of fans. One such incident involved a fabricated post featuring a watermark from a well-known news channel, claiming that the actor had passed away. The rumor quickly went viral on social media, causing panic among his followers. Thankfully, the hoax was debunked, and both Amitabh Bachchan and his family members cleared the air, reassuring his fans that he was alive and well. Despite such incidents, the actor's resilience and ability to handle such falsehoods with grace remain commendable.



Shah Rukh Khan

Shah Rukh Khan is another celebrity who has fallen victim to death hoaxes. Due to his immense popularity, these fake rumours have spread with alarming frequency. On one occasion, a false report claimed that the "King Khan" had died in a plane crash. The sensational news, published by a fabricated European news outlet, created an uproar among his global fanbase. The hoax was quickly exposed as false, and Shah Rukh Khan himself took to social media to assure his fans that he was safe. His immense fame makes him a frequent target for such baseless rumors, yet his fans continue to stand by him, dismissing these falsehoods.

Ajay Devgn

Ajay Devgn, a stalwart in the Bolly-

wood industry, was once the subject of a widely circulated death hoax that claimed he had died in a helicopter crash near Maha-baleshwar. This rumor spread rapidly through social media channels and was even reported by some news outlets before being verified. The distress caused to his fans and the film industry was palpable, but Devgn was quick to squash the rumor. He and his team clarified that the actor was unharmed and alive, restoring peace among his concerned followers. Such hoaxes are a reminder of the dangers of misinformation, particularly when targeting well-known figures.

Naseeruddin Shah

The esteemed actor Naseeruddin Shah, known for his powerful and thought-provoking performances, has also been the victim of death hoaxes. In one instance, false news about his passing spread after the death of veteran actor Rajesh Khanna. The rumor claimed that Shah was hospitalized and in critical condition, which caused alarm among his admirers. Shah's son, Vivaan Shah, swiftly took to social media to debunk the rumor, assuring fans that his father was alive and well. This incident highlights the vulnerability of even the most respected and intellectual figures in the industry to such disturbing misinformation.

Katrina Kaif

Even younger stars like Katrina Kaif have not been immune to the spread of false death rumors. Recently, the actress

became the target of a hoax that falsely claimed she had passed away. The unfounded rumors quickly spread across social media platforms, creating a frenzy among her fans. Her family was quick to respond, dismissing the claims and confirming that Katrina was perfectly fine. While the hoax was quickly debunked, it serves as a stark reminder of the impact that such rumors can have on celebrities and their loved ones.

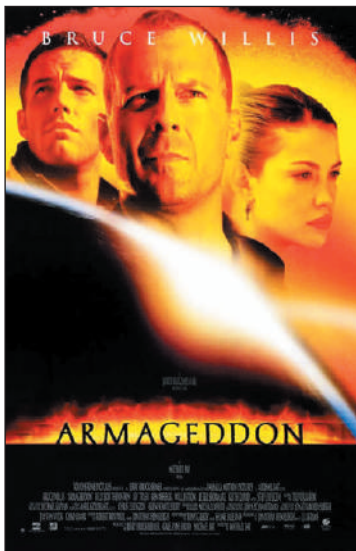
The Growing Challenge of Misinformation

These incidents shed light on the disturbing trend of celebrity death hoaxes that continue to plague the entertainment industry. While the digital world has made it easier for fans to connect with their favorite stars, it has also made it just as easy for false information to spread at a terrifying speed. The distress caused by such rumors can be overwhelming, not just for the celebrities involved but also for their families and fans.

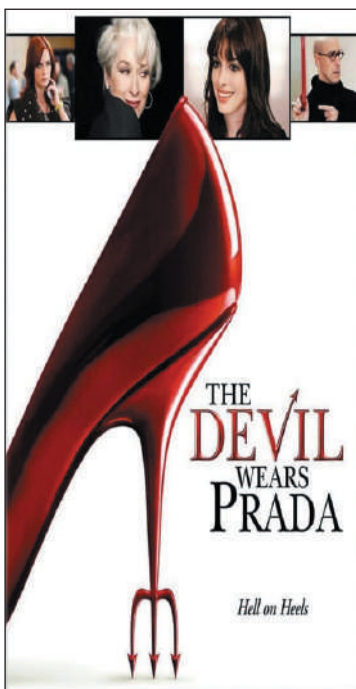
As social media platforms continue to play an increasingly dominant role in shaping public discourse, it is crucial for both celebrities and fans to be cautious and discerning when encountering such sensational news. Fact-checking, responsible reporting, and awareness are key in preventing the further spread of such harmful hoaxes.



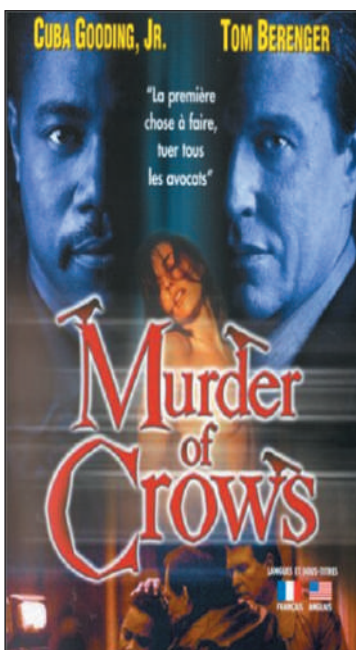
Vendredi 16 Mai - 20.30



Samedi 17 Mai - 20.30



Dimanche 18 Mai -21.51



Programme TV



SERIAL



MBC 1

05.51 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
08.24 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
08.50 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.15 Film: Aliens, Le Retour
11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
14.00 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Tele: Living To Love
16.49 Mag: Close Up
17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: Armageddon
22.54 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal
00.13 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
00.36 Serial: Belgravia

MBC 2

06.00 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
06.24 Local: En Forme
07.30 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
10.32 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
11.05 Local: Konn OU Drwa
12.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
13.40 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
15.15 Local: En Forme
15.32 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
15.52 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
16.44 Local: La Sosiete
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi...
19.30 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
19.40 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
20.30 Local: Upclose & Personal
21.48 Local: Extrait Concert
22.48 Lir-Ekrir Kreol Morisien
23.220 Journal Kreol
23.42 Local: En Forme
23.53 Local: Couleur Marine

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Fitness Plus
08.00 Local: Amrit Vani
10.00 Local: Ramayan
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Naatak
Starring: Vijay Arora, Mowshmi Chaturjee
14.19 Mag: Fitness Plus
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
19.00 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
21.00 Film: Chana Jor Garam
Cast: Neha Shree, Aditya Ojha
23.12 Serial: Mere Sai

Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Carnet De Sante
08.01 Mag: Tomorrow Today
09.18 Doc: In China's Shadow
10.53 Mag: Choices
11.35 Mag: Carnet De Sante
13.06 Mag: Tomorrow Today
14.50 Doc: Japan Video Topics
15.00 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.22 D.Anime: Giving Tales
15.30 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.40 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.07 Momolu Et Ses Amis
16.17 D.Anime: Riley Rocket
17.08 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.30 D.Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Doc: Flavours
18.52 Doc: Delicious Morning
19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 La Mediterranee Revelee
21.51 Doc: A La Reconquete Des...

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Doree
15.30 Film: Andaaaz
Cast: Mahi Bhanushali, Amar Upadhyay, Sudha Chandran
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dharam Patni
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
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: Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Andaaaz
Cast: Mahi Bhanushali, Amar Upadhyay, Sudha Chandran.

vendredi 16 mai

samedi 17 mai

dimanche 18 mai

lundi 19 mai

04.30 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
06.00 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.25 Tele: All The Flowers
06.49 Serial: Nautilus
07.39 Serial: Under Pressure
08.12 Serial: A Spy Among Friends
09.02 Serial: Heartland
09.46 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
10.45 Serial: Seal Team
11.30 Tele: All The Flowers
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Barbarita
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Film: Armageddon
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: The Devil Wars Prada
22.35 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
23.55 Le Journal
00.30 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
01.37 Serial: Heartland

02.18 Serial: Seal Team
03.25 Tele: Living To Love
04.48 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.27 Film: The Devil Wars Prada
08.12 Serial: Airwolf
08.59 Film: Cirque Du Freak
10.44 Serial: Seal Team
11.30 Serial: All The Flowers
12.34 Film: Ordinary Love
14.10 Serial: Belgravia
15.00 Live: Samachar
17.20 Doc: Not About Music
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Radha Krishna
18.32 Serial: Sa Re Ga MA Pa
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince
20.40 Film: Die Hard
22.43 Serial: Airwolf
00.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
01.29 Serial: Seal Team

03.48 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
04.14 Tele: All The Flowers
04.38 Tele: La Desalmada
05.06 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.01 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
08.34 Tele: All The Flowers
08.57 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Serial: Columbo
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Film: Die Hard
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: A Spy Among Friends
21.55 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

06.00 Local: Couleur Marine
06.29 Local: Tous Egaux
07.55 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
08.56 Local: La Sosiete
10.15 Local: J'ai Faim
10.42 Local: Upclose & Personal
12.00 Local: Prodijsion Alimanter
14.00 Local: Animalia
15.15 Local: Retrouvizer
15.30 Local: J'ai Faim
15.16 Local: Tous Egaux
16.03 Local: Son Ladan Mem
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi...
19.41 Rodrig - Kot Nou
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.00 Rodrig: D'Jam
22.27 Local: Proze Dime
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol

06.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
06.44 Emotion En Avant Plan
07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard..
08.52 Local: Artizan
08.56 Local: Les Petits Genies
10.26 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
12.05 Local: Proze Dime
13.05 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
14.00 Local: Exceptionnelles
14.30 Final Drama Competition
16.45 Local: Tous Egaux
17.26 Local: Les Petits Genies
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Journal Kreol
20.00 Local: Le Challenge
20.30 Local: Les Klips
21.23 Local: Mama Pik Nik
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin
23.34 Local: Arsiv MBC

07.18 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
08.48 Local Production
10.30 Local: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Rodrig: Les Klips
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.58 Local: Exceptionnelles
15.54 Local: Les Klips
16.46 La Journee Sous Le Regard
16.51 Local: LE Challenge
17.07 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Local: Tous Egaux
20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.15 Local: Notre Futur
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris
23.32 Rodrig: Kot Nou
00.07 Les Grandes Lignes

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
13.00 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
14.23 Mag: Eco India
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Dhuntaaraa
Cast: Zaidan Khan, Mradul Ojha, Muskaan Ojha
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
21.00 Film: Taffic Signal
Cast: Kunal Khemu, Konkona Sen
22.56 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.31 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.52 Local: Virasat
09.32 Local: Desi Beats
10.32 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Raksha Bandhan
14.00 Live From Rockfield Venue, Plaine Des Roches
Maharana Pratap Diwas
16.02 Local: Puranya Pakwan
16.59 Local: Desi Beats
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare
19.02 Local: Tohar Rashi
20.31 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.20 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.06 Serial: Naagin
22.57 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
23.44 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
01.27 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare

05.00 Live: DDI Live
06.59 Mag: Fit India Healthy India
08.00 Humni Ke Sitare
08.30 Tohar Rashi
09.40 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
10.27 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
11.30 Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Oh Bewafaa
14.12 Mag: Fit India Healthy India
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna
15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
15.50 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Ved Ki Shikshahein
20.36 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Shama
Cast: Nimmi, Vijay Dutt, M. Kumar
23.21 Serial: Mere Sai

06.00 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
07.56 D.Anime: Wonder Grove
08.20 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
09.02 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
09.54 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
11.37 La Mediterranee Revelee
12.38 Doc: Museums
14.05 Doc: The Memory Illusion
15.00 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.22 D.Anime: Giving Tales
15.41 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.34 D.Anime: Riley Rocket
16.46 Tut! Tut! Cory Bolides
17.15 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
19.00 Mag: Eco Africa
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 Tele: Living To Love
22.30 Doc: Marilyn Monroe
23.17 Doc: The Baobab
00.04 Doc: Elementary Particles

06.21 D.Anime: Rainow Rangers
09.03 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
09.48 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S
10.50 Film: C.I.A.P.E
12.15 Mag: In Good Shape
12.41 Doc: Top Dive Sites
13.43 Doc: Afrimaxx
14.10 Doc: Museums
15.00 Film: Spies In Disguise
16.38 Tut! Tut! Cory Bolides
16.52 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix
17.28 D.Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Doc: The Secrets Of The Centenarians
18.30 Doc: Going Beyond
19.00 Mag: REV
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: All The Flowers
21.51 Film: A Murder Of Crows
23.31 Doc: After Work
00.13 Doc: Cywia And Rachela

06.25 Doc: Going Beyond
08.40 Doc: Cywai And Rachela
09.26 Doc: The Truth Behind...
10.09 Doc: Ali And The Sound Of...
10.51 Mag: Rev Special
12.27 Mag: Arts Unveiled
12.57 Doc: After Work
14.28 Doc: Odd Neighbours
15.00 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.22 D.Anime: Giving Tales
15.25 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.35 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
17.03 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.30 Live: News
21.15 Film: Seven Ways From Sundown
22.44 Mag: Tomorrow Today
23.10 Mag: Washington Forum

08.00 Dharam Patni
10.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.00 Udaariyaan
13.50 Anupamaa
16.15 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Kambakkht Ishq
With: Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, Aftab Shivdasani, Amrita Arora.
20.43 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein

00.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.26 Udaariyaan
04.32 Anupamaa
06.47 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.03 Rajaa Betaa
14.00 Doree
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.38 Film: Andhadhun
Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Tabu, Radhika Apte
20.41 Tenali Rama
21.00 Mahabharat
21.44 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
22.57 Rajaa Betaa
00.06 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Doree
15.25 Film: Life Mein Time
Nahin Hai Kisi Ko
Starring: Rajneesh Duggal, Krushna Abbashek, Yuvika Chaudhary



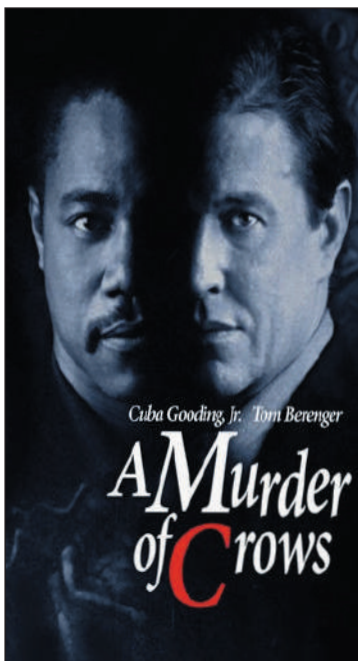
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.33 Shrimad Ramayan
21.09 Anupamaa



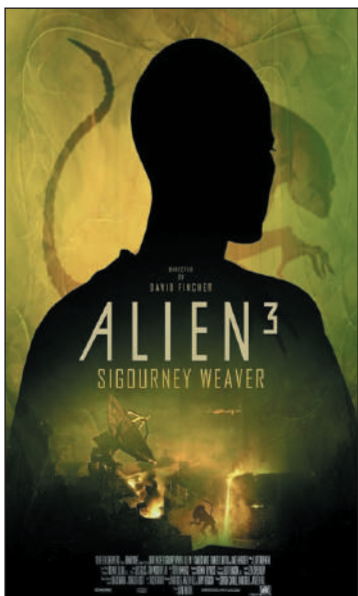
Mardi 20 Mai - 20.10



Mercredi 21 Mai - 21.05



Jeudi 22 Mai - 22.11



Programme TV



mardi 20 mai

MBC 1

06.00 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
07.34 Serial: Hawaii
08.39 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: Seven Ways From Sundown
11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.51 Tele: La Desalmada
15.25 Film: The Quake
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3
21.53 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
22.38 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Serial: The Last Kingdom
00.48 Serial: F.B.I

MBC 2

07.05 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
11.00 Local: Notre Futur
12.00 Entrepreneurat Au Feminin
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.56 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
14.27 Rodrig Prog: Coin Jardin
14.46 Local: Tous Egaux
15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
17.00 Local: Le Mag
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.04 Journal Kreol
19.20 Le Magazin De L'Emploi
19.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
20.00 Local: Son Ladan Mem
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.30 Local: Le Mag
22.29 Local: Retrovizor
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

MBC 3

08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein
10.07 Kundali Bhagya
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.01 Film: Pyar Ki Jeet
Cast: Ashok Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Vinod Mehra, Rekha
15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna
15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Tark Vitark
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Kangan
Cast: Mala Sinha, Sanjeev Kumar, Ashok Kumar
23.13 Serial: Mere Sai
00.04 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.37 Local: Tark Vitark

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
07.59 Mag: Travel
08.11 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.41 Mag: Washington Forum
09.10 Doc: Chile
10.39 Doc: The Power Of Peatlands
11.36 Mag: The 77 Percent
12.02 Mag: Africa 54
15.03 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.22 D.Anime: Giving Tales
17.05 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.23 D.Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: Rev
18.30 Mag: Shift
18.38 Mag: Arts Unveiled
19.30 Doc: Global US
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi
22.18 Mag: Initiative Africa
22.48 La Mediterranee Revelee
23.40 Mag: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Doree
15.30 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi
Cast: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.29 Shrimad Ramayan
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Mere Sai
22.04 Dhruv Tara
22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.04 Mahabharat
23.31 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi
Cast: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati

mercredi 21 mai

05.36 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
07.05 Serial: Columbo
08.15 Tele: All The Flowers
09.45 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
14.15 Serial: Seref Meselesi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi
16.10 Serial: Columbo
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
21.10 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
21.50 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
22.40 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

07.08 Entrepreneurat Au Feminin
08.31 Local: Priorite Sante
09.30 Local: Le Mag
10.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
11.01 Local: Profil
11.16 Local: Fee Main
11.30 Local: Le Petits Genies
13.19 Local: Priorite Sante
14.12 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.29 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
16.33 Local: Music Tour
17.30 MRIC: Regional Innovation..
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Local: Le Mag De L'Emploi
20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc
21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.35 Local: Les Kliips
22.31 Local: Mots & Ecrits
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

06.59 Mag: Sadhguru Speaks
08.00 Local: Tark Vitark
10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
11.30 Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Teri Maang Sitaron Se Bhar Doon
Cast: Nutan, Padmini Kolhapure, Raj Kiran
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Yatra
20.16 Local: Kaam Daam
21.00 Film: Dariya Dil
Cast: Rani Chatterjee, Anjana Singh
23.03 Serial: Mere Sai
00.17 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.40 Local: Yatra
01.05 Local: Meri Maa

06.00 Mag: Rev
07.51 Mag: Museums
08.22 La Mediterranee Revelee
09.13 Mag: Euromaxx
09.44 Doc: 1945: The Year That...
10.26 Doc: Diet For Your Body...
11.31 Mag: Shift
13.02 Doc: Museums
15.48 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
16.14 Momolu Et Ses Aims
17.05 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.30 Serial: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.30 Mag: Business Beyond
18.45 Mag: Planet A
19.30 Doc: Pandemic?
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
21.05 Film: A Murder Of Crows
22.52 Mag: Close Up
23.18 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.44 Doc: Hotel Metalurg

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Doree
15.30 Film: Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi
Cast: Farah Khan, Boman Irani, Kavin Dave
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.02 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
21.00 Anupama
21.28 Mere Sai
22.05 Dhruv Tara
22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.02 Serial: Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi
Cast: Farah Khan, Boman Irani, Kavin Dave

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06.01 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
08.13 Serial: All The Flowers
08.39 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.25 Film: Jurassic World
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance
15.25 Film: A Murder Of Crows
17.18 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Desi Boyz
Stars: Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Deepika Padukone, Chitrangada Singh, Anupam Kher, Sanjay Dutt

07.31 Rodrig Spor
08.02 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
09.00 Local: Agir Ensemble
10.32 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.02 Local: Les Kliips
12.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits
12.27 Local: En Toute Intimite
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.31 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.57 Local: Toc Toc Doc
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
17.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Local: Le Mag De L'Emploi
20.30 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
21.00 Local: Le Mag
22.29 Local: Metie
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

07.00 Mag: Originals
08.00 Local: Yatra
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
12.00 Film: Bawarchi
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Jaya Bhaduri, Asrani, Harindranath Chattopadhyay, A.K. Hangal, Durga Khote, Manisha, Kali Banerjee, Usha Kiran, Raju Shrestha
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
16.00 Ramayan
17.30 Radha Krishna
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani
18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
20.35 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nanlala
21.52 Serial: Mere Sai
22.43 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

06.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
07.59 Mag: Her
08.12 Mag: Close Up
09.07 Doc: Hotel Metalurg
10.35 Mag: Afrimaxx
11.20 Mag: Planet A
12.39 Mag: Close Up
13.00 Mag: Focus On Europe
14.28 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee
14.54 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
16.06 Momolu Et Ses Amis
17.39 Mag: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Carnet De Sante
18.50 Doc: Delicious Morning
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 Serial: Columbo
22.11 Film: Aliens 3
23.58 Doc: Marilyn Monroe
00.50 Doc: In China's Shadow

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Doree
15.30 Film: Nawabzaade
Cast: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit Pathak, Raghav Juyal
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.24 Shrimad Ramayan
21.02 Anupama
21.34 Mere Sai
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.05 Mahabharat
23.31 Film: Nawabzaade
Cast: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit Pathak, Raghav Juyal



Jeudi 22 Mai - 15.30

Stars: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit Pathak, Raghav Juyal



Jeudi 22 Mai - 20.10

Stars: Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Deepika Padukone, Chitrangada Singh, Anupam Kher, Sanjay Dutt



Transactional Trump in the Middle East: Deals flow, diplomatic hurdles remain

Trump signed plenty of contracts in the Middle East, but he's no closer to the two 'deals' he really wants

Shahram Akbarzadeh

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US President Donald Trump's visit to Arab states in the Middle East this week generated plenty of multibillion-dollar deals. He said more than US\$1 trillion (A\$1.5 trillion) worth of deals had been signed with Saudi Arabia alone, though the real total is likely much lower than that.



Qatar also placed an order for 210 Boeing aircraft, a deal worth a reported US\$96 billion (A\$149 billion). Trump will no doubt present these transactions as a major success for US industry.

The trip also helped counter concerns about US disengagement from the Middle East. For more than a decade, local elites have viewed Washington's attention as shifting away from the region.

This trip was a reaffirmation of the importance of the Middle East – in particular the Gulf region – to US foreign policy. This is an important signal to send to Middle Eastern leaders who are dealing with competing interests from China and, to a lesser extent, Russia.

And from a political standpoint, Trump's lifting of sanctions on Syria and meeting with the former rebel, now president, Ahmed al-Sharaa was very significant – both symbolically and practically.

Until recently, al-Sharaa was listed by the United States as a terrorist with a US\$10 million (A\$15 million) bounty on his head. However, when his forces removed dictator Bashar al-Assad from power in December, he was cautiously welcomed by many in the international community.

The US had invested considerable resources in removing Assad from power, so his fall was cause for celebration, even if it came at the hands of forces the US had deemed terrorists.

This rapid turn-around is dizzying. In practice, the removal of sanctions on Syria opens the doors to foreign investment in the reconstruction of the country following a long civil war.

It also offers an opportunity for Saudi Arabia and Qatar, as well as Turkey, to expand their influence in Syria at the expense of Iran.

For a leader who styles himself a deal-maker, these can all be considered successful outcomes from a three-day trip.

However, Trump avoided wading into the far more delicate diplomatic and political negotiations needed to end Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and find common ground with Iran on its nuclear program.

No solution in sight for the Palestinians

Trump skirted the ongoing tragedy in Gaza and offered no plans for a diplomatic solution to the war, which drags on with no end in sight.

The president did note his desire to see a normalisation of relations between Arab states and Israel, without acknowledging the key stumbling block.

While Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have no love for Hamas, the Gaza war and the misery inflicted on the Palestinians have made it impossible for them to overlook the issue. They cannot simply leapfrog Gaza to normalise relations with Israel.

In his first term, Trump hoped the Palestinian issue could be pushed aside to achieve normalisation of relations between Arab states and Israel. This was partially achieved with the Abraham Accords, which saw the UAE and three other Muslim-majority nations normalise relations with Israel.

Trump signed plenty of contracts in the Middle East, but he's no closer to the two 'deals' he really wants

Trump no doubt believed the Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreed to just before his

inauguration would stick – he promised as much during the US election campaign.

But after Israel unilaterally broke the ceasefire in March, vowing to press on with its indiscriminate bombing of Gaza, he's learned the hard way the Palestinian question cannot easily be solved or brushed under the carpet.

The Palestinian aspiration for statehood needs to be addressed as an indispensable step towards a lasting peace and regional stability.

It was telling that Trump did not stop in Israel this week. One former Israeli diplomat says it's a sign Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has lost his leverage with Trump.

There's nothing that Netanyahu has that Trump wants, needs or [that he] can give him, as opposed to, say, the Saudis, the Qataris, [or] the Emiratis.

More harsh rhetoric for Iran

Trumpp also had no new details or initiatives to announce on the Iran nuclear talks, beyond his desire to "make a deal" and his repeat of past threats.

At least four rounds of talks have been held between Iran and the United States since early April. While both sides are positive about the prospects, the US administration seems divided on the intended outcome.

The US Middle East special envoy Steve Witkoff and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have called for the complete dismantling of Iran's capacity to enrich uranium as a sure safeguard against the potential weaponisation of the nuclear program.

Trump himself, however, has been less categorical. Though he has called for the "total dismantlement" of Iran's nuclear program, he has also said he's undecided if Iran should be allowed to continue a civilian enrichment program.

Iran's capacity to enrich uranium, albeit under international monitoring, is a red line for the authorities in Tehran – they won't give this up.

The gap between Iran and the US appears to have widened this week following Trump's attack on Iran as the "most destructive force" in the Middle East. The Iranian foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi called Trump's remarks "pure deception", and pointed to US support for Israel as the source of instability in the region.

None of this has advanced the prospects of a nuclear deal. And though his visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE was marked by pomp and ceremony, he'll leave no closer to solving two protracted challenges than when he arrived.

Tree of Knowledge

Without a Safety Net



When we continually live our life with a safety net, it creates a barrier to our freedom

As we create the life of our dreams, we often reach a crossroads where the choices involve the risk of facing the unknown versus the safety and comfort of all that we have come to trust. We may feel like a tightrope walker, carefully teetering along the narrow path to our goals, sometimes feeling that we are doing so without a net. Knowing we have some backup may help us work up the courage to take those first steps, until we are secure in knowing that we have the skills to work without one. When we live our lives from a place of balance and trust in the universe, we can know we are supported – even though we may not see it.

If we refuse to act only if we can see the safety net, we may be allowing the net to become a trap, as it creates a barrier between us and the freedom to pursue our goals. Change is inherent in life. Remove fear from the equation, and then we can devote our full attention to the dream that awaits us.

We attract support into our lives when we are willing to make those first tentative steps, trusting that the universe will provide exactly what we need. In that process, we can decide that whatever comes from our actions is only for our highest and best growth. It may come in the form of a soft landing, an unexpected rescue, or an eye-opening experience gleaned only from the process of falling. So rather than allowing our lives to be dictated by fear of the unknown or trying to avoid falling, we can appreciate that sometimes we experience life fully when we are willing to trust and fall. And in doing so, we may just find that we have the wings to fly. When we believe that there is a reason for everything, we are acting with the safety net of the universe, and we know we will make the best of whatever comes our way.