

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Our country, right or wrong. When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be set right." -- Carl Schurz

## Interview Sheila Bunwaree

**"There is a political vacuum that needs to be filled...**

**...but bringing back the MSM because of the current disillusionment will be the biggest mistake ever'**



• 'No post-independence government has genuinely pursued economic independence or challenged the country's exploitative capitalist system'

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Berenger's Diagnosis:  
"All Is Not Well"

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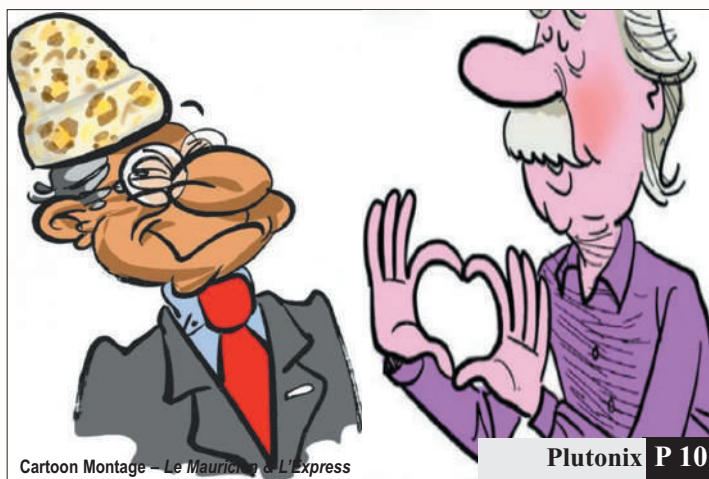
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Si des actions draconiennes ne ont pas prises pour éradiquer les crimes financiers, le pays risque d'être placé à nouveau sur la liste grise ou noire de l'OCDE



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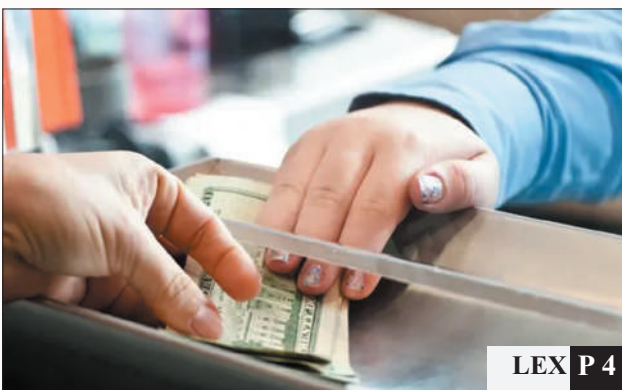
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# The Govt's Health Report

*Bérenger's Diagnosis: "All Is Not Well"*



**I**n the first months of any new government, a quiet period of consolidation is typically expected. The senior partners, having just secured a mandate, are meant to present a united front, ironing out disagreements behind closed doors. Yet, in a departure from this established norm, Deputy Prime Minister Paul Bérenger has taken on an extraordinary role: that of a physician delivering a public health report on the very government he serves.

In two consecutive press conferences held within a week, Bérenger did not speak as a loyal subordinate. Instead, he presented himself as an unsparing critic, detailing the ailments and potential threats facing the Alliance du Changement. From internal conflicts to the precarious state of a national institution and accusations of nepotism, he laid bare the alliance's vulnerabilities for all to see. This bold and unprecedented strategy is more than a simple venting of frustration; it is a calculated political manoeuvre, one that defines the new government's unique and precarious dynamic. This public diagnosis, delivered with surgical precision, forces us to question the nature of unity, the meaning of an alliance, and the fine line between political loyalty and personal ambition.

## The Doctor's Diagnosis: All Is Not Well

Bérenger's first press conference on August 7 served as a clear warning shot, a public airing of grievances that would ordi-

narily be handled in a closed-door meeting. His tone, described by the media as one of "insatisfaction," was a polite but firm signal that not all was harmonious within the ranks. The most telling sign of discord was his public intervention in the dispute between Minister Arianne Navarre-Marie and her junior minister, Anishta Babooram. By backing Navarre-Marie and calling for a swift resolution, Bérenger was putting his political capital on the line. When Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam resolved the matter by transferring Babooram to another ministry, it created a paradox. While the conflict was officially "tranché" (settled), it left open the question of who had the final word — and whether Bérenger's public support had been subtly undermined.

Beyond this internal squabble, Bérenger delivered a dire prognosis for a national institution. His statement on Air Mauritius — that "things are not good at all" and that it is "not too late... but very late" to save the airline — was a stunning admission from within the government itself. This was no rumour; it came from a senior partner in the alliance. By framing himself as an insider who had been silently alerting the Prime Minister for eight months, he simultaneously portrayed himself as a responsible leader while putting a significant amount of pressure on the government to act decisively. It was a classic Bérenger move. He publicly cast himself as the one who predicted the problem, ensuring he could always say, "I've done my bit" while

holding others accountable for ignoring his signals.

## The Nepotism Antidote and The Political Juggler

If the first press conference was Bérenger's diagnosis, the second, held just six days later, was his attempt to pre-emptively administer an antidote. Faced with a wave of "hysteria" and charges of nepotism regarding the nominations of his daughter, sister-in-law, and son-in-law, he called a new press conference specifically to address the issue head-on. His defence was meticulous, almost legalistic in its detail, and presented a fascinating study in political justification.

Bérenger's argument was built on a series of paradoxes that showcased his political acumen. He defended his daughter, Joanna, by claiming he had *denied* her a full ministry to respect the principle of seniority, even while under "enormous pressure." He thus transformed a potential accusation of favouritism into a claim of principled self-restraint. For his sister-in-law, Dany Perrier, he shifted responsibility, stating her appointment as ambassador was not his doing but a "surprise" from Navin Ramgoolam himself, which was both "touché" and a strategic masterstroke. Finally, in defending his son-in-law, Frédéric Curé, as Chairman of Airport Holdings Ltd (AHL), he introduced the concept of the "sincere militant" who is also "perfectly qualified." He subtly distinguished this from past nepotism by clarifying that the appointment came from his alliance partners, not himself. This defence, while not satisfying to all, was a masterful exercise in public relations, allowing him to appear both transparent and in control. He was simultaneously defending his family, his party's principles, and the government's legitimacy — a difficult juggling act indeed.

## The Prescription: A New Political Direction

**B**eyond the immediate issues, Bérenger's press conferences offered a clear prescription for the government's future course, solidifying his role as a partner who is not just in the alliance but is actively steering it. His call for a new "Appointments Committee," a measure he had proposed during the electoral campaign, was a clever way to address the nominations controversy while simultaneously presenting himself as a reformer. It was a subtle admission that the current process was flawed, but a firm promise that

he would ensure it was corrected.

He also targetted a senior minister from a past era: Rama Sithanen, the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius. Bérenger's statement that while Sithanen had "helped the country," his "time has passed" was a direct and public challenge to the status quo. It was a clear signal to Navin Ramgoolam that certain key figures from the old guard needed to be replaced if the new government was to truly forge its own path. This move demonstrates that Bérenger's critiques are not just about small skirmishes but about a fundamental reshaping of the country's leadership. His passionate denunciation of the war in Gaza, even admitting he sometimes feels like quitting to speak freely, further illustrates his commitment to a political identity that transcends the day-to-day work of government. He is a partner who comes to the table with a firm set of principles and is unafraid to test the limits of his alliance to uphold them.

## A New Model of Alliance

**W**hat we have witnessed from Paul Bérenger is not a sign of imminent collapse, but the emergence of a new model of coalition politics. It is a high-wire act where one of the senior partners uses the public sphere not to declare war, but to maintain a powerful position of influence. He is a "loyal critic," a partner who is simultaneously inside and outside the room. By airing his grievances publicly, he is doing two things: first, he is pre-emptively protecting his own reputation and political brand by distancing himself from decisions he disagrees with. Second, he is exerting pressure on his alliance partner, forcing Ramgoolam to either accept his criticisms or risk being seen as deaf to the concerns of a significant portion of the alliance.

This new political dynamic will likely be a defining feature of the Alliance du Changement. It is a risky strategy though, but for now, it allows Bérenger to have it both ways: he can hold a powerful position in government while also positioning himself as the conscience of the alliance. The question for the long term is whether this unique approach to governance can sustain itself.

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## Combat contre les crimes financiers

# Une approche holistique est nécessaire

*Si des actions draconiennes ne sont pas prises pour éradiquer les crimes financiers, le pays risque d'être placé à nouveau sur la liste grise ou noire de l'OCDE*

**L**es arrestations de suspects pour des crimes financiers, sous des charges provisoires logées par la *Financial Crimes Commission (FCC)* en vertu de la loi contre le blanchiment d'argent, se succèdent à un rythme soutenu. La FCC a sans doute atteint sa vitesse de croisière dans la mesure où elle ne lésine pas sur les moyens d'enquêter sur des crimes financiers potentiels, d'arrêter des criminels à col blanc suspects et de saisir des biens (véhicules de luxe, motocyclettes de marque, bateaux de plaisance, etc.) dont l'acquisition est soupçonnée d'être financée par des gains illicites.

Certes les suspects bénéficient de la présomption d'innocence en attendant des poursuites formelles et le public risque d'attendre longtemps avant que le judiciaire ne se prononce sur ces affaires. En attendant, le public est impatient et voudrait que les coupables soient derrière les barreaux après un procès en bonne et due forme, mais rapide.

Force est de constater que la FCC, en tant qu'agence centrale de lutte contre les crimes financiers (la fraude, la corruption et le blanchiment d'argent) est bien motivée. Mais elle ne peut pas tout faire seule. Vu la complexité des réseaux de corruption et de blanchiment d'argent, soutenus dans certains cas par la complicité des brebis galeuses dans certaines institutions dévergondées, il est absolument nécessaire que les autorités adoptent une approche holistique dans ce combat multiforme. Les différentes organisations de l'État chargées d'assurer l'assainissement des mœurs financières ne peu-



vent plus travailler en vase clos, chacune veillant sur sa chasse-gardée.

### Collaboration institutionnelle

En sus de la FCC, d'autres institutions sont concernées par le combat contre les crimes financiers, notamment la Banque de Maurice, la *Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)*, la *Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA)*, la police et le Bureau du Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP). Il faut une collaboration étroite entre ces institutions, fondée sur une approche globale (*whole-of-government approach*) qui veut qu'elles partagent des informations aux fins d'administration des lois appropriées (la loi fiscale ou la loi contre le blanchiment d'argent). Leurs actions devraient être coordonnées à toutes fins utiles et aider les unes et les autres à mieux accomplir leur mission sans aucun chevauchement des rôles.

**I**l ne s'agit pas pour une institution d'empiéter sur la plate-bande de l'autre,

mais d'être complémentaire à l'action de l'autre dans le respect de la séparation des pouvoirs. Sous ce rapport, le récent amendement à la loi de la FCC [*The Financial Crimes Commission (Amendment) Bill (No. XVI of 2025)*], permettant à la police et la FCC de faire des *enquêtes* conjointes sur des crimes financiers, est un pas positif. Les deux agents de l'État peuvent ainsi partager leurs connaissances et compétences en vue d'optimiser l'efficacité de leurs actions communes.

**I**l incombe maintenant à d'autres institutions de se montrer à la hauteur de leurs responsabilités. La FIU joue déjà son rôle en obtenant des informations sur les avoirs de suspects auprès des banques, ce qui a permis de révéler les comptes bancaires d'officiers de police où la monnaie de récompense a atterri avant d'être éventuellement déboursée aux informateurs de la police. Le DPP va jouer son rôle d'ultime autorité en matière de poursuite, ce qui accorde aux suspects la garantie d'un procès équitable. Deux autres institutions sont appelées à jouer un rôle plus important dans la détection des fraudes et autres malversations financières, notamment la MRA et la Banque centrale.

### Une MRA pro-active

Premièrement, la MRA devrait être plus proactive dans les contrôles fiscaux des citoyens qui s'engagent potentiellement dans l'évitement fiscal (*tax avoidance*) en se prévalant des lacunes dans la loi ou qui s'adonnent carrément à l'évasion fiscale (*tax evasion*) en s'abstenant de déclarer des revenus reçus légalement ou illégalement. Au chapitre de l'évitement fiscal, il y a toujours un risque que certaines sources de revenu soient sous-déclarées au fisc. Par exemple, il est possible que toutes les institutions ou entreprises de l'État n'appliquent pas la déduction à la source (PAYE) aux honoraires payés aux mandarins de l'État pour le

cumul de plusieurs postes de conseiller ou de directeur sur des conseils d'administration ainsi qu'aux frais légaux payés à certains avocats privés. Dans ces situations, la conformité fiscale est un acte individuel volontaire, et la MRA devrait se montrer plus audacieuse en ciblant les contribuables susceptibles de violer la loi fiscale.

**A**insi, la MRA aurait intérêt à établir si le montant d'impôt payé par un avoué privé sur les Rs 85 millions d'honoraires reçus de plusieurs organisations publiques en dix ans est juste. Elle serait aussi bien inspirée d'évaluer le montant d'impôt dû sur les Rs 100 millions payées à l'administrateur de la compagnie Air Mauritius lorsqu'elle fut mise sous administration judiciaire. Par ailleurs, un contrôle fiscal de toutes les sociétés privées qui ont reçu des fonds de la *Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC)* est nécessaire afin d'évaluer leurs obligations fiscales sous la loi de l'impôt sur les sociétés. La privatisation du profit et la socialisation des pertes est une pratique inacceptable quand l'État manque d'argent pour financer les dépenses publiques.

**“La Banque centrale ne peut plus se cacher derrière la confidentialité des transactions bancaires pour refuser de mener des enquêtes sur des cas de fraude ou de blanchiment d'argent. Il est grand temps qu'elle fasse la lumière, grâce à un audit judiciaire, sur les déboursments totalisant Rs 26 milliards effectués par la MIC au profit des sociétés privées par voie de prêts ou de prises de participation au capital d'entreprise. Invoquer un contrat privé entre la MIC et ces sociétés pour ne pas révéler les dessous des transactions bancaires louches est un prétexte fallacieux...”**



**“La Banque centrale n'a pas fait montre d'empressement pour élucider l'écheveau de la faillite de la Silver Bank, une banque qui avait accordé des prêts toxiques de Rs 7,6 milliards à des sociétés fictives aux dépens de certaines organisations de l'État... C'est la FCC qui a pris le relais de cette enquête avec l'arrestation d'un suspect qui était impliqué dans le comité qui devait approuver les prêts. S'il appartient à la Banque centrale d'émettre une licence bancaire, il lui incombe de s'assurer que la banque concernée opère dans les conditions réglementaires...”**

Au chapitre de l'évasion fiscale, il faudrait savoir si la monnaie de récompense payée aux informateurs de la police (Rs 250 millions en trois ans) dans des cas de saisie de drogues a été déclarée au fisc. La monnaie de récompense n'est pas un don qui est susceptible d'être exempté de l'impôt, mais un paiement pour services rendus qui tombe dans la catégorie de revenus taxables. Si l'argent destiné aux informateurs a été détourné dans des comptes bancaires des tierces parties, il y aura un double crime de blanchiment d'argent et d'évasion fiscale.

● Suite en page 5



# Police Rewards: A Case of Breach of Trust and Banking Laxity

**T**he ongoing investigation into the controversial “Reward Money” saga has taken a disquieting turn with the revelation that millions of rupees in reward monies were deposited in commercial bank accounts, including personal ones, or transited for eventual payments of “reward” to potential police informers or police officers responsible for the arrests of drug traffickers. It would seem that these transactions did not immediately trigger scrutiny or flags by the banks involved, given their unusual nature and magnitude. Lex examines the critical questions that this matter brings to the forefront.

— LEX —

**\* What are the regulatory requirements for banks to exercise due diligence and report suspicious activities involving their customers?**

Section 2 of the Financial and Intelligence Anti Money Laundering Act [FIAMLA] defines a suspicious transaction as a transaction which gives rise to a reasonable suspicion that it may involve amongst other matters, the laundering of money or the proceeds of any crime; or is made in circumstances of unusual or unjustified complexity; appears to have no economic justification or lawful objective gives rise to suspicion for any other reason. Banks should be on the lookout for such transactions and report them to the Bank of Mauritius and to investigating bodies.

**\* We presume that the duty of banks in Mauritius to exercise vigilance over all accounts and transactions would not be waived even for government institutions — whether it's the Police Force or any other investigative agency. One would expect them to, if transactions and report any suspicious activity to the relevant authorities. Does it appear that they have assumed their responsibility in that regard?**

A waiver would be applicable only in cases of exempt transactions. The FIAMLA limits the payment of cash in a bank to Rs. 500,000. Even when cheques are deposited the practice is for banks to query a customer unless it is a bank transfer. An exempt transaction is defined in FIAMLA as a transaction between the Bank of Mauritius and any other person; between a bank and another bank; between a bank and a financial institution.

The transaction should not exceed an amount that is commensurate with the lawful activities of the customer, and the customer is, at the time the transac-

tion takes place, an established customer of the bank or financial institution; and the transaction consists of a deposit into, or withdrawal from, an account of a customer with the bank or financial institution.

**\* Given that the Police Force is not involved in any commercial activities, unlike, for example, the CWA (water) or the CEB (electricity) selling their services to consumers, are there good reasons why the Reward Money mechanism should have been operated at the level of a commercial bank instead of through the services of the Accountant General?**

From information available, all deposits and withdrawals were made at a commercial bank. The questions that should have been asked are as follows: Did that bank exercise due diligence and did it ensure that the police satisfied the exempt transactions criteria?

Whatever banks were involved, they either failed in their duty of due diligence. The sheer scale of the scandal, with deposits and withdrawals totaling millions of rupees, could not have been possible without the complicity or gross negligence of certain bank officials, who were likely subjected to intense internal and external pressure.

**\* Given that the Police Force's Reward Money mechanism was operated through a commercial bank, one would also assume that established protocols and oversight mechanisms would have been put in place to**

**“Given the long history of bad loans at commercial banks, it's clear there was a serious issue with the Bank of Mauritius's supervisory functions. The core challenge for the Bank's new leadership is to restore public trust in its ability to effectively regulate the sector and protect depositors. With a new team now at the helm, there is hope that the laissez-faire and laissez-aller policies of former officials will become a thing of the past...”**



**“Dishonesty and greed had so deeply corrupted the system of police reward money that former Commissioner Khemraj Servansing was forced to put a stop to it. We are told that the reaction from some sections of the police force was one of deep demotivation, as if their livelihood depended entirely on these funds. Based on the recent revelations, it's clear the police reward money became a windfall for a select few officers close to the top. Once the system was corrupted, red flags were ignored by everyone...”**

**ensure accountability. Whose responsibility was it to do that?**

Based on the information now available from recent arrests and investigations, it would appear that the police's reward money — which is funded by taxpayers through the Consolidated Fund — became a mechanism for some officers to misappropriate funds with impunity.

Since the Police Commissioner has discretion over the payment of this reward money, it would also appear that he failed completely to use that authority judiciously. This oversight allowed for the approval of requests that were not genuine and claims for amounts that were both unreasonable and exaggerated.

**\* It would seem that successive**

**reports of the Director of Audit have made comments on the financial management and procedures of the Police Force, including a focus on the reward money mechanism, especially relating to issues of lack of control and transparency, concerns over auditing, and procedural flaws. Why could the abuse still persist in spite of the red flags raised?**

Dishonesty and greed had so deeply corrupted the system of police reward money that former Commissioner Khemraj Servansing was forced to put a stop to it. We are told that the reaction from some sections of the police force was one of deep demotivation, as if their livelihood depended entirely on these funds.

Based on recent revelations, it's clear the police reward money became a windfall for a select few officers close to the top. Once the system was corrupted, red flags were ignored by everyone. This widespread negligence started with top government officials and spread throughout some sections of the police force.

☞ Cont. from page 5



# Police Rewards: A Case of Breach of Trust and Banking Laxity

● Cont. from page 4

\* What role does the Bank of Mauritius play in overseeing commercial banks to ensure they adhere to anti-money laundering and suspicious transaction reporting regulations, especially concerning public funds?

The Bank of Mauritius sets out its duties in Chapter 2 of its 'Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation'.

To put it simply, the Bank of Mauritius has a main job when it comes to fighting financial crime: it makes sure that all the financial businesses it licenses are following the rules to stop money laundering and the funding of terrorism. These financial businesses include: banks, other

companies that take deposits (like credit unions), money lenders, and money changers.

Basically, the Bank of Mauritius is the main referee, making sure these financial institutions play by the rules to keep the financial system clean.

\* Given the disquieting way in which public reward monies appear to have been handled — or even misappropriated — it raises a question about the role of the Bank of Mauritius. While the sheer volume of daily banking transactions in the country is massive, it cannot be argued that the Bank of Mauritius is exempt from detecting such irregularities?

As the designated supervisor of all financial institutions under its purview, the

Bank is required to ensure these institutions comply with key banking laws, including the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act and the Financial Crimes Commission Act.

It was therefore the duty of the Bank's former officials to have detected these flaws. It is to be hoped that the Financial Crimes Commission will now investigate these former officials for any potential failings.

\* In light of so many cases of bad loans running into billions of rupees registered down the years at the level of commercial banks, it would seem there is an issue with the supervisory functions of the Bank of Mauritius. Given these repeated issues, how can the Bank of Mauritius restore public

trust in its ability to effectively regulate the banking sector and protect depositors?

Given the long history of bad loans at commercial banks, it's clear there was a serious issue with the Bank of Mauritius's supervisory functions. The core challenge for the Bank's new leadership is to restore public trust in its ability to effectively regulate the sector and protect depositors.

With a new team now at the helm, there is hope that the laissez-faire and laissez-aller policies of former officials will become a thing of the past. The new leadership's success will depend on its ability to rebuild confidence by demonstrating a truly effective and transparent approach to regulation.

LEX

## Analyse

### Combat contre les crimes financiers

# Une approche holistique est nécessaire

● Suite de la page 3

Il est temps que la MRA s'intéresse aux signes extérieurs de richesse de certains, comme révélés dans des cas où la FCC a saisi des biens ostentatoires, pour établir si des biens personnels ont été acquis par des moyens légitimes ou illégitimes. Au cours des dix dernières années, la MRA a traqué de petits contribuables (par exemple, des travailleurs indépendants) en laissant au large les gros barons de trafics illicites (drogue, restauration, service de nettoyage, etc.) dont l'opulence saute aux yeux avec leurs berlines neuves sur la route et leurs propriétés immobilières de luxe.

Pour illustrer cette approche inéquitable, je citerai le cas particulier d'un coiffeur qui opère un petit atelier dans la capitale. Pendant six mois, la MRA l'a suivi en lui imposant l'obligation d'émettre des reçus à ses clients pour les coupes de cheveux et de tenir un livre de recettes. Une telle obligation paraît a priori excessive dans une économie où les paiements en espèces sont courants. Toutefois, pour qu'elle soit la norme, il faut qu'elle s'applique à tous les prestataires de services. Il est aussi essentiel que la MRA publie des informations sur le nombre de contrôles fiscaux effectués auprès des particuliers et des sociétés (sans révéler les noms) et les montants de taxes récupérées. Cela permettra de jauger son niveau d'efficacité.

#### La Banque centrale

Deuxièmement, la Banque centrale devrait surveiller de plus près les flux d'argent en devises étrangères sortant du pays. Nous savons que beaucoup de Mauriciens ont acquis des propriétés immobilières dans des pays étrangers. Est-ce que les transferts de fonds effectués par des banques commerciales ont été autorisés par un certificat de décharge (*tax clearance certificate*) décerné par la MRA ? Quel contrôle la Banque centrale exerce-t-elle sur ces sorties de capital ?

Il est allégué qu'une partie de la monnaie de récompense destinée aux informateurs de la police a été transférée sur des comptes bancaires à l'étranger au gré de voyages entrepris par de tierces parties dans des pays du Golfe.

Il incombe à la Banque centrale de savoir quelle banque



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commerciale a autorisé ces virements bancaires ou a converti les sommes d'argent en devises étrangères cachées dans des sacs de voyage. Dans le même souffle, la Banque centrale devrait prendre des sanctions contre les banques commerciales qui ont permis des dépôts et des retraits en espèces sur des comptes bancaires privés dépassant les montants réglementaires (Rs 500 000 pour un dépôt ou un retrait) sous la section 5 de la *Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act* (FIAMLA) de 2002.

La Banque centrale ne peut plus se cacher derrière la confidentialité des transactions bancaires pour refuser de mener des enquêtes sur des cas de fraude ou de blanchiment d'argent. Il est grand temps qu'elle fasse la lumière, grâce à un audit judiciaire, sur les déboursments totalisant Rs 26 milliards effectués par la MIC au profit des sociétés privées par voie de prêts ou de prises de participation au capital d'entreprise. Invoquer un contrat privé entre la MIC et ces sociétés pour ne pas révéler les dessous des transactions bancaires louches est un prétexte fallacieux dans la mesure où c'est l'argent public qui est en jeu.

Sous ce rapport, l'information à l'effet que la MIC voudrait faire un arrangement à l'amiable avec la société Pulse Analytics, une agence de sondage, pour recouvrer les Rs 45 millions qu'elle avait investies dans la société en 2024 est troublante. Un tel arrangement court-circuiterait l'enquête de la police sur une affaire qui porterait des soupçons de corruption. L'arrêt de toute poursuite contre ceux suspects de complicité pour commettre un crime serait un mauvais précédent. Il sonnerait le glas pour des enquêtes dans d'autres cas où les déboursments de fonds par la MIC furent exagérés (par exemple, la surévaluation des actions d'entreprise achetées ou des terres acquises par la MIC).

Dans un autre ordre d'idées, la Banque centrale n'a pas fait montre d'empressement pour élucider l'écheveau de la faillite de la Silver Bank, une banque qui avait accordé des prêts toxiques de Rs 7,6 milliards à des sociétés fictives aux dépens de certaines organisations de l'État qui y avaient fait des dépôts en centaines de millions de roupies. C'est la FCC qui a pris le relais de cette enquête avec l'arrestation d'un suspect qui était impliqué dans le comité qui devait approuver les prêts. S'il appartient à la Banque centrale d'émettre une licence bancaire, il lui incombe de s'assurer que la banque concernée opère dans les conditions réglementaires (ratios de capital et de liquidité) et suit une politique de crédit saine. Elle devrait jouer son rôle de régulateur du monde bancaire indépendamment de toute influence politique ou des pressions du secteur privé. Il y va de la crédibilité financière du pays.

Le déferlement actuel d'arrestations de suspects pour crimes financiers attirera l'attention du Groupe d'Action Financière de l'OCDE qui surveille la conformité des pays au régime AML/CFT (*Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism*). Si des actions draconiennes ne sont pas prises pour éradiquer les crimes financiers, le pays risque d'être placé à nouveau sur la liste grise ou noire de l'OCDE avec des conséquences pour la réputation du centre financier mauricien.

Prakash Neerohoo





Anil Madan

# War and Peace (Prize)

There has always been a certain incoherence about Donald Trump. Even as he has pressed his quest to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, he has engaged in a tariff war. But not with enemies of the US, rather, with its friends and allies. He has announced high tariffs on friendly nations such as Canada and India. And then hiked the tariffs on India even higher because of its purchases of Russian oil that fund Putin's war effort against Ukraine and for its participation in the BRICS group which he deems hostile to America (which it generally is). But when it comes to adversaries (can we agree that despite the intense interdependence between the US and China, Beijing is, at least in contrast to Canada and India, more an adversary than a cherished friend?), he has not only looked the other way at China's purchase of Russian oil, but extended his pause on Chinese tariffs for another 90 days. Perhaps the coherence here is that the US is intensely dependent on China and upsetting the delicate balance, especially on rare earth minerals, while negotiating revenue deals with American chip companies for sales to China, effectively does nothing to pressure China to abandon oil imports from Russia.

We will return to the subject of tariffs in a bit. First, let us turn from tariff wars to peace in Ukraine.

On Friday, Trump is scheduled to welcome Russia's President Putin to American soil — the irony that Alaska was formerly Russian soil is not lost on the world — and confer with him on ending the war in Ukraine. There is a certain coherence to the quest to be a Nobel peace laureate, to call for the end of a war. It is certainly incoherent to have such a conference without the President of the nation under attack being invited to the settlement discussions. But then, one can argue that it would be even more incoherent to have President Zelensky present where all discussion would come to an abrupt end when Putin demanded cession of Ukrainian territory, and Zelensky said, not so politely, "Nyet" not just because an aggressor should not be rewarded for starting an illegal war of aggression, but also because the Ukrainian Constitution forbids any such concession.

The reaction of the world's nations to Trump's initiative on ending the bloodshed in Ukraine has been decidedly mixed. The NATO countries and European nations not closely identifying with Putin, have expressed their trepidation that Trump will negotiate away Ukrainian territory and, in consequence, European security, without a "by-



"Aside from Trump's throwaway comment that he was imposing the tariffs on India not only for its purchases of Russian oil, but for its role in BRICS, it cannot have escaped him that such high tariffs on India are a lose-lose proposition for both countries. Certainly, there is the shock value to Putin that Trump is willing to impose the equivalent of secondary sanctions via the tariff route. Whether Trump can do the same with China remains unclear, given that China has far more leverage than India..." Pic - AP

your-leave." Ukraine's President Zelensky has put up a bold front. On the one hand, he is constrained by national pride, the need to preserve Ukraine's identity and sovereignty, the principle of not rewarding the aggressor, and the sheer injustice of having the Hobson's choice of ceding territory or condemning more of his people to death. On the other hand, he and his beleaguered country desperately need relief, namely, that the fighting stops. Reports are that the Ukrainian armed forces are exhausted by their valiant defense effort, suffering attrition from Putin's relentless attacks and their own lack of resources, manpower, experience battleground leadership, and from a deep national fatigue that has led to war weariness in a nation that cannot afford to be weary. Harking back to Churchill's promise of Blood, Toil, Sweat, and Tears, the Ukrainians have bled enough, toiled too much, sweated painfully, and shed tears in loneliness, despair, hopelessness, and the realization that their biggest ally may suddenly not care.

Amidst this 30-month long sojourn of incoherence for Ukraine, there was some coherence when the Europeans and British met with Trump and rallied to establish certain red lines with him. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz who initiated the meeting, said that Trump committed to the European leaders that he wouldn't negotiate territorial issues, saying that Ukraine must discuss that directly with Russia.

The *Wall Street Journal* also reported Trump seemingly accepted that five red lines should hold, but there is a certain incoherence about these as well: a cease-fire as a

prerequisite for further talks; any territorial discussions to start from the current front lines; binding Western security guarantees that Russia must accept; Ukraine's participation in the talks; and support from both the US and Europe, including Ukraine, for any deal.

The incoherence here is that just a few days ago, Trump said that there would have to be a swapping of territory to get a peace deal. Now, we have Zelensky saying that he will not give up any territory, Trump agreeing that he will not negotiate on territorial concessions, but the Europeans saying that "any territorial discussions [are] to start from current front lines." That sounds like a territorial concession in the offing. Adding to the confusion in *The Journal's* report is this: "Merz said Zelensky demonstrated in the meeting that Ukraine is ready to discuss territory, but Zelensky also said that the starting point for any negotiations must be the current battle line."

Of far more importance is the report that while Trump rejected the idea that NATO would be involved in any security guarantees for Ukraine, he nevertheless accepted that other guarantees would be given jointly by the US and Europe, according to France's president Macron. Perhaps this is nothing more than a recognition that one of Putin's red lines has been that Ukraine will never be allowed to join NATO, and of Trump's refusal to extend Article 5 of the NATO charter to Ukraine, a nonmember of that organization. There is a certain logic to not committing NATO to indirectly invoke Article 5 to save a non-member.

On the issue of Ukraine's territorial integrity, the European leaders presented a united front and made clear to Trump that there would be no legal recognition of occupied territories by Ukraine or Europe. Then, somewhat incoherently, they intimated that a recognition of the situation on the ground could be part of a future deal. Perhaps, this is nothing more than an agreement to cease hostilities with positions frozen and a de facto

line of control established.

Trump threatened Putin with severe consequences if he did not agree to a ceasefire. It seems incoherent for a mediator to be threatening one of the participants and then perhaps pressuring the other party to agree to what it has already declared are unacceptable conditions.

Getting back to the tariffs, India's reaction to Trump's announcement has been one of alarm, and one could argue, over-the-top. But perhaps, such overreaction is not warranted. Aside from Trump's throwaway comment that he was imposing tariffs on India not only for its purchases of Russian oil, but for its role in BRICS, it cannot have escaped him that such high tariffs on India are a lose-lose proposition for both countries. Certainly, there is the shock value to Putin that Trump is willing to impose the equivalent of secondary sanctions via the tariff route. Whether Trump can do the same with China remains unclear, given that China has far more leverage than India. On the other hand, the US buys refined Russian oil products from India, and shifting India's purchasing power to other resources, not including Iran and Russia, will send world oil prices skyrocketing, a result that Trump has repeatedly stated he does not want.

Trump's tariff threat against India is born of political pressure, not economic fundamentals. Thus, his imposition of high tariffs on Brazil and South Africa must be seen in the same light. In the case of Brazil, he increased tariffs with a demand that the trial of former president Jair Bolsonaro be halted. In the case of South Africa, the motivation is unclear, but Trump has accused the government of discrimination against its white minority populace, a charge that South Africa denies. Nevertheless, Trump has said: "I've had a lot of problems with South Africa. They have some very bad policies."

Trump's former national security advisor, John Bolton, called the tariffs on India a disaster and raised the specter that they would drive India to closer ties with China. That seems unlikely. India continues to view China as a threat while maintaining an arm's length relationship with Beijing.

Then, there is Pakistan's nuclear threat with which India must contend. Pakistan's Army Chief Munir was in the US recently and engaged in nuclear saber rattling: "We are a nuclear nation; if we think we are going down, we'll take half the world down with us." It is not clear who he thinks is going to take Pakistan down or why. India remains dependent on Russian parts and equipment for some of its fighter jets and weaponry. But its long-term future in defense is tied to American technology. And much of that is the product of Indian software engineers in the US.

If the peace initiative succeeds, India's purchase of Russian oil will be a moot point. Indeed, flows of Russian natural gas to Europe may well rise to pre-war levels.

If the only coherence that comes out of all this is peace in Ukraine and an end to Putin's war of aggression, the rest of the issues will also likely fall to the wayside.

Cheerz...  
Bwana

“Reports are that the Ukrainian armed forces are exhausted by their valiant defense effort, suffering attrition from Putin's relentless attacks and their own lack of resources, manpower, experience battleground leadership, and from a deep national fatigue that has led to war weariness in a nation that cannot afford to be weary. Harking back to Churchill's promise of Blood, Toil, Sweat, and Tears, the Ukrainians have bled enough, toiled too much, sweated painfully, and shed tears in loneliness, despair, hopelessness, and the realization that their biggest ally may suddenly not care...”



**Sheila Bunwaree**

# "There is a political vacuum that needs to be filled..."

...but bringing back the MSM because of the current disillusionment will be the biggest mistake ever'

**In the eight months since the Alliance du Changement's decisive victory, the government has faced a series of challenges. Controversial pension reforms and an ongoing "Reward Money" scandal have dominated the headlines. Now, a new point of contention has emerged: Paul Bérenger's statement denying any imminent "rupture" within the government. This raises a crucial question: why would the topic of a split even be on the table so early in their term? We spoke with Sheila Bunwaree to get her perspective on this and other pressing issues facing the nation.**

**Mauritius Times:** Since the Alliance du Changement came to power in November 2024, two major issues have dominated headlines. The first is the controversial pension reform, which aims to shift the retirement age to 65. The second is the ongoing investigations and revelations regarding the "Reward Money" scandal, which has led to the arrest of five or six police officers. A third issue is now emerging: Paul Bérenger's recent statement that the government will not break up. Why would he even be talking about a "rupture" just eight months into this government's term?

**Sheila Bunwaree:** The first two issues you mention remain very important to the nation but they have been sufficiently canvassed in other spaces that I prefer not to delve on them. Let me come directly to the third issue.

Bérenger is no longer the political icon that he was in the 70s and 80s. That he is one of the main architects of post-independence Mauritius cannot be denied. It must be admitted that he was an inspiration to many people from different socio-economic classes to people of different colour. That was in the early days of his political life, but 80-year-old Bérenger seems to have lost his way.

I am not an ageist but a keen observer of the functioning of politicians, and what I see in Bérenger today in 2025 is an erosion of values and principles as well as an exponential growth of a readiness to "protez so montagne". This has led to concerns about the rise of nepotism, favoritism, and communalism within the MMM. A major challenge for the party remains the absence of a clear plan for future leadership, which leaves the question of succession unanswered.

Bérenger's last statement that the government will not break up may hold some truth since both Ramgoolam and Bérenger know that this is their last mandate, and they seem hell bent on using the opportunity of the 60-0 to pursue their own interests, often at the expense of the larger public interest. Such behaviour resonates with political scientist Francois Bayart's 'Politics of the belly' but can also carry the seeds of a 'rupture'. It is perhaps useful to remind our readers that 'rupture' during the campaign meant something entirely different to what Bérenger's uttering of the word seems to reveal of his subconscious mind.

**\* The early signs of an imminent split would usually be evident to any attentive observer or political veteran. Do you see either or both of the major parties in the Alliance — the Parti Travailleiste and the MMM — preparing for what Paul Bérenger dismissed just last**



**« Many are questioning the purpose of the Deputy Prime Minister's recent press conference, where he defended his salary and that of his associates. The public's primary concern remains the lack of explanations for unfulfilled campaign promises, and the list of chaired meetings did not seem to address this. And a few days later another press conference to deny any form of favouritism and/or nepotism. The Mauritian population is very discerning and have the ability to judge whether the root of the MSM regime is being removed or entrenched... »**

**Tuesday (August 12, 2025)?**

While some would argue that there is "une bonne entente" between these two main partners of the Alliance du Changement, there exists another perspective which draws attention to the rising tensions and conflicts. Bérenger has a problem - he thinks he knows it all. No one has the monopoly of knowledge, and he fails to understand this. In many ways, an authoritarian playbook has become his hallmark. If he thinks that he can fool people and persuade them that the alliance is holding strong, he is grossly mistaken. The population can actually see through the cracks.

I cannot, however, see through a crystal ball to know whether the partners are actually preparing for what Bérenger dismissed on August 12 but what I am sure of is that the current regime has already lost its credibility and legitimacy. Rebuilding their image seems almost impossible, especially in a context when nepotism seems to have become the order of the day and sharing post-election spoils seems to be their principal preoccupation.

Many are questioning the purpose of the Deputy Prime Minister's recent press conference, where he defended his salary and that of his associates. The public's primary concern remains the lack of explanations for unfulfilled campaign promises, and the list of chaired meetings did not seem to address this. And a few days later another press conference to deny any form of favouritism and/or nepotism. The Mauritian population is very discerning and have the ability to judge whether the root of the MSM regime is being removed or entrenched.

**\* How does the 60-0 electoral victory affect the internal dynamics of the Alliance du Changement? Given the historical volatility of alliances in Mauritian politics, does such a dominant majority create a sense of complacency or does it exacerbate internal rivalries for influence and power?**

**« A 60-0 is in itself the result of a vicious electoral system. Wins such as 60-0 kill any meaningful opposition, thus making Mauritian democracy become quite a paradox. The tyranny of numbers resulting from such a landslide victory in fact encompasses elements of both complacency and internal rivalries for influence and power. It is however not an Either/Or question - one does not exclude the other... »**

Politics for many is no longer about being a special call or selfless dedication to the nation. It has instead become a platform for personal gain and self-interest, except for a handful of course.

A 60-0 is in itself the result of a vicious electoral system. Wins such as 60-0 kill any meaningful opposition, thus making Mauritian democracy become quite a paradox. The tyranny of numbers resulting from such a landslide victory in fact encompasses elements of both complacency and internal rivalries for influence and power. It is however not an Either/Or question - one does not exclude the other.

While it is true that our political history highlights the volatility and fragility of certain alliances, each political context is very different. The ruinous state of affairs in which the MSM regime has left us should leave no room for incompetence, inefficiency and indifference and yet this is what is unfolding.

Each person representing the nation in Parliament has the moral responsibility to put our country back on the rails of development, but I leave it to the judgment of the people of Mauritius to decide whether this is happening.

● Cont. on page 8



# 'No post-independence government has genuinely pursued economic independence or challenged the country's exploitative capitalist system'

« Each person representing the nation in Parliament has the moral responsibility to put our country back on the rails of development, but I leave it to the judgment of the people of Mauritius to decide whether this is happening. This 60/0 gives the regime the possibility to bring in certain amendments to the Constitution which can help to consolidate our democracy but instead they choose to wait for a full-fledged review of the Constitution. Some people have started doubting whether this review will ever come to fruition... »

● Cont. from page 7

This 60/0 gives the regime the possibility to bring in certain amendments to the Constitution which can help to consolidate our democracy but instead they choose to wait for a full-fledged review of the Constitution. Some people have started doubting whether this review will ever come to fruition, especially when they see how those holding the reins of power show their might, arrogance and propensity to control everything.

What raises more doubt is when we witness shifting sands - people who had some form of balanced thinking and objectivity during the electoral campaign are now kowtowing to their Master's voice.

**\* Beyond the handling — or lack thereof — of the Air Mauritius problem, and the unresolved energy issue that threatens a potential year-end electricity blackout, a new matter has emerged: the appointment of Frédéric Curé as chairman of Airport Holdings Ltd. Why should Berenger be embarrassed or worried about Curé's appointment?**

Both Air Mauritius and the energy sector are crucial to the sustainability of the country and to the re-positioning of our little island state or should I say Oceanic state at this complex and uncertain geopolitical juncture. I am afraid that the challenges we are confronted with may remain unresolved for a long time to come, given the way things are evolving.

Amidst all the difficulties we are faced with, we have a DPM, as mentioned earlier, who finds nothing better to do than call for two consecutive press conferences. I have already referred to the first one earlier, but this second one is much worse. Here we have a father-in-law DPM defending his son-in-law's nomination as Chairperson of Airport Holdings. He also chooses to speak of his daughter's appointment as Junior minister and his sister-in-law as ambassador in Mozambique.

What a waste of precious time in an era where accountability and productivity should be the essence of any meaningful governance. Berenger claims that he knew nothing about these nominations. The Mauritian citizen is no fool! Would Paul Berenger be embarrassed or worried? I think not!

**\* The appointment of Curé could create a perception of nepotism and a conflict of interest, potentially contradicting the principles of good governance and meritocracy long advocated by his party, the MMM.**

However, is that sufficient reason to disqualify Curé from the post? Or Eshan Jumah's daughter from the board of the Competition Commission?

The appointments of Frédéric Curé and Nabiihah Juman, while a legitimate exercise of their right to serve, have raised concerns. While their status as family members of politicians is not the primary issue, some observers argue that the lack of a transparent recruitment process appears to go against the principles of meritocracy and good governance.

The electoral promise regarding the setting up of a selection committee seems to have been forgotten. Worse still is when certain parliamentarians come on air to tell us that they promised a selection/appointments committee only for certain constitutional posts. It is rather difficult to come to terms with the ethical chaos dominating the current political scene. We wonder how long some will continue to be more equal than others.

**\* One would have thought that a 60-0 electoral victory would provide this government with a tremendous opportunity to do great things for the country, in spite of the "lourd héritage" left by the previous administration. What do you think they could have taken up for the good of the country?**

« There is a lot that they could have done for the country starting by respecting certain key promises. Nine months down the lane, the price hike on food items which affects the poor and the middle class disproportionately is still out of control. We hear of a stabilization fund, but we are yet to see its results. Meanwhile significant number of Mauritians are suffering from malnutrition as revealed by the recent FAO report on 'Food Security and Malnutrition in the World'. Another area which needs urgent attention is the transition to renewables... The disguised protection of the IPPs does not augur well for a small multiethnic society such as ours... »

There is a lot that they could have done for the country starting by respecting certain key promises. Nine months down the lane, the price hike on food items which affects the poor and the middle class disproportionately is still out of control. We hear of a stabilization fund, but we are yet to see its results. Meanwhile significant number of Mauritians are suffering from malnutrition as revealed by the recent FAO report on 'Food Security and Malnutrition in the World'. We all know the story behind the price of petrol but what we saw was a mere drop of Rs5 per litre.

Another area which needs urgent attention is the transition to renewables. The DPM's alarmist tone about a possible blackout in the months to come is obnoxious. That there is a risk of an energy crisis cannot be denied, but this does not justify the continuous usage of coal on the scale that it is being used currently. The disguised protection of the IPPs does not augur well for a small multiethnic society such as ours.

The optimal use of our ample solar resources could



have led to a faster transition away from coal. Can you imagine that a place like Zimbabwe has some 70% of its power generation coming from renewables. If l'Alliance du Changement was serious about a just transition, it could have had all schools, universities, hospitals, hotels, new buildings coming up, install solar panels. This is not too difficult a task but without the political will, it remains a mammoth one.

Two other great things for the country would have been the setting up of the selection/appointments committees for transparent recruitment and the promotion of meritocracy as well as the immediate introduction of the 'Freedom of Information' Act. These could have gone a long way in mitigating the State capture that is hovering on our heads. The people of Mauritius feel cheated. The perpetuation of a culture of opacity is causing a lot of resentment.

**\* On the other hand, there are ominous developments on the horizon: Trump's tariffs and his overall political unpredictability. With our AGOA status in the balance, the economic fallout of all taken together could significantly impact our already fragile economy. Given these external pressures, what concrete steps should the government be taking to mitigate the risks to our economy and help us steer through this turbulent international landscape?**

Sadly, no political regime in the post-independence period has truly tried to make Mauritius become economically independent and steer us away from an exploitative capitalist economic system.

● Cont. on page 9



# 'Wins such as 60-0 kill any meaningful opposition, thus making Mauritian democracy become quite a paradox'

● Cont. from page 8

Our economy has been built on cheap labour and a series of preferential arrangements: The Lome Convention, the multifibre agreements, the EPAs and more recently AGOA. Many of these have long been phased out and now we are, like the rest of the world, facing the tariff tantrums at the Oval office.

Unlike many other countries, however, we are not blessed with natural resources. The only resources we have is our people, many of whom want to leave the country because of the persistent nepotism and many others are not skilled for an increasingly technology dominated labour market. We also have a huge exclusive economic zone whose potential has unfortunately remained untapped.

Steering through this turbulent landscape under these circumstances demands that we use our collective intelligence and best brains to (1) to diversify our economy with emphasis on food security and engage in significant cutson food imports; (2) encourage the rapid development of renewables - we must move fast towards a just transition; (3) the blue economy deserves much better than mere rhetoric - we must encourage productive investment in this sector; and (4) we must hone in our economic diplomacy and use the opportunity of the Africa free trade continental area (AFCTA, Ccpc with India and partnerships with China) more effectively.

We could perhaps start with the setting up of a few embassies in places such as Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania and even Senegal for instance. We can and should optimise on the African dividend. In short, we must get our priorities right.

**\* It is not known what is the government's official strategy to address the potential economic fallout from global pressures and trade instability, and whether they are exploring new trade partnerships or focusing on diversifying the economy to reduce reliance on vulnerable sectors. What are your thoughts on these issues?**

Unless we pay meaningful attention to the notion of a development model itself: reducing reliance on vulnerable sectors and effective transformation will not happen. Shifting from an emphasis on consumption to emphasis on investment is not tantamount to a change in the model of development. Moreover, if investment continues to cumulate in nonproductive sectors such as the IRS, RES, real estate for instance.

We can only have fundamental changes in our model of development if the economy, society and environment are not thought of in silos and are allowed to articulate with each other, leading to productive growth and green jobs rather than opening up sectors which can ease illicit financial flows or encourage jobless growth for instance. There can be no change in the development model if the neoliberal ideology continues to dominate the model, accentuating inequalities and poverty on the way.

Professor Paul Tracey and Neil Stott are right in reminding us that lasting change starts with 'reframing how society understands an issue...'. The issue here is the development model. There is a lot of unlearning that needs to be



« Sadly, no political regime in the post-independence period has truly tried to make Mauritius become economically independent and steer us away from an exploitative capitalist economic system. Our economy has been built on cheap labour and a series of preferential arrangements: The Lome Convention, the multifibre agreements, the EPAs and more recently AGOA. Many of these have long been phased out and now we are, like the rest of the world, facing the tariff tantrums at the Oval office... »

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done by certain neoliberal economists and policy makers before they can relearn how to shape and plan the economy for a better, more inclusive future for all.

It is a good thing that we now have a Ministry of Economic Planning cum Financial Services. We have seen some kind of a strategic plan for financial services, but we

are yet to see the shaping of a clear economic vision. Greater proactiveness is required to adapt and evolve with the rapidly changing global landscape.

Let me end by saying that without the right woman or the right man in the right place, the future will continue to be very gloomy. Sadly the latest nominations/appointments seem to signal a very wrong direction that the country is embarking upon.

**\* At present, no credible alternative has emerged to challenge the current government alliance. Nando Bodha's proposal to bring the MSM into a unified opposition front was rebuffed by other extra-parliamentary parties. This raises the question: are we in for a long wait for a viable alternative to emerge?**

I touched earlier upon the volatile nature of political alliances and its implications for the country earlier but what is perhaps most important at this juncture is to actually prepare a credible alternative. The country needs new blood with new ideas, values and ethics that do not get shaken by immediate self-interests or fear of autocrats.

What we have seen at the last election in November 2024 is 'Un vote sanction' and not "un vote d'adhésion". All the more reason that the current regime must tread with care if it really wants to leave a positive legacy as claimed by some of them. We are constantly told that they have four more years to go and that they will 'try to keep their promises "au maximum". But as the dictum goes: "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" seems relevant here. There is in fact a political vacuum that needs to be filled but bringing back the MSM because of the current disillusionment will be the biggest mistake ever.

Extra parliamentarians have good reasons to rebuff Nando Bodha's proposal of uniting with the MSM. I wonder whether Bodha has become *amnésique* - is it not the same Bodha who spoke of "l'odeur de la mort qui rode autour du MSM"? But this said, the MSM, like all other political parties, is not only made of corrupt and/or shady people. There may be some decent people within the ranks of the MSM who are still able and willing to serve the country. There should be no room for those along the political spectrum who have reached their expiry date.

I do not think that we have to wait for too long for a credible alternative but what is essential and most pressing is to facilitate and enable the emergence of a credible alternative. A recent Afro Barometer report actually shows that some 80% of the Mauritian population is not inclined towards or close to any specific political party.

If extra parliamentary parties can engage with this mass around political literacy and awaken their political consciousness as well as arm them with the necessary tools and a political conscience to reject all form of 'money politics' engaged in by the mainstream parties, then there is a good chance for something innovative, creative and which means business to come up.

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# Of DPMs, and the Art of Speaking One's Mind Without Breaking the Alliance

Plutonix

**Setting:** A shaded portico in Athens (which, suspiciously, still has a Port Louis skyline in the distance). Socrates meets Cephalus, who is now holding two papyri, looking more bewildered than before.

**Socrates:** My dear Cephalus, you look as though you have witnessed a phoenix rising from its own ashes, only to have it declare its dissatisfaction with the temperature. Has our Deputy First Strategos, Paulos, spoken again?

**Cephalus:** He has, Socrates! Scarcely had the first report reached the agora than he called another gathering to respond to the "hysteria" surrounding his kin. It seems his first display of fencing was but a warm-up for a grander spectacle.

**Socrates:** Ah, a statesman who must defend his own household. Tell me, what great matters provoked this "hysteria"?

**Cephalus:** The charges of nepotism, Socrates! He was forced to defend the appointments of three of his own family members to high office.

**Socrates:** Nepotism! A word that means a man in power favours his own flesh and blood. And how did this Paulos defend himself? Did he declare his family to be the wisest and most skilled in the entire polis?

**Cephalus:** Not quite. He spoke separately of each one. For his daughter, he insisted her rise was due to her own merit, and that he had never influenced her. He even recounted how he had denied her a full ministry to respect the principle of seniority.

**Socrates:** So a man denies his daughter a benefit to prove he is not a nepotist? This is the most curious form of parental love I have ever heard of. What of the others?

**Cephalus:** He said the appointment of his sister-in-law as ambassador was not his idea, but that of the First Strategos, Navinos, who had surprised him with the choice.

**Socrates:** And so we have a second paradox: a man's kin is appointed to a high post, and he declares himself both surprised and pleased. What of the third?

**Cephalus:** The most controversial of all! The appointment of his son-in-law as Chairman of an airport. Bérenger called him a "sincere militant" and "perfectly qualified," adding that the idea came not from him, but from his militant comrade-in-arms.

The bustling intellectual hub of ancient Athens has recently been subjected to an unusual distraction: papyri arriving from a distant, sun-drenched island, chronicling the peculiar political manoeuvres of its leaders. These dispatches are watched with growing bewilderment by the wise Socrates and his earnest student, Cephalus. Having barely concluded their first exchange on the Deputy First Strategos, Paulos's, mastery of the subtle art of public critique, a new, more confounding report has arrived. This time, the central topic is not just the alliance's fragile harmony, but the intricate web of family appointments and the statesman's equally intricate attempt to defend them while still claiming to be a man of pure principle.



**Socrates:** I see. So, a man is a "militant" and therefore must be rewarded with office, but he is also a man of "merit"? Are these two words now synonyms? In our time, a militant was a man who fought for a cause, not one who was given a chair.

**Cephalus:** He insisted that all three were chosen on merit, without his intervention. He challenged anyone to prove him a liar.

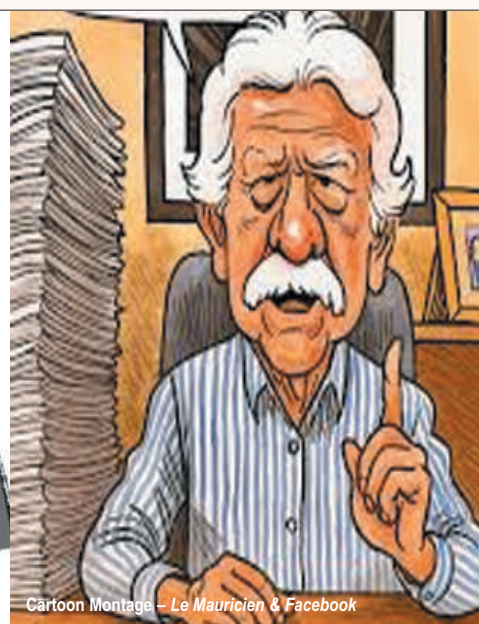
**Socrates:** A bold claim. But what of the larger problems? Did he speak of the quarrel between the women minister and the Junior one again?

**Cephalus:** He did not. That drama seems to have been settled by the relocation of one of the players. Instead, he spoke again of Air Mauritius, reiterating that "it is not too late," even though he described the situation as "desperate."

**Socrates:** Ah, he has not abandoned his role as the prophet of doom and hope. He seems to be preparing the people so that, if the rescue of the airline succeeds, he can say, "I warned you"; and if it fails, he can say, "I warned you."

**Cephalus:** He also spoke of a new Appointments Committee which the government has promised to create.

**Socrates:** So they have made appointments without a committee, but promise to



Cartoon Montage – Le Mauricien & Facebook

make one so they might make better appointments in the future? This is like a man who spills wine on the floor and then promises to buy a cup. What else?

**Cephalus:** He also spoke sharply about the sirdar of banks, Sithanios, saying that while he once helped the country, his "time has passed" and he can no longer continue.

**Socrates:** So, a man is useful for a season, but then his time is up? This is the very definition of a political tool, to be used and then set aside.

**Cephalus:** And finally, he spoke of a foreign conflict in a land called Gaza. He declared the actions of one of the warring nations to be a "crime" and admitted that he sometimes feels like resigning from the government just so he could speak his mind freely.

**Socrates:** A man in power wishes to leave power so he may have power of speech? This is a choice between influence and truth, and in the theatre of politics, truth is often the most dangerous role to play.

**Cephalus:** And what of the alliance, Socrates? Did he repeat his critique of the PMSD regarding an ambassador?

**Socrates:** He did not. This time, he was more direct. He insisted that there is

"no risk of rupture" between his party and that of Navinos, and that they work in good harmony, making "necessary corrections" when needed.

**Socrates:** Let us examine, Cephalus, what we have here. We have a man who, in the same breath, defends his own family from charges of nepotism, criticizes a key governmental appointment, insists his alliance is sound, and says he wishes to quit the government to speak his mind on a matter of conscience. What does this teach us about the nature of unity?

**Cephalus:** That unity is not merely the absence of complaint, but the presence of many conflicting truths, all held together by a shared interest.

**Socrates:** Well said! For if an alliance is a ship, Paulos is not just the lookout on the crow's nest, warning of storms. He is also the captain, steering the course, and the crewman, patching a hole. And now, he has become the cook, trying to prove his own family are not pilfering the rations.

**Cephalus:** So, you suggest it is all a master performance?

**Socrates:** As deliberate as a sculptor who chips away at a stone, not to destroy it, but to reveal the final form within. Paulos is sculpting the perception of his role, showing he is a man of principle, family, and alliance all at once.

**Cephalus:** So, what, Socrates, is your verdict on this second press conference?

**Socrates:** My verdict is that it was not merely a demonstration of fencing, but of juggling. He keeps a dozen plates spinning at once: family, party, allies, and conscience. He proves that in politics, one can be both within the house and outside, speaking truths that threaten to shatter the very windows, yet somehow keeping the house intact.

**Cephalus:** Your words are as elusive as a government communiqué.

**Socrates:** Then I have truly captured the spirit of the thing. Now, shall we get some alouda? For I believe I have at last grasped the metaphysical definition of milk: it is a substance that, much like a coalition agreement, purports to be pure and white, yet upon closer inspection, contains a bewildering number of conflicting flavours.

**Cephalus:** By the gods, Socrates! That is a definition of a cabinet, not of milk! Though, come to think of it... I shall propose we table a motion on it at the next caucus meeting.

*Both Socrates and Cephalus exit, followed by the distant murmur of parliamentary debate, which is now joined by the frantic rattling of ice cubes, and a yapping chihuahua.*



# Quand les urnes s'ouvrent L'émancipation des femmes à travers le monde

Par A. Bartleby

**L**e 18 août 1920, les États-Unis inscrivaient dans leur Constitution le 19<sup>e</sup> amendement, accordant aux femmes le droit de vote. Cet événement, bien que décisif, s'inscrivait dans un mouvement mondial qui avait débuté bien avant. L'histoire du suffrage féminin est un récit de luttes et de progrès, jalonné par des avancées significatives à travers le monde.

Le premier pays à reconnaître pleinement ce droit fut la Nouvelle-Zélande en 1893, qui adopta l'*Electoral Act*. Si d'autres territoires avaient déjà accordé un suffrage limité aux femmes, la Nouvelle-Zélande fut la première à l'étendre à toutes les femmes adultes pour les élections parlementaires.



Une vieille dame votant dans un bureau de vote du village de Jakarana, à Alwar au Rajasthan, pendant la 4<sup>e</sup> phase des élections législatives de 2009. P - Wikimedia Commons

Dans les décennies suivantes, plusieurs pays ont emboîté le pas. En Australie (1902), le droit de vote a été accordé aux femmes blanches, mais les femmes autochtones en ont été exclues jusqu'en 1962. En Finlande (1906), les femmes ont obtenu le droit de vote et d'éligibilité. En Norvège (1913), le suffrage féminin a été pleinement instauré après une période de suffrage limité.

La Première Guerre mondiale a joué un rôle d'accélérateur majeur. Les femmes, mobilisées dans l'effort de guerre et occupant des postes traditionnellement masculins, ont démontré leur rôle indispensable dans la société. Par conséquent, la Russie soviétique, le Canada, l'Allemagne, la Pologne, les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni ont progressivement adopté le suffrage féminin entre 1917 et 1928. Au Royaume-Uni, l'égalité complète n'a été atteinte qu'en 1928, en alignant les conditions de vote sur celles des hommes.

**A**près la Seconde Guerre mondiale, l'élan s'est poursuivi et la reconnaissance de ce droit est devenue une norme dans de nombreux pays nouvellement indépendants. La France et l'Italie l'ont adopté en 1944 et 1945, suivies du Japon et de la Chine (1945, 1949) et l'Inde (1950). Notons des cas plus tardifs comme la Suisse, qui ne l'a accordé qu'en 1971,

et l'Arabie saoudite, qui n'a autorisé les femmes à voter aux élections municipales qu'en 2015.

En Maurice, le droit de vote a été accordé aux femmes pour la première fois en 1948, mais il n'était pas universel. Ce droit était initialement limité aux femmes qui savaient lire et écrire et qui remplissaient des conditions d'éligibilité spécifiques, faisant partie d'une nouvelle constitution introduite par l'administration coloniale britannique. Le suffrage universel (sans distinction de niveau d'alphabétisation ou de propriété) pour toutes les femmes a été pleinement mis en œuvre en 1956, moins de dix ans avant l'indépendance du pays.

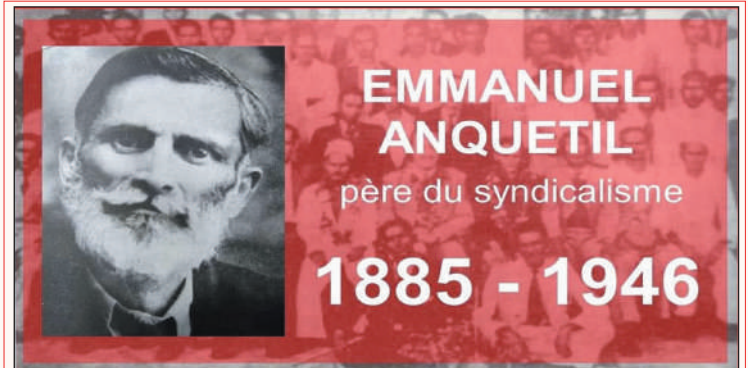
## Des répercussions profondes sur la société

L'importance du droit de vote dépasse la simple égalité formelle. Il est le fondement d'une démocratie représentative authentique. Sans la participation des femmes, la moitié de la population est exclue de la définition des priorités collectives, ce qui conduit inévitablement à des politiques incomplètes. L'octroi du droit de vote aux femmes a profondément modifié les agendas politiques, en y intégrant des questions comme la santé publique, l'éducation, la protection de l'enfance et l'égalité salariale.

**Impact économique** - L'émancipation politique des femmes a renforcé leur accès au marché du travail et aux postes de décision. Des études montrent qu'une plus grande participation des femmes dans les instances politiques favorise la mise en place de politiques économiques plus inclusives, améliorant notamment la formation, les infrastructures sociales et l'entrepreneuriat féminin. À long terme, l'égalité d'accès aux urnes a contribué à une croissance économique plus équilibrée et à une meilleure répartition des ressources.

**Impact social et culturel** - La reconnaissance du suffrage féminin a renforcé l'idée que la citoyenneté implique une égalité de responsabilités et de droits. Cela a eu des effets positifs sur les normes culturelles et familiales. Les jeunes générations, exposées à des modèles féminins engagés dans la vie publique, perçoivent l'égalité des sexes comme une évidence.

**Impact sur la gouvernance** - La présence accrue de femmes au sein des parlements et des gouvernements apporte des perspectives différentes, souvent plus pragmatiques. Des dirigeantes comme Jacinda Ardern en Nouvelle-Zélande ou Sanna Marin en Finlande ont été saluées pour leur gestion efficace et humaine de crises. D'autres, comme Angela Merkel en Allemagne, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf au Liberia ou Tsai Ing-wen à Taïwan, ont laissé une empreinte durable sur la scène politique, prouvant que la voix des femmes est non seulement légitime, mais essentielle.



Anquetil ne fut pas seulement un leader ; il a été un catalyseur, transformant un mouvement naissant, le Parti Travailleiste, en une force politique incontournable. P - Facebook

## Emmanuel Anquetil, un leader du peuple

**L**e 18 août 1885 marque la naissance d'Emmanuel Anquetil, une date qui demeure significative pour la nation mauricienne. En tant que syndicaliste et deuxième dirigeant du Parti Travailleiste, son héritage est celui d'un homme dont les contributions ont été déterminantes pour le paysage politique de l'île. Son activisme infatigable a posé les fondations des droits des travailleurs et du suffrage universel, menant à de nombreuses réformes sociales et politiques cruciales.

L'héritage d'Emmanuel Anquetil est indissociable de la genèse du mouvement ouvrier et de l'histoire politique de Maurice. Anquetil ne fut pas seulement un leader ; il fut un catalyseur, transformant un mouvement naissant en une force politique incontournable. Il a ainsi permis au Parti Travailleiste de défier les puissants conservateurs et l'oligarchie sucrière de l'époque.

Dans un hommage à Anquetil, Dojendranath Napal écrivait en 1957 que son arrivée à Maurice en 1936 marqua un tournant. Après le retrait du Dr Curé, le fondateur du Parti Travailleiste, Anquetil en prit les rênes. Fort de son expérience de voyageur, de mécanicien, de marin et de militant syndicaliste en Grande-Bretagne (où il fut orateur à Hyde Park), il insuffla une nouvelle vitalité au parti.

Anquetil comprit que la lutte pour les droits des travailleurs devait être menée tant localement qu'internationalement. Il obtint ainsi la reconnaissance du Secrétaire d'État aux Colonies, du Parti Travailleiste britannique et de la Fabian Society. C'est cette vision stratégique qui permit au mouvement mauricien de gagner en légitimité.

**L**e caractère d'Anquetil était une force en soi : il était dépeint comme un homme intrépide, direct et incorruptible, entièrement dévoué à la cause des "classes opprimées". Comme Rémy Ollier, avant lui, rien ne pouvait freiner sa volonté.

## Un combat pour le suffrage universel et la démocratie

La contribution d'Anquetil au Comité consultatif est considérée par Napal comme son "testament politique". Anquetil mena un combat acharné pour le suffrage universel masculin. Il s'opposait à l'idée d'accorder le droit de vote aux femmes sur la base de critères de richesse ou d'éducation (tels que la possession de biens ou la capacité à remplir un formulaire en anglais), arguant que cela favoriserait uniquement les "dames" au détriment de la classe ouvrière. Pour lui, la valeur d'une femme "qui touche 50 roupies" n'était pas supérieure à celle d'un travailleur "qui se courbe pour planter la canne à sucre".

Anquetil croyait en un gouvernement "par le peuple, pour le peuple". Il réfuta habilement l'argument des conservateurs selon lequel la majorité submergerait les autres communautés. Il rétorqua avec force : "Si nous devons croire en cet écrasement, alors je dirais que la classe possédante nous a écrasés pendant 60 ans, et il est juste que nous les écrasions maintenant." Cette déclaration illustre sa conviction profonde en la justice sociale et en la nécessité de rééquilibrer le pouvoir.

➔ Suite en page 12



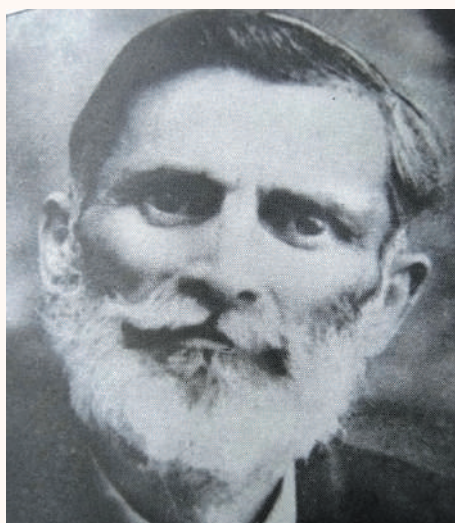
# Emmanuel Anquetil, un leader du peuple

Suite de la page 11

## L'héritage d'Anquetil: Un lien durable avec le peuple

Par ailleurs, Mrinal Roy, dans un hommage publié dans le *Mauritius Times* en 2016, réaffirma le rôle d'Anquetil dans la construction du Parti Travailleiste. Il souligna l'impact de ce leader dans la mise en place du mouvement syndical, unissant les travailleurs "en tant que camarades d'armes", transcendant les divisions raciales, communautaires ou religieuses. C'est sous sa présidence, à partir de 1941, que le parti devint une force politique organisée, capable de s'opposer à l'oligarchie sucrière et à l'establishment colonial.

Anquetil eut également la sagesse



P - lemauricien.com

stratégique de s'associer à l'intelligentsia de gauche, consolidant ainsi les forces progressistes. Son engagement total, à la fois pour le parti et les syndicats, eut un impact sur sa santé, témoignant de son dévouement absolu.

**J.N.** Roy, qui l'avait connu personnellement, fit écho à ces sentiments dans son éloge funèbre en 1947, en affirmant qu'Anquetil avait donné "vie et vigueur" au Parti Travailleiste, en ayant fait la première organisation politique structurée et l'avait fait reconnaître à l'étranger. Il le décrivit comme un homme "sans peur et franc", dont aucune tentation ne pouvait ébranler la volonté de défendre les droits de la multitude.

Le rôle d'Anquetil fut central dans la

transformation du paysage politique mauricien. Son engagement a forgé un lien de confiance durable entre le Parti Travailleiste et les classes opprimées, un lien qui est devenu, selon Mrinal Roy, une partie "intrinsèque et indélébile de notre psyché nationale". Anquetil n'a pas seulement lutté pour des droits; il a jeté les bases d'une démocratie participative à Maurice, dont l'impact se fait encore sentir aujourd'hui.

À l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance d'Emmanuel Anquetil, il est essentiel que le Parti Travailleiste de Maurice rende un hommage mérité non seulement à Anquetil, mais aussi à tous les pères fondateurs du parti et à l'ensemble des militants qui, au fil des années, ont lutté sans relâche pour améliorer les conditions de vie et de travail des Mauriciens. Leur combat commun a forgé la démocratie et la justice sociale dont bénéficie le pays aujourd'hui.

**A**ctuellement, toute reconsidération de la politique des affaires étrangères américaines par l'administration Trump semble dépendre des humeurs du président américain. Toutefois, les nouvelles données qui émergent du côté des États-Unis pourraient renforcer la volonté de l'Inde dans sa défense du «multi-alignement», sans ébrécher ses propres intérêts.

Selon Happymon Jacob de *Foreign Affairs*, depuis un quart de siècle, l'Inde et les États-Unis ont construit une relation stratégique et économique d'une ampleur inédite. Cette convergence reposait sur des valeurs partagées — démocratie, diversité culturelle — et sur un intérêt commun: contenir la montée en puissance de la Chine. Mais depuis quatre mois, cette alliance semble dérailler brutalement, sous l'effet du retour de Donald Trump à la Maison-Blanche.

## Une alliance mise à l'épreuve

Trump a brisé plusieurs lignes rouges historiques de la diplomatie indo-américaine. L'Inde, autrefois considérée comme un partenaire indispensable dans la stratégie américaine en Asie, est désormais soumise au tarif douanier le plus élevé appliqué par Washington: 50 %, soi-disant pour punir ses achats de pétrole russe après l'invasion de l'Ukraine en 2022. Ce taux dépasse même celui imposé à la Chine, pourtant perçue jusqu'alors comme l'adversaire stratégique majeur des États-Unis.

À cela s'ajoute une annonce en juillet: un accord énergétique avec le Pakistan, rival historique de l'Inde. Plus tôt, en mai, Trump avait revendiqué avoir négocié un cessez-le-feu entre l'Inde et le Pakistan, contre la volonté de New Delhi, qui rejette toute médiation externe dans ses différends régionaux.

## La fragilité du "multi-alignement"

Depuis son indépendance en 1947, l'Inde a privilégié le non-alignement; puis, après la guerre froide, un multi-alignement pragmatique: diversifier ses partenariats, éviter les alliances militaires rigides et coopérer avec des puissances opposées sur la scène internationale.

**J**usqu'ici, cette stratégie semblait payante: l'Inde entretenait simultanément des relations avec l'Iran, la Russie, les États-Unis et Israël, tout en renforçant sa position dans le "Sud global". L'idée clé était que Washington tolérerait ces équilibres, car l'Inde restait essentielle dans la rivalité avec Pékin.

Or, la politique de Trump, axée sur des gains à court terme et un rapprochement opportuniste avec la Chine, bouleverse cet équilibre. L'Inde se retrouve margina-

# Tarifs, alliances et méfiances La nouvelle donne indo-américaine

lisée, affaiblie par les tarifs et confrontée à un Pakistan soutenu à la fois par Washington et Pékin.

**L'**Inde comptait traditionnellement sur la Russie comme allié stratégique, notamment dans les tensions avec le Pakistan. Mais la guerre en Ukraine et l'alignement croissant de Moscou avec Pékin réduisent cette fiabilité. Lors des affrontements de mai avec Islamabad, la Russie est restée neutre, évitant toute condamnation explicite du Pakistan — probablement pour ne pas froisser la Chine.

Le désengagement relatif des États-Unis en Asie du Sud ouvre aussi un boulevard stratégique à la Chine. Pékin renforce son influence au Pakistan via des ventes d'armes et des investissements, tout en tissant des liens plus serrés avec d'autres pays d'Asie du Sud. Si cette tendance se poursuit, l'Inde pourrait se retrouver encerclée diplomatiquement.

## La réponse indienne

Face à ces bouleversements, l'Inde ne semble pas prête à abandonner le multi-alignement. Au contraire, elle pourrait l'accentuer, cherchant à diversifier encore plus ses partenaires, notamment en Europe, au Japon et en Corée du Sud. Paradoxalement, les gestes de Trump pourraient même pousser New Delhi à resserrer ses liens avec Moscou et Pékin — un renversement complet de la tendance observée ces dernières années.

La relation indo-américaine traverse une crise qui dépasse les querelles commerciales ou diplomatiques ponctuelles. Elle met en lumière la fragilité des alliances bâties sur des intérêts plus que sur des engagements durables. Pour l'Inde, l'enjeu est de préserver



Les gestes de Trump pourraient même pousser New Delhi à resserrer ses liens avec Moscou et Pékin — un renversement complet de la tendance observée ces dernières années. P - New Eastern Outlook

son autonomie stratégique sans se retrouver isolée dans un environnement régional de plus en plus polarisé.

**L**es événements récents montrent que la stratégie indienne de multi-alignement, qui a longtemps été un atout, dépend de la coopération implicite de tous ses partenaires. Lorsque l'un d'eux — en l'occurrence les États-Unis — change brutalement d'approche, cette architecture délicate est menacée.

Le comportement de Trump illustre aussi les dangers d'une diplomatie transactionnelle qui sacrifie la constance à des gains immédiats. Pour l'Inde, cela souligne la nécessité de renforcer sa marge de manœuvre en diversifiant davantage ses partenariats et en consolidant ses atouts internes: puissance économique, capacité militaire et influence diplomatique.

Enfin, la situation met en lumière un paradoxe: alors que Washington voulait jadis contenir la Chine avec l'aide de New Delhi, sa politique actuelle risque de rapprocher l'Inde de Moscou et, indirectement, de Pékin — un retournement stratégique qui pourrait redessiner durablement l'équilibre des forces en Asie.

A. Bartleby





Nandini Bhautoo

# The Mahatma Gandhi Institute at the crossroads of celebrations

*Rooted in a vision of scholarship, creativity, and inclusivity, the MGI became an institution that reshaped the country's cultural landscape*

**W**hen the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) was conceived in the late 1960s, Mauritius was just emerging from the first turbulent years of independence. Though more than two-thirds of the island's population traced their roots to the Indian subcontinent, the cultural and artistic traditions of this majority were still marginalised in the country's public life, media representation, and decision-making structures. The press and power centres of the time favoured colonial Western forms, leaving Indian music, dance, theatre, and scholarship in a peripheral role.

It was against this backdrop that a joint decision in December 1969 between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India and Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius set in motion the creation of MGI. Kher Jagatsingh played a significant, though often less-publicized, role in the institution's establishment, from its inception to its development as a center for learning and the arts. The project was given concrete form when the Mon Désert Alma Ltd donated 31 arpents 50 perches of land in Moka in 1970. That year saw the laying of the foundation stone by Indira Gandhi, the passing of the MGI Act, and the formal blueprint for an institution designed to safeguard, research, and promote the cultural heritage of Mauritius in all its diversity, with special attention to the rich traditions of the Indian diaspora.

From its inauguration on 9 October 1976, MGI stood as a counterweight to decades of cultural imbalance. Under its first Director, Dr K. Hazareesingh, the Institute started with The School of Performing Arts, which was initially known as School of Indian Music and Dance. Subsequently the School of Mauritian, Asian and African Studies (SMAAS) was established. It became a hub for research and documentation. Dr Hazareesingh facilitated the transfer of the Indian Immigration Archives to the MGI in 1978. This vast collection of over 450,000 individual records is now inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. These archives were not only historical treasures; they were symbolic acts of cultural reclamation, recognising the lives and journeys of indentured labourers whose stories had long been relegated to the margins.

It should be recalled that the Immigrants' Registers, initially kept at the Immigration Depot (which then housed the Department of Public Assistance), were not considered historical documents. This fact emerged in Sada J. Reddi's book, *Sir V. Ringadoo – An Opportunity to Serve*, where Ringadoo recalled the response of the then chief archivist, Auguste Toussaint, to his query as to why the historical records of the Indian immigrants' arrival had not been transferred to the National Archives. Considerable efforts were later made by B. Ramlallah to convince the government to have the registers moved to the MGI's Folk Museum of Indian Immigration for their restoration and preservation.

MGI's mission was not limited to academic research - it



**“By the close of the twentieth century, MGI had become a visible symbol of cultural dignity. Its music and dance schools trained generations of artists; its archives and publications gave voice to a history that had been kept silent; its exhibitions and festivals asserted that Indo-Mauritian traditions deserved not only preservation but celebration in the national space. This was not about exclusion or replacing one dominance with another — it was about restoring balance in a society where cultural narratives had been skewed by colonial-era hierarchies and post-independence inertia...”**

was also about cultural awakening. In the 1970s, its active collaboration made possible the Festival de la Mer, a landmark event that brought to Mauritius a constellation of artists from across India. For the first time, the Mauritian public was able to encounter, in person, a rich diversity of classical and folk-dance forms — many of them virtually unknown on the island. This was not a small thing. Mauritius was then an isolated island in the middle of the Indian Ocean, where much of the Indo-Mauritian population descended from impoverished, often illiterate farm workers violently uprooted from India generations earlier. Their cultural moorings had survived mainly through oral transmission and repeated family practices. The Festival de la Mer opened a window to worlds dimly remembered but deeply felt - a reconnection with traditions that were part of their identity yet had been inaccessible for over a century.

**T**he appointment of Dr (Prof.) Uttam Bissoondoyal as Director-General in 1982 marked a period of expansive growth. A committed scholar and educator, Bissoondoyal strengthened MGI's academic publishing through the MGI Press, producing landmark works on indenture, slavery, and the Indian Ocean diaspora. He professionalised and expanded the Performing Arts, commissioning nationwide surveys of musicians and dancers, reviving traditional repertoires from the Indian source regions, and advocating for music to be recognised as an examinable subject at Cambridge School Certificate level.

By the early 1990s, MGI had become a vibrant centre of academic life in Mauritius. It regularly hosted conferences bringing together local and international scholars, fostered public debate through roundtable discussions on issues of national significance, and showcased pioneering research in multiple editions of the Journal of Mauritian Studies. The School of Mauritian and Area Studies was particularly active during this period, producing research and cultural programming that resonated well beyond the campus.

The MGI's contribution to education in Mauritius extended beyond its cultural mandate with the establishment of its secondary school, which quickly earned a reputation for academic excellence and leadership on the national scene. From its inception, the school was conceived as more than a place of learning - it was a model institution, setting benchmarks in teaching standards, extracurricular engagement, and values-based education. The creation of the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary Schools (MGSS) network in later years further amplified this mission, extending quality education beyond the urban centres and into rural areas. This initiative not only broadened access but also ensured that high academic standards reached communities that had historically been excluded from such opportunities, marking a decisive step in the democratisation of education in Mauritius.

**T**he MGI's School of Fine Arts has been a crucible for artistic innovation and cultural dialogue for over four decades, most visibly through the annual Salon de Mai. Founded by Moorthy Nagalingum, this exhibition has grown from an intimate gathering of elite artists into an inclusive platform welcoming both emerging voices and established masters. Over the years, its galleries have been graced by the works of eminent Mauritian artists such as Nalini Treebohun, Krishna Luchoomun, and Nirmal Hurry, as well as celebrated Indian artists including Mrinali Mukherjee and Satish Gujral, whose exhibitions on the MGI grounds brought international prestige and inspiration to local audiences. The Salon de Mai has consistently blended aesthetic excellence with socio-political engagement, using sculpture, painting, printmaking, and installations to address issues of education, democracy, identity, and memory. By fostering this sustained exchange between art and society, the School of Fine Arts has secured its place as both a guardian of heritage and an incubator of contemporary creative expression in Mauritius.

By the close of the twentieth century, MGI had become a visible symbol of cultural dignity. Its music and dance schools trained generations of artists; its archives and publications gave voice to a history that had been kept silent; its exhibitions and festivals asserted that Indo-Mauritian traditions deserved not only preservation but celebration in the national space. This was not about exclusion or replacing one dominance with another — it was about restoring balance in a society where cultural narratives had been skewed by colonial-era hierarchies and post-independence inertia.

Today, the intensity of that intellectual and cultural activity has waned. With the retirement of many of the institution's stalwarts, the School of Mauritian and Area Studies — once a powerhouse of research — has yet to fully realise its potential anew. The contrast between the dynamism of the Institute's formative decades and the quieter pace of recent years is a reminder that cultural institutions require sustained vision to remain relevant and vital.

MGI's early decades thus represent one of the most significant cultural interventions in modern Mauritian history. It was an institution built on vision — rooted in scholarship, creativity, and inclusivity — and it reshaped the country's cultural landscape in the second half of the twentieth century. By giving a platform to traditions historically marginalised, MGI helped Mauritius take a decisive step toward a more representative and confident cultural identity.



## India wants US ties based on mutual respect, says its arms purchases are on course



India said on Thursday that it hoped relations with the United States would move forward based on mutual respect and shared interests, seeking to temper worries that ties were headed downhill in the aftermath of high tariffs imposed by Washington.

A U.S. defence policy team will be in New Delhi this month for talks with Indian officials and its arms purchases from the U.S. are on course despite the strain in ties, the Indian foreign ministry said.

A new friendship built between the two countries has hit a rough patch after President Donald Trump raised tariffs on Indian goods to 50% last week from an earlier 25% saying it was a penalty for India's continued imports of

Russian oil, reports Reuters.

New Delhi has accused the U.S. of double standards in singling it out for Russian oil imports and called the tariffs unfair, unjustified and unreasonable.

At the same time, it has also indicated that the warming of ties that began at the turn of the century covers a wide range of areas and should not be seen only through the prism of trade, although it hopes that trade talks will continue and result in a deal.

"This partnership has weathered several transitions and challenges...and we hope that the relationship will continue to move forward based on mutual respect and shared interests," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a regular media briefing.

Purchases of military equipment from Washington were on course, Jaiswal said, adding that a U.S. defence policy team was expected in Delhi this month.

Reuters reported last week that India has put on hold its plans to procure new U.S. weapons and aircraft and that a planned trip to Washington by the Indian defence minister had been cancelled.

The Indian government subsequently said reports of a pause in the talks were wrong.

## Huawei Chip Limitations Delay DeepSeek AI Model

Chinese AI firm DeepSeek has delayed the release of its latest model after failing to train it on the Huawei chips it uses. The delay highlights the current limitations of Chinese processors. DeepSeek, which earlier this year gained attention for a highly efficient model, had been encouraged by government officials to use Huawei technology. This comes just days after Beijing warned Chinese AI firms to avoid buying Nvidia's H20 chips over security and quality concerns. The H20 chip was specifically tailored by Nvidia to meet U.S. sanctions on the export of its technology to China. Despite this setback, experts cautioned that Chinese chip manufacturers are quickly catching up with the U.S., with one U.S.-based researcher telling the Financial Times, "It's a matter of time."

\* \* \*

## Divergent Approaches to AI Education

Countries are taking divergent approaches to artificial intelligence in the classroom. Google on Wednesday announced a \$1 billion program to provide AI training and tools to US colleges, including free chatbot access. Chinese universities are leaning more heavily into the advanced tech, "treating it as a skill to be mastered" and a source of national pride, MIT Technology Review wrote.

Some schools are requiring introductory AI courses, regardless of major. In South Korea, however, lawmakers this week passed a bill stripping AI-powered textbooks of their legal



status as official teaching materials, reversing a push by the previous government to personalize education using the tech. The project had sparked backlash from educators and parents who worried about children's high digital exposure.

\* \* \*

## Positive Economic News for the UK

The U.K. economy grew 0.3% in the second quarter of 2025. This was a slowdown from the first three months of the year but still beat expectations. The British government has made boosting the country's sluggish economy a priority, and recent months have brought some better news. Slowing inflation has allowed the Bank of England to cut rates, causing average mortgage rates to dip below 5% for the first time since 2022. Additionally, fears that wealthy non-doms would leave the country after recent tax increases appear to have been overstated.

## Across The World

### Russia's Military and Diplomatic Advantage



Russian forces have made their largest 24-hour advance in Ukraine in a year, seizing control of 40 square miles of territory. This offensive comes as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy faces one of the most precarious moments of his leadership. Domestically, he has been weakened after public pressure

forced him to backtrack on an anti-corruption law. Internationally, he has been sidelined, having failed to secure an invitation to a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart. An expert told the Financial Times that "Americans are aware this is a moment of weakness for Zelenskyy and they're using it when they most need it."

\* \* \*

### Ronaldo's Extravagant Engagement Ring

Cristiano Ronaldo has reportedly purchased a 35-carat diamond for his fiancée, Georgina Rodríguez. The oval-cut stone is estimated to have cost around \$35 million, making it one of the most expensive engagement rings ever. For context, most celebrity proposals feature a diamond of "two to three carats or maybe five," according to a jewellery specialist who spoke to The New York Times. The couple's living situation is also noteworthy: they have been residing together in Saudi Arabia since 2022, a country where sex outside of marriage was, until recently, punishable by flogging.

\* \* \*

### Logistical Issues and U.S. Withdrawal Threaten COP 30

The upcoming COP 30 climate summit in Belém, Brazil, could be the smallest version of the event in years due to a combination of logistical difficulties and a lack of U.S. participation. Belém is a relatively small Amazonian city, and attendees have voiced concerns about a lack of available hotel rooms and flights, Bloomberg reported. Despite these concerns, organizers have said they will not move the event, and several countries and organizations have announced they will not attend. The most high-profile absence may be the U.S., as the Trump administration has fired its last climate negotiators and will not confirm if it will send any representatives. As Semafor's Climate & Energy Editor Tim McDonnell noted, every minute spent negotiating logistics is a minute not spent on substantive issues.

\* \* \*

### Water Crises Gripping Iran and Afghanistan



Afghanistan and Iran are both facing severe water crises due to shifting rainfall patterns and poor water management. In Afghanistan, the capital city of Kabul could run out of water by 2030, according to The New York Times. The cash-strapped Taliban administration is unable to redirect water from nearby rivers, and the city's reservoirs are running low due to reduced snowmelt, rainfall, and unregulated wells. Meanwhile, in Iran, water pressure has dropped so low that taps in some Tehran apartment buildings are running dry. Supplies in the capital are predicted to run out in a few weeks, and the government has called on the public to reduce their consumption. Droughts and heat waves, along with extreme rainfall in other areas, have become more common worldwide due to climate change.



## Across The World



## China's growing soft power heft

A recent global craze for Labubu dolls has showcased the rise of Chinese soft power. The furry, toothy figures have been around for a decade, but now sell out almost instantly in the US and go for several times their retail price on eBay and other resellers. Their popularity is a sign of waning US cultural hegemony, one analyst said: China is not the only beneficiary, with South Korea's K-pop and Japan's anime also increasing in popularity. But Beijing in particular is focused on boosting its influence, investing heavily in museums and other cultural initiatives as well as pop culture to boost its "cultural superpower" status, the *South China Morning Post* reported.

\* \* \*

## Israel's tipping point

Israel's worsening international isolation marks a tipping point in the world's view of the conflict, and jeopardizes the country's long-term survival, analysts argued. On Monday, Australia announced plans to recognize a Palestinian state, while Norway's massive sovereign wealth fund is selling off stakes in some Israeli companies. The crush of condemnation, nearly two years into the war, is a result of several factors, a Foreign Policy columnist argued: Increasingly unavoidable truths about the crisis facing Gazans, the brazen nature of the Israeli government's denials, and fewer pro-Palestine protests on US campuses, which has ironically made it easier for mainstream and conservative voices to "criticize Israel's actions, because they no

longer risk association" with views once perceived as extreme.

\* \* \*

## Cuba's economic shift

For the first time since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, private sector sales in Cuba outpaced those of state companies, though less because of flourishing capitalism than because of the island's flailing domestic system and diplomatic alliances. Cuba's economy has shrunk 11% in the last five years, leading to blackouts, goods shortages, and more than one million people fleeing the country. Its historic benefactors — particularly Russia and Venezuela — are dealing with economic woes of their own. In response, Cuba's economy minister acknowledged the country would have to rely on the private sector for the time being. "We do not want to confront this sector, but rather to properly guide it," he told state media.

\* \* \*

## Brazil Gun Sales Fall

Gun sales in Brazil fell by about 90% in 2024 compared to the previous year, after Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva reversed his predecessor's policy allowing Brazilians to buy 60 firearms per person. Under ex-President Jair Bolsonaro, a former army captain, gun restrictions were eased and sales soared, contributing to some of the world's highest crime and homicide rates.

According to *Folha de S. Paulo*, around two-thirds of the guns in Brazil were purchased during the presidency of Bolsonaro, who claimed gun ownership would bring crime rates down. Meanwhile, Lula's government has offered to buy back guns, fearing they could end up in the hands of organized crime, but few have taken up the offer, *El País* reported.

\* \* \*

## US Teens Downbeat on College

Just 45% of US teenagers are interested in obtaining a college degree, down from 73% in 2018, a survey

found. Interest in vocational schools, apprenticeships, and other technical education programs more than tripled in the same period, from 12% to 38%.

The nonprofit American Student Assistance said that parents are more likely to support plans to attend college, but the students themselves are concerned about rising student debt and keen to start earning sooner. A further consideration may be artificial intelligence: The OECD said last year that white-collar careers are most likely to be disrupted by AI, and early-career jobs in many industries are already vanishing, while physical work may be harder to automate.

\* \* \*



LGBTQ+ tourism likely to continue growing. Pic - Nation Thailand

## Thailand Boosts LGBTQ Tourism

Thailand is keen to employ its status as the only Southeast Asian country to recognize same-sex marriage to boost LGBTQ tourism. The kingdom began issuing marriage licenses in January as the government seeks to capitalize on the "pink dollar": The spending power of the global LGBTQ community is believed to be more than \$4.7 trillion. June's Bangkok Pride attracted revelers from across the world, and apparently drew \$138 million in sponsorships and tourism spending, a 50% increase from the previous year, Nikkei reported. The Thai tourism authority has organized pride parades in other big cities, a mass same-sex wedding, and LGBTQ tours, while Thai "boy love" dramas — TV series about male romance — are globally popular.

## Covid cases on rise in US states as new variant 'stratus' spreads

Covid-19 cases are once again rising across the United States, and health experts believe a new variant, called XFG or 'stratus,' may be to blame. The increase is happening earlier than expected, just before schools reopen, raising fears of more spread in classrooms.

The variant was first detected in January in Southeast Asia. The World Health Organization had classified it as a "variant under monitoring" by June, due to its global spread. XFG was given its cloud-themed nickname "Stratus" by evolutionary biologist T. Ryan Gregory, reports HT.

## Experts warn of possible summer wave

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that 12 states (New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nevada, Arizona, California, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) have much higher Covid-19 test positivity



The Stratus variant (XFG) of Covid-19 was first detected in January in Southeast Asia. Pic - The Conversation

rates than the rest of the country. Arizona is among the worst hit, with a positivity rate above 11 per cent. Other states in the southern US, and along the West Coast, are also seeing cases rise or are likely to rise soon.

It has been observed that the US faces two distinct waves of Covid, one in the winter and another in the summer, as per USA Today. New variants, peaks in travel and decreasing immunity from prior infection and vaccination can lead to the surge, experts note.

The symptoms include sore throat, fatigue, headache, fever or chills, cough, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath, new loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle aches, and nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.

## Stratus Covidvariant: How to stay safe?

People can take simple steps to be cautious, stay home if unwell and immediately get tested if symptoms appear. Wearing masks in crowded and indoor spaces can help as well, Today.com reported. Officials have encouraged people to check the eligibility for updated Covid-19 vaccines or boosters.

"Currently approved Covid-19 vaccines are expected to remain effective to this variant against symptomatic and severe disease," the WHO stated in its June report.



Europe sprints ahead with renewables. Pic - Al Jazeera

## Europe's Renewable Power Glut

European energy producers are being paid to stop generating electricity, and consumers are sometimes paid to use it, because the grid can't keep up with the growth of renewable energy. For example, Scottish wind farms were paid to withhold 37% of their potential output in the first half of 2024. In Spain, solar overproduction regularly causes electricity prices to turn negative. While this is good for consumers, it's hurting the profits of energy generators.



# Emigration Prospects

Another ministerial delegation left Mauritius yesterday. Although delegations have become unpopular one cannot say that as a rule we should not send our delegates on useful missions. We cannot afford to isolate ourselves from the rest of the world; as a country on the threshold of independence we cannot live in a vacuum. By attending conferences abroad, we help to place our country on the map of the world. So far, all the delegations have proved useful to the Island and we can congratulate the Ministers who have brought us very good results. But we think that the delegation headed by Mr Ringadoo and which goes out to find out the possibilities of emigration will not and cannot bring very good results. This Mr Ringadoo himself has told us. It seems that the game is not going to be worth the candle.

the statistics of Mr S. Bissoondoyal, reached 100,000! How can we solve such a problem?

In this very paper we have been militating for years in favour of a bold plan to ward off the dangers of overpopulation. Government had been very slow at recognising the existence of the problem and, when it did, it came out with a plan which had been almost torpedoed by the Legislative Council. Do we still believe that we shall ever be able to face the demographic problem without having recourse to birth control? We were told in Council that emigration was impossible because it cost too much; has the situation changed overnight? Let's admit for a moment that the Government of the British Honduras is prepared to accept a number of Mauritians in principle. How many can be possibly absorbed? And do we have the

tribution to the welfare of this place, he has to help diversify the economy of Mauritius. More than anyone else he has the responsibility of increasing our food production so that we import less and less of those food-stuffs which are being actually produced without any help or encouragement from Government. There are vast tracts of land which can be planted with foodstuffs but which are lying idle, or which have been leased to big estates. Again, we islanders have to import fish or go without them, and to crown our ludicrous situation the Japanese are fishing at fifteen miles from our shores! We repeat: the Ministry of Agriculture has a crucial role to play.

The overpopulation problem cannot be solved piecemeal: it has to be tackled in its entirety. The Committee which studied the problem in 1954 suggested that there were three solutions to our demographic

problem, viz: viz:  
(a) controlling the birth rate;  
(b) increasing our production, and  
(c) emigration.

Of these the last is the least effective and our Ministers are going abroad to explore the possibilities of implementing it. This will at least satisfy Mr Jules Koenig because he seems to set much store by emigration. But satisfying Mr Koenig is not enough. Let us realise that at present there are about 3000 people employed in the various works of the 5-year plan. As and when other works start some 2000 more may find employment. But what are we going to do with these 5000 workers when the plan is completed? Send them to Brazil or to the British Honduras? Let us not be so silly and ignore the fact that we are already a decade late with our planning. The increase in population has already overtaken all our efforts to raise the living standards of the people. Whether we like it or not the future does look bleak. We must revise our planning policy.



Port Louis – Central Market – 1960s - Pic - vintagemauritius.org

If the Government has decided to send a ministerial delegation to examine the possibility of emigration, it is more than ever clear that the Government is worried about the overpopulation problem. And why shouldn't it? The population increases at the rate of 18,000 every year, and almost all the social services worth millions are being nullified by the rising tide of the population. The dangers of overpopulation are staring at us from all quarters. We are building about 10 primary schools every year and yet at every school there is a waiting list. All the major hospitals have been enlarged, yet there is an acute shortage of beds. Although new dispensaries are being opened, the queue at each dispensary goes on lengthening. The number of unemployed and underemployed is bound to swell. The recurrent expenditure on Public Assistance is spiralling up and the number of people having "only one meal per day" has, according to

money to implement a largescale plan of emigration? To all intents and purposes, it is clear that emigration, if it ever becomes possible, will be more of a palliative than a partial solution to the baffling problem with which we are confronted. The present Government should give less thought to emigration and start considering seriously how best to stem the tide of the rising population.

To mitigate the biggest problem of this Island, we suggest that apart from a comprehensive programme of population control every step should be taken to increase production. The sugar industry, which is exclusively in the private sector of our economy, is doing well and it is expanding rapidly. That is alright. But the Ministry of Agriculture ought to take a fresh look at the production of foodstuffs.

If Mr Boolell wants to make a lasting con-

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times



# When illness strikes, gender matters in whether a marriage survives

A serious medical diagnosis can test even the strongest relationships -- but a new study shows that women are far more likely than men to face that test alone. According to research published in the journal *Cancer*, women diagnosed with cancer or multiple sclerosis are **six times more likely** to be separated or divorced than men diagnosed with the same conditions.

Researchers studied 515 patients across three U.S. medical centers and found that 20.8% of women experienced partner abandonment after their diagnosis, compared to just 2.9% of men. The longer the marriage, the more likely it was to remain intact, but age and disease type also played a role: older women and those with non-brain cancers or MS were most at risk of being left.

The lead authors, Drs. Marc Chamberlain and Michael Glanz, suggest that traditional caregiving roles may explain the imbalance. Men, they note, are less likely to commit



quickly to the caregiving demands of a sick partner, while women are generally more prepared to take on the role.

Beyond emotional hardship, abandonment affected patients' health outcomes. Those who were left were more likely to use antidepressants, less likely to complete treatment, and had more hospitalizations. They were also less likely to die at home.

The researchers urge health-care providers to watch for signs of marital strain early in a woman's diagnosis and to offer support. Early psychosocial intervention, they say, could reduce the risk of separation and improve care and quality of life for seriously ill women.



## If everyone in the world turned on the lights at the same time, what would happen?

*Power grids could likely handle the surge of demand, but all that light would pollute dark zones nearby*

The biggest effect of everyone turning lights on at once would be a surge in demand for electricity, which most people worldwide use to operate their lights.

Electricity is a form of energy that is made using many different fuels. Power plants are electricity factories that generate electricity from sources including coal, natural gas, uranium, water, wind and sunlight. Then they feed it into a network of transmission and distribution wires called the power grid, which delivers the electricity to homes and businesses.

To keep the grid stable, electricity must be supplied on demand. When someone turns on a light, they draw power from the grid. A generator must immediately feed an equal amount of power into the grid. If the system gets out of balance, even for a few seconds, a blackout can happen.

System operators use sensors and sophisticated computers to track electricity demand so they can adjust power production up or down as needed. Total power demand, which is called load, varies a lot from hour to hour and season to season. To see why, think of how much electricity your home uses during the day compared with the middle of the night, or during a summer heat wave compared with a cool fall day.

### Meeting a demand spike

If everyone turned on their lights all at once around the world, they would create a huge, sudden demand for electricity. Power plants would have to ramp up generation very quickly to avoid a system crash. But these plants respond to changing demand in different ways.

Coal and nuclear plants can provide lots of electricity at almost any time, but if they're shut off for maintenance or they malfunction, they can take many hours to bring back online. They also respond slowly to load changes.

Power plants that burn natural gas can respond more quickly to changing load, so they typically are the tool of choice to cover periods when the most electricity is needed, such as hot, sunny summer afternoons.

Renewable electricity sources such as solar, wind and water power produce less pollution but are not as easily



controlled. That's because the wind doesn't always blow at the same speed, nor is every day equally sunny in most places.

Grid managers use large batteries to smooth out power flow as demand rises and falls. But it's not yet possible to store enough electricity in batteries to run an entire town or city. The batteries would be too expensive and would drain too quickly.

Some hydropower operators can pump water into lakes during periods of low demand, then release that water to generate electricity when demand is high by running it through machines called turbines.

Fortunately, if everyone turned on their lights at once, two things would work to prevent a total system crash. First, there is no single worldwide power grid. Most countries have their own grids, or multiple regional grids.

Neighboring grids, such as those in the United States and Canada, are typically connected so that countries can move electricity across their borders. But they can disconnect quickly, so even if the power went out in some areas, it's unlikely that all the grids would crash at once.

Second, over the past 20 years, light bulbs called LEDs have replaced many older electric lights. LEDs operate differently from earlier light bulb designs and produce much more light from each unit of electricity, so they require much less power from the grid.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, using LED bulbs saves the average household about US\$225 yearly. As of 2020, nearly half of all U.S. homes used LEDs for most or all of their lighting needs.

### More glare, fewer stars

Beyond powering lights, it's also important to think about where all that light would go. A big spike in lighting would dramatically increase sky glow -- the hazy brightness that hangs over towns and cities at night.

Sky glow happens when light reflects off haze and dust particles in the air, creating a diffuse glow that washes out the night sky. Light is very difficult to control: For example, it can reflect off bright surfaces, such as car windows and concrete.

Lighting is often overused at night. Think of empty office buildings where lights burn around the clock, or street lights that shine upward instead of down on streets and sidewalks where illumination is needed.

Even well-designed lighting systems can add to the problem, making cities and highways visible from space and the stars invisible from the ground. This light pollution can harm human health by interfering with our bodies' natural sleep and waking cycles. It can also disorient insects, birds, sea turtles and other wildlife.

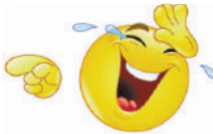
If people worldwide all turned on their lights at once, we'd see a modest increase in power consumption, but a lot more sky glow and no stars in the night sky. That's not a very enticing view.

**Harold Wallace**

Curator, Electricity Collections, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution



*Laughter is the  
Best Medicine*



## The Nurse Who Couldn't Help Laughing

"Of course I won't laugh," said the nurse.

"I'm a professional. In over 20 years, I've never laughed at a patient."

"Okay then," said Barry, and proceeded to drop his trousers, revealing the smallest male part the nurse had ever seen – about the size of a AAA battery.

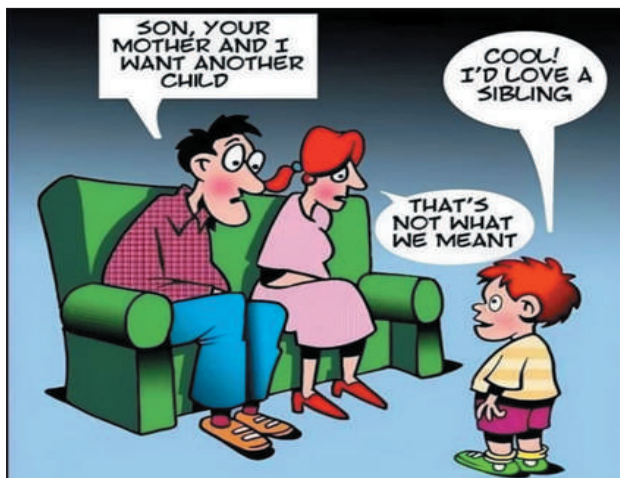
Unable to control herself, the nurse giggled.

Feeling bad, she composed herself and said, "I'm so sorry. I don't know what came over me. On my honour as a nurse and a lady, I promise it won't happen again. Now, tell me what seems to be the problem?"

"It's swollen," Barry replied.

She ran out of the room.

\*\*\*



## The Prisoner and the Prison

A bride tells her husband, "Honey, you know I'm a virgin and I don't know anything about sex. Can you explain it to me first?"

"Okay, sweetheart. To keep it simple, we'll call your private place 'the prison' and my private thing 'the prisoner.' So, what we do is put the prisoner in the prison."

They made love for the first time and the husband was smiling with satisfaction.

Nudging him, his bride giggled, "Honey, the prisoner seems to have escaped."

Turning on his side, he smiled and said, "Then we will have to re-imprison him."

After the second time, the bride said, "Honey, the prisoner is out again!"

The husband rose to the occasion and they made love again.

The bride again said, "Honey, the prisoner escaped again," to which the husband yelled, "Hey, it's not a life sentence!!!"

\*\*\*

## Chuckie the Rooster's Movie Night

An old farmer went to town to see a movie.

The ticket girl said, "Sir, what is that on your shoulder?"

The old farmer said, "That is my pet rooster, Chuckie. Wherever I go, Chuckie goes."

"I'm sorry, Sir," said the ticket girl, "We can't allow animals in the theater. Not even a pet chicken."

The old farmer went around the corner and stuffed the chicken down his pants.

He returned, bought a ticket, and entered the theater. He sat down next to two old emergency room nurses named Mildred and Marge.

The movie started and the chicken began to squirm.

The farmer unzipped his pants so Chuckie could stick his head out and watch.

"Marge," whispered Mildred.

"What?" said Marge.

"I think the guy next to me is a pervert."

"What makes you think so?" asked Marge.

"He unzipped his pants and he has his thing out," whispered Mildred.

"Well, don't worry about it," said Marge, "At our age it isn't anything we haven't seen before."

"Yes," said Mildred, "But this one's eating my popcorn!"

\*\*\*

## The Nail Above the Cow's Stall

A blonde city girl named Amy marries a Colorado rancher.

One morning, the rancher says, "The insemination man is coming to impregnate one of our cows, so I drove a nail into the 2x4 just above where the cow's stall is in the barn. Please show him where the cow is when he gets here, OK?"

After a while, the artificial insemination man arrives and knocks on the door.

"I came to inseminate the cow," he said.

Amy takes him to the barn.

They walk along the row of cows, and when Amy sees the nail, she says, "This is the one right here."

The man asks, "Tell me, lady, how would YOU know that this is the right cow to be bred?"

"That's simple," she said. "By the nail that's over its stall."

Laughing rudely, the man asks, "And what, pray tell, is the nail for?"

The blonde turns to walk away and says sweetly, "I guess it's to hang your pants on."

(It's nice to see a blonde winning once in a while.)

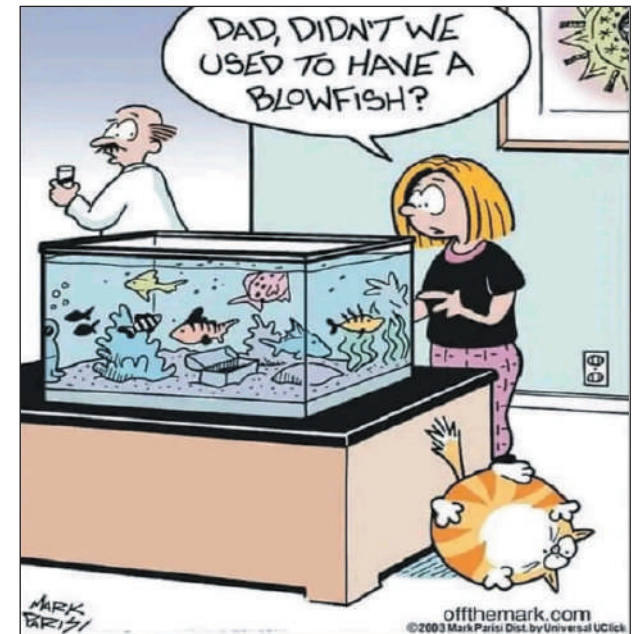
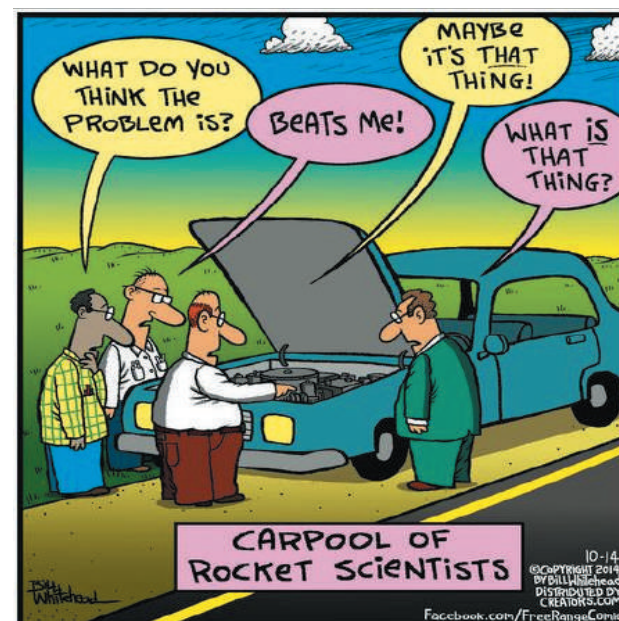
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## Hilarious Replies to 'I Love You'

A group of women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with their husbands.

The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?" All raised their hands.

Then asked, "When was the last time you told your



husband you loved him?" Some said today, a few yesterday, some couldn't remember.

They were told to take out their cell phones and text their husband: "I love you, sweetheart."

Next, they exchanged phones and read aloud the responses.

Here are 12 hilarious replies from husbands:

- Who is this?
- Eh, mother of my children, are you sick or what?
- Yeah, and I love you too. What's wrong?
- What now? Did you wreck the car again?
- I don't understand what you mean.
- What did you do now?
- Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need.
- Am I dreaming?
- If you don't tell me who this message is for, some one will die.
- I thought we agreed you wouldn't drink during the day.
- Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she?

\*\*\*

## Divine Deception at Customs

A very elegant lady was flying in from Switzerland when she found herself seated next to a kindly old priest.

"Excuse me, Father," she whispered, "may I ask you a huge favour?"

"Of course, my child. What troubles you?"

"I bought this ultra-expensive hair removal device, but I've gone way over the duty-free limit. I'm terrified they'll confiscate it at customs! Could you possibly hide it under your cassock?"

The priest raised an eyebrow. "I suppose I could... but you must understand -- I cannot tell a lie."

"Oh, don't worry, Father. You have such an honest face, I'm sure no one will ask you a thing!"

Reluctantly, he tucked the gadget into the folds of his robe.

At customs, the officer asked, "Do you have anything to declare, Father?"

The priest replied calmly, "From the top of my head to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

The officer squinted. "And from your waist down?"

The priest hesitated, then said, "I have a miraculous instrument designed to be used on women... but which has never been used."

The customs officer blinked - then burst out laughing and waved him right through.



## The Coffee Cup Lesson

A group of successful graduates once visited their old professor. They had good jobs, big titles, and looked like they were doing very well in life.

While they waited for coffee, they started talking about how stressful work was, how tired they felt, and how hard adult life had become. Some laughed. Some complained. Some tried to give deep thoughts.

The professor came back with a tray full of cups.

There were all kinds — glass, plastic, ceramic; some were fancy, some were plain, and some were old and chipped. Everyone picked the nicest-looking cups first.

Then the professor said:

"Did you notice something? You all picked the best cups — the fancy ones.

No one picked the old or plastic ones. That's what causes a lot of your stress." "You wanted the coffee — not the cup. But you focused on how the cup looked, instead of just enjoying the coffee."

He continued:

"Life is like coffee. Your job, your money, your status, your house, your car — those are just cups. They don't



make life better on their own.

"Sometimes we pay so much attention to the cup, we forget to enjoy the coffee — the real parts of life that matter. So, enjoy your coffee. Enjoy your life. Don't keep comparing yourself with others. Don't compete all the time. Don't look around to see who has what."

*The happiest people aren't the ones who have the best of everything — they're the ones who make the best of what they have.*

## Rules for Life

In today's fast-paced world, success and fulfilment require more than just hard work -- they demand intention, clarity, and consistency. Chetan Bhagat's '11 Rules for Life' offers a practical, no-nonsense roadmap to elevate your mindset, habits, and well-being. Blending timeless wisdom with actionable insights, this book is your guide to becoming the best version of yourself.

### Prioritize Your Fitness:

Physical health is the foundation of a successful life. Bhagat emphasizes regular exercise, a balanced diet, and quality sleep as non-negotiables. A healthy body sharpens your mind and boosts resilience.

### Master Your Emotions:

Emotional intelligence is vital in both work and life. Learning to manage your feelings helps you make better decisions, avoid drama, and build



stronger relationships.

### Delay Instant Gratification:

Temptations like junk food and social media offer fleeting pleasure but sabotage long-term goals. Bhagat urges us to resist distractions and

focus on deeper, more meaningful pursuits.

**Embrace Adaptability:** Change is inevitable. Using the metaphor of the cockroach -- nature's most resilient survivor -- Bhagat reminds us that flexibility and adaptability are key to thriving through uncertainty.

**Break Down Big Goals:** Large dreams can feel overwhelming. The trick? Divide them into smaller, manageable steps. This keeps motivation high and progress steady.

**Invest in Your Network:** Relationships matter. Building and nurturing a diverse network opens doors to unexpected opportunities. Not every connection pays off immediately -- but collectively, they shape your path.

**Be Financially Wise:** Financial freedom starts with discipline. Bhagat advocates earning smart, saving consistently, and investing early. Stability today secures your freedom tomorrow.

## Stray Thoughts Honouring Unconditional Love

*The way you treat your mom is the way life will treat you*

A mom is the source of love and life itself.

She's made of a kind of unconditional love no one else will ever be able to give you.

Don't judge her.

How many times have you sat down next to her just to really listen?

To ask about her past — not the stories she always tells, but the ones she's kept buried.

Maybe she's never told you about the hard life she lived before you were born.

Maybe she's never shared the pain she still carries.

The wounds that quietly reopen every time she remembers...

The struggles of a childhood and youth that weren't easy.

Times when no one listened.

When she was humiliated.

When cruel words, poverty, fear, and mistreatment left scars she still feels.

How much does she hold inside her heart, never telling you — just so she wouldn't shatter the picture you have of her life?

She stayed silent out of love.

Or maybe because silence became her only safe place from the pain.

Treat her gently — like the greatest treasure you'll ever have.

That tenderness will bring blessings, peace, joy, stability, and long years of life to you.

And the people closest to you will treat you better, too, because every single day, they'll be learning from you.

Learning from the love you show to those around you.

Because there's one truth you can't ignore: You only have one mom.



## Wisdom from Africa

**If you treat your sickness with medicine, it will leave you; if you treat it with silence, it will kill you.** Meaning: Ignoring problems only makes them worse.

**You do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a stone.** Meaning: Use wisdom and care when correcting others.

**A single bracelet does not jingle.** Meaning: You cannot succeed alone; unity brings strength.

**The rain does not recognize anyone's hut.** Meaning: Trouble comes to everyone regardless of status.

**He who defecates on the road must expect flies on his return.** Meaning: Your bad actions will come back to haunt you.

**It is not the day a child is born that he begins to walk.** Meaning: Growth and maturity take time.

**A tree does not move unless there is wind.** Meaning: Every effect has a cause.

**No matter how black a cow is, its milk is white.** Meaning: Do not judge by appearance; goodness lies within.

**A man who has never traveled thinks his mother is the best cook.** Meaning: Exposure broadens perspective.

**A man who wakes up early does not need to run.** Meaning: Preparation prevents panic.

**You don't point to your father's house with your left hand.** Meaning: Show respect for your roots and elders.

**When the food is ready, the elders eat first.** Meaning: Respect and honor go to those with experience.

**An old pot never lacks soot.** Meaning: A person's past is not easily erased.

**Even a small fire can burn a big house.** Meaning: Small issues can cause great damage.

**The monkey says if it falls, let it fall on a tree, not on**

**the ground.** Meaning: Even in failure, seek something to hold on to.

**A hungry man will break iron if it stands in his way.** Meaning: Desperation fuels determination.

**When the roots are deep, there is no reason to fear the wind.** Meaning: Strong foundations protect against adversity.



The harm that comes to souls from the lack of reading holy books makes me shudder... What power spiritual reading has to lead to a change of course, and to make even worldly people enter into the way of perfection.

— Pie of Pietrelcina —

AZ QUOTES



## 4 Ways to Prevent Your Marriage from Ending in Divorce



After years of marriage, it's not uncommon for the "honeymoon phase" to fade, replaced by the daily stresses of work, kids, and financial pressures. When a marriage feels like it's struggling, it can be easy to question if you made the right choice. Before you consider ending your relationship, try a few new approaches to reconnect with your spouse and rediscover the love that brought you together.

### 1. Give Your Partner the Benefit of the Doubt

Over time, it's easy to focus on your partner's annoying habits and forget the qualities you once loved. When your spouse does something that frustrates you, try to give them the benefit of the doubt instead of immediately assuming they are lazy, careless, or selfish. They might simply be stressed or preoccupied. Consciously focusing on your partner's positive traits can help prevent resentment from building up over small

issues.

### 2. Make Time to Enjoy Each Other

With busy lives, it's common for a couple's relationship to become a series of tasks rather than a source of joy. You might start to feel like co-workers, simply navigating life's to-do lists. To prevent this, make a conscious effort to set aside time to enjoy each other's company. This could be a weekly date night, a short walk together, or even just 30 minutes of uninterrupted time each day to focus on your relationship.

### 3. Stick it Out Through the Tough Times

Every marriage has its ups and downs. It's unrealistic to expect a relationship to be "always happy" or perfect. Difficult periods often arise due to external factors like stress from work, health issues, or family problems. These challenges can strain your communication and impact how you feel about your marriage. Instead of giving up, try to persevere through these tough periods, remembering that brighter days are often ahead.

### 4. Maintain Realistic Expectations

You can't expect your partner to fulfill your every need. It's unfair to place the burden of being your spouse, lover, best friend, and entertainment partner all on one person. That's what friends, family, and co-workers are for. When you expect your partner to be your sole source of fulfillment, you will almost always end up feeling hurt and disappointed. Allowing other people to help meet some of your needs can take pressure off your spouse and strengthen your marriage.

## 8 Things Amazing Leaders Do

-- Robin Sharma

Leadership isn't just about titles, corner offices, or fancy business cards. It's about a deep-seated commitment to helping others succeed and making a lasting impact. Whether you're a CEO or an entry-level employee, you have the power to be a leader. The following insights, drawn from lessons taught to top global companies, can help anyone harness their potential to lead.

### 1. The job of a leader is to grow more leaders

If you're not actively building up the people around you, you're not leading, you're following. True leadership means inspiring others to own their talents, express their gifts, and do the best work of their lives. It's about helping people reach their full potential and become leaders themselves.

### 2. Nothing happens until you move

Procrastination is often just a defense mechanism for fear. Taking massive action is the only way to turn your ideas into reality. Start small but start today. Spectacular success brings responsibility, and many people are afraid of that, so they put off doing great things. Don't let fear hold you back.

### 3. Your behaviour reveals your

beliefs

Your actions speak louder than your words. Complaining reveals a belief that you are powerless. Presenting shoddy work shows that you're okay with mediocrity. Mistreating others proves you're disconnected from the people around you. By adopting the beliefs of a leader, your behavior will change automatically, allowing you to act with purpose and integrity.

### 4. Ideas are worthless without execution

An average idea flawlessly executed is always better than a brilliant idea that's poorly executed. Winning organizations are all about "less talk and more do." They prioritize delivery over endless meetings and analysis. Roll up your sleeves, get to work, and make things happen.

### 5. When you learn more, you achieve more

To double your income, triple your rate of learning. Genius is less about natural talent and more about out-studying, out-preparing, and out-practicing everyone else. Invest in workshops, conferences, online courses, and books. The return on investment is exponential and will serve you throughout your entire career.

### 6. Take care of the relationship and the money takes care of itself

Leadership is fundamentally about people. The most effective leaders understand that the entire game revolves around developing teammates, serving customers, and improving the world through their actions. Learn to be a better listener, keep your promises, and be generous. When you focus on relationships, amazing opportunities will naturally find their way to you.

### 7. Respect is not granted, but earned

A title or position doesn't automatically earn your respect. It's a gift you have to earn. The quickest way to gain respect is by giving it. Treat everyone with dignity and kindness, and people will respect you in return.

### 8. Don't confuse movement with progress

In an age of distraction, it's easy to be busy without being productive. Leaders are different. They focus on what truly matters. Try these tactics to boost your productivity: start your day early, set five daily goals and achieve them before you leave the office, dedicate the first 90 minutes of your workday to your most important project, and learn to say no to things that don't align with your goals.

### Find Your Way

## Rise Above: Why Authenticity is Your Greatest Strength

In a world filled with imitators, the path to genuine excellence and influence lies not in copying others, but in creating your own unique standard. As Tim Grover suggests, your aim should be to elevate everyone else to your level, rather than descending to theirs. This mindset liberates you from constant comparison and competition, writes Reece Robertson, Viral Blogger and Content Writer. He's what he suggests:

### Forge your own path

Many believe that replicating the journey of a successful person will lead to similar results. However, this approach merely takes you to their destination, not your own. True fulfillment and meaning come from within. As Carl Jung wisely stated, "Your visions will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes." Until you awaken to your authentic self, you'll be perpetually limited by someone else's imagination and vision for success. When you chart your own course, you unlock limitless possibilities.



### Elevate, don't conform

Living an extraordinary life often means your actions and beliefs might seem unconventional to others. You may encounter scepticism or even criticism but remember that the issue isn't you; it's often the prevailing mindset. Many people are unaccustomed to environments that expect continuous growth, where distraction and unconscious evolution are the norm.

Therefore, resist the urge to lower your standards to fit in. Instead, become a yardstick of quality and inspire those around you. As Steve Jobs famously put it, "Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected." This doesn't mean preaching to others but rather demonstrating through your actions. When you courageously reveal your true potential and live authentically, you ignite an internal fire in others, inspiring them to seek their own growth. As James Altucher noted, "The greater your own internal fire is, the more people will want it."

In conclusion, operate from your own elevated level. This doesn't imply complacency or neglecting to learn from those who inspire you. True growth involves absorbing wisdom while resolutely carving out your distinct path. By refusing to diminish yourself to accommodate others and instead raising the collective standard, you'll witness remarkable growth for everyone involved.



# AI-altered ending of “Raanjhanaa” creates an uproar

In an unprecedented move that has shaken India's film industry, Eros International, a major production house, has re-released the 2013 romantic drama, “Raanjhanaa,” with a new, AI-altered ending. This decision has sparked a firestorm of controversy, raising critical questions about artistic integrity, copyright law, and the future of cinema, reports Al Jazeera.

## The Alteration That Caused Uproar

The original version of “Raanjhanaa,” directed by Aanand L Rai and starring Dhanush and Sonam Kapoor, concludes with the tragic death of the male lead, Kundan. The film's emotional weight and critical acclaim were built upon this heartbreaking climax. However, in the new AI-generated ending, Kundan survives, opening his eyes and standing up in a hospital. This alternate ending was released in a Tamil-dubbed version of the film titled “Ambikapathy.”

The move has been met with fierce condemnation from the film's creators. Director Aanand L Rai expressed his outrage on Instagram, calling the action a “reckless takeover that strips the work of its intent, its context, and its soul.” He emphasized that the film was “shaped by human hands, human flaws, and human feeling,” and that altering it without consent was an “abject betrayal.” Lead actor Dhanush echoed these sentiments, stating that the new ending “stripped the film of its soul” and that the AI alteration was a “deeply concerning precedent for both art and artists.”



## The Legal and Ethical Debate

The core of the controversy lies in the clash between legal rights and ethical responsibilities. Eros International insists its actions are legal, citing Indian copyright law which designates the producer as the primary rights-holder and author of the film. Pradeep Dwivedi, CEO of Eros International Media, defended the re-release as a “creative reinterpretation” and “augmented storytelling,” arguing that the company, as the copyright holder, has the right to reimagine its content. Dwivedi also drew a parallel to past technological advancements in cinema, like the transition from silent films to talkies, framing this as a progressive

step.

However, many in the film community, including critics like Mayank Shekhar, argue that while the move may be technically legal, it is deeply unethical. The lack of consent from the original creators—the director, writer, and actors—is seen as a profound disrespect for the artistic vision. The “soul” of a film, many argue, is not just in its raw footage but in the final, intended narrative crafted by its creators.

## A Glimpse into the Future of Filmmaking

While this is the first time a major studio has used AI to alter an existing film's storyline for re-release, the technology is not new to the film industry. AI has been used for post-production tasks such as voice dubbing, CGI enhancements, and even to correct technical flaws in older films. Netflix, for instance, has explored using AI to personalize trailers and to synchronize lip movements for dubbed dialogue.

The use of AI to change a film's ending, however, is a different beast entirely. It challenges the very concept of a definitive version of a work of art. As critics and filmmakers navigate these uncharted waters, the incident has highlighted the urgent need for new regulations. The question is whether laws can keep up with the rapid pace of technological change and protect a work of art from being changed to suit the whims of its copyright holder, a question that will undoubtedly shape the future of global cinema.



## The Revolution of ‘Saiyaara’: A New Blueprint for Bollywood

The blockbuster success of Mohit Suri's film, “Saiyaara,” is not merely a financial triumph; it is a seismic event that has sent shockwaves through the very foundations of the Hindi film industry. In a world long dominated by the star system, massive marketing budgets, and the predictable packaging of franchise films, “Saiyaara” arrived as an unapologetic disruptor. With a cast of newcomers and a quiet, organic ascent to the top, it has accomplished what many believed impossible, proving that a film's true power lies in its story, not its stars. This phenomenon has prompted a collective moment of reckoning, forcing the old guard of Bollywood to confront a new, and perhaps unsettling, reality.

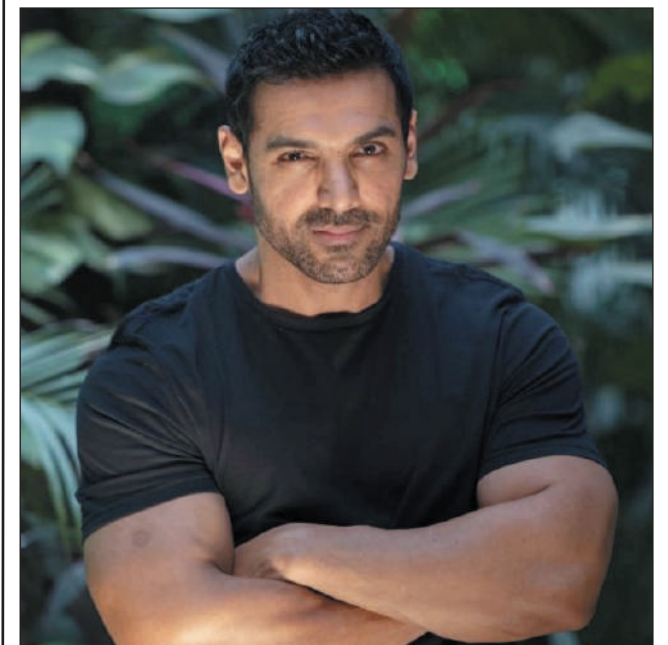
The disquiet in the industry is palpable. As trade analysts Taran Adarsh and Komal Nahta have noted, the film's success has led to “sleepless nights” for established actors and insiders. Nahta's anecdote of a well-

known male star's visible nervousness and disbelief over the film's genuine box office numbers is a powerful testament to this unease. The fear is understandable: “Saiyaara” has shattered the illusion that success is guaranteed by a big name. It has demonstrated that an audience, when given a compelling story and a moving soundtrack, will engage with and elevate a film on its own terms, bypassing the traditional machinery of a star-led publicity blitz. The film's staggering ₹500 crore worldwide gross is not just a number; it is a vote of no confidence in the old system.

For director Mohit Suri, this success is a personal vindication. His candid admission that he was “ruled out” by the industry after his last film, “Ek Villain Returns,” failed to perform, gives the “Saiyaara” story a compelling human element. The film, he reveals, was his personal act of rebellion, a way to “disrupt his own life” after films were taken away from him. It was a creative necessity born from rejection, forcing him to move away from the “packages” he was expected to create and “go organic” instead. His triumph is a powerful message to a star-obsessed industry: a director's vision, when untethered from the pressures of star power, can resonate deeply with an audience.

As the dust settles, a new conversation has emerged: the possibility of a “Saiyaara” sequel. The industry, ever keen to turn a hit into a franchise, is clamoring for a follow-up. However, Suri's cautious stance suggests a new artistic maturity. He hints that the producer, Aditya Chopra, is inclined to preserve the film's “classic status” rather than risk “dilution.” This is a crucial distinction. It's a rejection of the franchise model's commercial logic in favor of protecting the integrity of a single, powerful work of art. This new approach, one that prioritizes legacy over a quick financial win, is a defining feature of this new era.

The success of “Saiyaara” is a paradigm shift. It is a loud, clear, and profitable declaration that storytelling and music are the true stars of Indian cinema. It has forced the industry to look in the mirror and question its long-held assumptions. The “sleepless nights” are a sign that a quiet revolution has begun, and the new blueprint for success is one where authenticity, not celebrity, reigns supreme.



## John Abraham's quiet life

John Abraham stands out in Bollywood for his deliberate absence from the party scene. He explained in a recent interview that this is a conscious choice rooted in his personal habits: he has an aversion to alcohol, and he maintains a strict schedule of sleeping early and waking at 4:30 AM to read world news. This lifestyle, which he shares with his wife, prioritizes personal well-being over social obligations.

Beyond personal preference, Abraham's decision reflects a professional philosophy of separating his work from his private life. He believes his films should be the only focus, stating, “My films have nothing to do with my personal life.” He proudly operates without a publicist, retreating from the public eye between projects. This approach offers a new model of stardom that values integrity and authenticity over manufactured hype. As he gears up for the release of his new film, Tehran, this unique approach proves that success in the industry does not require a constant public presence.



**mbc-1**  
Vendredi 15 Août - 20.20**mbc-1**  
Samedi 16 Août - 20.15**mbc-1**  
Dimanche 17 Août - 20.45

# Programme TV

**SERIAL**

vendredi 15 août

**MBC 1**

05.04 Serial: L'Amour A Mort  
08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer  
09.25 Film: Contre-Jour  
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.19 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
13.42 Tele: La Desalmada  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
16.12 Tele: Living To Love  
17.21 Doc: Not About Music  
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Film: Cyrano De Bergerac  
22.41 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
23.30 Le Journal  
00.05 Tele: Lying Heart  
00.28 Doc: BRGRS

**MBC 2**

09.05 En Direct De Notre Dame De L'Assomption Roche Bois  
10.50 Serial: Tetelestai  
11.30 Local: Entractes  
11.54 Le Journee Sous Le Regard  
12.00 Film: The Savior  
14.12 Local: En Forme  
14.26 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
14.43 Local: Pause Cuisine  
15.15 Local: Metie  
16.29 Film: Jésus, Un Regard De Femme  
18.30 Local: Séparé Par L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.46 Science Quest 2025  
19.57 Local: Animalia  
20.30 Local: Ucmas Little Champs  
21.30 Local: La Sosiete  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.00 Journal Kreol  
23.20 Local: En Forme

**MBC 3**

08.00 D.Anime: Kicko & Super Speedo  
09.55 Local: Ramayan  
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
12.00 Film: Vishnu Puran  
Starring: Mahepal, Anita Guha  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
16.00 Serial: Mithai  
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.00 Samachar  
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
18.57 Local: Krishna Janmashtami  
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi  
21.00 Film: Hum Hai Rahi Pyaar Ke  
Cast: Pawan Singh, Harshika Punaacha, Deepak Sinha  
23.15 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.13 Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.47 Mati Ke Mol  
01.13 Krishna Janmashtami  
02.43 Local: Khel Khiladi

**Cine 12**

06.25 Film: Gnomeo Et Juliet  
07.46 D.Anime: Giant  
08.50 D.Anime: Zig's Space...  
09.05 Film: Rio 2  
11.03 D.Anime: The Avatars  
11.30 Film: Ploey  
12.55 Mag: Animal DNA  
13.19 Mag: Lab 360  
13.28 D. Anime: Souris City  
14.48 D.Anime: Early Learning  
14.53 D.Anime: Will, La Série  
14.55 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier  
15.25 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau  
15.50 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!  
16.26 D.Anime: Jurassic World  
16.45 Mag: Recipes For Kids  
17.07 Doc: All The Answers  
18.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics  
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx  
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere  
20.50 Tele: Wildflower

**Bollywood TV**

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
15.30 Film: Meri Nimmo  
Cast: Anjali Patil / Karan Dave  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Kundali Bhagya  
19.01 Udaariyaan  
19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua  
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
20.25 Shrimad Ramayan  
20.55 Anupamaa  
21.25 Mere Sai  
21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara  
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya  
23.00 Serial: Mahabharat  
23.23 Film: Meri Nimmo  
Cast: Anjali Patil / Karan Dave

samedi 16 août

04.04 Serial: Blue Lights  
05.06 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
06.09 Tele: L'Heritiere  
06.30 Serial: The Lazarus Project  
07.21 Serial: Nautilus  
08.13 Serial: Elementary  
08.57 Serial: Heartland  
09.47 Serial: Blue Lights  
10.46 Your Love Is My Fortune  
11.32 Tele: L'Heritiere  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Barbarita  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Film: Gyran De Bergerac  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.15 Film: Miss Peregrine's Home For Perculiar Children  
22.09 Serial: Nautilus  
23.01 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
06.25 Local: Tous Egaux  
06.44 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
08.00 Local: Science Quest 2025  
09.31 Local: La Sosiete  
10.30 Local: J'ai Faim  
11.00 Local: Ucmas Little Champs  
12.00 Local: Palette  
13.58 Local: Animalia  
14.28 Local: Inspirasion  
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.38 Rodrig: Coin Zen  
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies  
20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025  
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.03 Journal Kreol  
23.23 Local: Tous Egaux  
23.32 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
23.53 Local: Bricolo Ecolo  
00.31 Local: J'ai Faim

05.00 Film: Hum Hai Rahi Pyaar...  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness  
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog  
09.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
10.37 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.22 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Film: Ek Se Badhkar Ek  
18.10 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
19.00 Live From Sri Sri Rukmini Dwarkadish Hare Krishna Temple  
20.00 Live Duplex From Sri Sri Radha Golokananda Temple  
00.30 Mag: Bhakti Dhara Aradhna  
00.56 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
01.22 Film: Ek Se Badhkar Ek  
04.05 Mag: Rangoli  
04.58 Mag: Bhakti Dhara Aradhna

06.00 Film: La Legende De Manolo  
08.05 Film: Miraculous...  
08.25 D.Anime: Agi Bagi  
08.47 D.Anime: The Psammy  
09.03 Film: Georges, Le Petit Curieux  
10.29 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi  
11.30 Film: Strange Magic  
13.22 Mag: Lab 360  
13.30 Film: C.I.A.P.E  
14.57 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
16.09 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
16.31 D.Anime: Dragons  
17.45 Mag: Travel  
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape  
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams  
18.56 Doc: Pandemic  
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx  
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere  
20.53 Tele: Living To Love  
22.26 Mag: Travel  
23.40 Film: The Hunt

08.00 Dharam Patni  
10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
12.08 Udaariyaan  
14.02 Anupamaa  
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
17.30 Vidrohi  
18.30 Film: Zamane Se Kya Darna  
With: Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon  
21.07 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
21.19 Keh Doon Tumhein



dimanche 17 août

03.26 Tele: Living To Love  
04.46 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
05.46 Tele: L'Heritiere  
06.08 Film: Miss Peregrine's Home For Perculiar Children  
08.07 Serial: Blue Lights  
09.10 Film: The Boat  
10.39 Your Love Is My Fortune  
11.30 Serial: L'Heritiere  
12.34 Film: Antlers  
14.05 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Film: Miss Peregrine's Home For Perculiar Children  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince  
20.45 Film: Battleship  
22.27 Serial: Blue Lights

09.09 Local: Les Petits Genies  
09.30 Rodrig: 25e Edison Festival Kreol  
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
12.00 Local: La Barre De Recherche  
12.49 Entrepreneurat Au Feminin  
16.00 Local: Le Challenge  
16.45 Local: Tous Egaux  
17.31 Local: En Toute Intimite  
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.34 Local: En Toute Intimite  
20.00 Local: Les Klips  
21.00 Rastafari Nou Lidantite  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion  
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin  
23.33 Local: Arxiv MBC  
23.59 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif  
00.37 Local: Son Ladan Mem

08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness  
08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
10.30 Serial: Mahabharat  
12.00 Film: Dabangg  
Cast: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Sonu Sood  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare  
19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi  
19.30 MBC Prod Sunday  
20.30 Serial: Porus  
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein  
22.00 Serial: Crime Patrol  
22.15 Serial: Naagin  
23.00 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...  
00.03 Humni Ke Sitare  
00.32 Serial: Tohar Rashi  
04.56 Film: Dabangg

06.00 Film: L'Odyssée D'Albert  
08.59 Film: Freedom Force  
10.25 Mag: Lab 360  
10.32 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi  
11.30 Film: Spies In Disguise  
13.12 Doc: Japan Video Topics  
13.30 Film: The Secrets Of Gravity  
14.12 Film: The Life Of Trees  
14.44 D.Anime: Will, La Série  
15.05 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...  
15.16 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau Renard  
16.38 Mag: Recipes For Kids  
18.00 Doc: Healing Gardens  
18.30 Doc: Going Beyond  
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere  
21.44 Film: Hangman  
Cast: Al Pacino, Karl Urban, Brittany Snow

00.25 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
02.38 Udaariyaan  
04.43 Anupamaa  
06.34 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
07.43 Serial: Tenali Rama  
08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
10.05 Kundali Bhagya  
12.15 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
14.00 Doree  
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.30 Film: Happy Bhaag  
Cast: Abhay Deol, Diana Penty, Jimmy Shergill  
20.48 Tenali Rama  
21.00 Mahabharat  
21.22 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs  
22.14 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood Hits  
23.27 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

lundi 18 août

04.39 Tele: La Desalmada  
05.03 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
05.46 Tele: The Queen Of Flow  
07.13 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani  
08.09 Tele: L'Heritiere  
08.31 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
09.24 Film: Battleship  
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.10 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
13.33 Tele: La Desalmada  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées  
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
18.00 Samachar  
18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.07 Live: Grand Titre  
20.15 Serial: Quantico  
21.00 Serial: Elementary  
21.46 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

09.09 Local: En Toute Intimite  
09.36 Local: Le Challenge  
09.54 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
10.40 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef  
11.00 Local: Les Klips  
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
15.06 Local: Itinerer Moris  
15.24 Rodrig: Plat du Chef  
15.52 Local: Les Klips  
17.03 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
18.05 Tele: La Desalmada  
18.30 Tele: Séparé par L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
21.00 Local: Tous Egaux  
21.09 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
21.45 Local: 19 Minutes  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion  
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris  
23.34 Rodrig Mo Pei

05.00 Mag: DDI Live  
07.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare  
08.29 Local: Tohar Rashi  
10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar  
12.00 Film: Daata  
Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Padmini Kolhapure, Shammi Kapoor  
15.00 Samachar  
16.00 Kundali Bhagya  
17.30 Shiv Shakti  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein  
18.57 Local: Ayush Cooking  
20.06 Local: Charcha  
20.30 Serial: Ramayan  
21.00 Film: Anuraag  
Cast: Vinod Mehra, Moushami Chatterjee  
23.06 Mere Sai  
23.58 Wagle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: Going Beyond  
07.56 Doc: Eco Heroines  
08.45 Doc: Deep Times  
10.14 Doc: My Family Lies  
10.55 Mag: Rev Special  
12.56 Doc: Eco Heroines  
13.45 Doc: Deep Times  
14.30 D.Anime: Giant  
14.56 D.Anime: Will, La Série  
14.58 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales  
15.06 D.Anime: Samsam  
15.40 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas  
15.51 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!  
16.03 D.Anime: Raindow Rangers  
16.25 D.Anime: Dragons  
17.17 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.  
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa  
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent  
19.00 Others: Student Support...  
20.51 Tele: Wildflower  
21.36 Film: Winchester 73 Western

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
15.25 Film: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain



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





Mardi 19 Août - 20.05



Mercredi 20 Août - 21.40



Mercredi 20 Août - 15.30



## Programme TV



mardi 19 août

## MBC 1

04.40 Tele: La Desalmada  
05.06 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
06.00 Tele: The Queen Of Flow  
07.27 Serial: Quantico  
08.31 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
09.35 Film: Winchester 73 Western  
11.28 Tele: Lying Heart  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada  
15.30 Film: Backtrack  
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
18.00 Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.58 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Film: Meet Joe Black  
22.59 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
23.44 Le Journal  
00.42 Quotes By Famous People

## MBC 2

09.35 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
10.14 La Barre De Recherche  
11.35 Local: Grand Titre  
12.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
13.56 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
14.15 Local: Coin Jardin  
14.45 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 Zournal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Itinerer - Rodrig  
19.42 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
21.26 Local: Le Mag  
22.36 Local: Profil  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.16 Local: Face Cachee  
23.33 Local: Music Tour 2025

## MBC 3

08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein  
10.07 Kundali Bhagya  
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
12.01 Film: Do Phool  
Cast: Ashok Kumar, Vinod Mehra, Aruna Irani  
15.00 Samachar  
15.41 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar  
16.00 Serial: Dharam Patni  
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Tark Vitark  
18.55 Local: Humni Ke Sitare  
19.23 Local: Abhyas Yog  
20.15 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
20.30 Serial: Ramayan  
21.00 Film: Dhool Ka Phool  
Cast: Mala Sinha, Rajendra Kumar, Nanda

## MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa  
07.17 Mag: In Good Shape  
07.47 Doc: Natural Wonders  
08.16 Doc: Japan At Crossroads  
09.08 Doc: Wake Up On Mars  
10.04 Doc: Trapped by Debt  
10.47 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
11.58 Doc: Top Dive Sites  
13.00 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
13.18 Doc: Japan At Crossroads  
14.30 D.Anime: Giant  
15.25 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau..  
15.49 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!  
17.46 Mag: Lab 360  
18.00 Mag: Rev  
18.30 Mag: Shift  
18.42 Mag: Her: Women In Asia  
19.30 Doc: Global US  
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere  
20.50 Tele: Wildflower  
21.35 Tele: Seref Meselesi

## Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
15.30 Film: Andaz Apna Apna  
Cast: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.03 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua  
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
20.29 Shrimad Ramayan  
21.07 Anupama  
21.30 Mere Sai  
21.56 Dhruv Tara  
22.30 Waggle Ki Duniya  
23.00 Mahabharat  
23.23 Film: Andaz Apna Apna  
Cast: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla

mercredi 20 août

05.46 Serial: The Queen Of Flow  
07.12 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Milliards  
08.01 Tele: L'Heritiere  
09.16 Film: Cyrano De Bergerac  
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Tele: Seref Meselesi  
17.00 Mag: Video Killed The Radio  
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Live: Grand Titre  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.15 Serial: New Amsterdam  
21.05 Serial: The Lazarus Project  
21.45 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
22.35 Tele: Lying Heart

09.35 Local: Le Mag  
10.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef  
10.34 Local: Saver Lokal  
11.01 Local: Viens Decouvrir  
11.30 Local: Le Petits Genies  
12.00 Local: Couleur Marine  
12.30 Local: Itinerer - Rodrig  
13.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
14.25 Local: Nu Rasinn  
15.22 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef  
16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada  
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor  
20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
20.45 Local: En Forme  
21.30 Local: Les Klips  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
23.35 Local: Ucmass Little Champs

06.59 Local: Tark Vitark  
08.00 Local: Tark Vitark  
10.00 Dharam Patni  
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
12.00 Film: Bombay To Goa  
Cast: Mehmood, Aruna Irani, Amitabh Bachchan  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.58 Serial: Radha Mohan  
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
19.00 Local: Darshan Theme  
19.30 Local: Kala  
20.00 Local: Virasat  
20.16 Local: Kaam Daam  
21.00 Film: Hum Hain Dulha  
Cast: Amrapali Dubey, Surendra Pal  
23.32 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.23 Waggle Ki Duniya  
00.46 Local: Yatra

06.00 Mag: REV  
07.49 Doc: Natural  
08.20 Mag: Euromaxx  
08.45 Doc: Green Shipping  
10.14 Doc: Green Warriors  
11.30 Mag: Shift  
13.02 Mag: Business Africa  
13.46 Doc: Green Shipping  
15.04 D.Anime: Piper's Pny Tales  
15.11 D.Anime: Samsam  
15.18 D.Anime: Mush Mush...  
15.30 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau  
17.22 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S  
18.06 Mag: Afrimaxx  
18.42 Mag: Planet A  
19.00 Student Support Programme  
19.30 Doc: Submerged Universe  
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere  
20.50 Tele: Wildflower  
21.40 Film: Blood, Sweat And Cheer  
23.15 Mag: Close Up

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
15.30 Film: Money Hai Toh Honey Hai  
Cast: Govinda, Aftab Shivdasani, Upen Patel  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Kundali Bhagya  
19.02 Udaariyaan  
19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua  
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan  
21.00 Anupamaa  
21.25 Mere Sai  
21.57 Dhruv Tara  
22.30 Waggle Ki Duniya  
23.00 Serial: Mahabharat  
23.30 Film: Money Hai Toh Honey Hai  
Cast: Govinda, Aftab Shivdasani, Upen Patel

jeudi 21 août

06.00 Tele: The Queen Of Flow  
08.10 Tele: L'Heritiere  
08.32 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
09.25 Film: A Chance For Christmas  
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada  
14.11 Serial: Wildflower  
15.30 Film: La Prophetie De L'Horloge  
17.15 Tele: Lying Heart  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.00 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal Televisé  
20.10 Film: Bade Miyan Chote Miyan  
Cast: Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Prithviraj Sukumaran

09.10 Local: En Forme  
10.41 Local: Les Klips  
11.35 Local: Grand Titre  
12.00 Local: Exceptionnelles  
12.29 Local: En Toute Intimite  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
13.31 Saver Kiltirel  
14.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus  
16.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
17.00 Local: Le Mag  
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada  
19.05 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Rodrig Prog: Komanter  
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
21.00 Local: Ce Soir Avec Vince  
21.30 Local: Le Mag  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
23.37 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...  
00.01 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel

08.00 Local: Yatra  
08.26 Local: Darshan  
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan  
12.00 Film: Pyar Ki Jeet  
Cast: Ashok Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Vinod Mehra, Rekha  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar  
15.55 Ramayan  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani  
18.43 Bhajan Sandhya  
20.08 Local: Hunarbaaz  
20.30 Serial: Ramayan  
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nanlala  
22.00 Serial: Mere Sai  
22.34 Serial: Waggle Ki Duniya

06.00 Mag: Afrimaxx  
07.50 Mag: Close Up  
08.42 Doc: Bitcoin In Latin...  
09.29 Doc: Nato: Old Friends  
10.54 Mag: Shift  
11.36 Mag: Asia 2050  
12.58 Doc: Natural Wonders  
13.27 Mag: Focus On Europe  
15.06 D.Anime: Will, La Série  
15.11 D.Anime: Samsam  
15.27 D.Anime: Mush Mush...  
16.35 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau Renard  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.30 Doc: Healing Gardens  
19.00 Doc: Food Up!  
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere  
20.53 Serial: Wildflower  
21.36 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées  
23.06 Doc: The Tsaatan

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
15.30 Film: Chintuji  
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa  
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 Anupamaa  
21.34 Mere Sai  
22.01 Dhruv Tara  
22.29 Waggle Ki Duniya  
23.05 Mahabharat  
23.31 Film: Chintuji  
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa



Jeudi 21 Août - 15.30

Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa



Jeudi 21 Août - 20.10

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Prithviraj Sukumaran







Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# 2025 — The Crucible Year for India's Global Standing

India harbours lofty ambitions to scale greater heights across all sectors of development to promote its national interests for the benefit of its 1.4 billion people: from pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, related electronics, to high technology, aluminium, military equipment and defence systems, Artificial Intelligence and Space Technology. In a few sectors India is still lagging far behind key global players, namely the United States and China. But by now Indians themselves and the rest of the world have come to recognize that Atmanirbhar Bharat - the vision of a self-reliant India - is far more than an empty slogan.



Pic - Rising Kashmir

Notwithstanding its numerous structural and societal flaws: divisive caste mindset, poverty-stricken underdeveloped regions, lingering backwardness and lack of discipline and hygiene, states' specific political ideologies thriving on division and undermining the Central government's efforts at building unity, the Indian government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi remains unfazed in its determination to face domestic challenges, raise the country above petty political politicking, garner nationwide support for its internal policy in a country of hundreds of ethnic identities and more than 50 languages. Addressing India's internal challenges is a Herculean task, one that would overwhelm even the most capable and well-intentioned leaders in the West or major Asian powers where political unity was historically forged by force and cultural conformity was imposed by coercion. This diversity factor alone sets India apart.

As of today, India's contribution to global trade is quite insignificant and is characterized by far more imports than exports except in agriculture and the food industry. Hence the importance of Atmanirbhar, the self-reliance policy being strongly pushed forward by the government in several sectors. Despite remarkable progress in Information Technology, India has yet to develop a prominent, home-grown social media network for both domestic and global use. At the same time, the country is making significant advances in other areas. These include the semiconductor industry and Artificial Intelligence, which is being used to connect agricultural businesses in remote areas, as well as in the ubiquitous Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system and in the manufacture and export of military equipment successfully tested recently in Operation Sindoor, enhanced by an agreement on the transfer of technology from Russia. As for the Space Technology programme, the goal of sending Indian astronauts to the moon by 2040 shows that the sky is not the limit in India's unstoppable

growth.

## 2025 — A Crucial Year for India

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has thrust India into the geopolitical spotlight. Its refusal to take sides in the conflict has caused friction with Western nations, particularly the US and Europe, who've criticized its continued purchase of Russian oil. Under the guidance of its Minister of External Affairs, Dr S. Jaishankar, India has defended its stance, emphasizing a multi-alignment policy focused on its own national interests, a position that's been met with lectures and criticism from the West.

How will the current spat between the US and India unfold? The recent imposition of erratic tariffs by the Trump administration — often applied without prior dialogue — appears to single out India, with a 50% levy on exports, in what seems to be an attempt to exert pressure after similar measures failed to yield results with China. Prime Minister Modi's long-standing efforts to build a strong partnership with the US since President Trump's first term in 2016 now face setbacks and a loss of trust due to these tariff changes, compounded by a US policy shift towards supporting Pakistan barely two months after a military confrontation between the two countries.

2025 is a year of pivotal importance for India, as it juggles a policy of engaging multiple partners without being beholden to any. It demonstrates resilience in managing the erosion of mutual respect in its

valuable partnerships with the US and Europe, addresses the threat of nuclear escalation from its uneasy neighbour, strengthens ties within the BRICS bloc, challenges the West's moral high ground in global politics, and asserts its independence by procuring military equipment from Russia while fostering strategic cooperation with Israel. India's robust independence is underpinned by its economic strength, political influence, and military capability — three pillars that firmly establish its role on the stage of global powers.

On its 78th National Day, India continues to pursue a path of comprehensive progress, combining economic ambition, political acumen, and technological prowess. The country remains determined to assert its independence, strengthen global partnerships on its own terms, and realize the full potential of its 1.4 billion citizens.

## NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

### NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that **SKYLINE TO REACH CO LTD** represented by the **director: Mr SUBRUN RAHUL RAJESH RAMASINGH** will apply to District Council of Pamplemousses for a

Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed construction of **Day Care Centre / Kindergarten / Pre-Primary / Primary School and Facilities at Kashmir Road, Khoyratty.**

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named council within **15 days** from the date of this publication.

Date: 15.08.2025

## Tree of Knowledge

**As Good  
As Your Word**



*We forget how powerful our words are, and when we make promises, it is up to us to make sure we keep our words sacred*

Ever since human beings could speak to one another, they have been making promises. Those who keep their promises are regarded as people of integrity. Those who don't keep their promises are regarded as people who, at best, can't be taken seriously and, at worst, can't be trusted. Sometimes we forget how powerful our words are, and we use them haphazardly or unconsciously, creating expectations that are never fulfilled and leaving disappointment and distrust in our wake.

On an even deeper level, there are promises we may have made to ourselves that we don't remember because they have slipped into our unconscious. An early heartache may have been followed by a promise never to trust love again. Without realizing it, we may be fulfilling that promise and wondering why our love life looks so grim.

At an even deeper level, many people who recall past lives become aware that they made a promise lifetimes ago that they are still keeping. For example, a vow of poverty taken in a lifetime as a monk may be holding someone back from fulfilling their earning potential now.

Upon realizing that we have made a promise that we no longer wish to be beholden to, we can perform a ritual of requesting release from that bond. In doing so, we clear ourselves of outmoded connections and patterns, returning ourselves to a clean slate. Then, we can resolve to remember that our word is sacred and to be very conscious of any promises we make to ourselves or to others.

We may ask to be released from any promises made to ourselves or others in our present, past, or future lives that are holding us back from fulfilling our greatest good. We may ask that love, light, and healing be sent to any souls who have suffered from our inability to be true to our word, including ourselves. We can ask for the wisdom to do our best and from this point forward to be true to our word, promising only what we truly intend to deliver. The resulting clear conscience and liberated energy will illustrate this truth: We are only as good as our word.