

MAURITIUS TIMES

• *Everything about money is a double's game. — Patrick Bet-David*

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

'Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Béranger ont largement sous-estimé la volonté populaire de changement'

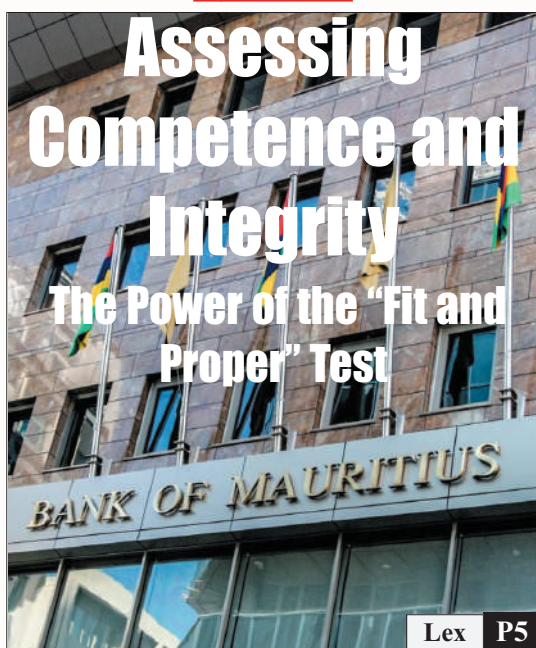


• 'Le leader du MMM ne veut pas nécessairement rompre l'Alliance aussi tôt dans le jeu... Il veut plus d'espace et d'influence'

• 'Le PM veut exercer le Pouvoir comme il le faisait en 2005-2014, excepté que le peuple et les mentalités ont beaucoup changé depuis'

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★★★★★

AFRINIC Resource
Members Assisted
Review

Ensuring a registry data that
is current, comprehensive,
accurate

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A fresh start often comes with high expectations. Yet, only months into its tenure, the Alliance du Changement finds itself under pressure. The coalition that promised sweeping reforms and a new style of governance is already showing signs of strain. While not at the brink of collapse, it is clear that the path to a revitalized democracy is proving far more complex than the simple act of winning an election. The euphoria of victory has given way to unease among leaders and a sense of frustration among citizens.

This is not just political theatre staged by opponents, but a reality shaped by missteps. At the centre of the government's difficulties lie two sensitive issues: the introduction of pension reform, which — though arguably necessary — was poorly explained, and a series of controversial public appointments. The pension reform in particular sparked a sharper backlash than expected, leaving many parliamentarians struggling to defend it. The government's response has often seemed uncertain, marked by hesitant communication and an air of detachment from public concerns.

The paradox is stark. After a decade of what many viewed as heavy-handed governance, the public expected a new era — one based on consultation, empathy, and meritocracy. Citizens, eager for a break with the past, sense too much continuity and too little change. The lack of wide consultation on important decisions, coupled with the persistence of political appointments, has fed the perception of "business as usual."

Old habits in new times

This situation is further complicated by the leadership styles of the alliance's two central figures. The elder co-architect of the coalition, known for his determination and tactical instinct, has remained consistent in his approach, even at eighty. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, a veteran in his own right, has leaned on familiar strategies — appointing long-standing allies to key positions. While understandable from a perspective of loyalty and trust, this preference has disappointed those who hoped for new faces and a fresh direction. The result is an administration that feels highly personalized, with echoes of old political habits.

In many ways, the government is a prisoner of its own history. Mauritian politics has long been shaped by strong personalities and party leaders who dominate decision-making. Institutions, though formally established, often play second fiddle to personal authority. This culture, deeply rooted in decades of practice, makes genuine reform difficult. Citizens may have underestimated the resilience of these habits and overestimated the willingness of leaders to abandon them.

The government's loss of momentum is largely self-inflicted. Despite having time to signal a break from the past, it has so far

A Call for Change



failed to move decisively on symbolic reforms — such as a Freedom of Information Act, or clearer rules for public appointments. Citizens are not looking for miracles, but they do seek visible signs of renewal. Without them, assurances that "things are different" sound unconvincing.

Even modest initiatives — such as town hall consultations, citizen advisory panels, or merit-based open competitions for top public posts — could have gone a long way in building trust. These do not require vast financial resources but rather a shift in mindset. By failing to grasp the symbolic importance of such measures, the government has left space for disappointment to grow.

Friction Within the Alliance

Talk of a potential rift within the alliance may be premature, but it highlights underlying discontent. The junior partner, whose support was crucial in defeating the previous government, now appears sidelined. Its leader, without a substantive ministerial role, risks being overshadowed by the Prime Minister. His occasional public displays of frustration may be tactics to negotiate influence, but they also suggest that communication within the alliance is far from seamless.

The Prime Minister, on the other hand, has opted for silence in response to his alliance partner's remarks — a strategy that reinforces his authority but also leaves tensions unresolved. For the junior partner, any misstep in handling this delicate balance could prove costly, particularly if its members choose stability with the senior partner over loyalty to their leader. In a parliamentary system where numbers matter above

all, the loyalty of individual MPs can shift quickly, making political survival an ever-present concern.

What this moment underscores is the fragility of political alliances and the persistence of old political cultures. The current partnership was born of necessity rather than natural affinity. Historical ties with other players in the political arena remain strong, and these deeper loyalties could at any time complicate the present arrangement.

Mauritian politics has always thrived on shifting alliances, sudden ruptures, and unlikely reconciliations. Parties that seem bitterly opposed today often find common ground tomorrow, united by convenience rather than principle. Voters, weary of this cycle, were looking for something different in the Alliance du Changement. They wanted not just a new coalition, but a new way of doing politics altogether. The disap-

pointment stems from the perception that old instincts continue to dominate, regardless of the party label.

Legacies and Last Chances

Both leaders, now in the later stages of their careers, are acutely aware that their legacy is at stake. This may well be their final opportunity to leave behind a lasting, positive mark. To let personal ambition or entrenched habits derail that chance would be a profound disservice to the country.

The public's expectations are not extravagant. What is being asked is simple: integrity, transparency, and a genuine commitment to reform. The old ways of political deals and personal networks cannot deliver this. What is needed is courage to depart from the familiar, even if it means letting go of long-standing loyalties.

There is still time. The government can reset its course by prioritizing reforms that matter most to ordinary citizens: accountability in public appointments, real consultation on major policies, and stronger institutions that outlast individual leaders. These steps would send a clear message that the Alliance du Changement is not just another name for continuity but a genuine attempt at renewal.

In the end, the question remains whether the leaders of today can rise above old practices and fulfil the promise of renewal. The structures of party politics and coalition governments are unlikely to change. True transformation must therefore come from leadership itself — leadership willing to prove that the change it promised was real, not rhetorical.

The nation waits for this signal. What it expects is proof that the call for change was more than a slogan. What is at stake is not only the reputation of two veteran politicians, but the very credibility of the political system. If the current administration cannot embody the change it promised, public trust will continue to erode — and with it, the stability on which Mauritius prides itself. Leaders would do well to remember that a mandate is not a blank cheque. It is a responsibility to govern differently, to listen more, and to serve with humility.

Mauritius Times

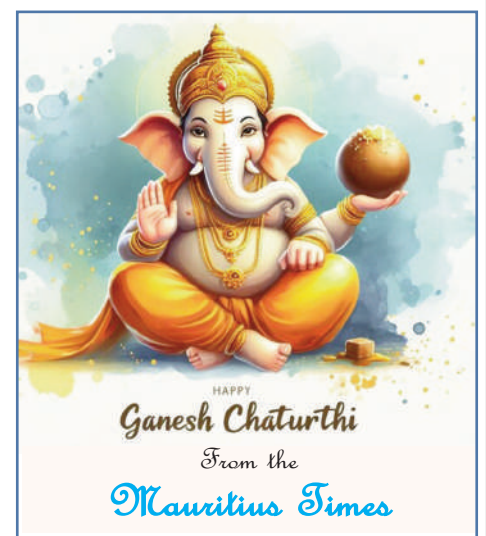
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Prakash Neerohoo

Public sector management

Why is Valuation of Assets always Problematic?

• A Chronicle of Fiscal Follies and Controversial Transactions

The valuation of assets (tangible and intangible) is an important exercise that is intended to estimate the fair value of an asset at any point in time. However, in Mauritius, the valuation of assets by professional valuers, in government as well as in the private sector, always seems to be problematic. In many cases, assets have been either undervalued or overvalued at the time of transfer or sale. The latest example of sloppy valuation is the selling price of a used car (Porsche) that was sold by the government to the former commissioner of police upon his retirement.

The valuation of assets is guided by professional standards such as the "International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) No. 13 – Fair Value Measurement" that is in use in most countries or the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) that are in use in the USA. Although these standards are there to guide professional valuers, the valuation of assets in Mauritius over the years has become a practice full of pitfalls, causing controversy and even giving rise to disputes before a court of justice.

The IFRS No.13 defines "fair value" as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Every public or private entity has a duty to assign a value to its assets that reflects their book value (historical costless depreciation) or Net Realizable Value. It might be argued that since government is not a profit-making entity, it should not care much about the value of its assets acquired or sold. But as a steward of taxpayers' money, it has a duty to get the best possible prices for assets acquired or sold through an open market (public procurement) or a private deal (between one government body and a client).

Let us examine a few cases of asset valuation by government bodies that have gone awry, starting with the latest example.

■ Undervaluation of a car sold to a retired public servant

For moveable property such as vehicles, which depreciate over time through wear and tear, the resale value is usually based on objective criteria such as Net Book Value (historical costless depreciation) or Net Realizable Value. The car sold to the former commissioner of police cost Rs 6 million in 2018. It was depreciated annually by 15% so that at the end of 2024, its Net Book Value (NBV) was Rs 2.3 million (see table below). However, the car was sold at Rs 415,000 instead of



Pic - mic-ltd.mu

“Mauritius Investment Corporation invested in companies and acquired assets during the Covid pandemic for a total amount of Rs 32.1 billion. This amount is broken down into: Rs 21.87 in convertible debentures, Rs 7.8 billion for the acquisition of land, and Rs 2.43 billion for the purchase of equity shares in companies. The purchase price of land paid by MIC was said to be overvalued as no reasonable valuation was provided. The valuation method used by appraisers hired by the MIC was not known. The basis of the valuation for equity shares at the time of purchase was not known either....”

Rs 2.3 million, thereby providing a capital gain of Rs 1.8 million to the buyer (retired commissioner) and causing a capital loss of the same amount to the seller (government).

Certainly, the government is not a business entity that can write off the capital loss to a Profit and Loss Account, but the capital loss of Rs 1.8 million is money foregone (*manque à gagner*) by the Treasury. The government has an obligation to get the lowest prices on its purchases of goods or services and the highest prices on its sales of assets.

It is alleged that the buyer might have

resold the car at a much higher price than Rs 2.3 million, thereby reaping a greater capital gain of more than Rs 1.8 million. Since capital gains on property (both moveable and immovable) are not taxable in Mauritius, which is contrary to the practice in developed countries, the buyer would have come out much richer after that resale transaction. In all fairness, the buyer should have paid at least the Net Book Value of Rs 2.3 million for the car.

How did the valuer come up with a valuation of Rs 415,000 is a mystery. Either the valuation method was basically wrong, which indicates professional incompetence, or there was a political decision to offer a price below the Net Book Value to the buyer, which goes against the principle of getting the best return. If the first hypothesis were true, the whole basis of valuation should be reviewed to ensure that Selling Price is equal to Net Book Value at least for used vehicles being sold to retired civil servants. If the second hypothesis were true, it would mean that politics has trumped sound administrative practices in this case.

Under a progressive income tax system, the capital gain of Rs 1.8 million to the buyer would have been a taxable benefit, as is the case in advanced social-democratic countries. In those countries, when the employer sells an asset to its employee or retired

employee at a price below its Net Book Value or fair market value, the difference is treated as a taxable benefit. In Mauritius, if the capital gain on the purchase of a used car below its Net Book Value was included among taxable benefits in the Income Tax Act, the buyer would have had to pay 20% income tax on the capital gain of Rs 1.8 million, i.e., Rs 369,579.

This is the kind of fiscal policy which should be adopted in Mauritius to create a level-playing field for all employees and avoid favouritism for some well-connected people. Those countries also publish an annual handbook providing data on the values of used cars by make, model and age. The handbook is useful for tax authorities when assessing sales tax on used car sales or assessing income tax on capital gains arising from resale transactions. It is available in print and online for anybody to look up the value of a used car, irrespective of age.

■ MIC's investment in shares and land

The second example of faulty valuation is related to the funds used by the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) to invest in companies and acquire assets during the Covid pandemic for a total amount of Rs 32.1 billion. This amount is broken down into: Rs 21.87 in convertible debentures, Rs 7.8 billion for the acquisition of land, and Rs 2.43 billion for the purchase of equity shares in companies.

The purchase price of land paid by MIC was said to be overvalued as no reasonable valuation was provided. The valuation method used by appraisers hired by the MIC was not known. The basis of the valuation for equity shares at the time of purchase was not known either. Most likely the shares were overvalued to the benefit of private corporations.

The convertible debentures are worth much less now than at the time of issuance. The private corporations can buy back the debentures at any time, but the MIC can only convert them after nine years while getting a low annual coupon rate of 3% before conversion (when the policy interest rate of the Bank of Mauritius is 4.5%). The whole funding policy of the MIC has been to the benefit of private corporations.

The MIC invested Rs 25 billion (amounting to a share ownership of 49%) in Airport Holdings Ltd (AHL), the parent company of Air Mauritius Ltd., while the government owns 51% of shares. However, the initial investment of Rs 25 billion was already marked down by Rs 1.778 billion in the financial year 2023-24 due to an impairment loss (caused by the losses of AHL's subsidiaries).

For the year 2024-25, the MIC Annual Report is not yet available. It would be safe to presume that the balance of investment in AHL of Rs 23.2 billion (Rs 25 billion less Rs 1.8 billion) as of June 30, 2024, was further eroded by another markdown in 2024-25 on account of continuing loss by AHL's subsidiaries.

● Cont. on page 4

Table: Cost/Net Book Value of Car

	Cost/Opening NBV (Rs)	Annual depreciation	Closing NBV (Rs)
2018	6,000,000	0	6,000,000
2019	6,000,000	900,000	5,100,000
2020	5,100,000	765,000	4,335,000
2021	4,335,000	650,250	3,684,750
2022	3,684,750	552,713	3,132,038
2023	3,132,038	469,806	2,662,232
2024	2,662,232	399,335	2,262,897
Total		3,737,103	2,262,897
Selling Price			415,000
Capital Loss on Disposal			1,847,897

Public sector management

Why is Valuation of Assets always Problematic?

● Cont. from page 3

It is obvious that the shares acquired in AHL were overvalued at the time of purchase. If the MIC were to sell its shares in AHL now, it would incur a substantial loss as it would not find buyers ready to pay the shares at their book value, considering the poor financial position of companies owned by AHL.

■ Air Mauritius' sale of aircraft

In September 2021, after 17 months of voluntary administration, Air Mauritius sold four aircraft at a staggering capital loss of Rs 3.377 billion (net book value of Rs 3.650 billion less proceeds of sale of Rs 273 million). That was a sale at bargain basement prices to get rid of unused aircraft, but it demonstrated a lack of foresight as subsequently the company had to lease aircraft when business picked up with the end of the Covid pandemic.

Who did the valuation of aircraft for the company at the time of sale? Was a valuation ever done or were the aircraft just sold to the first taker? That is a matter for the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) to investigate to hold the decision makers accountable for their poor planning. It is incredible that the company paid Rs 100 million to the two voluntary administrators, including Mr Sattar Hajee Abdoula, the former chairman of SBM Holdings Ltd., when its corporate interests were not appropriately safeguarded.

■ MedPoint clinic overvalued

The MedPoint clinic, a property owned by the brother-in-law of the former Prime minister, was sold on December 29, 2010, at Rs 144 million to the Labour-MSM government when the initial valuation was Rs 75 million. Why was the valuation increased so much? Nobody knows. The government valuer, when he was questioned in Court proceedings, said he could not remember why the valuation was revised. He had sudden amnesia.

“The MedPoint clinic, a property owned by the brother-in-law of the former Prime minister, was sold on December 29, 2010, at Rs 144 million to the Labour-MSM government when the initial valuation was Rs 75 million. Why was the valuation increased so much? Nobody knows. The government valuer, when he was questioned in Court proceedings, said he could not remember why the valuation was revised. He had sudden amnesia...”

The former PM was prosecuted by the ICAC for conflict of interest under the Prevention of Corruption Act (POCA), and he was convicted by the Intermediary Court. However, the conviction was overruled by the Supreme Court. When the DPP appealed the latter's ruling to the Privy Council, the ICAC changed its position radically, abandoning its previous charges against the former PM. Consequently, the Privy Council upheld the Supreme Court's decision.

It seems that when government purchases or leases assets from private parties there is always a measure of over-valuation to the benefit of sellers. We know of buildings that are rented by ministries from private lessors at higher-than-normal prices. It is a situation



Pic - tripadvisor.ie

“In September 2021, after 17 months of voluntary administration, Air Mauritius sold four aircraft at a staggering capital loss of Rs 3.377 billion (net book value of Rs 3.650 billion less proceeds of sale of Rs 273 million). That was a sale at bargain basement prices to get rid of unused aircraft, but it demonstrated a lack of foresight as subsequently the company had to lease aircraft when business picked up with the end of the Covid pandemic...”

where taxpayers always lose (by coughing out more money than needed) while private sellers win. Not only the sellers or lessors get overvalued prices for their assets on sale or lease, but they also do not pay any tax on capital gains upon the resale of property.

We should recall that the contract for the sale of MedPoint clinic was signed on December 29, 2010, a few days before the introduction of the capital gains tax on real property on January 1, 2011, under section 10A of the Income Tax Act, 1995 (titled “Gains on Immovable Property”). The seller shrewdly escaped that tax, which was abolished on November 5, 2011, by the Labour-MSM government. Since then, no government has had the courage to reintroduce a Capital Gains Tax on the sale/resale of immovable property.

An attempt was made in the budget 2025-26 when the government proposed to levy a capital gains tax of 30% on the resale of real property by non-citizens under various property development schemes, but it was abandoned under pressure from property developers. The Finance Bill 2025-26 did not include that proposal. Is this government beholden to local capitalists? It's a legitimate question to some observers.

Prakash Neerohoo



COMMUNIQUE

TAX ARREARS SETTLEMENT SCHEME (TASS) 2025

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs the public that the **Tax Arrears Settlement Scheme (TASS)** has been renewed.

Where tax arrears and contribution arrears are outstanding as at 30 June 2025, under an assessment issued or a return submitted under the –

- (i) Income Tax Act;
- (ii) VAT Act; or
- (iii) Gambling Regulatory Authority Act; and
- (iv) Social Contribution Act and Social Benefits Act 2021

any penalty, interest or surcharge included in the arrears will be fully waived, provided that an application for the waiver is made to the MRA on or before **Monday 01 December 2025** and the arrears are fully paid on or before **31 March 2026**.

The facilities to make an application for the waiver of penalties, interests and surcharges are available on the MRA website www.mra.mu

The scheme is not applicable to any person –

- (i) who has been convicted of an offence on or after 01 July 2012;
- (ii) against whom there are any pending criminal proceedings into an act of; or
- (iii) who is the subject matter of an enquiry relating to,

drug trafficking under the Dangerous Drugs Act, arms trafficking, an offence related to terrorism under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, money laundering under the Financial Intelligence and Anti Money Laundering Act, a corruption offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act or an offence under the Financial Crimes Commission Act 2023.

For further information, kindly visit the MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone MRA helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.

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22 August 2025

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Assessing Competence and Integrity

The Power of the “Fit and Proper” Test

‘Those at the Central Bank tasked with assessing whether a person is “fit and proper” must themselves be held to the same standard’

The “Fit and Proper” test is a crucial regulatory tool for ensuring that individuals in positions of influence within the financial sector possess the necessary competence and integrity. This concept, empowered by central banks guidelines, has become a focal point of public debate, especially concerning the appointment of bank officials. While its primary purpose is to safeguard financial stability, the principles behind the test — accountability, ethics, and due diligence — raise important questions about their potential application to public office and government appointments. Lex’s analysis examines the test’s legal basis, its practical application, the challenges of transparency and impartiality, and its broader implications for public governance.

LEX

* The concept of “Fit and Proper” test has gained prominence and entered public discussion following recent debates over the appointment of bank officials. What legislation empowers it, and why is it so important?

In Mauritius, the Banking Act of 2004 and the Bank of Mauritius Act 2004 are the key pieces of legislation that empower the “Fit and Proper” test. These acts give the central bank, the Bank of Mauritius, the legal authority to approve or reject appointments of individuals to senior positions in financial institutions. The requirement applies to key figures such as directors, senior officers, and significant shareholders.

The importance of the Test can be gauged from the ‘Guideline on Fit and Proper Person’, issued by the Central Bank, which states: “The probity and competence of senior officers, directors and shareholders who exercise significant influence on financial institutions regulated by the Bank of Mauritius are not only of strong interest to the Bank of Mauritius but also to the institutions themselves. As such, persons in these positions must have the necessary qualities, competencies and experience that will allow them to perform the duties and carry out the responsibilities required of the position in the most effective manner.”

* We understand that the ultimate responsibility for conducting and approving “Fit and Proper” tests rests entirely with the regulator. To what extent is this process transparent? If not, what is the scope for making it transparent?

The proper functioning of the financial system hinges on the compliance of directors and other stakeholders with the Central Bank’s guidelines. This is not merely about transparency; it is fundamentally about ensuring that the right people whose probity is not challenged occupy sensitive positions in the financial sector.

* The ‘Fit and Proper’ test is meant to ensure only suitable individuals lead financial institutions. However, this process requires a significant measure of judgment on the part of regulators, isn’t it?

The “Fit and Proper” test is a vital gate-keeping function of central banks, designed to ensure that only suitable individuals lead financial institutions. The process indeed requires a significant measure of judgment because the assessment of an individual’s character, competence, and integrity is not always a simple checklist exercise.

In the Guideline, a “fit and proper person” is defined as someone who, when subjected to the criteria of the Guideline and any other criteria prescribed by the board of directors, is likely to be in a position to discharge their responsibilities in a competent, honest, and correct manner in the best interests of the institution. Regulators should



“If the regulator, which is the Bank of Mauritius, fails in its objective pursuit of properly assessing all factors, then the whole system crumbles. In the case of Silver Bank, it is clear that the previous leaders of the Central Bank failed in their duty of due diligence. It is possible they acted under political pressure. We should not forget that many public bodies were ordered by the MSM government to make deposits at the Silver Bank...”

ensure that these criteria are met.

* Given the subjective nature of a “good reputation” and “good character” as criteria for the “Fit and Proper” test, shouldn’t the government in its role of arbiter ensure that regulators’ assessments are not influenced by personal biases, political pressure, or social connections?

It must be presumed that regulators would assess a person objectively and, if need be, make public the reasons why a person is not fit and proper. If there is any suspicion that the regulators themselves are acting under political influence or are biased, they would not be fair in assessing whether a person is fit and proper.

* When an individual or financial institution believes that a regulatory assessment by the BOM or the FSC has been arbitrary, based on irrelevant considerations, or has ignored relevant information, they can seek redress through the courts, including the Privy Council. However, this process is often lengthy and expensive, which can create a significant power imbalance. What are your thoughts on this question?

Pursuing legal action against a regulator is often an uphill battle due to several key challenges. The process is financially demanding and time-consuming, which can create an overwhelming barrier for individuals and smaller firms, ultimately giving the regulator undue influence.

Furthermore, while “bias” and “irrelevant factors” are valid grounds for an appeal, the burden of proof is high and can be very difficult for the challenging party to meet.

* It is also understood that when licensing a new bank, central banks should also meticulously assess

the “Fit and Proper” status of its significant shareholders, board of directors, and senior management. Considering recent bank failures, such as that of Silver Bank, and the high number of bad loans affecting some of our local banks, to what extent could it be said that the Bank of Mauritius’s ‘Fit and Proper’ tests proven to be truly effective in preventing systemic risks?

If the regulator, which is the Bank of Mauritius, fails in its objective pursuit of properly assessing all factors, then the whole system crumbles. In the case of Silver Bank, it is clear that the previous leaders of the Central Bank failed in their duty of due diligence. It is possible they acted under political pressure. We should not forget that many public bodies were ordered by the MSM government to make deposits at the Silver Bank.

* The recent deadlock concerning the appointment of a chairman and CEO for the State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) has been in recent weeks a focal point for social media activists, who have also called into question the credentials of the officials responsible for undertaking the “fit and proper” assessments. Would it be therefore a legitimate and pertinent question to ask whether those who perform the regulatory function are themselves “fit and proper”?

Those at the Central Bank tasked with assessing whether a person is “fit and proper” must themselves be held to the same standard. If there is any suspicion of impropriety on their part — such as bias, personal animosity, or a desire for revenge — they should be disqualified from the assessment

process.

* Governments and political parties could perhaps take inspiration from the “Fit and Proper” test concept to ensure that the men and women chosen for public office, including positions in government, parastatal bodies, State-Owned Enterprises, or as political candidates and Cabinet members, meet the necessary criteria. Wouldn’t that be in public interest?

Applying a “Fit and Proper” test to individuals in public office would be in the public interest by promoting accountability and trust. Such a test would ensure that leaders not only have the necessary skills and competence for their roles but also possess an ethical and moral foundation. It would vet candidates for a history of dishonesty, corruption, or other misconduct, acting as a critical deterrent against appointing individuals with questionable pasts. By vetting leaders for integrity and competence, this process could help rebuild public trust and strengthen key public service institutions.

However, implementing such a test in politics is far more complex than in the financial sector. The main challenge is the subjective nature of defining “proper” when dealing with political integrity and independence. There is a high risk that the test could be used as a political weapon or be compromised by bias, as it would be difficult to establish a truly impartial, non-partisan body to conduct the assessments. Furthermore, a “fit and proper” test could be seen as an elitist mechanism that potentially infringes on the democratic right of citizens to choose their own representatives, creating a fundamental tension between vetting for public trust and upholding democratic principles.



Anil Madan

The Empire Strikes Out

During the presidential campaign, Donald Trump repeatedly claimed that had he been President in 2022, Putin would never have attacked Ukraine, and that if he did become President again, he'd end Russia's war on Ukraine on his first day in office. Inauguration Day for Trump 2.0 was on January 20th this year. The war has raged on for seven months after that first day in office, and Putin shows no signs of abating his attacks on Ukraine.

The recent summit in Alaska was touted by Trump as the setting for a ceasefire that would lead to a peace agreement. Since Putin attacked Ukraine and President Zelensky has repeatedly called for a ceasefire and expressed a willingness to negotiate — but not to negotiate away Ukraine's territory — a ceasefire was entirely within Putin's control.

Before the summit, Trump sought to raise the stakes for Putin by declaring in response to a reporter's question about what would happen if Putin did not agree to a ceasefire: "Yes, they will. There will be consequences." When pressed for specifics, Trump demurred but emphasized the spectre of severity: "I don't have to say. There will be very severe consequences."

Meanwhile, as I have previously noted, Trump increased tariffs on India to 50% both because India has continued to buy Russian oil and because it is a member of the BRICS group of countries which he deems are hostile to America.

If Trump's threats of severe consequences for Putin and the spectre of an indirect route to secondary sanctions were an indicator that the Empire was preparing to strike back, by the end of a short summit meeting, it became clear that the Empire had not struck back, and indeed, failed even to strike a deal on a temporary ceasefire.

Since then, things have taken a more ominous turn. Russia's attacks on Ukraine continue to escalate. Obviously, Trump has all but completely backed off the idea of more sanctions on Russia and showed no appetite for imposing sanctions on China for its ongoing support of Putin's war on Ukraine.

Before the Trump-Putin meeting in Alaska, Zelensky accurately read the situation. While expressing hope that the US, Europe, and other countries that seek peace, might compel Russia to make peace, he wryly observed: "At present, there is no sign that the Russians are preparing to end the war."

Nor has the situation changed. When Putin said, after the summit: "I agree with President Trump. He said today that Ukraine's security must be ensured by all means. Of course, we are ready to work on this," President Macron of France read through the deception: "When I look at the situation and the facts, I don't see President Putin very willing to get peace now."

Details of what was said between Putin and Trump in Alaska are sketchy. Nevertheless, we can make some well-defined conclusions about the results.

First, Putin was not about to bend to Trump's demands and instead, sought to gain the upper hand and bend Trump to his will. He seems to have succeeded in convincing Trump to abandon his call for an immediate ceasefire and adopt the Russian view that a comprehensive agreement on a permanent peace is the only viable approach. This does nothing to stop the attacks on Ukraine and the ongoing carnage and given Putin's insistence that Ukraine formally cede Crimea which Russia has annexed, as well as the Donbas comprising Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This is Ukraine's industrial heartland to the east.

Second, perhaps in response to Putin's resolute refusal to agree on a ceasefire, Trump abandoned his call for that



Trump & Putin in Alaska - Pic - YouTube

“If Trump's threats of severe consequences for Putin and the spectre of an indirect route to secondary sanctions were an indicator that the Empire was preparing to strike back, by the end of a short summit meeting, it became clear that the Empire had not struck back, and indeed, failed even to strike a deal on a temporary ceasefire. Since then, things have taken a more ominous turn. Russia's attacks on Ukraine continue to escalate. Obviously, Trump has all but completely backed off the idea of more sanctions on Russia and showed no appetite for imposing sanctions on China for its ongoing support of Putin's war on Ukraine...”

result.

Third, the summit all but ended Trump's and America's involvement in the peace process except perhaps as the host for future talks between Putin and Zelensky. The Empire not only did not strike back, but the Empire also staged a retreat. In the wake of this, the peace process, if one can call what remains a process, is likely to pivot to a European British centric initiative. This was evident from Trump's throwing the ball to the Europeans and Brits.

Fourth, although it is right to pursue even the faint glimmer of a cessation of Russia's relentless assault on Ukraine, the Europeans and Brits alone cannot bring this about without American help. Such help must have three aspects: first, a robust set of sanctions including secondary sanctions on Russia to deprive Putin of the funding necessary to carry on his war. Second, the US must provide a continuing flow of weapons, offensive and defensive to Ukraine even if these are passed through to NATO countries first. Third, the US must find a way to stop Iranian and North Korean supplies to Russia.

It is beyond cavil that there can be no lasting peace for Ukraine without iron-clad security guarantees. Unfortunately, history teaches that Ukraine relies on such guarantees at its peril. The 1994 Budapest memorandum declared American, British, and Russian assurances of respecting Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence. This was when Ukraine transferred all nuclear weapons that had been on its territory as part of the Soviet Union, to the Russian Federation. Putin has also violated the 2015 Minsk agreements by attacking Ukraine. The US has all but ignored the declarations in the US-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership renewed by the Biden administration on November 10, 2021. That document stated, inter alia:

- The United States and Ukraine intend to continue a range of substantive measures to prevent external direct and hybrid aggression against Ukraine and hold Russia accountable for such aggression and violations of international law, including the seizure and attempted annexation of Crimea and the

Russia-led armed conflict in parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, as well as its continuing malign behaviour.

- The United States does not and will never recognize Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and reaffirms its full support for international efforts, including in the Normandy Format, aimed at negotiating a diplomatic resolution to the Russia-led armed conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine on the basis of respect for international law, including the UN Charter.

Keep in mind that these proclamations are from a document signed before the latest 2022 attack by Putin.

The latest development is that whereas President Trump has stated that the US might augment British and European security guarantees for Ukraine, with support from the air, there is no commitment that US troops will have a presence in Ukraine. This makes talk of an NATO Article 5 like security guarantee, essentially vaporware.

In a late-breaking development, *The Wall Street Journal* reports that is that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, has warned that Russia should effectively hold veto power over any action to assist Ukraine after a peace deal is reached, rendering planned Western security guarantees for Kyiv moot and delivering a setback to negotiations championed by President Trump.

According to Lavrov, Russia would have a veto power over any action by the other guarantors of Ukrainian security — making those assurances pointless. On Wednesday, Lavrov said China should also have equal powers in these guarantees. "We will safeguard our legitimate interests in a firm and harsh manner," Lavrov said. "Seriously discussing issues of ensuring security without the Russian Federation is a utopia and a path to nowhere."

So, there you have it. The Empire strikes out.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

'Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Béranger ont largement sous-estimé la volonté populaire de changement'

Mauritius Times: Le gouvernement de l'Alliance du Changement a déclaré, au début de son mandat, se trouver face à un vaste chantier. Cependant, à peine huit mois plus tard, des signes de malaise et d'agacement sont perceptibles au sein de la coalition. D'ailleurs, le mot "rupture" est revenu dans le vocabulaire des politiciens, y compris chez Paul Béranger et des observateurs politiques. Selon vous, quels sont les facteurs clés à l'origine de ce malaise et de cette éventualité de rupture?

Lindsay Rivière: Il est indéniable qu'il y a aujourd'hui, au Gouvernement, des signes de nervosité grandissante, qui alimentent quelques premières tensions. Attention, pourtant, à ne pas indument exagérer celles-ci chaque semaine et à voir, dans chaque petit incident ou différence de vues qui pourrait intervenir entre le MMM et le PTr, l'imminence d'une dramatique rupture du Gouvernement.

Il faut signaler que Béranger, lui-même, n'a jamais prononcé le mot 'rupture'. Il n'y a pas, dans ce qui s'est dit ou fait jusqu'ici, matière à rupture. On ne casse pas une alliance de cette importance, face à autant de défis, juste pour quelques mouvements d'humeur, parce que Ariane-Navarre Marie ne peut pas travailler avec sa 'Junior Minister' ou parce que Béranger n'aime pas la tête de Beegoo à Air Mauritius ou de Sithanen à la Banque de Maurice!

Une rupture aussi tôt dans le mandat (9 mois) serait d'une totale irresponsabilité. Elle ne servirait les affaires de personne, ni des chefs, ni de leur parti respectif, ni surtout le peuple qui a placé un immense espoir dans cette alliance.

Celle-ci est supposée faire respirer et transformer le pays dans tous les domaines: restauration de la démocratie; rétablissement de l'éthique, de la bonne gouvernance et des valeurs morales mises à mal pendant le règne du MSM; nettoyage de l'administration; redressement et consolidation économique; égalité des chances et méritocratie, etc. Le chantier est colossal et la mission confiée aux nouveaux dirigeants, considérable.

Si tous ces espoirs populaires devaient s'écraser sur les récifs de l'ambition, de l'égoïsme des politiciens et des calculs des uns et des autres, aussitôt le Pouvoir conquis, il en

Dans les pays en voie de développement, les alliances politiques scellées avant les élections sont souvent fragiles car elles sont confrontées à de nombreux défis, ainsi qu'aux ambitions personnelles de chaque leader. La République de Maurice ne fait pas exception mais, cette fois-ci, la population a décidé de ne plus être un «peuple admirable» - admirablement compréhensif, indulgent, complaisant et docile. La population exprime clairement que le Gouvernement doit se mettre à son service et non revenir aux pratiques fortement contestées du passé. Dans cette optique, il semble que Paul Béranger, lui aussi, ait ressenti le besoin d'exprimer publiquement ses frustrations. Dans cette interview, Lindsay Rivière nous livre une analyse de l'attitude du VPM et des



résulterait une décrédibilisation totale de la politique mauricienne, une désillusion générale, engendrant un désespoir prononcé voire une 'désespérance' qui remettraient le pays dans un état de stress extrême.

Frustrés jusqu'aux os, les gens cracheraient alors légitimement au visage de la classe politique actuelle pour son irresponsabilité et son cynisme.

* D'où viennent ces premières tensions?

Largement de l'incapacité du PTr et du MMM (de Paul Béranger en particulier) de garder la tête froide et de gérer calmement et intelligemment l'impopularité gouvernementale actuelle. Partout dans le monde, les gouvernements doivent faire face aujourd'hui à une certaine défiance Populaire. Les gens en ont assez des pratiques du passé. Tout agenda de réformes se heurte à une vive hostilité.

A Maurice, après l'euphorie de la victoire qui lui a fait croire qu'il avait un boulevard devant lui et que la menace MSM était définitivement écartée, le Gouvernement est subitement devenu, en quelques semaines, extrêmement impopulaire avec la réforme des pensions, les mesures du Budget et sa politique très controversée de nominations.

L'ampleur de ce renversement d'opinion a nettement surpris le nouveau régime. Celui-ci panique un peu. Ses explications passent mal. Ses parlementaires sont partout pris à partie et peuvent difficilement rencontrer leurs mandants. Tout ceci est susceptible de mettre du vent dans les voiles du MSM, qui retire la tête.

Paul Béranger et Navin Ramgoolam, selon moi, gèrent très mal l'impopularité qu'engendre leur action, et l'aggravent même en communiquant mal et en choisissant l'arrogance face aux critiques.

Parler aujourd'hui de 'rupture' sous pression de cette

impopularité et face aux difficultés sociales et économiques actuelles, ce ne serait pas seulement contre-productif mais aussi très peu courageux, à la limite de la lâcheté politique.

“Le Gouvernement ne peut continuer à fonctionner de la même manière. Il a eu 9 mois pour venir avec la 'Freedom of Information Act', pour la modification constitutionnelle sur les candidatures au Parlement, avec les 'Appointments Committees' requis, pour les appels de candidatures aux postes importants à la tête des institutions, pour traquer et punir les pourris. Les symboles sont importants. Il ne suffit pas de dire qu'on fait mieux que le MSM”

*** En dépit d'un climat politique apaisé après les élections, le nouveau gouvernement de l'Alliance du Changement perd en popularité à cause de deux problèmes majeurs: une mauvaise communication sur le passage à la retraite à 65 ans et des nominations controversées. Comment expliquez-vous ce paradoxe?**

Je pense personnellement que Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Béranger ont très largement sous-estimé la profondeur, la volonté et le désir de changement qui animent chaque Mauricien suite à la mise au débaras du MSM. Après 10 ans, les Mauriciens en avaient vraiment assez de se sentir prisonniers dans leur propre pays, harcelés, bridés, surveillés par un régime arbitraire et injuste, accaparant tout au profit de ses suiveurs.

“Après l'euphorie de la victoire qui lui a fait croire qu'il avait un boulevard devant lui et que la menace MSM était définitivement écartée, le Gouvernement est subitement devenu, en quelques semaines, extrêmement impopulaire avec la réforme des pensions, les mesures du Budget et sa politique très controversée de nominations. L'ampleur de ce renversement d'opinion a nettement surpris le nouveau régime. Celui-ci panique un peu...”

'Le leader du MMM ne veut pas nécessairement rompre l'Alliance aussi tôt dans le jeu... Il veut plus d'espace et d'influence'

☞ Suite de la page 7

L'exaltation qui a suivi le renversement du régime MSM n'était pas seulement un mouvement d'humeur passager. Elle traduisait quelque chose de très profond: l'attente ardente d'autre chose, d'une autre manière de gouverner, dans la consultation, l'empathie, le rétablissement de plus de justice.

La vérité est qu'on ne voit pas se concrétiser ce grand désir populaire d'une 'autre chose'. Il y a eu un bon début, mais on regresse vers du 'more of the same' dans la pratique. L'absence totale de consultation sur les grands dossiers montre des dispositions inquiétantes. La politique de nominations souvent aberrantes heurte cette envie réelle de méritocratie et choque très profondément.

Le problème est que personne au Gouvernement ou sur le 'backbench' ne semble mesurer pleinement cette déception nationale. Dans ces conditions, appeler à la 'patience' ne sert à rien. Il ne faut pas juste se dédouaner en rappelant la mauvaise administration MSM mais convaincre que le changement attendu arrivera lentement mais sûrement.

On a l'impression qu'après avoir beaucoup promis, c'est du pareil au même. Paul Bérenger est tout aussi arrogant et méprisant envers ceux qui le contredisent. Il continue à faire de la politique comme dans les années 1970 ou 80. Il se comporte toujours comme un chef de guerre politique impitoyable envers ceux qui ne pensent pas comme lui, alors qu'on avait pensé qu'à 80 ans, il deviendrait enfin plus sage, plus tolérant et plus consensuel. Et il ne se trouve personne au MMM (en train de devenir le 'Fan Club' d'un leader charismatique, comme le fut hier le PMSD de Gaëtan Duval) pour lui dire fermement que les temps ont changé!

Quant à Navin Ramgoolam, il gouverne comme autrefois, en 1995, entre 2005 et 2014. Il est resté tout aussi méfiant et il n'accorde ses faveurs qu'à son entourage de vieux amis et collaborateurs, les recyclant dans l'appareil d'Etat alors que Maurice veut du neuf, de la fraîcheur, de nouveaux visages. Le pouvoir, après Pravind Jugnauth, demeure hyper-personnalisé. Le pays vit donc selon les habitudes, le rythme et les penchants de Navin Ramgoolam, alors qu'il faudrait d'urgence passer à autre chose. Comme au MMM, il ne se trouve personne au PTr pour tirer la sonnette d'alarme et réclamer de nouvelles méthodes de gouvernement.

D'une certaine façon, les perceptions négatives autour du Gouvernement sont 'self-inflicted'.

*** Même si c'est évident que le gouvernement traverse une période difficile, une conséquence de la réforme de la pension, cette situation étant devenue plus compliquée avec les nominations controversées, il est toutefois probable que les choses vont s'améliorer au fil du temps. Cette période de turbulence est-elle un simple passage à vide inévitable pour tout nouveau gouvernement, ou révèle-t-elle des problèmes plus profonds qui pourraient persister?**

Je ne crois pas nécessairement que 'les choses vont s'améliorer au fil du temps'. Les mêmes causes ont les mêmes effets. Il y a, au Gouvernement, des réflexes et des automatismes qui perdurent et qui inquiètent.

Le Gouvernement ne peut continuer à fonctionner de la même manière. Il a eu 9 mois pour venir avec la 'Freedom of Information Act', pour la modification constitutionnelle sur les candidatures au Parlement, avec les 'Appointments Committees' requis, pour les appels de candidatures aux postes importants à la tête des institutions, pour traquer et punir les pourris.

Les symboles sont importants. Il ne suffit pas de dire qu'on fait mieux que le MSM. Il faut faire quelque chose de radicalement différent du MSM.



“Je ne pense pas que Ramgoolam veuille, tout au moins jusqu'ici, casser l'Alliance. Il n'a rien à y gagner. Pourquoi, alors que diriger Maurice aujourd'hui, est si dur et que sa popularité dégringole, voudrait-il renvoyer le MMM dans l'Opposition pour se retrouver face à Paul Bérenger, Pravind Jugnauth, Nando Bodha, Roshi Bhadain et autres? Ce serait, pour lui, une erreur de jugement fatale...”

*** En tout cas, si une rupture devait se concrétiser, elle constituerait une immense déception pour une grande majorité de Mauriciens. Partagez-vous l'avis de Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, qui connaît bien Paul Bérenger et ses méthodes, et qui a déclaré, dans une interview à Week-End dimanche dernier, que « l'Alliance est en sur-sis »? Et, si oui, quelles en seraient les conséquences politiques?**

Vous savez, là où est Paul Bérenger, compte tenu de son caractère et de son absence fréquente de jugement, on n'est jamais bien loin d'un incident, d'une réaction empreinte de susceptibilité ou même d'une rupture, comme en 1983, 1995, etc.

Sommes-nous au bord d'une cassure? Pas encore, pas aujourd'hui, pas au vu de la situation et des enjeux actuels. Même si, en politique, tout peut arriver, je ne partage pas pour l'instant le pessimisme de notre ami Jean-Claude de l'Estrac.

Ce que je constate, moi, c'est le début d'une certaine frustration chez Bérenger. Sa priorité, l'année dernière, était de se débarrasser du MSM. Il a fait plusieurs concessions pour cela. C'est maintenant fait. Le danger MSM est écarté pour quatre ans. Le pays est sur la bonne voie. Paul Bérenger tourne maintenant son attention vers la contribution de son parti au Pouvoir, sa contribution personnelle, l'espace et l'influence qu'on lui accorde.

*** Et comment cette situation affecte-t-elle le comportement du MMM ?**

Bérenger n'aime rien davantage que son parti. Il a, de tout temps, défendu les intérêts du MMM en recherchant un rapport de forces privilégiant son parti. Pour lui, la politique est d'abord et surtout un rapport de forces, avec ses ennemis comme avec ses alliés.

Traduisant une frustration certaine, il a accepté, a-t-il dit récemment, 'seulement 8 ministères sur 26'. Rétrospectivement, il doit regretter avoir laissé ReA et Les Nouveaux Démocrates obtenir 6 sièges au Parlement qui auraient dû revenir au MMM dans une alliance PTr-MMM plus équilibrée (35/25). Aujourd'hui que Navin Ramgoolam peut gouverner seul et dispose, sans le MMM, d'une majorité de 52 (comptant les 4 députés Rodriguais, les 3 de ReA et des Nouveaux Démocrates) alors que le MMM a perdu Franco Quirin, Paul Bérenger doit se sentir aujourd'hui un peu à l'étroit au Gouvernement avec moins du tiers de parlementaires.

Ses fonctions, son rôle et son influence de Premier ministre-adjoint sont mal définis. En l'absence d'un ministre reconnu, il est un peu comme le Vice-Président des Etats-Unis, en apparence à deux doigts d'un immense pouvoir mais, en réalité, n'accomplissant discrètement que les tâches que lui confie le Président.

Personne ne sait bien ce que fait Bérenger, et il a eu à préciser lui-même ses initiatives en conférence de presse pour que le 'out of sight, out of mind' ne commence pas à l'affecter. Devenir ministre sans portefeuille précis a sans doute été une erreur de Bérenger. Il est à la fois tout et rien.

Peut-être s'énerve-t-il de ce flou, de cette position mal définie? Peut-être rêve-t-il d'un modèle de Gouvernement où son avis et son conseil compteraient plus auprès du PM? Peut-être veut-il rééquilibrer l'Alliance et, comme le dit Nando Bodha, ne pas finir sa carrière politique à travailler 'seulement à la gloire de Navin Ramgoolam' qui, lui, 'shine' en permanence?

Je n'en sais rien, mais si j'étais Navin Ramgoolam, je laisserais à Bérenger un peu plus d'espace, plus de lumière, plus d'influence au Gouvernement, comme dans les coalitions allemande ou israélienne.

*** Navin Ramgoolam, garde le silence – comme à son habitude – malgré deux conférences de presse où Paul Bérenger a publiquement exprimé ses frustrations concernant les retards dans la prise de décisions et les nominations toujours en suspens. Quel est, selon vous, le "game plan" du Premier ministre?**

Navin Ramgoolam est bien dans son rôle. Il exerce pleinement ses privilèges, domine le jeu, garde tout le monde à sa place. Tout ce qu'il fait est conforme à son caractère, à sa conception du leadership.

Je ne pense pas qu'il veuille, tout au moins jusqu'ici, casser l'Alliance. Il n'a rien à y gagner. Pourquoi, alors que diriger Maurice aujourd'hui, est si dur et que sa popularité dégringole, voudrait-il renvoyer le MMM dans l'Opposition pour se retrouver face à Paul Bérenger, Pravind Jugnauth, Nando Bodha, Roshi Bhadain et autres? Ce serait, pour lui, une erreur de jugement fatale.

☞ Suite en page 9

“Xavier Duval et le PMSD sont des 'zenfan lacaz' dans la maison Travailleuse, des cousins politiques, pour de vieilles raisons émotionnelles qui remontent à 50 ans. Xavier Duval doit regretter amèrement avoir joué le cheval MSM aux dernières élections, mais il sait également très bien qu'il y aura toujours pour lui et son fils Adrien, comme le disait Sir Satcam Boolell, 'une assiette à table et un lit pour dormir' dans la demeure PTr...”

'Le PM veut exercer le Pouvoir comme il le faisait en 2005-2014, excepté que le peuple et les mentalités ont beaucoup changé depuis'

☞ Suite de la page 8

* À bien y regarder, diriez-vous que Paul Bérenger a fondamentalement raison quant aux motifs de ses frustrations, mais qu'il aurait dû soulever ces inquiétudes et frustrations en interne, et non sur la place publique?

Bérenger dit avoir 'souvent' évoqué en privé ses états d'âme avec le PM, mais que rien n'a changé. Il choisit donc d'aller vers la parole publique. C'est tout lui. Il laisse toujours connaître ses futurs positionnements. On le voit venir à un kilomètre.

* Il semble toutefois que la marge de manœuvre de Paul Bérenger serait plus limitée que celle de Navin Ramgoolam. Il doit en être conscient, non?

Paul Bérenger est sans doute pleinement conscient qu'il marche sur une corde raide. Il doit donc jouer serré afin de ne pas tomber.

D'autre part, on n'a pas encore évoqué une réelle possibilité: celle que si Bérenger part de manière maladroite et dans une désapprobation populaire certaine, plusieurs parlementaires MMM ne le suivent pas et restent avec Ramgoolam...

Gaëtan Duval connut ce sort en 1976, et Bérenger lui-même en 1983 et après. Bérenger est un peu frustré, mais bien d'autres le sont peut-être aussi au MMM de toujours subir ses caprices et ses erreurs de jugement!

* L'histoire a démontré que même si Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger s'entendent bien sur le plan personnel, le PTR et le MMM ne sont pas vraiment des alliés naturels, contrairement au PMSD de Xavier Duval. Est-ce dû à des raisons de culture politique, d'approche et de méthode de travail?

Navin Ramgoolam a toujours eu, a et aura toujours dans sa manche la carte Xavier Duval/ PMSD. Seuls les naïfs et les imbéciles croiront une seule seconde que la nomination par Ramgoolam de Joel Rault ('Campaign Manager' de Xavier Duval en 2024) comme Ambassadeur à Paris est innocente ou, pire, qu'elle s'est faite avec l'approbation de Paul Bérenger.

Le MMM est un allié de circonstance du PTR, mais Xavier Duval et le PMSD sont des 'zenfan lacaz' dans la maison Travailleuse, des cousins politiques, pour de vieilles raisons émotionnelles qui remontent à 50 ans. Xavier Duval doit regretter amèrement avoir joué le cheval MSM aux dernières élections, mais il sait également très bien qu'il y aura toujours pour lui et son fils Adrien, comme le disait Sir Satcam Boolell, 'une assiette à table et un lit pour dormir' dans la demeure PTR, où on n'exclut jamais quiconque.

* Paul Bérenger et Navin Ramgoolam sont tous deux arrivés à un stade où, généralement, les leaders politiques commencent à songer à leur "héritage" – à moins qu'ils n'entretiennent encore l'espoir de poursuivre leur carrière. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Je crois effectivement que Bérenger et Ramgoolam, à 80 ans, sont arrivés à leur dernière gare et qu'ils veulent finir leur carrière en beauté. A ce grand âge, on change de priorités, on n'a plus le temps, on décline inexorablement.

Tous deux ont très bien servi le pays et, d'ici 2029, ils peuvent encore beaucoup contribuer avant de se retirer. C'est leur dernier tour de piste. Il ne faut pas qu'ils le gâchent en détruisant l'espoir et les rêves de toute une génération.

* Les frasques et les acrobaties des politiciens mauriciens, ainsi que leurs alliances et



☞ Bérenger et Ramgoolam, à 80 ans, sont arrivés à leur dernière gare et qu'ils veulent finir leur carrière en beauté. A ce grand âge, on change de priorités, on n'a plus le temps, on décline inexorablement. Tous deux ont très bien servi le pays et, d'ici 2029, ils peuvent encore beaucoup contribuer avant de se retirer. C'est leur dernier tour de piste. Il ne faut pas qu'ils le gâchent..."

mésalliances, ne démontrent-elles pas une incapacité de la classe politique à se renouveler? Le pays reste-t-il prisonnier du système actuel ou est-il prêt à une alternance menée par de nouvelles forces politiques?

Nos leaders ne sont pas éternels. Un renouvellement devra bien, un jour ou l'autre, intervenir. Mais, vous le savez car je l'ai dit si souvent dans vos colonnes: je ne crois pas à 'une alternance qui proviendrait de nouvelles forces politiques'. Je ne crois pas dans la lubie d'une 'troisième force' ou des luttes à trois ou plus. Les élections de 2019 m'ont donné raison.

Compte tenu de notre système politique, il n'y a pas de salut hors des grands partis. Les changements doivent provenir de l'intérieur du système et des grandes coalitions. ReA l'a bien compris, quitte à boire la coupe jusqu'à la lie. Tous les autres rêvent.



COMMUNIQUE

Submission of e-EDF – Income Year 2025/26

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs all employers that they are required to apply **Pay As You Earn (PAYE)** for the income year starting in July 2025 and ending in June 2026 on the basis of **Reliefs, Allowances, Deductions and Rates** applicable for that income year.

Employees

All employees are informed that the facility to submit **Employee Declaration Form (EDF)**, electronically, is available on the MRA's website: www.mra.mu

In order to access the e-EDF, an employee should go to the MRA website, click on the link e-EDF 2025/2026 on the home page, and insert the following information:

- **National Identity Card Number (NID)**, or **Non-Citizen Identity Card Number (NCID)**, in the case of a non-citizen
- Mobile Phone Number or email address

Employers

Employers are required to login to the MRA e-services platform using their **Employer Registration Number (ERN)** and password and download the Excel file containing details of the Reliefs, Allowances, Deductions and Rates claimed by their employees in their respective e-EDF for the Income Year 2025/2026.

For the purpose of applying PAYE for the month August 2025, where an employee has not yet submitted his EDF for the income year **2025/2026**, the employer shall take into account the Reliefs, Allowances and Deductions claimed by the employee in his EDF for the income year **2024/2025**.

MRA requests all employers to inform their employees that they should submit their EDF **electronically** through the MRA Website.

For further information, kindly visit MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone MRA Helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

22 August 2025

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The Scandal of the Phantom Informers

In a candid dialogue on the streets of the bustling market, the renowned philosopher Socrates confronts his old friend Cephalus about the “Reward Money” affair. What follows is a sharp and humorous unravelling of the truth behind this affair, revealing a bizarre tale of phantom informers, questionable laws, and a trail of money that seems to lead everywhere but where it should.

Plutonix

Socrates: (Encountering Cephalus on the streets of Athens, near the bustling market.) Tell me, old friend, what is this great weight that rests upon your shoulders? You look as if you are carrying not a basket of goods, but the entire public purse of our city, and a very empty one at that!

Cephalus: (Sighing and shaking his head.) Ah, Socrates, your observation is as sharp as a newly forged spear. It is not the purse itself, but what is said to have been in it — a vast sum of money, meant to reward our brave guardians for their fight against the city’s vices. But now, it seems the money has vanished, and so too has the trust we placed in those who were meant to safeguard it. I have to add though that all of those under suspicion or arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty. This whole scandal of “Reward Money” has left us with more questions than answers.

Socrates: Questions, you say? Excellent! For where there are questions, there is the hope of wisdom. Come, let us sit by this olive tree and talk. For it seems to me that the problem is not with the money itself, but with the very nature of a “reward” and what it does to a man’s soul. Pray tell, what is this “reward” and to whom is it given? Is it a prize for the fastest runner in the stadium, or perhaps for the most eloquent speaker in the Assembly, who can make a goat sound like a god?

Cephalus: (Chortling bitterly) Would that it were so simple! No, this is money given by our guardians to those who provide information about drug traffickers. It’s meant to be a tool for justice, a way to lure out the snakes from their holes. Now it seems we have to go after the snake charmers as well.

Socrates: A tool for justice, indeed! So, if I understand you, the state pays for secrets, and in doing so, it encourages citizens to act as informers. A noble, if somewhat... mercenary, purpose. But what is this scandal you speak of? Surely, the guardians are merely paying these informers the agreed-upon sum? They haven’t been caught trying to make a deal with the local fishmonger for a cut of his profits, have they?

Cephalus: That is the very question, Socrates! The Crimes Commission has arrested some guardians who, it is suspected, have been taking this money for themselves, or who might have channelled the money for campaign expenses on the eve of the last elections in the Paradise Island. When asked who the informers were to whom they supposedly paid millions, they suddenly clam up, invoking some obscure law called the Official Secrets Act! They claim they cannot reveal the names to protect their sources.

Socrates: Ah! A delightful riddle! So, we have a group of gentlemen who stand accused, and their defence is, “We cannot tell you to whom we gave the money because that would be revealing a secret.” It is a bit like a baker caught with two loaves of bread who says, “I cannot tell you whom I gave these loaves to, for their identities must remain a secret!” Would you, Cephalus, accept such an excuse from a baker?

Cephalus: (Smiling despite his frustration) Of course not, Socrates! We would demand to know who received



the bread, and if the baker could not produce the recipient, we would assume the bread was his to begin with!

Socrates: And yet, these guardians expect us to believe that the recipient of millions in public funds is so secret, so ethereal, that he cannot be named. One might even conclude that these “informers” are nothing more than ghosts — phantoms summoned to explain away the missing millions!

Socrates: Let us consider this Official Secrets Act. The law, as its name suggests, is designed to protect secrets, is it not?

Cephalus: Yes, to protect the city’s secrets from its enemies, not to protect the secrets of its own guardians from the light of day.

Socrates: Exactly. The law is a shield, but these men are using it as a cloak to hide their secrets. So, we are presented with a paradox: a law designed to protect the state is being used to harm it. For surely, is a state not harmed when its guardians are not held accountable?

Cephalus: It is a grave harm, Socrates! The citizens lose all faith in those meant to protect them. The very concept of justice becomes a laughingstock! One wonders, if all of these millions were paid out, why have we not seen an equal increase in arrests and drug seizures? It seems the money vanished into thin air, leaving behind only a particular aroma...

Socrates: A most pungent aroma, indeed. And what of the numbers themselves? Have you heard any of the figures bandied about in this grand charade?

Cephalus: (Pulling a scroll from his tunic) Oh, I have them right here, from the very lips of our government. In a span of just a few years, payments to “informers” went from a modest sum to an astronomical amount. Just for September and October of last year, a colossal sum of over Rs 50 million was paid out!

Socrates: (His eyes widening comically) Fifty million! By the gods! That is enough to build a thousand temples or pave the entire Acropolis with gold! And you say this was all paid to these phantom informers?

Cephalus: So they claim! And what’s more, for the last two years, the official amount paid to our guardians themselves was “nil.” Zero! Nothing! It seems the only ones

deserving of a reward were these invisible, silent spies!

Socrates: (Stroking his beard in feigned contemplation) I see. So the brave, hard-working guardians who risk their lives on the street get no reward, while the ethereal, nameless informers get to be millionaires. It is as if the gods themselves have intervened, showering their blessings upon shadows while ignoring the mortals who do the work!

Socrates: But tell me, Cephalus, what is the ultimate purpose of this Reward Money?

Cephalus: To combat the trade in dangerous drugs, of course. To make our city safer.

Socrates: And does a safe city require that those who make it so become rich through secret and unaccountable means? Do we want our guardians to be motivated by the desire for public funds rather than a love of justice?

Cephalus: Certainly not! Their virtue should be its own reward!

Socrates: (Nodding sagely) So, we have a system that was meant to promote virtue — the virtue of guardians fighting a great evil — but which has, it would seem, cultivated something far more sinister: the vice of greed. The reward, meant to be a means to an end, has become the end itself.

Cephalus: It’s a disaster, Socrates. Some of the guardians are said to have had millions of rupees in their personal accounts, money they claim they “received” on behalf of informers. The “money trail,” as they call it, seems to lead directly to their doorsteps, but they insist it’s just a temporary layover on its way to some anonymous benefactor!

Socrates: (Laughing heartily) Oh, what a peculiar benefactor! One who entrusts millions of rupees to a middleman without a receipt! Such a generous soul must be a god, for no mortal would be so trusting with such a fortune! No, Cephalus, the problem is not with the money itself, but with the darkness in which it was allowed to fester. Like a garden left untended, it has grown weeds instead of virtues.

Cephalus: And what do we do about it, Socrates? How can we restore trust?

Socrates: We must first admit what we see. We must stop pretending that these phantom informers exist in the way they are described. We must demand that our guardians be held to the same standards as the rest of us. The law, like a tool, must be used for its intended purpose — to bring light to the dark corners, not to conceal the darkness.

Cephalus: It seems the Crimes Commission is trying to do just that, but the guardians are fighting them.

Socrates: Of course, they are! For when you shine a light on a parasite, it scurries for the shadows. But the light is the only cure. The city, Cephalus, cannot be made safe by guardians who operate in the shadows. For if their work cannot withstand the light of public scrutiny, how can we be sure they are working for us and not for themselves? Let’s hope that this scandal, as painful as it is, forces us to finally bring these “phantom informers” out of the darkness and into the light.

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L'affaire AFRINIC: Un Conflit de Pouvoirs et de Principes

Par A. Bartleby

L'affaire AFRINIC, qui secoue actuellement Maurice, est bien plus qu'une simple querelle administrative. C'est un véritable bras de fer institutionnel qui met en lumière les tensions entre les pouvoirs exécutif et judiciaire, tout en soulevant des questions fondamentales sur la gouvernance, la souveraineté numérique et l'indépendance de la justice.

Au cœur du problème se trouve l'African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC), l'organisation responsable de la distribution des adresses IP sur tout le continent africain. Placé en redressement judiciaire depuis 2024, AFRINIC est paralysé. Un blocage qui a des conséquences majeures: depuis novembre 2024, aucune nouvelle adresse IP n'a pu être allouée en Afrique, entravant sérieusement le développement numérique de la région.

Le Gouvernement, sous l'impulsion du Premier ministre, Navin Ramgoolam, a réagi en ordonnant une enquête immédiate sur les affaires d'AFRINIC, en vertu de la "Companies Act". Pour mener cette mission, le Gouvernement a nommé un juge de la Cour suprême, Nicolas Ohsan-Bellepeau, comme inspecteur spécial, le libérant de ses fonctions judiciaires jusqu'à la fin de sa mission. Cette décision a été justifiée par le caractère "juridiquement discutable" des procédures ayant conduit au redressement judiciaire et par la nécessité de débloquent une "urgence technologique et diplomatique".

Cependant, cette nomination a immédiatement suscité des interrogations. Des critiques ont fusé, dénonçant un empiètement de l'exécutif sur les prérogatives du judiciaire. L'argument principal? La cheffe juge n'aurait pas été



consultée, et la désignation d'un juge en fonction pour une mission administrative contournerait les mécanismes de séparation des pouvoirs inscrits dans la Constitution. Cette ingérence perçue a suscité un malaise. Un autre juge de la Cour suprême, Azam Neerooa, a d'ailleurs émis une injonction provisoire pour bloquer la mission du juge Ohsan-Bellepeau, une décision qui illustre la gravité de la situation et le sérieux du conflit.

L'entreprise Cloud Innovation Ltd, partie prenante dans les litiges judiciaires d'AFRINIC depuis 2021, a été la première à contester cette nomination. Elle a soutenu que le juge Ohsan-Bellepeau se trouvait en situation de conflit d'intérêts, car il avait déjà statué dans des affaires l'opposant à AFRINIC. Pour Cloud Innovation, confier cette enquête au juge équivalait à lui demander de réexaminer

des jugements rendus par ses pairs, et ainsi de remettre en cause la légalité de décisions de justice antérieures.

Face à la tempête médiatique et judiciaire, et pour préserver son intégrité et celle de l'institution judiciaire, le juge Ohsan-Bellepeau a finalement décidé de se retirer de son rôle d'inspecteur le 18 août 2025. Cette décision, annoncée par ses avocats, a rendu sa mission "caduque" et a permis de désamorcer, du moins temporairement, une crise qui menaçait d'ébranler les fondations de l'État de droit mauricien.

Au-delà de cette péripétie, l'affaire AFRINIC soulève des questions cruciales pour l'avenir de Maurice en tant que juridiction de confiance pour les organisations internationales, notamment dans le domaine technologique. Le fait que l'exécutif ait cru bon de recourir à une procédure aujourd'hui contestée pour résoudre un problème de gouvernance d'entreprise en dit long sur la perception de l'urgence et la confiance dans les mécanismes judiciaires existants. La réaction de

la justice, par le biais de l'injonction, a rappelé avec force l'importance de la séparation des pouvoirs et a souligné que même en cas d'urgence, la loi doit être respectée.

L'affaire AFRINIC est un cas d'étude fascinant sur les limites du pouvoir exécutif et la robustesse du système judiciaire. Elle met en lumière les faiblesses potentielles de la gouvernance mauricienne et la fragilité de la réputation du pays face aux défis de la souveraineté numérique. La retraite du juge Ohsan-Bellepeau est un développement significatif qui a évité un affrontement direct, mais les questions de fond demeurent. La suite de cette saga judiciaire, avec les audiences à venir, sera déterminante pour l'avenir d'AFRINIC et pour l'image de Maurice sur la scène internationale.

Emmanuel Macron: Le défi de la succession



Le défi de sa succession est de taille: comment transformer un mouvement d'individus en une institution politique pérenne? P - Radio France

En quelques années seulement, Emmanuel Macron est passé de l'anonymat à l'Élysée, bousculant les codes et les traditions de la politique française. Son ascension fulgurante, digne d'un roman, a marqué un tournant majeur dans l'histoire politique de la France. Son parcours, de l'ENA à la banque Rothschild & Cie, puis de conseiller à ministre de

l'Économie sous François Hollande, a forgé sa réputation d'outsider brillant. En 2016, il a fondé «En Marche!», s'affranchissant des partis traditionnels pour dépasser le clivage droite-gauche. Sa victoire à l'élection présidentielle de 2017 fut un séisme politique, faisant de lui, à 39 ans, le plus jeune président de la Ve République. Son style de gouvernance, à

la fois moderne et solennel, a profondément marqué le paysage politique français. Son héritage reste à écrire, mais il a déjà ouvert la voie à une nouvelle génération de politiciens.

Le dilemme de la succession: l'incertitude du parti Renaissance

L'histoire d'«En Marche!», renommé plus tard La République en Marche (LREM) puis Renaissance, est inextricablement liée à celle de son fondateur. Sans l'aura d'Emmanuel Macron, le mouvement aurait-il connu un tel succès? Peu probable.

Son programme, son charisme et sa capacité à mobiliser la société civile ont été les moteurs de sa victoire. Le revers de la médaille, c'est que le parti a toujours eu du mal à exister en dehors de son chef. Ses figures de proue sont souvent perçues comme de simples porte-parole de la parole présidentielle, et le parti lui-même peine à développer une identité propre, une ligne politique distincte de celle de

l'Élysée.

Alors que le second et dernier mandat d'Emmanuel Macron touche à sa fin, la question de la succession devient pressante. Qui pourra incarner l'héritage d'un tel leader? Qui aura la légitimité et la stature pour prendre le relais et maintenir l'unité d'une formation aussi hétéroclite? Les prétendants potentiels sont nombreux, mais aucun ne semble pour l'instant posséder l'envergure nécessaire pour s'imposer naturellement.

Cette incertitude fragilise le parti et le rend vulnérable à l'approche des prochaines échéances électorales, laissant un grand vide que d'autres forces pourraient être tentées de combler. Le défi est de taille: comment transformer un mouvement d'individus en une institution politique pérenne?

Un problème mondial: des partis façonnés par leurs leaders

Ce dilemme n'est pas l'apanage de la politique française.

📄 Suite en page 12

Emmanuel Macron: Le défi de la succession

Suite de la page 11

À l'échelle mondiale, de nombreux partis politiques ont été façonnés autour d'un leader emblématique, au risque de perdre leur âme et leur raison d'être une fois que celui-ci disparaît. En Inde, le parti du Congrès a longtemps été synonyme de la famille Gandhi. De Jawaharlal Nehru à Indira Gandhi, puis à Rajiv Gandhi et Sonia Gandhi et Rahul Gandhi présentement, la dynastie a incarné le parti au point que son avenir semblait incertain en l'absence d'un membre de la famille pour le diriger.

De même, à Maurice, des partis historiques comme le Parti Travailleurs (PT) et le Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) ont connu des hauts et des bas en fonction de la popularité et de l'influence de leurs leaders respectifs. L'Independence Forward Bloc (IFB), par exemple, a connu son âge d'or sous la direction de Sookdeo Bissoondoyal, tout comme le Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) sous Gaëtan Duval. Une fois ces figures charismatiques parties, le défi de la continuité et de la pérennité s'est posé avec acuité.



La dépendance excessive à un leader unique pose un risque systémique. Sans un plan de succession solide, l'avenir.

mort politique ou physique d'un chef de parti peut entraîner la dislocation de la formation et une perte de confiance de l'électorat. Les partis politiques ne devraient pas être des véhicules pour la célébrité d'un individu, mais des institutions basées sur des principes, des idées et une structure organisationnelle forte.

L'avenir du parti dépendra de sa capacité à transcender l'aura de son fondateur pour devenir une véritable institution, ancrée dans des principes solides et dotée d'un processus de succession clair. C'est la seule façon pour que l'héritage d'un leader ne s'éteigne pas avec son départ et que le parti puisse continuer à jouer un rôle majeur sur la scène politique.

Le cas de la France, comme celui de l'Inde ou de l'île Maurice, nous rappelle que l'existence d'un parti ne se résume pas à un seul homme, aussi grand soit-il. La véritable réussite d'un mouvement politique réside dans sa capacité à se renouveler et à préparer

Vingt ans après le scandale MCB/NPF: une condamnation confirmée, une amende allégée

Plus de deux décennies après l'un des plus grands scandales financiers de l'Histoire de Maurice, la justice a rendu son verdict définitif. Ce mercredi 20 août 2025, la Cour suprême a confirmé la condamnation de la Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB) pour des manquements graves à la *Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act* (FIAMLA). Cependant, les juges Nicholas Ohsan Bellepeau et Jane Lau Yuk Poon ont décidé de réduire l'amende initialement infligée par la Cour intermédiaire, la faisant passer de Rs 1,8 million à Rs 1,2 million. Une décision qui, selon la Cour, prend en considération le temps écoulé depuis les faits.

L'affaire remonte à 2003, date à laquelle une fraude massive, estimée à environ Rs 880 millions, a été révélée. Les fonds détournés provenaient des comptes du National Pensions Fund (NPF) et du National Savings Fund (NSF), deux institutions vitales pour les retraités mauriciens. La découverte de cette escroquerie a provoqué une onde de choc dans le pays et a mis en lumière de graves défaillances au sein de l'institution bancaire.

L'enquête, menée par la Commission indépendante contre la corruption (ICAC), a révélé que la fraude aurait été orchestrée par un ancien employé de la MCB. Le principal bénéficiaire de ces transactions frauduleuses était un homme d'affaires mauricien basé à Londres.

La MCB a été poursuivie sous la FIAMLA pour ne pas avoir mis en place les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher que ses services ne soient utilisés à des fins de blanchiment d'argent. Les juges de la Cour



Le scandale MCB/NPF a suscité un examen minutieux de la supervision bancaire et de la gouvernance d'entreprise. P - MBC-TV

intermédiaire, dont la décision a été confirmée en appel, avaient souligné l'existence de faiblesses structurelles au sein de la banque. Ils ont mis en évidence l'absence de contrôles effectifs, des audits internes déficients et une supervision lacunaire, qui ont permis à certains cadres de bénéficier de pouvoirs excessifs. Ces manquements ont créé un environnement propice au détournement de fonds et au blanchiment d'argent, ce qui justifiait la condamnation de la banque en tant qu'entité morale.

Le verdict de la Cour suprême vient clore une longue saga judiciaire. L'appel de la MCB, basé sur des arguments d'incertitude juridique et des délais jugés déraisonnables, a été rejeté par les juges, qui ont maintenu la culpabilité de la banque. Toutefois, la réduction de l'amende, de Rs 1,8 million à Rs 1,2 million, a été expliquée

par le temps considérable qui s'est écoulé depuis la découverte des faits. Un délai qui, selon la Cour, doit être pris en compte pour une peine plus juste.

Au-delà de cette décision de justice, le scandale MCB/NPF a eu des conséquences profondes sur le système financier mauricien. Il a suscité un examen minutieux de la supervision bancaire et de la gouvernance d'entreprise, et a conduit à un renforcement des réglementations pour prévenir de futures fraudes. Il a également mis en lumière les défis liés à la coopération juridique internationale, l'extradition de Teeren Appasamy depuis le Royaume-Uni ayant échoué en raison de sa citoyenneté britannique.

En fin de compte, la confirmation de la culpabilité de la MCB, même avec une

amende réduite, envoie un signal fort. Elle rappelle aux institutions financières leurs obligations en matière de prévention du blanchiment d'argent et de protection des fonds de leurs clients. Pour le pays, cette affaire restera un douloureux rappel des failles du système, mais aussi un témoignage de la résilience de la justice face à des affaires complexes et de longue haleine.

Dans une affaire qui a soulevé de nombreuses questions sur la lenteur de la justice, la Cour suprême a rendu un verdict qui suscite un débat sur l'adéquation de la peine par rapport au temps écoulé. En effet, la décision de réduire l'amende en raison du délai depuis les faits, tout en reconnaissant le principe que la justice doit prendre en compte ce facteur, soulève une problématique épineuse. Certains pourraient y voir un signal d'alarme, car elle pourrait être interprétée comme un message que les crimes financiers d'envergure perdent de leur gravité avec le temps, affaiblissant ainsi l'effet dissuasif de la loi.

Le cas a également mis en lumière un autre aspect crucial : la responsabilité des entreprises en tant qu'entités morales. La reconnaissance de la culpabilité de la MCB en tant qu'organisation, et non pas seulement des individus impliqués dans la fraude, a mis en évidence l'importance des systèmes de gouvernance et des audits internes. Cette décision symbolise que l'échec de ces mécanismes peut entraîner des conséquences judiciaires pour l'institution elle-même, renforçant le besoin de vigilance et de transparence pour prévenir les crimes financiers.

A. Bartleby

US-India relations in a "very bad place"

Former Trump National Security Adviser John Bolton has described the current US policy toward India as "very confused", stating that the relationship is in "a very bad place" for the time being. In an interview with HT, Bolton expressed concern that Washington has singled out India with a 25% penalty on its purchases of Russian energy, while major buyers like China face no sanctions. He believes this punitive action risks driving India closer to Russia and China, which he sees as a growing threat to global stability. Bolton acknowledges that he wishes India would not buy Russian oil, but places the fault for the current situation with the US, stating that India's actions are not prohibited by current sanctions.

Bolton attributes the strained relationship to what he calls the "aberrational" nature of the Trump presidency, noting that Trump's actions on tariffs have undermined decades of work to build trust and good faith with India and many other nations. He argues that since Trump lacks a clear philosophy and leaves no legacy for his successors, the primary objective for the US and India should be to limit the damage to the bilateral relationship during his remaining term.

Bolton also pointed out the perceived confusion in Trump's policy toward China. He stated that China, a "worse actor" in international economics,



Former US national security adviser John Bolton speaks at a panel hosted by the National Council of Resistance of Iran. Pic - The Economic Times

has been given too much leeway and has not faced secondary sanctions for purchasing Russian energy. He believes that had the US wanted a trade war, it should have teamed up with other nations to confront China, which he views as a more serious economic threat.

Looking ahead, Bolton expressed cautious optimism. He suggested that continued conversations between non-governmental individuals from both countries are crucial to show that the strained relations at the government level do not reflect the entire sentiment. He also proposed that Indian Prime Minister Modi should seek a one-on-one meeting with Trump to clear the air. Bolton highlighted the importance of their previously good personal relationship, which is central to Trump's view of state-to-state relations, and believes that this personal asset could be the key to a quick recovery of the relationship after the current administration.

India, Russia agree to boost trade ties after foreign ministers meet in Moscow

India and Russia agreed to boost trade ties on Thursday as their foreign ministers met in Moscow, giving little indication that US President Donald Trump's hefty tariffs on India for buying Russian oil would disrupt their relations.

Indian goods face additional US tariffs of up to 50%, among the highest imposed by Washington, due to New Delhi's increased purchases of Russian oil.

Western countries boycotting Russian crude say India's purchases are helping to fund Moscow's war in Ukraine. But New Delhi says its purchases are purely commercial transactions, and accuses the US and European Union of double standards, noting that they continue significant trade with Moscow themselves, reports Reuters.

"We have good results in cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, in the supply of Russian oil to the Indian market. And we have a mutual interest in implementing joint projects for the extraction of energy resources, including in the Russian Federation - in the Far East and on the Arctic shelf," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a



India-Russia ties steadiest since World War II, says Jaishankar in Moscow. Pic - India Today

joint news conference with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Jaishankar said that relations between the two countries had been among the steadiest of major nations in the world since World War Two, referring to a close friendship going back to the days of the Soviet Union.

The two countries reaffirmed their ambition to expand bilateral trade, including by increasing India's exports to Russia, Jaishankar said, according to a statement from India's foreign ministry.

"This requires swiftly addressing non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments," Jaishankar said. "Enhancing Indian exports to Russia in sectors like pharma-

ceuticals, agriculture and textiles will certainly help to correct the current imbalance."

Russia was able to divert its exports of oil, a significant source of state revenue, away from Europe and mainly to China and India after the West imposed sanctions on Moscow over its conflict in Ukraine. India and China are the biggest buyers of Russia's oil.

Russian embassy officials in New Delhi said on Wednesday that Russia expected to continue supplying oil to India despite pressure from the United States, adding that Moscow hoped trilateral talks with India and China would soon take place.

Across The World

Israel opens Gaza offensive

Israel said it had opened its offensive aimed at taking control of Gaza City, even as efforts to secure a 60-day truce in the conflict intensified. Prior ceasefire negotiations have failed at latter stages, but mediators Egypt and Qatar have pressed on with talks aimed at getting Israel to agree to a deal already accepted by Hamas: Israel has said it will respond by Friday, though prominent ministers have opposed the deal. And despite discussions ostensibly persisting, Israel's forces have begun expanding their operations in Gaza, a push that the UN and aid NGOs say risks worsening an ongoing humanitarian calamity. Separately, Israeli authorities this week approved a settlement project that would, in effect, cleave the West Bank in two.

* * *



Astronomers captured this image of a new moon of Uranus - labeled S/2023 U1. Pic - Carnegie Science.

A new moon for Uranus

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope spotted a new member of Uranus' "lunar gang." The discovery — just six miles (10 kilometers) wide — brings the total number of moons orbiting the blue planet to 29, though experts have said other bite-sized satellites may abound. "There's probably a lot more of them and we just need to keep looking," a planetary scientist involved in the find told the Associated Press. Scientists hope the moon may provide insights into Uranus, which remains one of the most mysterious planets in our solar system, NBC reported.

* * *

Ukraine peace plans proliferate

World leaders and officials made myriad proposals and demands as part of efforts to end the Ukraine war, but there was little agreement on a path forward. Italy's prime minister won some European support for a plan to offer Kyiv a NATO-like security guarantee without Ukraine actually joining the alliance. The White House has so far been reluctant to make explicit promises, with Politico reporting that a top US official told transatlantic military leaders that Washington would play a minimal role in any European plan. Moscow and Kyiv have demands, too: The Kremlin — whose forces invaded Ukraine — wants a veto over any security guarantee, while Kyiv says it will only attend talks with Russia when that guarantee is agreed.

* * *

China's growing South America clout

Peru's gold exports to China in the first half of the year have surpassed those for all of 2024, highlighting Beijing's rising clout in South America. China has vied to increase ties across the region in recent years, announcing a bevy of trade and investment deals. In a sign of Beijing's ambitions, it recently unveiled plans to connect Brazil to Peru — where Chinese firms recently built a \$1.4 billion port — via a rail line that would cut transport times by 12 days. Experts warn Washington's regional influence may be slipping fast: If the US hopes to remain a credible partner, it must "match the scope and staying power of China's vision," one wrote for Americas Quarterly.

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China's Xi Jinping urges 'ethnic unity' in rare visit to Tibet; gets roaring welcome



China's Xi Jinping urges 'ethnic unity' in rare visit to Tibet; gets roaring welcome. Pic- HT

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday made a rare visit to Tibet. Xi's visit comes ahead of possible tensions over the succession of the 90-year-old Dalai Lama, who lives in India, where he established a Tibetan government in exile.

The long-standing China-Tibet dispute revolves around complex geopolitical issue concerning the status and governance of region.

Many Tibetans and international observers argue that Tibet was historically an independent nation, while China maintains that it has been an integral part of its territory for centuries.

In 1913, the 13th Dalai Lama declared

Tibet's de facto independence after the fall of the Qing Dynasty. The People's Republic of China (PRC), established in 1949, asserts sovereignty over Tibet based on historical claims and the principle of territorial integrity.

The vast high-altitude area on the country's western edge was established as an autonomous region in 1965 – six years after the 14th Dalai Lama fled into exile.

What Xi said in Tibet

Xi Jinping, visiting Tibet for the first time since 2021, called for safeguarding political and social stability to safeguard the region.

"To govern, stabilise and develop Tibet, we must first safeguard political stability,

social stability, ethnic unity and religious harmony," AFP news agency quoted Xi telling a group of the region's officials on Wednesday, according to a broadcaster.

Visuals showed scores of people leaving red flags and cheering as a bus carrying Xi Jinping passed.

A massive portrait of Xi Jinping flanked a crowd numbering 20,000, according to CCTV, which included military personnel, school children and other members of Tibetan society, many in traditional Tibetan dress, AFP reported.

A parade also followed, showcasing Tibetan dancers, floats carrying official slogans, and formations of troops.

The visit by Xi comes weeks after the Dalai Lama said the spiritual institution would continue after his death, with a successor decided "exclusively" by his office.

China has insisted that the next Dalai Lama must be approved by the government in Beijing.

Xi called Wednesday made no mention of the Dalai Lama in CCTV's coverage, however, he called for "guiding Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to socialist society in accordance with the systematic Sinicisation of religion".



U.S. and Mexico weighing deal for Mexico to crack down on fentanyl going north. Pic- NBC News

Mexico denies US drug partnership

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has denied that her country agreed to a drug partnership announced by the US to fight cartels, heightening tensions between the two neighbors. US President Donald Trump has threatened steep tariffs if Mexico fails to stop drug flows, and his Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) said this week it would collaborate with Mexican law enforcement to combat cartels. However, Sheinbaum said her government had no idea what the DEA was referring to. Sheinbaum has veered from her predecessor's laissez-faire approach to crime, yet cartels are still thriving, while unchecked cocaine production in Colombia has fueled their takings, allowing them to further bolster their firepower. "It's really hard to be optimistic," an expert told the *Financial Times*.

Across The World



Denmark scraps book tax to combat "reading crisis". Pic - BBC News

Denmark's new tax on book sales to reverse declines in reading

All books sold in the country currently face a 25% tax, the highest in the world and an outlier even compared to its Nordic peers, which Denmark's culture minister said was contributing to a "reading crisis that has unfortunately been spreading." Along with the removal of VAT, Copenhagen also plans to spend more on public libraries and school book collections, "so that more children can be introduced to good literature," the minister said. Yet while a similar move by Sweden in 2001 resulted in an increase in book sales, The Guardian reported, most of those were by existing readers simply buying more books.

* * *

ECB head calls for non-US trade ties

Europe should strive to deepen trade ties with non-US partners, the head of the European Central Bank said Wednesday, as the bloc's economy begins to feel the heat from Washington's tariffs. ECB chief Christine Lagarde said that a recently outlined trade deal between

the US and European Union had "alleviated, but... not eliminated global uncertainty": EU exports to the US in June hit their lowest level since the end of 2023. The bloc is one of a number of economies reshaping its trading relationships in the face of US tariffs. China has ramped up exports to Southeast Asia and other developing nations, while Japan is mulling entering trade talks with Latin America's biggest economic alliance.

* * *

Americans fear AI-fuelled job loss

A significant majority of Americans fear artificial intelligence will cause widespread and permanent job losses, a new Reuters poll showed. Already, AI tools that can rapidly generate thousands of lines of code have impacted career prospects: The unemployment rate among new computer science graduates in the US is between 6.1% and 7.5%, more than double that of biology or art history majors. Students who would have been "fighting off offers from top firms" are now struggling, an academic told The New York Times, while one graduate said "the only company that has called me for an interview is Chipotle." Still, some experts argue against such doomsday scenarios and forecasts of job disruption vary.

* * *

AI won't doom handwriting skills

The ubiquity of technology in the classroom has sparked concerns that students' handwriting skills are disappearing — but putting pen to paper isn't at risk of becoming obsolete, analysts said. Experts broadly agree that simply learning how to write has cognitive benefits, and some US states have passed laws requiring students still learn cursive so the practice endures. But handwriting isn't doomed, ironically because of technology, Wired argued: As more people use artificial intelligence to cheat

their way through school, teachers are reverting to hand-written exams, requiring students to show their work and thought processes. "Handwriting won't die so much as... provide proof of life."

* * *



South Asia floods: Hundreds dead, thousands at risk. Pic- CNN

Floods devastate South Asia

Almost 400 people have died in Pakistan after flash floods brought destruction throughout the country's north. The heavier-than-usual monsoon season has also battered Mumbai, leaving swaths of the Indian megapolis under water. Huge rainfall has wreaked havoc across much of the Northern Hemisphere this summer, including floods in central Texas that led to one of the state's worst natural disasters, as well as record downpours in Mexico City. Experts fear that global warming — which leads to increased evaporation and thus more frequent and intense downpours — will make once-extraordinary climatic events more common. The Pakistan floods, in particular, highlight "why a rapid transition from fossil fuels... is so urgent," an expert told the Associated Press.

From the Pages of History - MT 71 Years Ago

7th Year No 315

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 9 September, 1960

• "If a man makes himself a worm, he must not complain when trodden on". — Kant

Why Independence?

It has never been secret that the Mauritius Labour Party stands for an independent Mauritius within the Commonwealth. Since the general election of 1953 the people has been made aware of the fact that gradually and inevitably Mauritius will have to be ruled by Mauritians. It can be said without fear of contradiction that the election of 1953 was fought on the issue of Responsible Government coupled with universal adult suffrage. In its 1959 electoral manifesto the Mauritius Labour Party again made it clear that it was going to fight the elections on the issue of the ultimate independence of Mauritius. The opponents of the Labour Party have therefore to agree that the people of Mauritius have expressed its opinion on this matter. There can't be any attempt at putting the clock back now.

Mr Bissoondoyal's implied allegations that the elections were rigged are worth the newsprint on which they are printed. And Mr Koenig's fears of the interests of minorities have proved to be completely imaginary. Such arguments might be useful at Plaine Verte, but it will be difficult to use them at a constitutional conference in London. Mr Macleod is no kid. It therefore follows that independence is going to be a natural sequence in our constitutional evolution.

But just now the Parti Mauricien and the IFB are bandying about all sorts of arguments which tend to confuse the issue. The main theme of their anti-independence campaign is that if Mauritius becomes independent it will no more be entitled to any help from the British Government. This is an argument which constitutes fraud on the public. Besides, one has the impression that the multi-headed opposition has come to a stage when its war-cry has become obsolescent. The days of "bateaux langoutis" are over and the era of "hégémonie hindoue" died together with NMU. What can the opposition offer now? An old battery how much it is charged, has no other place except the garbage: therefore, another bogey has been found, and it is the imaginary dangers of independence. The Labour Party must consequently keep on an incessant campaign if only to nullify the nefarious obscurantist campaign of the Opposition.

If we only take a look at what is happening elsewhere! Just see the amount of money which is being poured into the emerging independent countries. Cyprus is an opposite example: it became free at the cost of thousands of lives and millions of £ to the British people so much so that it tended to become the British Algeria! But on the next day of the proclamation of its independence the British Government announced the grant of a generous loan to Cyprus. The development projects in many newly-independent countries are still being helped by the British people. On the contrary it seems that when you are an independent country you have greater chances of obtaining help and not only from Britain.

Another bogey is being raised simultaneously: communism. From what has been published in other sections it is inferred that communism is finding its way in Mauritius and there is a carefully veiled attempt at sug-



gesting that the Labour Party is likely to go communist. We do not think communism has any chance in Mauritius. Nor do we think that Mauritius Labour Party has anything to do with communism. A political party which draws its inspiration from the British Labour Party cannot without openly contradicting itself have any communist affiliations. And everybody knows also that the British Trade Union Congress is certainly against communism.

Whatever be the theories of Mr Koenig or the special predilections of Mr Bissoondoyal, it is important that we know why we should fight for our independence. In other countries this would have sounded a rather stupid question. But believe it or not there are people who think that we should not be free! It takes all sorts of people to make this world, and democracy wants that every opinion be given a chance. When slavery becomes a habit and when it is taken as a normal condition of living it becomes more difficult to break its chains.

We cannot govern any more by Whitehall. It is time we started fending ourselves and as a country we have proved that we are up to the mark. If the Opposition thinks that it can do better, it should have the patience to wait for its turn. The fight for independence is not a fight against the Labour Party, but it is a fight against a system of government which is obsolete. If Mr Koenig or Mr Bissoondoyal is so sure that the whole population is behind them, one of them must start preparing his speech as the first future Prime Minister of Mauritius but let not anyone has the impudence to say that we do not want independence.

When Mr Harold Macmillan comes to South Africa and does not hesitate to tell the apostles of apartheid that we are living in a world of equality and when Mr Macloed declares it in Rhodesia, another seat of racial segregation, in Mauritius some people take pride in saying that we do not deserve independence. We do not believe that slavery has become such a habit in Mauritius. The sad experiences in Congo might be dangled as an argument against independence, but people who are abreast of politics know that our situation is different for two reasons (a) we have had the privilege of being a British colony, and (b) our people has been given already a sense of participation in ruling the country. Besides, Mr Macloed and the British Government are ready to receive our delegates and the way things are moving elsewhere it can be taken for granted that only the stage has to be set to welcome independence.

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
MCIA Mauritius Cane Industry Authority
 Farmers Service Agency, Royal Road, St Pierre
 Telephone: (230) 434-0081 Fax: 434-1739
 E-Mail: fsa.etu@mcia.mu

Supply of Fertilizers to Sugar Cane Planters for Crop 2026

- ☞ Government has decided to renew the Fertilizer Scheme for Crop 2026 for all planters cultivating less than 100 ha.
- ☞ In this context, all planters cultivating less than 100 ha of sugar cane are eligible to a supply of 250 kg of fertilizer type 17-8-25 per arpent as an advance for the upkeep of their ratoon crop (repousse) including ammonium nitrate (AN) based formulations. As from this year, planters are hereby strongly advised to opt for voucher for the supply of ammonium nitrate (AN) fertilizer formulations which are not subject to losses due to volatilisation in non-irrigated ratoons. Furthermore, for planters opting for AN fertilizer formulations, the number of fertilizer bags will be calculated on the actual cane tonnage supplied to mill and on a factor of 1.3 kg N per tonne cane.
- ☞ Planters will have to sign an agreement authorizing the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate to deduct 50 per cent of the cost of fertilizers from their sugar proceeds in 2026.
- ☞ Eligible planters are invited to apply for this Scheme at the Farmers Service Centre of their region as from 1st September 2025, producing the following documents (Original + 1 copy):
 - (i) National Identity Card
 - (ii) SIFB Registration Card 2025
 - (iii) Weighbridge receipts – weight of cane milled in 2025. Only the area harvested in 2025 will be considered.
- ☞ The fertilizers will be supplied mainly through sales points of official importers and distributors of fertilizers as was the case last year.
- ☞ Planters having already harvested their fields for Harvest 2025 on or before 1st September 2025 can also benefit from the Scheme by applying for a refund for a maximum amount of Rs 9,960/Arpent. Eligible planters should produce evidence of purchase of fertilizers (Invoice from Supplier), in addition to the above-mentioned documents.
- ☞ Planters who have not yet paid the 50% of the cost of fertilizers for previous years will be required to settle same in order to benefit from this Scheme.

Officer-in-Charge
 22nd August 2025

NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that I, **LES HAUTS DE FLOREAL** Will apply to the Municipal of Vacoas-Phoenix for a Building and Land Use Permit for proposed demolition of existing building and Construction of a G+5 Residential Development, Comprising Basement and Ground Floor Parking with Five Upper Floors for Residential Use (First to Fifth Floor) at Reunion Road, Floreal, Vacoas.

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

Date: 20 August 2025



COMMUNIQUE

Income Support to persons attaining 60 years as from 01 September 2025

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius has decided to provide a monthly Income Support of Rs 10,000 including an end-of-year bonus for the month of December to persons reaching the age of 60 years as from 1 September 2025, and who would become ineligible for the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) following the gradual transition of the eligible age to 65 years.

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has been entrusted with the responsibility to put in place a system to provide for the income support to eligible persons.

The MRA informs eligible persons that the facility to apply for the income support is available on MRA website www.mra.mu.

Eligible persons reaching the age of 60 years between 1 September 2025 and up to 31 August 2026 are now requested to submit their application using that facility. In due course, the facility will be made available to persons reaching the age of 60 after 31 August 2026.

Eligible persons are required to use their National Identification Card (NID) Number or Non-Citizen Identity Card (NCID) Number to access the system and apply for the Income Support. The MRA will, after processing the applications, effect the monthly payments of the Income Support to eligible applicants, by crediting the bank accounts provided in the application.

Eligible Persons

A person is eligible to the Income Support from the month in which he/she reaches years of age 60 up to the month preceding that in which he/she becomes eligible to the Basic Retirement Pension, provided that he/she -

- i. reaches the age of 60 years on or after 1 September 2025;
- ii. is not eligible to Basic Retirement Pension, Widow's Basic Pension or Invalid's Basic Pension; and
- iii. derives a net income not exceeding 10,000 rupees in that month, where he/she is single, or in the case of a couple, derives an aggregate net income not exceeding 20,000 rupees.

Net income of a person or aggregate net income of a couple excludes exempt income for Income Tax purposes, Basic Retirement or Invalid's Basic Pension or Income Support of the spouse, Disability Allowance, Social Benefits, Lump Sum, Retirement Allowance and Severance Allowance.

Eligible person refers to a Mauritian citizen who has resided in Mauritius for at least 12 years in aggregate since his/her eighteenth birthday or to a non-Mauritian citizen who has resided in Mauritius for more than 15 years since his/her fortieth birthday, including three years immediately preceding the month for which the Income Support is applied for.

Where there is a change in the net income of an eligible person or the aggregate net income of the couple and he/she becomes no longer eligible for the income support, he/she shall notify the Director-General of such change within a period of 14 days by amending his/her application using the facility available on MRA website.

For further information or clarifications, eligible persons may phone the MRA Helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours or call at our customer service center at the undermentioned address.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

22 August 2025

Ehram Court, Cnr. Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius

T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 207 6048 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 – DEC 21

Adventure calls, but balance it with commitments. A new idea or course could inspire you. Midweek brings positive news from afar. Keep an open mind in relationships — compromise will pay off.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 14, 19, 25, 33

CAPRICORN DEC 22 – JAN 19

Hard work earns recognition. It's a good week for negotiations or career moves. Avoid letting financial stress affect your mood. Romance benefits from quality time, not grand gestures.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 17, 22, 28, 36

AQUARIUS JAN 20 – FEB 18

Your ideas find an eager audience. Collaboration leads to progress but be open to constructive criticism. A social event could bring a meaningful connection.

Finances improve through innovative thinking.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 15, 23, 30, 39

PISCES FEB 19 – MAR 20

Your intuition is sharp—trust it in personal matters. A work project may demand creative problem-solving. Set boundaries to protect your energy. Love life feels tender and emotional midweek.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 13, 20, 27, 34

ARIES MAR 21 – APR 19

A burst of energy helps you tackle lingering tasks. Conversations bring clarity in career matters. Avoid rushing decisions in finances. Love life benefits from patience and gentleness.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 12, 18, 25, 33

TAURUS APR 20 – MAY 20

Stability feels important now, but unexpected events could push you out of your comfort zone. Relationships deepen through shared experiences. A surprise message may shift your weekend plans.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 14, 21, 28, 36

GEMINI MAY 21 – JUN 20

Your quick thinking solves a tricky situation early in the week. Avoid scattering your energy — focus on one project at a time. Romance sparkles midweek.

A friend's advice proves valuable.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 11, 19, 24, 37

CANCER JUN 21 – JUL 22

Work matters require extra attention. Don't be discouraged by slow progress—steady effort pays off. A family matter may need your empathy and diplomacy. Financial decisions benefit from expert guidance.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 15, 22, 30, 39

LEO JUL 23 – AUG 22

Your confidence attracts positive attention. Take the lead in group activities, but allow others' input. A romantic opportunity may arise unexpectedly. Creative projects gain momentum. Keep an eye on impulsive spending.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 17, 23, 29, 34

Virgo Aug 23 – Sep 22

Practical thinking serves you well at work. Organizing your environment boosts productivity. A small health habit change brings big benefits. Someone from your past may reappear—decide if they still fit your life.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 13, 20, 27, 35

LIBRA SEP 23 – OCT 22

Teamwork is key to your success now. Clear communication prevents misunderstandings. Love life feels harmonious if you keep expectations realistic. Midweek is ideal for artistic or social events. A short trip could open your eyes to new opportunities.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 16, 21, 32, 38

SCORPIO OCT 23 – NOV 21

You're motivated to tackle finances and personal goals. A power dynamic at work may surface — stay strategic, not reactive. In love, honesty deepens bonds. Trust your instincts with family matters. Weekend favors intense but rewarding discussions.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 18, 26, 31, 40



Doctors say we've been misled about weight and health

A growing chorus of medical experts is challenging the pervasive notion that weight loss is the ultimate indicator of health. Writing in *The BMJ*, Dr. Juan Franco and colleagues argue that the long-standing obsession with Body Mass Index (BMI) and strict dieting may do more harm than good, asserting that a healthy lifestyle

offers profound benefits regardless of the number on the scale.

For decades, the primary recommendation for individuals with obesity has been lifestyle interventions focusing on calorie restriction and increased physical activity to reduce weight. However, rigorous evidence now suggests that these interventions are largely ineffective at achieving sustained, long-term weight loss. More importantly, they often fail to significantly reduce the risk of serious cardiovascular events or mortality directly linked to weight loss itself.

The harmful pursuit of weight loss

The experts highlight that the relentless focus on weight loss can carry significant harms that are often overlooked. This includes the reinforcement of societal weight stigma, which can lead to negative attitudes and judgments against individuals based on their size. Such bias not only contributes to adverse mental health outcomes but can also trigger disordered eating patterns, foster the adoption of other unhealthy habits, and, ironically, even lead to weight gain in the long run.

The authors stress that while a healthy lifestyle — encompassing nutritious eating and regular physical activity — undoubtedly offers important benefits, weight alone does not provide an adequate picture of someone's overall health. Recognizing the limitations of weight-centric interventions could pave the way for more

effective and patient-centered care.

A shift towards compassionate, personalized care

Encouragingly, recent clinical guidelines are beginning to reflect this growing understanding that weight is an insufficient measure of health. Alternative approaches, such as Health at Every Size (HAES), are gaining traction. These models acknowledge that good health can be achieved irrespective of weight loss and have shown promising results in improving eating behaviors and overall well-being.

While these alternative approaches require further large-scale clinical trials, doctors are encouraged to learn from them to provide more compassionate and effective care for patients in larger bodies. "Doctors should be prepared to inform individuals seeking weight loss about the potential benefits and harms of interventions and minimize the risk of developing eating disorders and long term impacts on metabolism," the experts write.

Ultimately, the goal is to offer high-quality, evidence-based care that aligns with individual preferences and needs, prioritizing overall well-being rather than just chasing a number on the scale. The advice to eat healthily and be physically active remains critical for better health, but it should be delivered with a focus on comprehensive well-being, discussions about benefits and harms, and what truly matters to the patient — regardless of their weight.



Do people dream in color or black and white?

Researchers have found dreams are most likely to occur during the stage of sleep known as rapid eye movement, or REM.

Dreams are an astonishing state of consciousness. As you sleep, your mind creates fantastic and bizarre stories, rich with visual details — all without any conscious input from you.

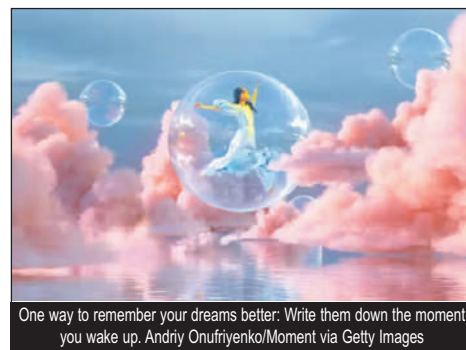
Some dreams are boring. Others show you shocking events or magnificent images. I frequently dream of alligators walking upright, wearing sunglasses and yellow T-shirts. Often the alligators are friendly and go on adventures with me, but sometimes they're aggressive and chase me.

The way the brain operates while you're dreaming explains why dreams can be so fantastic. A small structure called the amygdala is largely responsible for processing emotional information, and it's very active while dreaming. In contrast, the brain's frontal cortex, which helps you plan and strategize, tends to be rather quiet. This pattern explains why dreams can jump from one peculiar scene to the next, with no clear story line. It's as if you are sailing an emotional wave, without a captain.

Dreams can indeed be emotional and sometimes scary. But dreams can be enjoyable too — maybe you've had a dream so delightful you were disappointed to wake up and realize it wasn't reality.

Are the images in your dreams in vivid color? Perhaps you had a dream about playing *Candy Crush* and can remember the brightly colored red, purple and yellow candies cascading in your dream.

As a neuroscientist who studies sleep, I can tell you that about 70% to 80% of people report dreaming in color, as opposed to just in shades of black and white. But this estimate may be low, because scientists can't actually see what a dreamer sees. There's no sophisticated



One way to remember your dreams better: Write them down the moment you wake up. Andriy Onufriyenko/Moment via Getty Images

technology showing them exactly what's happening in a dreamer's mind. Instead, they have to rely on what dreamers remember about their dreams.

Studying sleep in the laboratory

To study dreams, researchers ask people to sleep in laboratories, and they simply wake them while they're dreaming and then ask them what they were just thinking about. It's pretty rudimentary science, but it works.

How do scientists know when people are dreaming? Although dreams can occur in any sleep stage, research has long shown that dreams are most likely to occur during rapid eye movement sleep, or REM sleep.

Scientists can identify REM by the electrical activity on your scalp and your eye movements. They do this by using an electroencephalogram, which uses several small electrodes placed directly on the scalp to measure brain activity. During REM, the dreamer's eyes move back and forth repeatedly. This likely means they're scanning — that is, looking around in their dream.

That's when dream researchers wake up their participants. Dreams are really

tricky to study because they evaporate so quickly. So instead of asking participants to remember a dream — even one they were having a moment ago — we ask them what they were just "thinking." Dreamers don't have time to think or reflect, they just respond — before the dream is lost.

Dreams are full-sensory experiences

There seem to be age differences in color dreaming. Older people report far less color in their dreams than younger people. The prevailing explanation for this is based on the media they experienced while young. If the photographs, movies and television you saw as a child were all in black and white, then you are more likely to report more black-and-white dreams than color dreams.

This phenomenon raises some interesting questions. Are people really dreaming in black and white or just remembering their dreams that way after the fact? Was it as common for people to say they dreamed in black and white before these visual media were invented? There wasn't any focused research that relied on in-the-moment dream reports back before black-and-white photos and movies existed, so we will never know.

Although visual features dominate, you can also hear, smell, taste and feel things in your dreams. So if you dream about visiting Disneyland, you might hear the music from the parade or smell french fries from a food stand.

You may have also wondered whether blind people dream. They do. If a person becomes blind after age 5 or 6, their dreams will contain visual images. However, someone who is congenitally blind, or becomes blind before about age 5, will not have visual images in their dreams.

Instead, their dreams contain more information from the other senses.

Remembering your dreams

Some people may say they don't dream at all. They do, but many people don't remember their dreams. The vast majority of dreams are forgotten. That's because when we're in REM sleep, the hippocampus, the area of the brain responsible for long-term memory, is largely turned off.

Others may remember a dream immediately upon awakening but quickly forget it. That's because the hippocampus is a bit sluggish and takes some time to wake up, so you're not able to create a long-term memory right after waking.

Perhaps the biggest question about dreams is whether they mean anything. People have been discussing this since ancient times. Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, called dreams the "royal road to the unconscious." He believed they had a profound meaning that's hidden from the dreamer.

But today, scientists agree that dreams do not have any hidden meaning. So while it's entertaining to think about what your dreams mean, there's no scientific basis, for example, to think that a dream about your teeth falling out automatically means you're anxious about a loss.

If you would like to remember your dreams better, simply keep a notepad and pen by your bed and practice writing down your dreams right when you wake. This is the best way to remember the fantastical stories your brain creates for you every night.

Kimberly Fenn
Professor of Psychology,
Michigan State University

*Laughter is the
Best Medicine*



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.

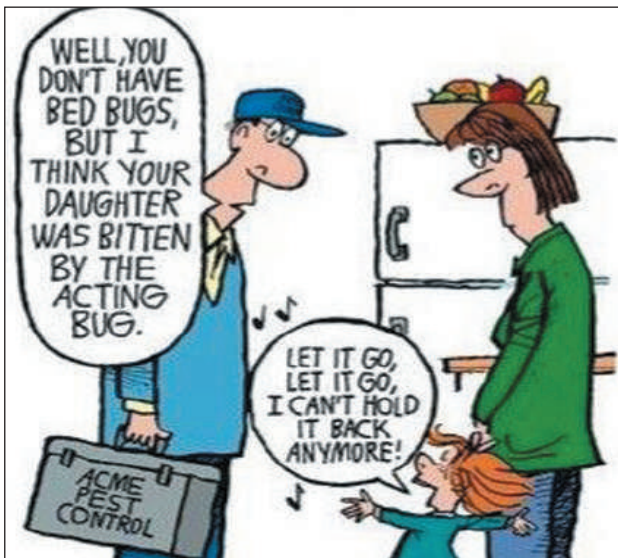
At customs, the officer asked, "Do you have anything to declare, Father?"

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.



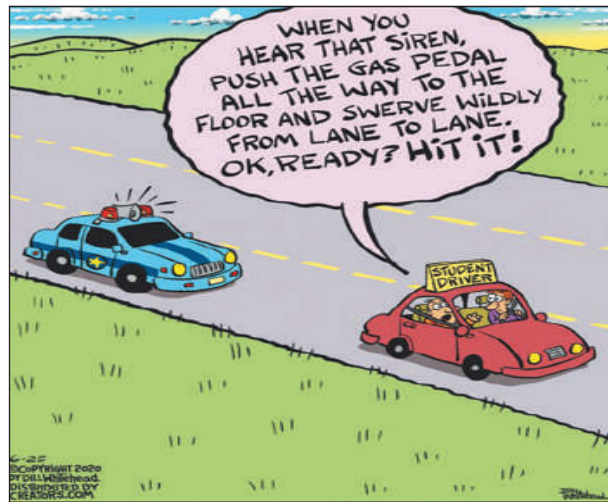
The Devil's Fine Print

A man dies and is sent to hell. The devil greets him warmly and offers him a tour before he settles in.

They come to the first door. Inside, people are standing waist-deep in filth, looking utterly miserable. There's a refreshment bar in the corner, but no one seems interested in it.

The next door opens to reveal a worse scene -- people submerged up to their necks, wearing expressions of pure despair. Again, there's a refreshment bar, untouched.

Then they arrive at the third door. To the man's surprise, this room has people only knee-deep in filth. Everyone seems upbeat, chatting, laughing, and enjoying drinks from the bar.



The devil asks, "Which room would you like?"

Naturally, the man picks the third. The door closes behind him, and he eases into the crowd, helping himself to a drink and joining the conversation.

Just as he's starting to relax, a demon bursts in and bellows:

"Alright everyone! Break's over -- back on your heads!"

The Hat Trick That Kept Him Locked Up

A man in an insane asylum is being evaluated for release. All the staff agree he's ready, and only a final assessment from the doctor remains.

The doctor asks, "What would happen if I cut off your left ear?"

The man replies, "Well sir, my hearing would be worse."

The doctor nods. "And if I cut off your right ear too?"

The man replies, "Then my vision would be gone!"

Confused, the doctor denies his release.

This goes on for years -- same question, same answers, same result.

Finally, one year, the doctor asks, "Why do you keep saying your vision would be gone if both ears were cut off?"

The man replies, "Because my hat would fall over my eyes!"

Blonde Outsmarts the Lawyer at 30,000 Feet

A lawyer is seated next to a blonde on a long flight. She turns to the window to get some sleep, but the lawyer, feeling clever, sees a chance to make easy money.

He taps her shoulder. "Let's play a game. I'll ask a question -- if you don't know the answer, you give me \$5. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know it, I'll give you \$10. Sound fun?"

The blonde politely declines and turns back to the window.

Not giving up, he says, "Alright, how about this: if I can't answer your question, I'll give you \$100. You still only give me \$5 if you don't know mine."

She sighs, then agrees.

The lawyer grins. "What walks on four legs in the morning, two in the afternoon, and three in the evening?"

The blonde thinks for a moment, shrugs, and hands him \$5.

Smug, the lawyer pockets the cash. "Your turn," he says.

The blonde smiles. "What's the smallest thing in the world but casts the biggest shadow?"

The lawyer frowns. He thinks hard. He Googles. He

scrolls through forums. Hours pass. The blonde naps peacefully.

Eventually, the lawyer taps her awake and silently hands her a \$100 bill.

She smiles, thanks him, tucks the money away, and turns to sleep again.

Frustrated, the lawyer blurts out, "Well?! What's the answer?"

Without a word, she pulls out a \$5 bill and hands it to him.

A Different Kind of Fare

A clearly inebriated woman, stark naked, jumped into a taxi. The cab driver, an old Jewish gentleman, opened his eyes wide and stared at the woman, but made no attempt to start the cab.

The woman glared back at him and said, "What's wrong with you, honey? Haven't you ever seen a naked woman before?"

The old Jewish driver slowly answered, "Let me tell you something, lady. I wasn't staring at you like you think. That would not be proper."

The woman giggled and responded, "Well, if you're not staring at my boobs or my butt, sweetie, what are you doing then?"

He paused a moment, then told her, "Well, ma'am, I am looking, and I am looking, and I am thinking to myself, where in the hell is this lady keeping the money to pay for this ride?"



The Practical Grandfather

One day, a grandfather and his educated grandson went on a camping trip. They set up their tent and fell asleep. After some hours, the grandfather woke up his grandson and said, "Look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

The grandson said, "I see millions of stars, the moon, and moving clouds."

His grandfather asked, "What does that tell you?"

The grandson thought for a minute and then said, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time-wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

A few minutes later, the grandson asked, "What does it tell you, grandpa?"

The grandfather was silent for a moment, and then told him, "Practically, it tells me that someone has stolen our tent!"

Living Better

Goodbye, Things

A Profound Journey Toward Minimalism

At its core, living fully often means learning to release what holds us back. Drawing from the principles of Japanese minimalism, Fumio Sasaki encourages us in 'Goodbye, Things' to look past the false promise of happiness through material things, guiding us toward a more purposeful way of life. He shows that real abundance lies not in what we accumulate, but in the room we make for meaningful experiences, deeper connections, and personal growth.

Profound Lessons from Goodbye, Things

1. The Liberation of Less

Sasaki reveals minimalism as far more than an aesthetic -- it's a radical philosophy of freedom. By systematically removing the excess that clutters our physical and mental spaces, we unlock a profound sense of liberation. Each item we release becomes a statement of intentionality, a breath of emotional and psychological space reclaimed from the tyranny of consumption.

2. Possessions as Emotional Anchors

Our things are never just objects; they're repositories of memory, expectation, and unresolved emotional narratives. Sasaki challenges us to interrogate the stories we attach to our possessions, revealing how material accu-



mulation often masks deeper needs for security, identity, and meaning. Letting go becomes an act of radical self-understanding.

3. The Psychological Weight of Stuff

Every unnecessary item we keep is a silent burden, consuming mental energy and creating invisible stress. Minimalism emerges not as deprivation, but as a conscious choice to prioritize experiences, relationships, and personal growth over the accumulation of things. Each item we release is an intentional unburdening.

4. Redefining Comfort and Happiness

Sasaki dismantles the cultural myth that happiness is found in acquisition. True comfort, he argues, isn't about having more, but about creating space -- physical, emotional, and spiritual -- for what truly matters. Minimalism becomes a profound meditation on content-

ment, challenging our deepest assumptions about value and fulfillment.

5. The Aesthetic of Emptiness

Drawing from Japanese philosophical traditions, Sasaki introduces the concept of ma -- the power of empty space. Minimalism isn't about stark emptiness, but about creating room for creativity, reflection, and genuine connection. Each empty space becomes a canvas of potential, a breathing room for the soul.

6. Sustainability as Personal Philosophy

Beyond personal transformation, minimalism emerges as an ecological imperative. By consciously reducing consumption, we make a direct statement about our relationship with the planet. Each item we choose not to acquire becomes an act of environmental resistance, a small but powerful rebellion against mindless consumerism.

7. The Internal Revolution

The most profound journey of minimalism is internal. As we strip away external clutter, we confront our deeper fears, insecurities, and unexamined attachments. Sasaki invites us to see minimalism as a form of meditation, a practice of radical self-honesty and personal liberation.

For anyone feeling overwhelmed by the weight of their possessions, or sensing that there must be more to life than endless acquisition, 'Goodbye, Things' promises not a life of deprivation, but a life of intentional abundance -- where less becomes profoundly more.

When Marilyn met Einstein...

Marilyn once said to Einstein with charming frankness: "You and I could have a child -- imagine: my beauty and your intelligence."

To which the father of relativity replied: "Yes, but what if it comes out with my looks and your brains?"

At the time, it wasn't widely known -- tests came later -- that Marilyn Monroe had an IQ of 165, five points above that of the so-called "greatest genius of all time."

Marilyn Monroe (Norma Jeane Baker, 1926-1962) was far more than a glamorous screen icon. She was an avid reader with a personal library of around a thousand books. Literature, poetry, theatre, and philosophy captivated her for hours on end. Her spirit -- alive with curiosity and a deep hunger for knowledge -- was just as magnetic as her beauty.

Here are some of her most memorable quotes, revealing her wit, wisdom, and vulnerability:

- One of the best things that ever happened to me is that I am a woman. That's the way all women should feel.
- People started saying I was a lesbian. I smiled. There's no wrong sex if there's love in it.
- Dogs don't bite. Only human beings.
- It doesn't feel like spring. It feels like a red-hot autumn.
- Laugh when you're sad. Crying is too easy.
- I want to grow old without a facelift. I want the courage to be true to the face



I've made.

- Nobody said I was pretty when I was a kid. All kids should be told they're handsome -- even if they're not.
- A sex symbol becomes a thing. I hate to be a thing.
- Being a sex symbol is a heavy burden, especially when one is tired, hurt, and bewildered.
- It's better to be alone than unhappy with someone.
- Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius. It's better to be ridiculous than boring.
- Disappointments open your eyes and close your heart.
- I'm a small girl in a big world trying to find someone to love.
- Sex is part of nature. And I'm having a wonderful time with nature.
- I've never left anyone I believed in.
- I have never cheated anyone. Sometimes I let men deceive themselves.
- If I had followed all the rules, I'd never have gotten anywhere.
- It's easier to love a man than to live with him.
- Keep your head up, chin up, keep smiling -- because life's a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about.

Stray Thoughts

The Full Grain Head Bends

"The full grain head bends, the empty one stands straight."

This proverb evokes a profound truth about human nature. Those who are rich in knowledge, values, experience, or success often move through life with humility. Like the grain head full of wheat, they know what they carry within them and have no need to shout it from the rooftops. Their greatness is measured by their discretion, their ability to listen, and their capacity to meet others at their level without ever crushing them.

Conversely, some who are empty of meaning or merit compensate for their inner void with an arrogant posture. They stand straight, loud, and vain, believing that arrogance can mask emptiness. Their attitude betrays a deep insecurity, hidden beneath a façade of superiority. They appear to be taller not because they are great, but because they are standing on their tiptoes.

So, if life enriches you with knowledge, love, or accomplishments, never forget to bend.

True nobility does not shine in speeches but in attitude. Stay modest. What matters is not the noise you make while walking, but the traces you leave behind.

“
It is so liberating
to really know what
I want, what truly
makes me happy,
what I will not
tolerate. I have
learned that it is no
one else's job to take
care of me but me.

Beyoncé

“
When we give ourselves
compassion, we are opening
our hearts in a way that can
transform our lives.

KRISTEN NEFF

There can never be any bliss in worldly life.
But if you adopt measures that are positive
in the relative, then you will experience some
sort of peace; whereas with measures
that are based on Gnan (the Knowledge of
the Self), peace will prevail permanently.

- Dada Bhagwan

The Little Things: 6 Micro-Moments That Build Stronger Marriages

In a world filled with grand romantic gestures and curated social media moments, it's easy to believe that strong relationships are built on big surprises and perfect picture opportunities. But as psychology suggests, the truth is far simpler and more powerful. The real foundation of a lasting marriage is built not in grand gestures, but in the quiet, everyday moments that are easy to overlook.

These "micro-moments" are small, consistent gestures that build a deep and lasting sense of connection. Here are six habits that help couples stay emotionally connected, even on the most hectic days.

Noticing the Small Stuff

When your partner shares something, whether it's a funny video, a random thought, or a quick comment about their day, your response is what matters. These tiny interactions are opportunities to show you're present and listening. A simple smile, a nod, or a few words can subtly communicate, "I hear you." Over time, these small acknowledgements build trust and closeness in a way that a grand speech never could.

Sending a Message for No Reason

A quick text that says "Thinking of you"



He
&
She

or "Hope you're having a good day" is a powerful tool. These aren't reminders or to-do lists; they're simple check-ins that show you care, even in the middle of a busy day. These small messages create a steady sense of being thought of and emotionally supported, reinforcing your bond.

Saying Thank You — and Really Meaning It

A genuine "thank you" for everyday things—like making dinner, running an errand, or simply offering support —

makes your partner feel seen and appreciated. When appreciation becomes a regular part of your daily life, the relationship shifts from keeping score to recognizing each other's efforts, which makes a huge difference.

Laughing Together

Life can be heavy, but sharing a laugh lightens the load. It could be a silly meme, a shared memory, or an inside joke. You don't have to be a comedian; you just need to be open to finding joy together. Shared laughter breaks tension and keeps

the relationship feeling alive, especially during difficult times.

Listening with Full Attention

You don't always need to have a deep conversation to feel close. Sometimes, it's just about putting down your phone and truly listening, even if your partner is talking about something seemingly mundane, like their commute or something they saw online. Giving your full attention shows that what they have to say matters, building emotional safety and making them feel heard.

Holding on to Small Rituals

It's easy to overlook small routines, like having morning coffee together, saying goodnight to each other, or going grocery shopping as a team. But these rituals create a comforting rhythm in your relationship. They act as emotional check-ins and provide a sense of togetherness, even when everything else feels chaotic. Over time, these consistent actions become quiet reminders that you're both still showing up for each other.

By focusing on these small, consistent actions, couples can build a strong and resilient emotional connection that withstands the tests of time and challenges.

Becoming a Better You

Carpe Diem: 10 Ways to Seize the Day

The phrase "Carpe Diem," or "seize the day," has been a powerful call to action for centuries, from Roman poets to modern-day icons like Steve Jobs. The core message is simple: our time is limited, so we must stop being spectators in our own lives and start living. This isn't a call to panic, but a powerful motivator to take control of your time and build a more fulfilling life. Here are ten exercises to help you stop thinking about change and start doing it.

1. Let Go of Regret

Instead of letting past regrets hold you back, use them as a catalyst for a new beginning. Think about a dream you didn't achieve, and then reconnect with the core passion behind it. Channel that energy into a new dream, and to make it real, share it publicly. This act of declaration can transform regret into motivation.

2. Take the First Step

Tackling a big goal can feel overwhelming. The key is to **chunk down** that "thousand-mile" journey into manageable steps. Whether you break your goal down by time (e.g., one hour a day), quantity (e.g., 500 words a day), or actionable steps, the most important thing is to identify and take that very first step. The journey can't begin until you do.

3. Break Out of Your Comfort Zone

Your comfort zone can feel safe, but it also prevents you from experiencing life to the fullest. To break free, you don't need a massive leap. Instead, **slowly expand your comfort zone** with small changes. Try a new route home, visit a different restaurant, or wake up a few minutes earlier to try a new activity. These small shifts will help



you live a more vibrant life.

4. Make the Call

Is there someone you've been meaning to connect with? A person you need to call, visit, or apologize to? Don't wait until it's too late. Think about what you would say if it were your last chance, and then make the call. Expressing your feelings now ensures you won't have to live with the regret of an unspoken goodbye.

5. Be Your Authentic Self

As Steve Jobs said, "Don't waste [your time] living someone else's life." If you're living a life dictated by others' expectations, it's time to tune into your inner voice. Ask yourself if you're being true to yourself. Visualize what your life would look like if you followed your heart's true desire and take a step toward making that vision a reality.

6. Go on an Adventure

An adventure doesn't have to be a big trip; it can be

something new and exciting that takes you out of your routine. Write down six possible adventures you could go on in the next two weeks. Roll a die, and whatever number comes up, that's your adventure. Then, go on it!

7. Stop Procrastinating

Procrastination is the enemy of seizing the day. To beat it, choose a goal you've been putting off and write two letters to yourself, to be opened in one year. In one, describe your life if you achieve the goal; in the other, describe it if you fail. This exercise forces you to confront the future consequences of your present actions and can provide the motivation to start today.

8. Carve Out Some Time

We make time for what we prioritize. If you've been postponing a dream because you "don't have enough time," it's time to **carve out one hour a day** to work on it. This can be done by eliminating a non-essential task, delegating, or creating a more efficient system for a task you need to complete.

9. Work on Your Legacy

We all want to leave a mark on the world. To start, decide what you want your legacy to be. Write it down on a sticky note and place it somewhere you'll see it every day. Each morning, ask yourself, "What will I do today that will help me to achieve my legacy?" This simple practice will keep your ultimate purpose at the forefront of your mind.

10. Add Laughter to Your Day

Seizing the day isn't just about big goals; it's also about finding joy in the everyday. Laughter is one of the best ways to do this. Make a conscious effort to find something that makes you laugh every day, whether it's a funny video, a shared joke, or a humorous memory.

Our limited time on Earth is not a source of anxiety, but a powerful incentive to live fully. Use these ten exercises to stop waiting for tomorrow and start living your best life today.

BollyBytes

"Looks like Nargis is back":

Sanjay Dutt's daughter Iqra's striking resemblance to grandmother sparks nostalgic buzz

Fans are captivated by Iqra Dutt's striking resemblance to her grandmother, Nargis Dutt, following a video that recently surfaced online. As Ritika Kumar reports, the daughter of actors Sanjay Dutt and Maanayata Dutt mirrors the legendary Bollywood icon in her poise and facial features.



Iqra was spotted by paparazzi in Mumbai recently. Ritika Kumar notes that the video has already sparked a wave of nostalgia among fans, who are marveling at the uncanny resemblance.

In the clip, Iqra is seen stepping out casually, dressed in a simple t-shirt and shorts, exuding grace and charm. But it wasn't just her poise that caught the internet's attention—her face, especially her expressive eyes and delicate features, instantly reminded many of the Mother India star, Nargis Dutt. Ritika Kumar adds that fans are already calling it a "glimpse of Nargis reincarnated."

Hina Khan recreates Deepika's iconic look

Hina Khan recently paid tribute to a cinematic classic by recreating Deepika Padukone's iconic retro look from her 2007 debut, *Om Shanti Om*. The *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* star slipped into the glamorous sari and vintage hairdo, with her husband, Rocky Jaiswal, playing the part of Shah Rukh Khan's character, Om. Hina acknowledged that Deepika's performance was "unmatchable" but said she wanted to give the look "my own essence."

The glamorous moment followed a more emotional episode in which Hina tearfully thanked Rocky for his unwavering support during her cancer battle. "The last year and a half has been full of ups and downs, but he stood by me selflessly," she shared. Rocky's heartwarming reply, "If flaws look like this, I'd marry her ten more times," melted the hearts of both the audience and the show's hosts, Sonali Bendre and Munawar Faruqui. The reality show also features other celeb couples, including Rubina Dilaik & Abhinav Shukla and Swara Bhasker & Fahad Ahmed.

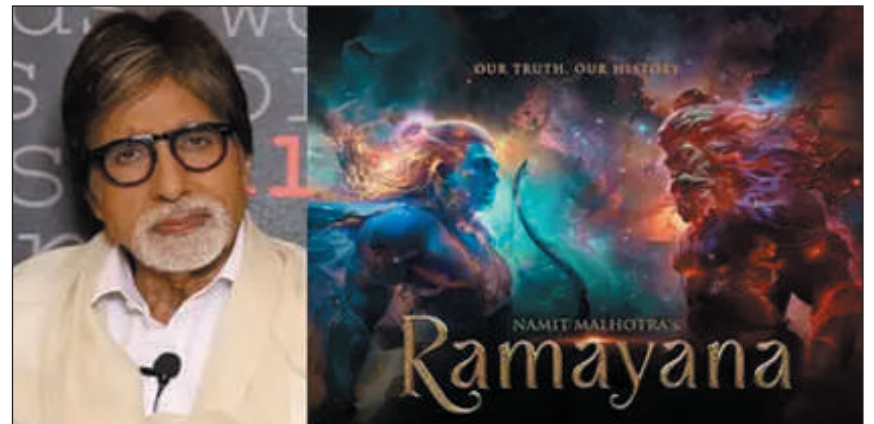
Amitabh Bachchan set to be the narrator in Ramayana apart from playing Jatayu?

According to Filmfare, director Nitesh Tiwari has roped in Amitabh Bachchan to play both Jatayu and the narrator in his upcoming film *Ramayana*.

Nitesh Tiwari's project, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi in the lead roles, has been making headlines recently. Filmfare reports that Amitabh Bachchan will not only voice Jatayu but also serve as the film's narrator, lending his iconic gravitas to the storytelling.

Directed by Namit Malhotra and co-produced by Yash, the film brings together Oscar-winning technicians, Hollywood's top creators, and India's finest actors.

Earlier, Sunny Deol, who plays Hanuman, shared with Filmfare that he hasn't started filming yet but will begin shortly. He expressed his



excitement, saying, "It will be exciting, it will be fun. It's going to be great, it's going to be beautiful."

Amitabh Bachchan also admitted to feeling nervous about portraying such a revered character. Filmfare reports him saying, "See, nervousness or fear, that factor is there. But

that's the beauty of it, because you have to find within yourself how you're going to take up the challenge and how you're going to live up to it. And you're getting the opportunity to do it, and I'm very sure Amit, the producer, they're doing a great job of it."

Karishma Tanna's viral Beauty and Wellness hacks

Karishma Tanna has become a go-to source for quick and effective beauty and wellness tips, and her latest hack has fans captivated. The star recently took to Instagram to share her secret for achieving bold, bushy brows. Her trick is simple: she mists a bar of soap, swipes an eyebrow brush across it, and then combs her brows into place. The result — instant volume and definition — has her followers buzzing.

The comments section was flooded with praise and requests for more tips. One fan asked for her

"cheek and chin hack," while another pleaded for a DIY face pack recipe. A particularly smitten admirer even wrote that her beauty was "confusing hearts," a testament to her widespread appeal.

Karishma's advice isn't limited to beauty, however. Days earlier, she shared her mother-in-law's recipe for

protein- and fiber-rich ladoos, which she loves as a pre-workout snack. These guilt-free treats are made with a blend of oats, makhana, ghee, jaggery, roasted nuts, and raisins. Her step-by-step instructions — roasting ingredients, semi-grinding them, mixing with melted jaggery, and rolling into perfect balls — made the healthy snack accessible to all. From flawless brows to nourishing sweets, Karishma is proving she has the hacks for looking and living fabulously.



Hrithik Roshan & NTR Jr. urge fans: No War 2 Spoilers!

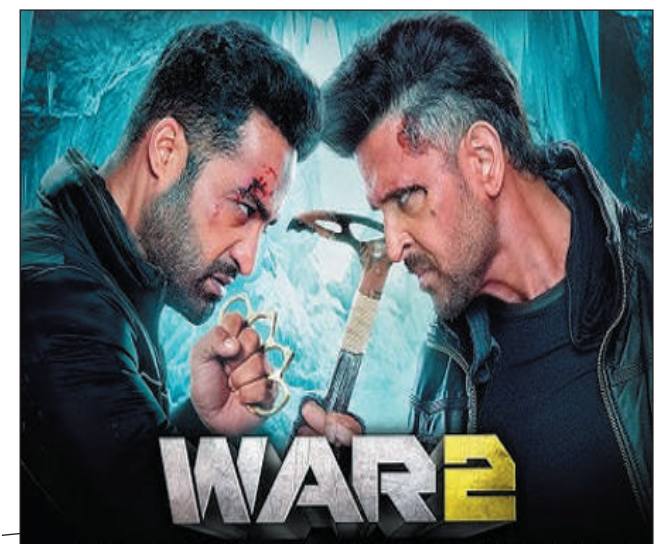
With the release of *War 2* just around the corner, lead stars Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr. have a united message for fans: keep the spoilers under wraps. The action titans, who play rival Indian soldiers in Ayan Mukerji's high-voltage thriller, are urging fans, media, and moviegoers to protect the film's secrets.

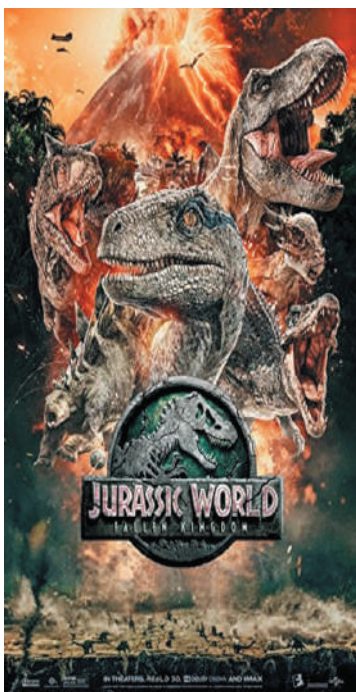
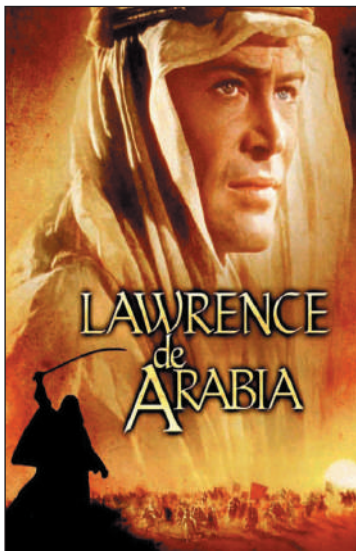
"War 2 has been made with a lot of love, time, and passion," Hrithik said. "Please protect our spoilers at any cost."

NTR Jr. echoed the sentiment, adding, "Spoilers kill the fun. We want every audience member to feel the same thrill you did watching it for the first time. Keep the surprises safe—we're counting on you."

The sixth installment of the YRF Spy Universe prom-

ises jaw-dropping action and major plot twists. It is set to hit theaters worldwide in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu on August 14.





Programme TV



vendredi 22 août

MBC 1

05.04 Serial: L'Amour A Mort
08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.35 Film: Au Mepris Des Lois
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: Lawrence D'Arabie
22.41 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal
01.21 Tele: Lying Heart
01.44 Doc: BRGRS

MBC 2

09.05 Serial: Metie
09.24 Serial: Encounter
10.50 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi
11.30 Local: Entractes
13.00 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
13.38 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
14.14 Local: Artizan
14.28 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
14.55 Local: Le Challenge
15.10 Local: En Forme
15.25 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
18.30 Local: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.40 Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre
19.57 Local: Animalia
20.30 Local: Ucmas Little Champs
21.00 Rastafari Nou Lidantite...
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 Local: Amrit Vani
08.11 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
09.59 Local: Ramayan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Dillagi
Starring: Mala Sinha, Sanjay Khan, Nazima
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: Bhojpuri Jalsa
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
21.00 Film: Kashi Vishwanath
Cast: Nisha Dubey, Ritesh Pandey
23.15 Serial: Mere Sai
00.03 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.47 Mati Ke Mol
01.13 Local: Bhojpuri Jalsa

Cine 12

06.25 Doc: Healing Gardens
07.46 Doc: The Tsaatan
08.29 Doc: Eastern Germany...
09.11 Doc: Europe Revealed...
11.03 Mag: Eco India
11.30 Doc: Healing Gardens
12.55 Doc: The Tsaatan
13.40 Doc: Eastern Germany...
14.22 Doc: Japan Video Topics
14.30 D.Anime: Giant
14.55 D.Anime: Will, La Série
14.55 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.25 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
15.50 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.26 D.Anime: Dragons
16.50 Mag: Recipes For Kids
16.55 Serial: Just Add Water
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: Chatur Singh Two Star
Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Ameesha Patel, Anupam Kher, Shakti Kapoor, Gulshan Grover...
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: Chatur Singh Two Star

samedi 23 août

03.59 Serial: Heartland
05.27 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
06.30 Tele: L'Heritiere
06.53 Serial: The Lazarus Project
07.43 Serial: Nautilus
08.32 Serial: Elementary
09.15 Serial: Heartland
10.00 Serial: Hawaii
10.41 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: Fast And Furious
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Jurassic World
22.09 Serial: Nautilus
23.01 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
06.38 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
08.00 Local: Sur Prise
09.31 Local: La Sosiete
10.30 Local: J'ai Faim
11.00 Local: Upclose And Personal
12.00 Local: Palette
13.58 Local: Animalia
14.39 Local: Inspirasion
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.25 Rodrig: Kot Nou
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.30 Local: Glwar Dantan
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: Kashi Vishwanath
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: Zamana
18.10 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
20.00 Local: Desi Beats
21.00 Film: Lawaaris
Cast: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff
23.34 Local: Puranya Pakwan
00.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
00.15 Local: Virasat
00.29 Local: Hunarbaaz
01.01 Local: Desi Beats

06.00 D.Anime: Giant
08.05 D.Anime: Miraculous...
08.30 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
08.54 D.Anime: Spacepop
09.03 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger
10.29 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
11.30 Doc: Natural Wonders
13.34 Doc: Smart Insects
14.16 Mag: Travel
14.57 D.Anime: Will, La Série
16.09 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
16.22 D.Anime: Dragons
17.35 Mag: Lab 360
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
18.56 Doc: Japan Video Topics
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.53 Tele: Living To Love
22.26 Film: La Liste De Schindler
01.35 Doc: The Language Of Whales

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: Tanu Weds Manu Returns
With: Kangana Ranaut, Madhavan, Jimmy Shergill...
21.07 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.19 Keh Doon Tumhein

dimanche 24 août

02.46 Tele: Living To Love
04.19 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
05.18 Tele: L'Heritiere
05.45 Film: Jurassic World
07.44 Serial: Hawaii
08.26 Film: Fast And Furious
10.39 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Serial: L'Heritiere
12.34 Film: Winchester 73 Western
14.05 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Jurassic World
17.29 Doc: Ageless Gardens
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince
20.45 Film: Around The World In 80 Days
22.45 Serial: Hawaii 5-0

09.09 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.30 Rodrig: 25e Edition Festival Kreol
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Festival Du Vivant
12.49 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
15.00 Local: Festival Gospel 2025
16.50 Local: Tous Egaux
17.36 Local: Glwar Dantan
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.34 Local: En Toute Intimite
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.00 Local: Master Class By Dorothy Khadem-Missagh
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin
23.33 Local: Arsiv 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: Kohra
Cast: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 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...
23.57 Humni Ke Sitare
00.26 Serial: Tohar Rashi
04.56 Film: Kohra
Cast: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran

06.00 D.Anime: Giant
06.39 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
08.59 D.Anime: Zig's Space Rangers
10.35 Mag: In Good Shape
11.01 Doc: Country Dreams
11.30 Doc: The Kanazawa Railway
13.12 The Language Of Whales
13.52 Doc: Little Britain In The...
14.30 D.Anime: Giant
15.01 D.Anime: Will, La Série
15.05 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.34 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau Renard
16.38 D.Anime: Dragons
18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
18.30 Doc: Going Beyond
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
21.42 Film: Meet Joe Black
Cast: Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins

00.25 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.38 Udaariyaan
04.43 Anupamaa
06.57 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
10.10 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
14.00 Doree
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Andhadhun
Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Tabu, Radhika Apte
21.00 Mahabharat
21.49 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
23.02 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
01.37 Kundali Bhagya

lundi 25 août

04.31 Tele: La Desalmada
04.57 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
05.51 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
07.18 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
08.16 Tele: L'Heritiere
08.38 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.30 Film: Downton Abbey
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.10 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.44 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Live: Grand Titre
20.10 Serial: Quantico
21.00 Serial: Elementary
21.45 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

09.09 Local: En Toute Intimite
09.54 Local: Clin D'Oeil
10.31 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
15.06 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
15.30 Rodrig: Plat du Chef
15.59 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
19.23 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.30 Local: Tous Egaux
20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.15 Local: 19 Minutes
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris
23.34 Rodrig: Kot Nou

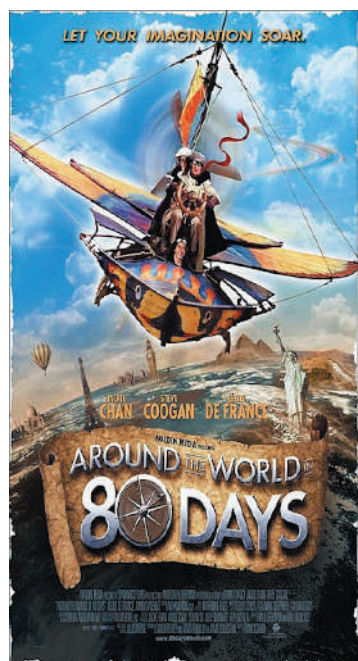
05.00 Mag: DDI Live
07.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
08.29 Local: Tohar Rashi
10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Aan Baan
Cast: Rajendra Kumar, Rakhee
15.00 Samachar
16.00 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
18.57 Local: Theatre Let's Meet...
20.06 Local: Vaad Vivaad
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Pati Patni Aur Woh
Cast: Sanjeev Kumar, Vidya Sinha
23.06 Mere Sai
23.58 Wagle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: Going Beyond
07.56 Doc: Eco Heroines
09.20 Forgotten By The Crown
10.06 Doc: Cobalt Rush
10.49 Doc: The Arctic
12.27 Doc: Eco Heroines
14.05 Carnet De Sante
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
15.55 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.03 D.Anime: Raindow Rangers
16.25 D.Anime: Dragons
17.22 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: Triumph

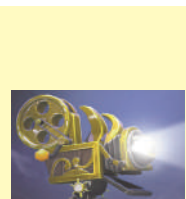
14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.25 Film: Rock On 2



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



Programme TV



mardi 26 mars

MBC 1

04.39 Tele: La Desalmada
05.03 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
05.46 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
07.28 Doc: Quantico
08.09 Tele: L'Heritiere
08.31 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.30 Film: Les Affameurs
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.10 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.44 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Blood, Sweat And Cheer
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Serial: Doree
20.10 Film: Pretty Woman
22.09 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Proze Dime
09.33 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
09.59 Local: 19 Minutes
10.29 Local: Mangeons
11.04 Local: Tous Egaux
12.00 entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
12.31 Rodrig: Kot Nou
14.31 Local: Coin Jardin
15.02 Viens Decouvrir Blue Penny
15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.00 Local: Proze Dime
18.01 Tele: La Desalmada
18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
19.44 Local: Son Ladan Mem
20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.30 Local: Le Mag
22.22 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir
22.38 Local: Profil

MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Eco india
08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein
09.36 Local: Vaad Vivaad
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Film: Lover Boy
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
16.00 Dharam Patni
17.28 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.36 Local: Tark Vitark
18.59 Local: Hunarbaaz
19.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
20.00 Local: Virasat
20.28 Serial: Ramayan
23.26 Serial: Mere Sai
00.18 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.41 Local: Tark Vitark
01.06 Local: Hunarbaaz
01.30 Local: Abhyas Yog

MBC 5

07.51 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.17 Doc: Saving The Moors In...
09.32 Doc: Deep Sea Greed
11.12 Mag: Eco Africa
12.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites
12.37 Mag: In Good Shape
12.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today
15.00 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.04 D.Anime: Samsam
15.19 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
15.40 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas
16.04 D.Anime: Agent
16.25 D.Anime: Dragons
17.17 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
18.30 Mag: REV
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.31 Mag: Global Us
20.02 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.50 Tele: Wildflower
21.35 Tele: Seref Meselesi
23.02 Mag: Initiative Africa

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.23 Film: Dahleez
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Raj Babbar, Meenakshi Sheshadri
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.08 Anupama
21.30 Mere Sai
22.00 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.55 Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Dahleez
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Raj Babbar, Meenakshi Sheshadri

mercredi 27 mars

05.08 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
06.01 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
08.38 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.04 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Pretty Woman
11.25 Doc: Not About Music
11.33 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.39 Tele: La Desalmada
14.10 Serial: Wildflower
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Seref Meselesi
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.31 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Serial: New Amsterdam
21.00 Serial: Chucky
21.50 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
22.40 Tele: Lying Heart

09.35 Local: Le Mag
10.27 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
10.43 Local: Saver Lokal
11.00 Local: Profil
12.00 Local: Couleur Marine
12.26 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
13.04 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog
13.33 Local: Priorite Sante
15.40 Local: Saver Lokal
16.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.01 Local: Music Tour 2022
18.01 Tele: La Desalmada
18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.25 Rodrig Spor
20.32 Serial: Toc Toc Doc
20.47 Local: En Forme
21.11 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.37 Local: Les Klips
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion

07.00 Sadhguru Speaks
08.30 Local: Hunarbaaz
09.29 Local: Virasat
10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Rajnigandha
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Radha Krishna
16.00 Radha Mohan
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Yatra
19.00 Local: Kala
19.30 Local: Ganesh Tatva
20.02 Local: Virasat
21.03 Film: Pati Patni Aur Bhootni
Starring: Yash Kumar, Richa Dixit
23.21 Serial: Mere Sai
23.47 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.11 Local: Yatra
00.38 Local: Kala

06.26 Mag: Shift
07.23 Mag: Global Us
09.25 Doc: Under Poisoned Skies
10.16 Doc: To Tell A Tale
12.50 Mag: Initiative Africa
13.21 Mag: Euromaxx
14.30 D.Anime: Giant
15.00 D.Anime: Will, La Série
15.19 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
15.28 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
16.28 D.Anime: Dragons
16.52 Serial: H2O: Just Add Water
18.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Doc: Submerged Universe
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.30 Live: News
20.50 Serial: Wildflower
21.45 Film: Around The World...
23.44 Mag: Close Up
00.10 Mag: Focus On Europe
01.19 Doc: Rainforest Pharmacy

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.27 Film: Ra.One
Starring: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Rampal, Armaan Verma
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil To Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.06 Anupama
21.36 Mere Sai
22.05 Dhruv Tara
22.27 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.00 Mahabharat
23.26 Film: Ra.One
Starring: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Rampal, Armaan Verma
02.05 Serial: Kundali Bhagya

jeudi 28 mars

04.41 Tele: La Desalmada
07.27 Serial: For Life
08.08 Mag: L'Heritiere
08.30 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.25 Tele: Battleship
11.31 Tele: Lying Heart
11.54 Doc: Pasteca
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
14.10 Tele: Wildflower
15.25 Film: Around The World In 80 Days
17.20 Tele: Lying Heart
17.59 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Serial: Doree
20.10 Film: Singham Returns
Starring: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Amole Gupte

09.10 Local: En Forme
09.23 Local: Agir Ensemble
10.19 Local: Saveurs Plus
10.42 Local: Les Klips
11.34 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Local: Les Klips
13.05 Rodrig Spor
13.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel
14.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc
14.29 Local: Agir Ensemble
15.00 Local: Metie
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
17.00 Local: Le Mag
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Rodrig: Komanter
20.00 Les Grandes Lignes
20.30 Local: Education
21.00 Local: Metie
21.15 Local: Ce Soir Avec Vince

08.00 Mag: Yatra
08.26 Serial: Kala
08.53 Local: Ganesh Tatva
09.21 Local: Virasat
09.35 Local: Kaam Daam
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Vighnaharta Shree Siddhi Vinayak
Starring: Ramesh Deo, Parmmeet Sethi, Divya Dutta, Ashalata
15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.58 Serial: Ramayan
17.31 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani
20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.37 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.30 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya...

07.00 Film: Rufus Et Le Royaume...
08.58 Film: Sinbad
10.20 Film: Freedom Force
11.45 Mag: Afrimaxx
12.40 Doc: Submerged Universe
13.06 Mag: Shift
13.30 Film: The Peanuts
14.55 D.Anime: Kids Songs
15.00 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.08 D.Anime: Samsam
15.20 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
15.32 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
15.57 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.09 D.Anime: Agent
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
18.45 Mag: Business Beyond
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.49 Tele: Wildflower

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Banjo
Stars: Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.02 Anupama
21.30 Mere Sai
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.31 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.59 Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Banjo
Stars: Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri



Jeudi 28 mars - 15.28

Stars: Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri



Jeudi 28 mars - 20.10

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Amole Gupte





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

The Unseen Shackles

Sometimes you just happen to come across fellow countrywomen who, in a few words, remind you that a certain way of thinking about gender roles doesn't belong to a recent past, but is still alive and kicking.

As I pulled up in front of a friend's house, a woman was walking down the road and, smilingly, said: "I admire you for driving your 4X4. You are very lucky."

"It is a Japanese brand 2X4 actually, it is very comfortable, and you feel safe in it," I answered. "And there is nothing admirable about it nowadays. You can do it if you want to," I added.

"Actually, I do have a driving licence," she said, pointing to her bag, "but my husband and my son do not want me to drive the family car."

"Oh my! Why do you allow them to prevent you from driving?" I asked, "this is not acceptable."

"You know how it is in our society. 'You can't do this; you can't do that.'" she observed.

She complained about the long distance she has to walk from the coastal road where she works in one of the bungalows. She has to walk from the bus stop on the main road and take the uphill road called 'Colline Road' at Pointe-aux-Canon-niers and trot on to her workplace. It is around a 250-metre walk, and it is quite a feat under the scorching sun! Now, if you are not the athletic type of person and wearing a 'churidar', it does make things a bit complicated.

Her work also adds to the family earnings undoubtedly. "Maybe if you try talking to them about it and insist a bit more, they will listen to you," I advised, knowing fully well that things do not work that way when one party refuses to review their attitude, let alone question it.

She showed me the mobile phone in her hand. "My son just called, asking me to get home quickly because there's a problem with the dog, as if I could get home quicker than the bus takes. It is always like that: every time they can't handle something, they call me and get impatient and nervous."

"You should probably let them sort things out on their own. Otherwise, they'll take you for granted and keep depending on you. You won't be getting out of it anytime soon," I said, encouraging her to assert herself.

The driving licence issue is quite marginal in society today, hopefully. Broadly

speaking, the macho attitude within the family circle is still a predominant feature that defines relationships among family members. Talking about their wives, there are still men who say things like, "I give her everything she needs, she does not have to work outside the home." If their wives go along with the appa-



Pic - Shutterstock

"The macho attitude is defined by the assertion of male dominance in everyday life. It is about men dominating their wives and demanding the utmost respect from others in the household. Wives are requested to give up their favourite activities after marriage and talk about it in a tone of resignation and submission. You get to hear things like, 'My husband did not want me to carry on with dancing lessons. So, I stopped it.' So many hobbies have been given up: jogging, seeing friends, sports, you name it. Years later, when the wives have seen all the hues of matrimonial compromise, they are left with regrets for the wasted opportunities..."

rent male protection, it is just fine. Indeed, there are advantages attached to women's material needs being taken care of. However, it strikes a discordant note when the uninvited offer of male patronage is seen as treating women as children and irresponsible adults.

Noëline is a 92-year-old woman living with her son in a small, rented house nearby. Every time we chat with her in front of her gate by the roadside, it is quite a relish listening to her life story at Marie Reine de la Paix. Now and then she would cast a worried glance to her left, watching to see if her son, in his late forties, wasn't heading home.

Once, we witnessed her son shouting from thirty metres away, "What are you still doing outside here? Did I not tell you to stay at home?"

What a way of addressing one's mother, we thought. Needless to mention that her pension flows into the rent and monthly expenses. Apparently, he sets overly precautionary rules for fear of something that might happen to her. The secondary road is a peaceful place and inhabited with caring people who keep an eye on neighbours' safety.

The macho attitude is defined by the assertion of male dominance in everyday life. It is about men dominating their wives and demanding the utmost respect from others in

the household. Wives are requested to give up their favourite activities after marriage and talk about it in a tone of resignation and submission. You get to hear things like, "My husband did not want me to carry on with dancing lessons. So, I stopped it." So many hobbies have been given up: jogging, seeing friends, sports, you name it. Years later, when the wives have seen all the hues of matrimonial compromise, they are left with regrets for the wasted opportunities.

Now you do have women who have internalized male dominance as something normal. Female participation in meetings to discuss issues which should be of concern to everyone is challenged by the right of veto of their husbands, something like the UN Security Council.

This is how it usually goes. Women come to a first meeting to discuss a topic, reaching a consensus. They are then summoned to a second meeting to sign a petition, for instance. But here lies the rub: husbands intervene at home, telling them not to sign anything for their own reasons or simply to exercise their right of veto as the alpha male in the household. The women prefer to avoid confrontation, which amounts to abdicating their duty as responsible citizens. It's a blow to where we stand on the scale of human development in a given society.

When high-ranking female policymakers air their grievances on social media — lacking any other internal avenue to be heard — and are subsequently dismissed as capricious little girls or hysterical ambitious young ladies, you realize just how far we still have to go to achieve real change in mindsets.

Tree of Knowledge



Pic - vacsf.org

A surrender box is a tool to let go of our burdens so the universe can take care of them for us

There are times when our minds become too full. Our to-do lists, worries, plans, and dreams may be so crowded together in our heads that we don't have room to think. We may believe that we are somehow taking care of our desires and concerns by keeping them at the forefront of our minds. In maintaining our mental hold on every detail, however, we may actually delay the realization of our dreams and the resolution of our worries because we won't let them go. At times such as these, we may want to use a surrender box.

A surrender box allows us to let go of our worries and desires so the universe can take care of them for us. We write down what we want or need to happen and then place the note into a box. By writing and placing our thoughts in the box, we are taking action and letting the universe know we need help and are willing to surrender our feelings. We give ourselves permission to not concern ourselves with that problem any longer and trust that the universe is taking care of it. You may even want to decorate your box and place it in a special place.

Your surrender box is a sacred container for your worries. Not only do you free up space in your mind by letting go of our worries and desires and dropping them into your surrender box, but you are giving your burden over to a higher power. Once we drop our worries and desires into the surrender box, we free our minds so we can be fully present in each moment.

Surrendering our worries and concerns and placing them in the hands of the universe doesn't mean that we've given up or have been defeated. Instead, we are releasing the realization of our desires and the resolution of our worries and no longer concerning ourselves with their outcomes.

It's always fun to go back and pull the slips of paper out of the box once your requests have been granted. And it's amazing how quickly problems go away, and dreams come true when we finally let go and allow a higher power to help us.



Union of Civil Service Engineers

Reg. No.: TU 783

NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING 2024-2025 UNION OF CIVIL SERVICE ENGINEERS

Members are hereby informed that the **Annual General Meeting of the Union of Civil Service Engineers** will be held on **Tuesday, 02 September 2025 at 11:00 am** at the **Conference Room, Civil Engineering Section, Phoenix.**

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Matters arising
5. Any other business

Members are kindly requested to confirm their attendance and indicate their food preference (Vegetarian / Non-Vegetarian) to the Secretary by **Monday, 25 August 2025.**

K. Sobron
Secretary

Union of Civil Service Engineers