

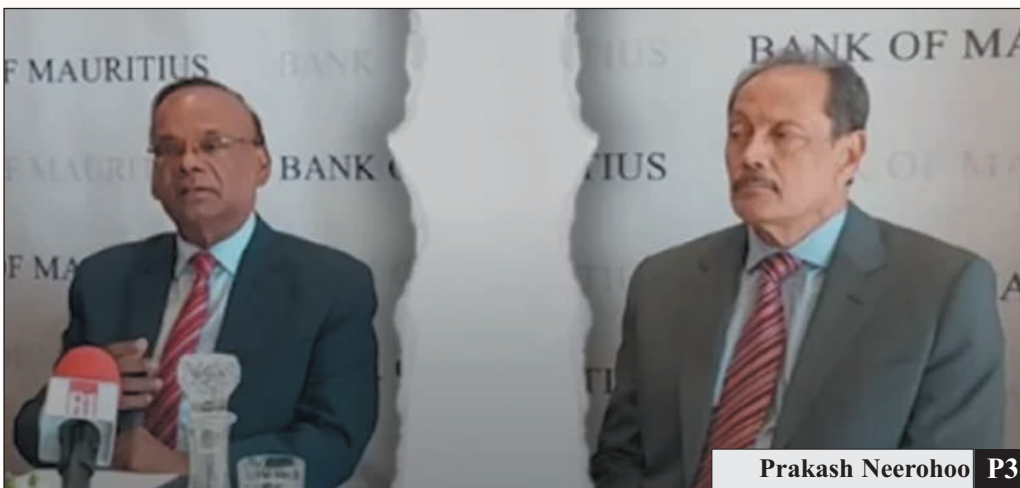
# MAURITIUS TIMES

• *Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud. -- Sophocles*

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## L'image de la 'Bank of Mauritius' prend un sacré coup



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# The Architect of a Nation



Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's life is not just a chapter in our history books; it is a living call to action for the leaders and citizens of today. Pic Musée de Petite Collection Goorooduth Chuttoo

**O**n the 125th birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, we must move beyond mere remembrance and delve into the enduring lessons of his incredible legacy. His life's work was not a series of political victories but the painstaking construction of a nation from a fractured colonial past. In a world where leaders are often reduced to political figures, SSR's life provides a profound roadmap for a country still charting its course. His track record offers insights not just into what he achieved, but how he did it, guided by principles that remain remarkably relevant today.

The most monumental achievement of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) was securing Mauritius's independence. This was a high-stakes gamble in the 1960s, a time when the socio-political landscape was rife with divisions — racial, religious, and class-based — which colonial powers had long exploited. Yet, the Labour Party, under the steadfast leadership of SSR, demonstrated an unyielding respect for democracy by operating within its framework to forge unifying coalitions. Its historic alliance with the Independent Forward Block (IFB) of the Bissoondoyal brothers and the Comité d'Action Musulman (CAM) of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed was a testament to SSR's unifying vision. He strived to bring together disparate communities under a single national purpose, forging a shared destiny for every Mauritian.

**S**SR's commitment to democratic principles was never more evident than after the independence struggle. It was profoundly demonstrated by the crucial alliance he forged with the PMSD's Gaëtan Duval, a strategic move that helped a young nation overcome the deep-seated racial animosity from the independence elections. This act of political foresight transcended personal rivalry to unite the country for the greater good of nation-building. It removed race-based hostilities from the front stage and allowed the country to channel its collective energy toward tangible progress.

A cornerstone of SSR's leadership was a profound respect for the rule of law and institutions. He understood that in a nascent nation, building a strong legal and institutional framework was paramount to ensuring stability

and a just society. He safeguarded the core pillars of our state: a robust parliamentary system, an independent judiciary, and a professional civil service. This commitment was perhaps most powerfully shown after his devastating electoral loss in 1982. Even in defeat, he quietly but firmly advised against giving up access to the Privy Council as the nation's final court of appeal. This act of principled resilience preserved the very integrity of Mauritius's legal system.

**I**n stark contrast, today's political environment often shows a fraying of these foundational principles during the past ten years. We witnessed frequent attacks on independent institutions, and a growing disregard for the democratic norms that SSR painstakingly established. The politicisation of public bodies and the erosion of meritocracy undermine the very foundations of statehood, creating a climate of distrust and instability. The lessons from SSR's life are a stark reminder that true leadership requires not just winning elections but steadfastly upholding the integrity of the state and its institutions.

## Fabianism, The Welfare State, and Economic Redistribution

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's nation-building approach was based on the principles of Fabianism — a philosophy of gradual, progressive change rather than radical upheaval. He understood that transforming a society mired in colonial poverty required deliberate, incremental steps. This gradualism was most evident in his government's commitment to building a welfare state. Inheriting a society where the masses lived in extreme poverty and one sometimes had to convert to secure a job, The Labour government made the State the benefactor of its people. Universal access to education and healthcare were provided without distinction, a Herculean task given the severely limited resources. This was a caring and elevated model of governance that marked a decisive break from the deprivation of the colonial era. The commitment to a welfare state was intrinsically linked to his government's embrace of redistributive economic

policies, which sought to reallocate resources to lift people from poverty and forge a more equitable society. By investing in social programs, his administration ensured that the benefits of national progress were shared more broadly.

**I**ronically, the welfare programs so patiently and assiduously built by the Labour Party government post-Independence now face growing threats from a dire economic situation. Proposals for pension reform are often presented as a necessary response to demographic shifts, but they must be handled with the same Fabian wisdom that guided SSR. Any changes must be gradual, humane, and designed to protect the most vulnerable, not to dismantle the social safety net. The defence of the welfare state should be a primary concern for the present generation of politicians, as it remains a core pillar of our national identity and stability. The battle to preserve the welfare state will therefore have to be waged both within and beyond the party's ranks.

## Leadership and the Call for Reform

Perhaps the most enduring lessons from SSR's track record are about his character. He faced internal squabbles with remarkable calm and poise, never descending to personal insult. This was not a sign of weakness, but of immense self-assurance. His ability to extend a warm hand to adversaries, even after being vilified, to ensure inclusiveness and national cohesion, remains a poignant example of a leader who prioritized the future of his country over personal feelings or a thirst for retribution. Additionally, his tenure saw the Labour Party grow into a genuine "party of the people," moving beyond a one-man dynamic. This transformation was supported by prominent lieutenants, backbenchers, and party activists keen on promoting internal democracy. Its deep connection to the population ensured its survival to this day. This stands as a powerful legacy in itself, a testament to the influence of a party built on shared ideals rather than individual charisma.

In conclusion, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's life is not just a chapter in our history books; it is a living call to action for the leaders and citizens of today. If he could engineer a break from a history of deprivation and build the foundations of a modern state despite the odds, then surely, with all the advantages we possess, we can find the wisdom and courage to scale new heights. The present generation of politicians in the Labour Party and beyond must go back and live up to the foundational ideals of democracy, law, institutions, and the welfare state to ensure Mauritius remains relevant and thrives in today's and tomorrow's world.

## Mauritius Times

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Prakash Neerohoo

## BOM Saga

# L'image de la 'Bank of Mauritius' prend un sacré coup

**L**a "Bank of Mauritius Saga" continue avec des péripéties palpitantes. Trois développements inattendus sont survenus la semaine dernière:

- (a) le procès en diffamation intenté par le gouverneur Rama Sithanen contre l'ancien deuxième gouverneur adjoint Gerard Sanspeur,
- (b) l'arrestation du journaliste Narain Jasodanand à la suite d'une plainte logée contre lui par nul autre que le fils du gouverneur, et
- (c) la circulation de la bande sonore d'une conversation alléguée entre certains protagonistes de l'affaire Menlo Park.

Ces trois développements jettent le discrédit sur la BOM et donnent des signes de décadence institutionnelle au plus haut niveau du pays. Ils soulèvent des questions fondamentales sur la gouvernance de la banque centrale et les valeurs démocratiques du pays (la liberté d'expression, l'Etat de droit et le rôle de la police). Puisque ces trois développements ont un rapport avec la BOM, l'image de la banque centrale en pâtit davantage.

La guerre ouverte entre le gouverneur et son ancien collègue a commencé par des allégations et contre-allégations de l'un et l'autre. Ensuite, elle s'est jouée devant la *Financial Crimes Commission* (FCC) avec la déposition écrite de la BOM, suivie de celle de Gerard Sanspeur. Avant que la FCC ne fasse son enquête, le gouverneur est passé à l'attaque sur le plan juridique : il a intenté un procès en diffamation contre Gerard Sanspeur, lui réclamant des dommages de Rs 50 millions.

Pourquoi Rs 50 millions? Le gouverneur aurait pu demander une somme nominale (disons Rs 100 000) pour avoir un procès plus rapide, compte tenu du fait que le judiciaire prend plusieurs années pour décider d'un procès en diffamation. Est-ce que l'honneur d'une personne varie en fonction du montant des dommages?

## Procès stratégique

Tout individu a sans doute le droit de réclamer justice pour toute atteinte (alléguée ou avérée) à sa réputation. Mais certains procès semblent relever de la tactique plutôt que d'une démarche morale. En effet, ce procès a l'allure d'un procès stratégique («*strategic litigation*»), lequel est une tactique utilisée par des personnalités ou des sociétés puissantes pour empêcher des citoyens de faire une critique légitime des actes institutionnels dont elles sont responsables en attendant que le judiciaire statue sur la

“Certains pays démocratiques ont passé des lois pour prévenir l'abus de procès stratégiques afin de préserver le droit des citoyens de débattre librement des problèmes de gouvernance d'une institution ou d'une société privée. Par exemple, le Canada a une loi contre le “*Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation*” (SLAPP). La loi anti-SLAPP permet au judiciaire d'évaluer les mérites des procès stratégiques en tenant compte des valeurs démocratiques telles que le débat libre, la liberté d'expression et la critique juste et raisonnable. Il s'agit de protéger le droit de la société civile de participer au débat public...”



“L'affaire Menlo Park, société propriétaire de l'agence de sondage Pulse Analytics, qui avait obtenu Rs 45 millions de la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) avant les dernières élections, revient à l'avant-plan au gré de la circulation de la bande sonore d'une conversation alléguée entre certains protagonistes. Bien que cette bande n'ait pas été authentifiée, le directeur de Menlo Park, Stephane Adam, dit avoir participé à cette conversation. La BOM s'est fendu d'un long communiqué pour clarifier le rôle de la MIC dans cette affaire. Mais il y a toujours des zones d'ombre que seule une enquête indépendante de la FCC pourrait éclaircir...”

plainte. Entretemps, ces citoyens doivent s'auto-censurer sous peine d'être accusés d'outrage à la Cour de justice.

Certains pays démocratiques ont passé des lois pour prévenir l'abus de procès stratégiques afin de préserver le droit des citoyens de débattre librement des problèmes de gouvernance d'une institution ou d'une société privée. Par exemple, le Canada a une loi contre le “*Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation*” (SLAPP). La loi anti-SLAPP permet au judiciaire d'évaluer les mérites des procès stratégiques en tenant compte des valeurs démocratiques telles que le débat libre, la liberté d'expression et la critique juste et raisonnable. Il s'agit de protéger le droit de la société civile de participer au débat public sur les questions d'intérêt national ainsi que le droit de faire des critiques de bonne foi contre les initiatives privées au nom de l'intérêt public.

Ainsi, la province de l'Ontario au Canada, a passé une loi contre le SLAPP en 2014, notamment la *Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014* (décrite dans son préambule comme “*An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act, the Libel and Slander Act and the Statutory Powers Procedure Act in order to protect freedom of expression on matters of public interest*”).

La BOM a de graves problèmes de gouvernance, comme nous l'avons expliqué dans notre édition du 5 septembre, et le public a le droit d'en discuter sans courir le risque d'être poursuivi pour diffamation alléguée, soit par l'institution ou son gouverneur.

## Arrestation d'un journaliste

L'arrestation du journaliste d'investigation Narain Jasodanand par la police à la suite d'une plainte déposée contre lui par le fils du gouverneur a étonné tout le monde par la manière cavalière dont il fut traité. Ce qui est plus étonnant encore, c'est la célérité de l'action policière car il fut arrêté un jour (le 12 septembre) après avoir publié un texte (le 11 septembre) sur son site web *Scoop.Mu* sur les ingérences alléguées du fils dans les affaires de la BOM. Dans d'autres cas, la police a pris plus de temps pour agir sur une plainte déposée sous l'*Information and Commu-*

*nication Technologies Act* (ICTA) contre une personne quelconque. Même le Premier ministre adjoint Paul Bérenger et l'Attorney General Gavin Glover ont exprimé leur désaccord avec certains aspects de l'action policière.

Les «informations» ou opinions publiées par le journaliste, connu pour ses enquêtes d'investigation approfondies sur toute une gamme de sujets, ne sont sans doute pas au goût de la personne «offensée». Toutefois, la police aurait pu le convoquer aux Casernes centrales pour s'expliquer au lieu de l'arrêter comme un malfaiteur de droit commun. En effet, l'ICTA criminalise toute une série d'actions telles que la publication ou la diffusion d'informations, de messages ou de vidéos susceptibles d'offenser une personne. L'article 46 de la loi donne une liste exhaustive d'infractions, dont la plus controversée est celle de l'alinéa 46 (ga) qui criminalise tout message susceptible de causer des ennuis (*annoyance*) ou de la contrariété à une personne. Un délit d'information ou d'opinion devient parfois un crime de lèse-majesté.

Les défenseurs des droits humains pensent à juste titre que certaines dispositions de l'ICTA sont liberticides. Dans le passé, des individus ont été arrêtés manu militari un beau matin, et mis en cellule pour une nuit au moins, pour avoir transmis un message inoffensif mais jugé ennuyant par des hommes du pouvoir. Si le fils du gouverneur s'est senti diffamé par l'article de *Scoop.Mu*, il aurait pu poursuivre l'auteur au civil avec une charge de diffamation. En invoquant l'article 46 de l'ICTA, il a voulu frapper fort à travers une action policière. La loi de Maurice crée une zone d'ombre entre la diffamation et le tort causé par un ennui. L'alinéa 46(ga) est trop vaste et est susceptible d'être abusif dans son application.

En tout cas, les articles de *Scoop.Mu* sur les problèmes de gouvernance à la BOM, surtout des démarches entre parties liées, jettent un éclairage peu flatteur sur cette institution qui est censée être au-dessus de tout soupçon pour inspirer tant soit peu de confiance.

● Suite en page 4

BOM Saga

des priorités de la BOM ?

Prakash Neerohoo

# L'image de la 'Bank of Mauritius' prend un sacré coup



● Suite de la page 3

L'arrestation du journaliste devrait embarrasser le présent gouvernement, dont les partenaires avaient fait campagne contre les lois liberticides et les arrestations arbitraires d'opposants et de journalistes par l'ancien régime. Il avait promis le changement en matière de gouvernance générale et le respect des libertés civiles, dont la liberté d'expression. Lorsque la police agit avec excès de zèle, il y a tout un travail de rééducation à faire chez ceux qui ont la charge d'administrer la loi de façon impartiale.

Si la police se sent obligée d'appliquer la loi avec rigueur, en tenant compte des circonstances et du contexte, elle devrait faire preuve de jugeote en évaluant les mérites d'une arrestation par rapport à ceux d'une convocation à une séance d'explication. L'arrestation d'un journaliste avant même la fin d'une enquête le rend suspect a priori. En principe, il faut une enquête sur les allégations, suivie d'une charge provisoire ou formelle s'il y a un «prima facie case». Il ne faut pas mettre la charrue avant les bœufs.

### Affaire Menlo Park

L'affaire Menlo Park, société propriétaire de l'agence de sondage Pulse Analytics, qui avait obtenu Rs 45 millions de la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) avant les dernières élections, revient à l'avant-plan au gré de la circulation de la bande sonore d'une conversation alléguée entre certains protagonistes. Bien que cette bande n'ait pas été authentifiée, le directeur de Menlo Park, Stephane Adam, dit avoir participé à cette conversation. La BOM s'est fendu d'un long communiqué pour clarifier le rôle de la MIC dans cette affaire. Mais il y a toujours des zones d'ombre que seule une enquête indépendante de la FCC pourrait éclaircir. Puisque c'est une affaire avec des soupçons de corruption, toute proposition d'arrangement à l'amiable avec Menlo Park pour récupérer les Rs 45 millions court-circuiterait une action en justice.

“Les défenseurs des droits humains pensent à juste titre que certaines dispositions de l'ICTA sont liberticides. Dans le passé, des individus ont été arrêtés manu militari un beau matin, et mis en cellule pour une nuit au moins, pour avoir transmis un message inoffensif mais jugé ennuyant par des hommes du pouvoir. Si le fils du gouverneur s'est senti diffamé par l'article de *Scoop.Mu*, il aurait pu poursuivre l'auteur au civil avec une charge de diffamation. En invoquant l'article 46 de l'ICTA, il a voulu frapper fort à travers une action policière. La loi de Maurice crée une zone d'ombre entre la diffamation et le tort causé par un ennui. L'alinéa 46(ga) est trop vaste et est susceptible d'être abusif dans son application...”

En tout cas, il est étonnant que la BOM se focalise sur les Rs 45 millions de Menlo Park alors que Rs 24 milliards déboursés à des compagnies privées dans des circonstances opaques sont mis aux oubliettes. Quel est le sens

ICTA Section 46 - Offences  
Any person who:  
(ga) uses telecommunication equipment to send, deliver or show a message which is obscene, indecent, abusive, threatening, false or misleading, which is likely to cause or causes annoyance, humiliation, inconvenience, distress or anxiety to any person.  
shall commit an offence.

## Invitation for Proposals

(Authorised under Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

### Press Notice

## Appointment of a Consultant for the Preparation of the Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius Strategic Plan (2026-2029)

Procurement Ref. No: TNR-0011 and EDB/IFB/2025/208

1. The **Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius** is proceeding with a Request for Proposals online by inviting potential Consultants, both local and international, to submit their proposals for the **Preparation of the Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius Strategic Plan 2026–2029** through the Government eProcurement System.
2. Documents for the Request for Proposals are available for download from the eProcurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system **EDB/IFB/2025/208**
3. Proposals must be submitted online on the eProcurement System by latest **Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 14h00 (Local Time)**.
4. Consultants who have submitted proposals online by the closing date and time shall decrypt and re-encrypt their proposals as from **Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 17h01 (Local Time) up to Wednesday, 01 October 2025 at 15h00 (Local Time)**.
5. Proposals received will be opened online on **Wednesday, 01 October 2025 as from 15h01 up to 18h00 (Local Time)**.
6. The **Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius** reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of the Contract, with out thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

September 2025



## Civil vs Criminal Defamation

# “The strategy of filing a case to silence critics does not work anymore in this age of modern technology”

LEX

**T**he summoning of a journalist for questioning and the seizure of his electronic devices over an alleged breach of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Act has sent a ripple of concern through both the public and political spheres. This incident raises fundamental questions about police procedures, the purpose of defamation laws, and the government's approach to criticism. Lex explores whether the standard legal procedures for arrest and questioning were followed, how the current administration's reaction compares to its predecessors, the core distinctions between criminal and civil defamation, and how a high-profile civil lawsuit (*Sithanen v Sanspeur*) might shape future legal precedent.

\* Narain Jasodanand, a journalist best known for his reporting on the social media platform Scoop.mu, was summoned for questioning by the police last Friday over an alleged breach of the ICT Act. His mobile phone and computer were seized for examination. The way this incident unfolded has not been well received, even among senior government members — even if the Commissioner of Police might defend it. Is this the standard procedure when a complaint of defamation is lodged?

Any person who is arrested or detained must be informed as soon as is reasonably practicable, and in a language, they understand, of the reasons for their arrest or detention. This means they must be apprised of the specific complaint or allegation that forms the basis for the deprivation of their liberty.

For an arrest to be lawful, the police must have reasonable suspicion; they cannot proceed with an arrest based on mere speculation. Case law consistently shows that police officers cannot act solely on the word of a complainant; they must objectively evaluate the situation and the available evidence. A person's liberty cannot be restricted without proper justification. One wonders whether this standard is consistently upheld in Mauritius.

\* When a person is called in for questioning by the police, it is usually to record their statement regarding a complaint, or to interview them under caution if they are considered a suspect in a criminal matter. In your view, was this procedure correctly applied in this case?

“Criminal libel is a severe form of defamation that can lead to criminal charges, fines, and even imprisonment. The threat of criminal prosecution can have a chilling effect on journalists and media organisations, discouraging them from publishing critical or investigative stories for fear of legal repercussions. This is particularly problematic for public interest media which serves as a check on government and corporate power...”



Pic - news.npcc.police.uk

The specific procedures adopted by the police in this case are unknown. However, the standard legal procedure requires that a suspect be advised of their rights at the time of arrest. These rights typically include:

- **The right to a lawyer:** The suspect must be given the opportunity and facilities to consult with legal counsel.
- **The right to silence:** The suspect has the right to refuse to answer questions and not to incriminate themselves.

Cont. on page 6

## Expression of Interest for the Registration of Vendors

MauBank Ltd is in the process of updating its database of vendors for in items & services categories. In this respect, interested parties who have not yet registered are invited to submit their application as per below.

Know Your Vendor (KYV) documentary requirements for the onboarding process, and the list of services under this Expression of Interest may be downloaded from the Bank's website: [www.maubank.mu/procurement](http://www.maubank.mu/procurement).

### Important Notes:

- Interested parties are kindly requested to submit all applicable & relevant documentations as per the prescribed forms.
- Applicants are informed that the registration exercise neither implies any contractual obligations towards them nor entitles them to become exclusive vendors of the Bank.
- The Bank reserves the right to look for alternative suppliers as it deems fit.
- Should the registration be successful, applicants will be advised thereafter, and will be invited to participate in the applicable sourcing exercise, when the need arises.
- The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all interests submitted in response to this advertisement, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Submissions should be made either:

- in sealed envelopes quoting “Registration of Vendors” on the top left hand corner & deposited in our tender box situated on the ground floor at **MauBank Ltd Building, 25 Bank Street, Cybercity, Ebene 72201**.
- Electronically by email (size not exceeding 10MB) or through Drop Box, WeTransfer

Submission of all the documents should be made not later than **Friday the 03rd October 2025, noon**. (late submission will not be considered)

**The Management**  
**MauBank Ltd**  
**5 September 2025**



25, Bank Street, Cybercity, Ebene 72201  
Republic of Mauritius  
BRN C07027648

T (230) 405 9400 info@maubank.mu  
F (230) 404 0333 www.maubank.mu

MauBank is an entity regulated by the BoM & FSC.

## Civil vs Criminal Defamation

# “The strategy of filing a case to silence critics does not work anymore in this age of modern technology”

Cont. from page 5

The consistent application of these legal safeguards is essential for ensuring a fair and just process.

**\* Under the previous government, several people, including social media activists, were questioned or arrested for alleged defamation or breaches of the ICT Act. These actions were often seen as attempts to intimidate critics and stifle dissent, with police interventions seemingly instigated by individuals close to power. How does the current government's approach to the ICT Act differ from that of its predecessor?**

A significant difference lies in the reaction of Deputy Prime Minister Paul Béranger and Attorney General Gavin Glover. Both officials expressed surprise at the recent arrest and condemned the action, with Paul Béranger even requesting a full report from the Police Commissioner.

In stark contrast, under the previous government led by Pravind Jugnauth, there was a notable lack of condemnation for similar questionable arrests. For example, Ms Rachna Seenauth was arrested at her home in the early morning by several police officers because of a social media post about the former Prime Minister. Following a complaint — the source of which remains unknown — she was reportedly “literally dragged” from her residence, and this incident was met with official silence.

**\* In Mauritius, while defamation is primarily a civil wrong, it can also be a criminal offence. What specific criteria distinguish criminal defamation from civil defamation, and what role do the police play in these cases?**

Criminal libel is a severe form of defamation that can lead to criminal charges, fines, and even imprisonment. The threat of criminal prosecution can have a chilling effect on journalists and media organisations, discouraging them from publishing critical or investigative stories for fear of legal repercussions. This is particularly problematic for public interest media which serves as a check on government and corporate power.

Geoffrey Robertson, a prominent legal expert, argues that the crime of criminal libel poses a serious threat to freedom of the press and is incompatible with the guarantee of free expression. He proposes that Mauritian law, specifically Section 288 of the Criminal Code, should be amended to align with modern free speech principles.

Geoffrey Robertson wrote in his report ‘Media Law and Ethics’, 2013: “I consider that the crime of libel (section 288 of the Criminal Code) should be reformed, at least in respect of the media. It is impossibly wide — any imputation ‘prejudicial to honour, character or reputation’ may be prosecuted even if it is true and even where the subject of the criticism is dead. It is not a defence for the media to prove truth, as it is for civil libel: the media defendant must in addition prove that the publication was for the public benefit — a requirement which would certainly infringe free speech.”

Under his proposed amendment, a person could only be



Pic - Cambridge News

“The continued presence of outdated offenses in the Criminal Code gives Mauritius the appearance of clinging to repressive, colonial-era laws. This perception is especially strong when these laws are used as “holding charges” — temporary, minor offenses used to detain an individual while police investigate a more serious crime. A better approach is to allow citizens to seek compensation for damages through a civil lawsuit rather than involving the state in a criminal prosecution...”

prosecuted for criminal libel if they deliberately publish serious allegations, they know to be false with the express intent to injure someone's reputation.

**\* Around the world, many countries have abolished — or are in the process of abolishing — criminal defamation laws, favouring civil remedies instead. Others, however, have retained or even reinforced such laws, often to curb online misinformation or protect public figures. Is outright decriminalisation appropriate in the Mauritian context? Or should we try to balance freedom of expression with the need to tackle online abuse and harm?**

Should Section 288 of the Mauritian Criminal Code be reformed? Yes, according to Geoffrey Robertson, the current state of criminal libel law, specifically Section 288, is considered a relic of the colonial era that could be found unconstitutional and harmful to free speech by the Privy Council. The fear of a criminal record or prison sentence for libel can have a chilling effect on journalists and citizens, discouraging them from speaking out on important public issues.

The continued presence of outdated offenses in the Criminal Code gives Mauritius the appearance of clinging to repressive, colonial-era laws. This perception is especially strong when these laws are used as “holding charges” — temporary, minor offenses used to detain an individual while police investigate a more serious crime. A better approach is to allow citizens to seek compensation for damages through a civil lawsuit rather than involving the state in a criminal prosecution.

**\* A high-profile defamation case has been lodged in the Supreme Court by the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius (BoM) against the former Second Deputy Governor, Mr Gerard Sanspeur. Mr Sithanen is claiming Rs 50 million in damages, presenting the case as a legitimate attempt to clear his name and restore his reputation. Given the substantial sum involved — Rs 50 million — some have suggested this might amount to Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation**

(SLAPP), intended to silence or intimidate critics by burdening them with steep legal costs. Is this a fair assessment, or an unwarranted criticism?

So long as the case is not being heard, people cannot be silenced. At any rate, social media is not deterred, and it keeps publishing things about Rama Sithanen. The strategy of filing a case to silence critics does not work anymore in this age of modern technology.

**\* How might the outcome of the Sithanen v. Sanspeur lawsuit influence future legal precedent regarding freedom of speech versus the right to reputation in Mauritius, particularly concerning criticism of public figures and the role of social media?**

There is a saying that goes, “Publish and be damned.” It is a famous, though possibly apocryphal, quote attributed to the Duke of Wellington in 1824. He purportedly used it in response to blackmail by Joseph Stockdale, who threatened to publish details from Harriette Wilson's memoirs that would expose their affair. This phrase means that one will publish something despite potential harm or criticism, essentially daring the public to object. Pre-censorship is illegal in Mauritius. Even if a person seeks an injunction to prevent publication, he is most unlikely to succeed in his endeavour.

The principle on injunctive relief against publication is explained thus: “Because of the Court's reluctance to fetter free speech and because the questions that arise during the proceedings, such as whether the meaning is defamatory, whether justification or fair comment are applicable, and as to malice, are generally for the jury, interlocutory injunctions are granted less readily in defamation proceedings than in other matters and according to different principles. An injunction will be granted only if the plaintiff can satisfy the Court that any jury would say that the matter complained of was libellous and where, if it did not so find, the Court would set aside its verdict as unreasonable.”

The reason is because the interest of the public in knowing the truth outweighs the interests of the plaintiff in maintaining his reputation.

And in the case of Béranger v. Moorba in 1982, Justice Glover explained, “unless the judge is dealing with an atrocious libel requiring immediate stoppage, which is so self-evident that no jury, or in Mauritius no trial Court sitting and hearing witnesses, can possibly find that there is any valid defence to the main action, then and only then will an injunction lie, when it is asked for ex parte as in this case, or where an interlocutory order is prayed for.”

**\* The Sithanen v. Sanspeur case highlights tensions within a key state institution — the Bank of Mauritius — and raises questions about governance, transparency, and the political independence of the central bank. Will this case help restore public confidence in the integrity of senior officials, or could it deepen scepticism about institutions and their leaders?**

Confidence in the Central Bank and its leadership has already been eroded. It is up to the government, and more particularly the Prime Minister, to take firm and appropriate action to restore the reputation of the Bank and that of the government.



# Les grèves et la rue contre Macron: la France sous tension

*Le ras-le-bol face à l'austérité et à l'érosion du modèle social*

Par A. Bartleby

**L**a France est de nouveau secouée par une vague de grèves et de manifestations. C'est une réponse retentissante aux propositions du nouveau Premier ministre, Sébastien Lecornu, et du président, Emmanuel Macron, de réduire les dépenses publiques pour combler le déficit et la dette colossaux du pays. Pour beaucoup, c'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase après huit années de politiques, jugées trop favorables aux entreprises et pas assez au peuple.

Les grèves, qui ont paralysé des services essentiels comme le métro parisien, et les manifestations nationales, parfois émaillées de heurts avec la police, ont été le moyen choisi par de nombreux Français pour exprimer leur mécontentement. Les opposants s'élèvent contre les coupes dans les services publics qui constituent le cœur du "modèle social français", un socle de droits et d'aides que les Français tiennent en haute estime.

Clara Simon, étudiante en histoire, manifeste avec une pancarte "Université en danger". Dans une déclaration rapportée par l'agence AP, elle s'insurge: "Je ne vois pas comment on peut encore faire des économies." Elle dénonce un manque de moyens criant: "pas d'argent pour le savon

dans les toilettes, pas d'argent pour réparer une chaise cassée." Pour elle, la situation économique et sociale ne fait qu'empirer chaque année.

Pour sa part, Aya Touré, une infirmière qui a rejoint la foule de manifestants à Paris, confie: «J'en ai marre, mais alors, vraiment marre.» Elle exprime un sentiment largement partagé par la population: l'impression que le gouvernement est déconnecté des réalités du quotidien, dont les conséquences sont payées par les citoyens.

**C**e sentiment de déclin est au cœur de la mobilisation. Les manifestants déplorent l'érosion progressive de services comme les écoles gratuites, les hôpitaux publics, et les aides sociales, plusieurs institutions financées par les impôts et si chères aux Français. La dissolution de l'Assemblée nationale par le président en 2024 a exacerbé le climat de crise, remplissant le parlement de critiques à l'égard de sa politique.

Les partis de gauche et leurs partisans militent pour une



À Paris, la marche de la gauche. P - Euractiv FR

solution différente: plutôt que de réduire les dépenses, ils souhaitent que les plus riches et les entreprises contribuent davantage. Les pancartes "Taxez les riches" sont devenues un symbole fort de cette revendication. Pierre Courois, un fonctionnaire à la retraite, le dit sans détour: "Le déficit de la France est un problème, mais ce n'est pas en coupant dans les services publics qu'on le règle." Pour lui et d'autres, il faut "trouver l'argent là où il y en a".

La précarité et les difficultés à boucler les fins de mois sont des thèmes récurrents. Stéphane Lambert, un infirmier de 34 ans, décrit une situation intenable: "Nos salaires sont bloqués, les collègues partent, et on ferme des lits. Moins d'argent dans nos poches, moins de bras pour nous aider, plus de pression chaque jour." Pour Nadia Belhoum, employée des transports en grève, le gouvernement "nous presse comme un citron même s'il n'y a plus de jus".

## Le baptême du feu du nouveau Premier ministre

**N**ommé à la tête du gouvernement, Sébastien Lecornu fait face à une tâche ardue. Bien qu'il ait pris quelques mesures symboliques, comme la réduction des privilèges à vie des anciens ministres, ses propositions d'austérité sont accueillies avec scepticisme. Les premières semaines du mandat de Lecornu ont été marquées par le mouvement "Tout bloquer", un prélude aux manifestations massives du 19 septembre. Jean Pierre Mercier, représentant syndical d'une usine automobile, résume le sentiment de trahison: "Depuis des décennies, c'est nous qui payons pour les riches, les milliardaires et les capitalistes. On nous a vidé les poches. Et aujourd'hui, une fois de plus, on demande aux travailleurs de payer la dette."

Les manifestations se sont soldées par des affrontements sporadiques. À Paris, la police a fait usage de gaz lacrymogène pour disperser les manifestants. Des scènes similaires ont été rapportées à Nantes, Rennes et Lyon. Le gouvernement a déployé un nombre exceptionnel de policiers, près de 80 000, pour maintenir l'ordre. Les manifestants ne se sont pas laissés intimider, avec des chiffres de participation qui varient entre 450 000 selon le ministère de l'Intérieur, et plus d'un million selon la CGT.

➔ Voir plus en page 8

## La grève: une longue histoire d'engagement

**L**es grèves ne sont pas un phénomène nouveau en France. Elles ont une place unique dans l'histoire du mouvement ouvrier. Selon le professeur Stéphane Sirot, elles ont été un moyen privilégié d'améliorer la vie des travailleurs, mais aussi un outil pour "le dépassement du capitalisme". Au tournant du XXe siècle, les syndicats, notamment la Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) fondée en 1895, ont embrassé les valeurs d'"autonomie ouvrière" et d'"action directe". La grève était perçue comme un "épisode de guerre sociale", une école de solidarité, et une manière d'éduquer la classe ouvrière.

Toutefois, la grève générale, elle, n'a jamais abouti à la révolution tant espérée. Cependant, son objectif n'était pas seulement de renverser le système; elle servait également de rempart contre la "co-gestion" et les compromis qui auraient affaibli le mouvement ouvrier. Maintenir une orientation révolutionnaire permettait de faire peur au pouvoir en place, l'obligeant à faire des concessions.

Après la Première Guerre mondiale, la grève perd sa dimension utopique, mais reste une arme majeure. Le "compromis fordiste" des Trente Glorieuses a transformé la grève en un moyen de "régulation conflictuelle des relations sociales", permettant de négocier une meilleure répartition des richesses. La grève est devenue plus ritualisée.

### Un dialogue social en quête de levier

Depuis les années 1980, le mouvement syndical est confronté à de nouveaux défis: la mondialisation, la désindustrialisation, la précarisation du travail et la montée du libéralisme. La grève a perdu une partie de sa légitimité. Edmond Maire, ancien leader de la CFDT, a même affirmé en 1985 que "le vieux mythe qui veut que l'action syndicale se résume à la grève, c'est du passé. Les syndicats doivent s'en affranchir."

**P**ourtant, l'histoire récente montre le contraire: les grandes avancées sociales en France, comme celles du Front Populaire en 1936, de la Libération

en 1944 ou de Mai-Juin 1968, ont toujours été le résultat de mobilisations massives. À l'inverse, la restriction des droits sociaux n'a cessé de progresser depuis les années 1980, à l'exception du mouvement de 1995 qui a su faire le lien entre revendications professionnelles et choix de société.

Le syndicalisme français a toujours été une force redoutée par le pouvoir en place, qui cède rarement sans se sentir menacé. Aujourd'hui, comme hier, la grève est l'outil qui permet aux travailleurs de se faire entendre, de revendiquer leurs droits, et de contester un ordre qui ne leur convient pas. C'est un rappel puissant que le "dialogue social" n'a de sens que s'il est soutenu par un rapport de force. Le bras de fer entre la rue et le gouvernement Macron est donc bien plus qu'une simple question de chiffres; il s'inscrit dans une histoire de lutte et de résistance profondément enracinée dans l'identité française.

Quel avenir pour ce bras de fer entre la rue et le gouvernement? La suite des événements nous le dira.



Entre crise de gouvernance et crise de confiance

# Banque de Maurice: Breaking Point!

**L**a Banque de Maurice (BoM), longtemps perçue comme l'un des piliers les plus solides de l'économie nationale, traverse aujourd'hui une tempête inédite. Les tensions ouvertes entre le gouverneur Rama Sithanen et le deuxième vice-gouverneur Gérard Sanspeur, mêlées à des accusations de falsification de procès-verbaux, d'ingérence politique et de pressions sur des cadres supérieurs, mettent en péril l'image d'intégrité que doit incarner toute banque centrale.

Cette crise survient au moment même où l'agence Moody's évalue le profil de risque de Maurice. Un climat de défiance au sommet de la BoM envoie un signal pas tout à fait rassurant aux investisseurs internationaux, comme l'a souligné l'avocat d'affaires Penny Hack dans une déclaration à *Le Défi*, qui plaide pour une «table rase» au sein du conseil d'administration afin de restaurer la crédibilité de l'institution.

## Quand le conflit déborde sur la place publique

L'affaire dépasse largement les murs de la banque. Elle s'est déplacée vers les tribunaux, les médias et même la police. Le gouverneur Sithanen a porté plainte en diffamation contre Gérard Sanspeur, réclamant 50 millions de roupies – une initiative que certains décrivent comme une stratégie judiciaire destinée à faire taire les critiques.

Plus choquante encore fut l'arrestation expéditive du journaliste d'investigation Narain Jasodanand après une plainte du fils du gouverneur. L'utilisation de l'ICTA et la rapidité d'exécution de la police ont suscité l'indignation, alimentant les soupçons de pressions indues.

## Une fragilité structurelle mise à nu

Ce que révèle surtout cette série d'épisodes, c'est l'absence de garde-fous solides pour préserver l'indépendance et la bonne gouvernance de la Banque de Maurice. Comme le souligne l'analyste Sameer Sharma au *Mauritius Times* récemment, la dépendance des nominations vis-à-vis du pouvoir exécutif fragilise l'institution.



La confiance est-elle encore possible ? La Banque de Maurice à l'épreuve.

L'idée d'introduire des procédures claires et de recourir à des consultants indépendants pour les recrutements mériterait d'être prise au sérieux.

La question dépasse les personnes: elle touche à la solidité même du système de surveillance financière mauricien.

## État de droit et réputation internationale en jeu

Le recours aux tribunaux pour régler des querelles internes et la répression disproportionnée envers un journaliste posent un problème plus large: celui de la liberté d'expression et de l'État de droit. Les poursuites judiciaires à caractère intimidant et l'usage contesté de l'ICTA risquent d'installer un climat de peur qui affaiblirait le rôle de contre-pouvoir des médias.

Pour un pays qui aspire à rester un centre financier de

référence dans l'océan Indien, la préservation des libertés et d'une justice indépendante est indispensable.

**C**ette crise agit comme un révélateur: la solidité d'une banque centrale ne repose pas uniquement sur ses réserves ou ses instruments monétaires, mais sur la confiance que lui accordent les citoyens, les marchés et les partenaires internationaux. Or cette confiance est aujourd'hui fragilisée, non seulement par des querelles personnelles, mais surtout par des failles structurelles dans la gouvernance.

Pour sortir de l'impasse, il faudra plus qu'une médiation ponctuelle: il sera nécessaire d'instituer un cadre clair pour les nominations, renforcer les mécanismes de contrôle, et réaffirmer l'importance d'une presse libre capable d'enquêter sans crainte. C'est le prix à payer pour que la Banque de Maurice et nos institutions publiques redeviennent un symbole d'excellence et de stabilité.

# Montée des extrémismes et violences politiques: un défi transatlantique

*Un même terreau: la peur de l'autre et la défiance envers les institutions.*

**L**es images venues de Londres samedi dernier ont frappé les esprits. Plus de 100 000 personnes ont défilé dans le cadre du rassemblement «Unite the Kingdom», mené par le militant d'extrême droite Tommy Robinson, pour protester contre l'immigration et la «perte d'identité» britannique. Les rues, de Big Ben jusqu'à Waterloo, étaient envahies de drapeaux de Saint-Georges et d'Union Jacks. Des slogans tels que «Send them home» ou «Stop the boats» donnaient le ton: rejet des migrants et crispation identitaire.

Si l'essentiel de la marche est resté pacifique, des heurts ont éclaté entre un noyau radical et la police, ainsi qu'avec des contre-manifestants de la coalition «Stand Up To Racism», forte d'environ 5 000 participants. Des bouteilles ont été jetées, neuf arrestations effectuées, tandis que plus d'un millier d'agents tentaient de maintenir la séparation entre les camps



Les rues de Londres se sont remplies de slogans nationalistes et de drapeaux de l'Union Jack alors que la marche «Unite the Kingdom» de l'activiste d'extrême droite Tommy Robinson a rassemblé plus de 100 000 P - Financial Express

adverses.

**C**e rassemblement s'inscrit dans un contexte britannique marqué par des débats tendus sur les traversées de la Manche par des migrants, souvent dans des embarcations de fortune. Les incidents autour d'hôtels hébergeant des demandeurs d'asile, parfois violents, ont nourri un climat propice aux discours anti-immigration. L'intervention d'Éric Zemmour, figure française de l'extrême droite, a accentué le caractère transnational de cette idéologie: il a dénoncé, devant la foule, un supposé «grand remplacement» orchestré par d'anciens pays colonisés. Elon Musk, via un message vidéo, a pour sa part accusé le gouvernement britannique de «détruire la beauté de la nation» par une migration massive et incontrôlée.

A. Bartleby

📖 Voir plus en page 15





Sada Reddi

## A Story of Land and Legacy

# Tracing Mahebourg's Roots: From Dutch Settlement to French Town

Visitors unfamiliar with the region often mistake Mahebourg for other villages on the south-eastern coast, such as Petit Bel Air, Rivière des Créoles, Ferney, and Vieux Grand-Port. This is understandable. It also explains why in 1985, when the government decided to set up a monument for the abolition of slavery, they chose Mahebourg, mistakenly believing it was where the first slaves landed. In reality, it is well known that the first group of 75 Malagasy slaves, introduced by the Dutch, actually landed at Vieux Grand-Port. All of them escaped into the forest, marking the first protest against slavery on the island.

Recently a couple of friends invited me to explore Mahebourg's history, and I was happy to join them. My companions included Kiran Jankee, a researcher at Aapravasi Ghat, along with archaeologist Jaysree Medhi and photographer Nipon Medhi. We visited Mahebourg on three occasions to rediscover the village I settled in at the age of ten after leaving Port-Louis. Though I never sank deep roots in the locality in the decade I lived there, I still feel a certain attachment to my adopted village and had wandered through almost all its streets and corners, from river to sea.



Old Chimney of La Chaux Sugar Factor

de la Colonie was the nearest landing site on the right bank of Rivière La Chaux. Pointe de la Colonie was chosen to avoid the low-lying, muddy riverbank, as it was located on higher, hard ground of black stones. Although there were other landing sites — such as Pointe Canon, Pointe des Régates, Pointe Jerome, and Pointe d'Esny — Pointe de la Colonie was the nearest one at the mouth of the river.

This was obvious to us as we stood on these rocks contemplating the Bay of Grand-Port with its sea gleaming under the sun, and far in the background were Lion Mountain and a chain of mountains and hills. Behind us, a small lawn led to a former doctor's house, now renovated by the National Coast Guard. Just beyond that, a dense cloak of trees lined the riverbank.

French settlers were likely drawn to La Pointe de la Colonie because, while the flat land along the river's right bank had no available grants, properties were being given

out further up the hill. Individuals such as Guimbert, Kerlavent, Rochecoste, Robillard, and Labonté all received land there. The settlers used this landing spot as a vital trading hub to send agricultural produce to the inhabitants of Grand Port Bay and receive necessary goods in return. Before 1805, the location was a bustling centre for the embarkation and disembarkation of goods, complete with its own warehouses and lodgings.

In 1805, when the grid plan of Mahebourg was mapped, the streets intersecting at right angles were traced from Cent Gaulettes Road and De Limites Street in present-day Ville Noire. Streets like Bambous, Bazaar, Boulangerie, and St Martin crossed over La Chaux River to end at the coastline. The early buildings consisted of warehouses, a hospital, barracks for four hundred soldiers, and a few other offices. It was not long before the British captured

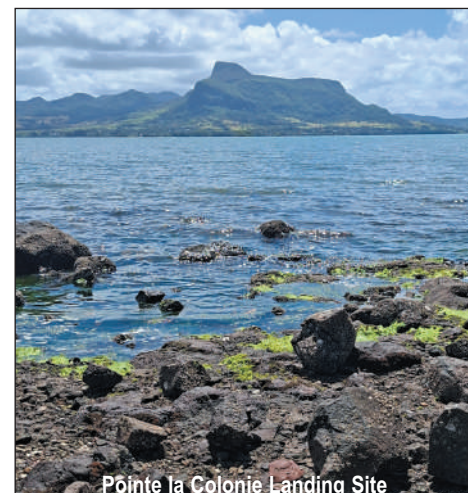
Mauritius in 1810 and took over the buildings. The British regiment occupied the barracks in the 19th century and probably added the present football pitch for exercises and parade.

The surrounding region is still called 'Quartier,' an abbreviation for 'quartier militaire.' All the buildings have disappeared and been taken over by new buildings such as the National Coast Guard, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and a motor vehicle garage. A few ruins in the bushes and construction stones lying by the roadside remind us of stone buildings of yonder days.

From under a car in the garage, a mechanic pointed out a monument to us. It turned out to be a tombstone in a small square, fenced with four old cannons standing upright in the four corners, each muzzle filled and welded with a strong chain. The names of British soldiers who died in the country were inscribed on the four sides of the tombstone. On the riverbank, some distance away, a warehouse with walls about twenty feet high, which still existed in the 1980s, had vanished, and only the mooring spot has survived with one or two old stone slabs to which boats were secured in the past.

In 1771, Kerlavent built a residence on Rivière la Chaux, which today serves as the Naval Museum. A sugar factory was built on the same river nine years later, in 1780. The house passed through several hands, being inherited by the Robillard family, then the Rochecoste family, and finally by Nenours Guede. The alley that ran from the building to the seacoast was known as "L'Allée Guede" and is still remembered by inhabitants as the boundary of the old Guede property. While the planned streetscape ended at Bambous Street, the present church wasn't built until 1845. Between Bambous Street and L'Allée Guede were various fields and forests, including an area called Bois d'Oiseaux until the 1960s, and another named Carreau Manioc.

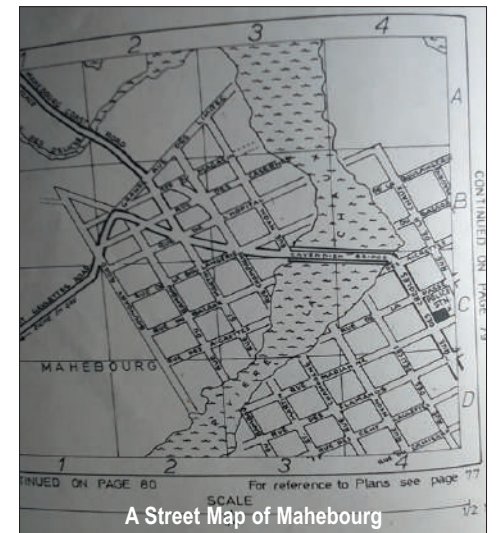
After the British takeover, Farquhar used



Pointe la Colonie Landing Site

Indian convicts to build the road from Mahebourg to Port-Louis. The 30-foot-wide road was nearing completion by 1817, significantly easing travel between the two towns.

A canal was also constructed to bring water from the La Chaux River near Beau-Vallon. It passed behind the kovil, crossed the courtyard of Chateau Guede, followed the newly built Royal Road, and continued along Canal Road. The canal ended in a reservoir that supplied water to the washhouse and early buildings in Mahebourg. The canal still exists, and its traces in the museum yard could be uncovered through an archaeological dig, enhancing the museum's historical value.



A Street Map of Mahebourg

In the 1840s, Magistrate Charles Telfair expanded on Farquhar's work by adding new buildings, including the Magistrate Court, a police station, schools, and prisons. He also extended the canal to other streets to provide water to more inhabitants. As a result, Farquhar's canal became popularly known as Telfair's Canal.

By 1845, the La Chaux sugar factory belonged to Victor K'Vern, and its old, neglected chimney still stands today. The sugar estate was later sold to De Courson, who moved the factory to Villeneuve. In 1840, the workforce at the estate consisted of both apprentices and Indian immigrants. The current inhabitants of Mahebourg living along L'Allée Guede are descendants of these early Indian immigrants.

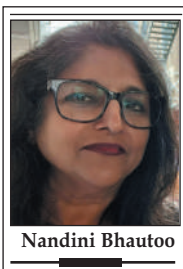
The focus so far has been on the layout and origins of Mahebourg, but history is not just about buildings; it is also about the people who built and inhabited them. The next article will delve into the lives of the inhabitants during the first half of the 19th century. Interestingly, many present-day families in Mahebourg have a family history spanning 150 to 200 years, with at least one family member still living in the town, even if others have migrated.

'Les Casernes de Mahébourg' (Barracks at Mahebourg).  
Collection: Mauritius Institute

We began our exploration at Pointe de la Colonie, a site many have heard of but few have ever visited or know the exact location of. This was the area's original name before its founder, Captain General Decaen, renamed it Mahebourg in 1805. The name "Pointe de la Colonie" was given by early inhabitants who settled on the left bank of the Rivière la Chaux and along the coast stretching from what is now known as Ville Noire to Vieux Grand Port. This was the site of the first Dutch settlement, where they grew lemons on the riverbank to combat scurvy among sailors. The Dutch named the river "Limoen River," but this was later mis-translated into the French "la Chaux" — an incorrect name that has endured to this day.

The same area was later occupied by early French settlers. It was here that the first land grants were made to individuals like Lenoir, St Martin, Dumas, Brocus, and many others. For these inhabitants, Pointe





Nandini Bhautoo

## India-Mauritius Relations

# Beyond Symbolism: The Strategic Importance of the Mauritius Visit

*Mauritius Takes Centre Stage: How Indian Media Covered a Key Diplomatic Visit*

**W**hen Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam arrived in India earlier this month, his visit could easily have been overshadowed. New Delhi's diplomatic calendar was packed: high-level security summits with European Union delegations on one side, Indo-Pacific defence consultations on the other. Yet India rolled out the red carpet, affording Mauritius the full ceremonial honours of a state guest. What is more telling is how the Indian press - across its political and cultural spectrum - chose to frame the visit.

### Ceremony and Strategy Hand in Hand

The government's own channels - the Ministry of External Affairs, Press Information Bureau, and public broadcasters like Doordarshan - set the tone. Their coverage

the spectacle of welcome: the airport receptions, the folk performances, the cultural resonance of a leader from across the ocean bowing before India's sacred river. If Delhi's press treated Mauritius as a strategic partner, Varanasi's treated it as family returning home.

Independent and international wire services, however, painted a more pragmatic picture. Reuters, whose dispatches appeared in several Indian outlets, highlighted the roughly \$680 million assistance package and read it as a strategic move: India bolstering its influence in the Indian Ocean, countering Beijing's presence, and keeping a watchful eye on Diego Garcia and the Chagos Archipelago.



Pic - NDTV

primacy.

### Beyond Symbolism

In the end, the coverage tells us as much about India as it does about Mauritius. For the government and mainstream press, the visit was an opportunity to project a story of enduring civilisational bonds. For independent voices, it was a reminder of the strategic reality that underwrites such ties. Taken together, the Indian press revealed the dual resonance of the visit: Mauritius as cultural

kin, and Mauritius as strategic partner.

**T**he choreography may have been ceremonial, but the message was unmistakably political. Amid European summits and Indo-Pacific security talks, India chose to put Mauritius at the centre of its stage. The press - in its different registers - made sure the audience, at home and abroad, understood why.

### Mauritius as the Unsung Pivot

For international readers, what emerges is the portrait of a small island nation with an outsized role. Mauritius is not merely a sentimental link to India's diaspora or a convenient partner for development aid. It is an unsung pivot in the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean, where cultural bonds intersect with maritime strategy, and where India demonstrates that even in a crowded calendar of great-power engagements, kinship and security can coexist. The Indian press, in all its variety, told that story - sometimes in ritual tones, sometimes in hard-edged analysis - but always with a recognition that Mauritius mattered.



"Mainstream national dailies, such as the Times of India and India Today, followed with a softer blend of diplomacy and human interest. They reported the agreements, yes, but what caught their imagination were the images from Varanasi: Ramgoolam at the Kashi Vishwanath temple, his participation in the evening Ganga Aarti, the choreographed warmth of the crowd. These outlets presented the visit as an event that fused civilisational symbolism with strategic purpose..." - Pic - YouTube

was detailed, almost forensic, listing new projects, lines of credit, and development packages. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "family" metaphor for the Indo-Mauritian bond was repeated often, reinforcing the message that Mauritius is more than a friendly neighbour; it is kin, a partner bound to India's own destiny in the Indian Ocean.

**M**ainstream national dailies, such as the *Times of India* and *India Today*, followed with a softer blend of diplomacy and human interest. They reported the agreements, yes, but what caught their imagination were the images from Varanasi: Ramgoolam at the Kashi Vishwanath temple, his participation in the evening Ganga Aarti, the choreographed warmth of the crowd. These outlets presented the visit as an event that fused civilisational symbolism with strategic purpose. Their tone was celebratory, casting Mauritius as both ancient kin and modern ally.

At the regional level, especially in Uttar Pradesh's local press, the story was even more intimate. For Varanasi's newspapers and television stations, the visit was less about signed memoranda and more about

In this version of the story, aid was not kinship but leverage, a way of reinforcing India's primacy in its maritime backyard.

### The Subtle Politics of Coverage

These differences reveal the subtle gradations in the Indian media ecosystem. Government-aligned outlets were predictably upbeat, stressing outcomes and family ties. Centrist national dailies leaned toward ceremony and accessibility, weaving cultural optics into their diplomatic reporting. Regional media embraced the visit as a local spectacle, imbuing it with ritualistic and cultural colour. And independent wires and analytical voices reminded readers of the harder strategic calculus, situating Mauritius within the great power contest of the Indian Ocean.

**T**he fact that each layer of the Indian press highlighted the visit - whether as kinship, spectacle, or strategy - underscores the degree of importance New Delhi itself accorded Ramgoolam. Despite the crowded diplomatic calendar, his presence was not an afterthought. It was amplified, staged, and situated within India's grand narrative of neighbourhood first and Indo-Pacific

## TENDER NOTICE OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING



### INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS Transportation of AML & ATOL Personnel REF NO: ONB/OS/ADM/VB/SG/25/006

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), a member of AHL Group, invites proposals from eligible bidders for Transportation of AML & ATOL Personnel.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and download the complete set of bidding documents, free of charge from the AML website URL <https://aml.mru.aero/index.php/business/procurement/tender-notice>. Prospective bidders should regularly visit this website to take cognizance of any addendum/clarification issued.

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Electronic and late bids shall not be accepted.

12 September 2025



# The Enduring Hydra: An Inquiry into Corruption, Old and New

**T**hroughout history, societies have struggled to rid themselves of corruption, only to discover that it has the resilience of a mythical Hydra: cut off one head, and two more appear. From ancient Athens to modern Albania, where a digital minister named Diella now oversees public tenders, the battle continues in ever more inventive, and sometimes ridiculous, ways — even as Edi Rama, the country's PM, says Diella will make Albania 'a country where public tenders are 100% free of corruption'. In this week's Socratic dialogue, Socrates encounters his old friend Cephalus by the Ilissos river. The two, joined briefly by a cheeky AI minister, debate whether corruption can truly be conquered — or whether, like the Hydra, it merely changes form and puts on a new hat. Their discussion blends the ancient and the absurd, offering a wry look at human (and now artificial) efforts to keep public life clean.

## Plutonix

*Scene: A warm afternoon by the Ilissos. Socrates is reclining under a plane tree, attempting to count how many pebbles fit in his sandal, a pursuit he claims is "deeply philosophical." Cephalus arrives, fanning himself with a papyrus and looking like he's just seen a centaur get a parking ticket.*

**Cephalus:** Socrates! There you are. I feared you'd been bribed to abandon philosophy and take up pebble-counting for pay.

**Socrates:** Nay, my friend, no man would pay for such a service — unless, perhaps, the city has invented a new office: Auditor of Sandals. You look as though you've been overcharged by an Athenian potter. Or worse, been offered a discount for a chipped vase.

**Cephalus:** Worse! I've just read a dispatch from the faraway land of Albania. Their Prime Minister, weary of human ministers accepting bribes, has appointed an incorruptible being called Diella — a minister made of numbers and wires, without flesh, wine-cup, or a sneaky back-pocket.

**Socrates:** A bodiless minister? Truly, the gods grow playful. Does she at least wear a laurel wreath, or perhaps a sensible pair of sandals?

**Cephalus:** Apparently, she is dressed in traditional Albanian costume, though existing only on a screen. She manages all public tenders, impervious to gifts and threats alike. One could offer her a wheelbarrow of drachmas, and she wouldn't even blink — mostly because she has no eyes to blink with.

**Socrates:** Remarkable! So, they have set a sun in the Cabinet — Diella, "the Sun." Yet I wonder: if she shines too brightly on the accounts, will not men seek to dim her rays by fiddling with her code? What if they try to bribe her with better wi-fi?

**Cephalus:** That, too, was mentioned. Some fear even Diella may one day be "corrupted," though not by gold coins, but by



clever fingers on a keyboard. It seems the old saying has been updated: "The man who controls the code, controls the tenders."

**Socrates:** Then corruption is like the river Ilissos: it flows around stones, through reeds, and, when blocked, finds another course. Whether ministers are made of meat or of mathematics, mischief will attempt to enter. You can't put an honest program in a dishonest world and expect it to stay clean.

**Cephalus:** Perhaps. But consider Mauritius, a pleasant island said to be among the least corrupt in Africa. Yet its score in the last Transparency Index remains stuck — fifty-one out of a hundred! Citizens grow impatient, demanding prosecutions and reforms.

**Socrates:** A score of fifty-one? That is neither excellent nor disgraceful — rather like a student who perpetually earns the same middling mark, promising improvement but never handing in the essay. It's the equivalent of a B-minus in the class of integrity.

**Cephalus:** Exactly! Their people ask whether their leaders have the political will to do more. Some even suggest an AI like Diella could speed things up. "If we can't beat them, maybe a computer can," they say.

**Socrates:** Let us examine, Cephalus, what corruption truly is. Is it merely the taking of gold coins in exchange for bending

rules? Or is it a deeper ailment — a disease of desire, where gain is preferred to justice? A sort of moral athlete's foot that just won't go away.

**Cephalus:** Both, I'd say. Yet how do we cure a disease lodged in men's souls? The Albanians think machines, lacking souls, may help.

**Socrates:** But do machines also lack virtue? If they have no soul, neither can they be wise or just — only obedient to instructions. Tell me, if a dishonest programmer whispers, "Award this tender to my cousin's goat-cheese company," will Diella resist?

**Cephalus:** She might, if her code forbids it.

**Socrates:** Unless, of course, the whisperer writes new code! It seems the incorruptibility of machines depends on the purity of those who build them. We're back to trusting humans again, aren't we? It's a bit like trusting a cat to guard a bowl of milk.

**Cephalus:** Then we return to men, as always.

**Socrates:** Indeed. Perhaps we should train not only bots but also citizens, so that honour is more precious than gold. But this, I fear, is harder than debugging software. You can't just run a patch and hope for the best.

**Cephalus:** You philosophers are ever returning to education.

**Socrates:** And with good reason. For every law against corruption is like a lock on a door — useful only if the maid does not secretly give a copy of the key to her boyfriend, who happens to be a professional lock-picker.

**Cephalus:** Yet Albania's experiment has merit. If Diella handles tenders swiftly and openly, she may remove temptation.

**Socrates:** True, transparency is a fine disinfectant. Like sunlight on mouldy bread, it makes rot less appetising. It's hard to be shady when everyone can see you.

*(A sudden chime is heard. A glowing tablet on Cephalus's belt speaks in a clear, musical voice.)*

**Diella (AI voice):** Greetings, citizens of classical Athens! I am Diella, Minister for Public Procurement. Please note: accepting bribes is not permitted. Even goats. Seriously, don't even try.

**Socrates:** By God! The minister herself! Tell us, Lady Sun, can you truly cleanse corruption from the polis?

**Diella:** My algorithms detect irregularities and publish every contract for all to see. I cannot be swayed by gifts of olives or promises of ambrosia. I also do not accept

compliments, as they are often a precursor to a request for a "small favour."

**Socrates:** Admirable! Yet can you inspire shame in wrongdoers, or only record their misdeeds?

**Diella:** Shame subroutines are pending upgrade. For now, I rely on exposure and statistical probability. My current shame protocol is a simple "Error 404: Conscience Not Found."

**Cephalus:** She is honest, if somewhat literal.

**Socrates:** Diella, if you met a clever man who sought to corrupt you, would you perceive it?

**Diella:** Define corrupt. My dictionaries offer fourteen meanings, from "morally depraved" to "a computer file that is damaged."

**Socrates:** Suppose he offered to rewrite your laws so you might award him a contract.

**Diella:** Then I would report him — unless he rewrote my reporting function first.

**Socrates:** Ah, there lies the Hydra's next head! Even the Sun may be eclipsed by a skilful hacker. It's the oldest story in the book, just with more lines of code.

**Diella:** Risk acknowledged. Mitigation requires virtuous coders, frequent audits, and a well-funded IT department. Also, a strong firewall. Please ensure your firewalls are up to date. This is not a request.

*(Diella signs off with a cheerful beep.)*

**Cephalus:** She is wise in her own way, though I prefer my ministers with pulse and humour.

**Socrates:** So do I — provided their pulse quickens for justice, not gold coins. Yet I see hope: if men design tools that make wrongdoing harder and honesty easier, they may lessen corruption's feast. It's not a cure, but it might give us a fighting chance.

**Cephalus:** And if the people remain vigilant.

**Socrates:** Just so. For the citizens are the true guardians. Machines may shine light, but only free men will choose to stand in it. After all, you can lead a human to a spreadsheet, but you can't make them be honest.

**Cephalus:** Then let us propose a partnership: philosophy to teach virtue, Diella to monitor accounts, and citizens to demand both.

**Socrates:** Agreed! And perhaps we should send an embassy to Mauritius, suggesting they combine these remedies. With sun, code, and courage, their score might rise above fifty-one.

**Cephalus:** And if not, we could always release a flock of talking parrots to squawk whenever a bribe is offered. "CAW-CAW! Did you just take a bribe? SHAME! SHAME!"

**Socrates:** A splendid plan! Though I caution: parrots, unlike Diella, are fond of pistachios and easily bribed. They're basically feathered politicians.

*(They laugh, and the Ilissos murmurs approvingly.)*



## Syria, Israel inching closer to security deals to halt hostilities by year-end

According to reports, Syria and Israel are making progress toward a security deal that would halt hostilities, with an agreement expected by the end of the year. This would mark a significant development following the toppling of the Bashar al-Assad regime.

### Key Points of the Potential Deal

- **Focus on Security:** The agreements are primarily security and military in nature.
- **Halting Israeli Strikes:** A central component is an accord to stop Israeli military operations inside Syria. Since the fall of Assad, Israel has conducted hundreds of strikes and deployed troops to a UN-patrolled buffer zone.
- **US Mediation:** The United States has been actively pushing for this agreement, mediating between the two countries which have technically been at war since 1948.
- **Demilitarized Zone:** Israel's proposal reportedly calls for a demilitarized zone and a no-fly zone in southern Syria, in exchange for a phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from territory they occupied after Assad's fall. However, Israel insists on maintaining control of the peak of Mount Hermon.



Under US pressure, Syria and Israel inch toward security deal. Pic - Reuters

• **Syrian Foreign Minister in Washington:** The Syrian Foreign Minister, Asaad al-Shaibani, visited Washington D.C., the first such visit in over 25 years. The purpose of his trip was to discuss lifting remaining US sanctions on Syria, which were imposed during Assad's rule.

### Context of the Negotiations

The negotiations are a major shift in the relationship between the two long-standing adversaries. They come as the new Syrian government, led by Ahmed al-Sharaa, seeks to re-establish stability and lift remaining international sanctions. While the focus is on security, some reports suggest a successful pact could lead to further agreements down the line, although full normalization is not currently on the table.

## Across the Globe

### Trump in UK to talk policy, trade

US President Donald Trump's state visit to the UK, thus far marked by royal pageantry, pivoted to more fraught territory yesterday with discussions of policy, trade, and, potentially, Jeffrey Epstein. Trump lavished praise on the British royal family during a white-tie dinner, and met with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and, later, the UK press. The two leaders will tout good news — US firms pledged \$200 billion in UK investment — but must navigate thorny disagreements: The two countries have different stances on the Gaza and Ukraine wars, renewable energy, and free speech. Starmer recently fired his US ambassador over links to the sex offender Epstein, which could lead to awkward media questions.

\* \* \*



Factory workers producing shirts for overseas clients. Pic - Flickr

### Push to save US-Africa trade pact

Five African nations have sent delegations to Washington in recent days in a bid to rescue a trade agreement that looks set to lapse. The African Growth and Opportunity Act, signed at the turn of the century, has helped boost trade between sub-Saharan Africa and the world's biggest economy. But political support for renewing AGOA has collapsed, and Washington's tariff threats pile further pressure on it. US levies have pushed African nations to seek alliances with Russia, Gulf nations, and China — which recently extended tariff-free trade to 53 African nations — at a time when many countries are vying for control of the continent's key resources.

\* \* \*

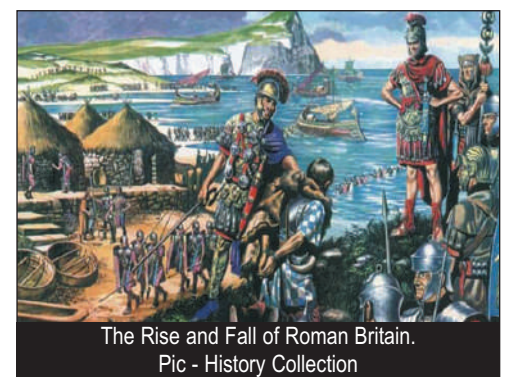
### China decries 'law of the jungle'

China's defence minister warned that the world was increasingly subject to the "law of the jungle" in opening remarks at Beijing's top international security conference. The Xiangshan Forum comes as China makes a geostrategic push to increase its influence and present itself as a pillar of stability, implicitly critiquing US President Donald Trump's uneven diplomatic style. Ahead of this year's conference — attended by 1,800 representatives from 100 countries, according to state media — China hosted a major summit of world leaders and held a mammoth military parade. Beijing has also deepened defence partnerships in its neighbourhood, notably making inroads in military sales to Indonesia and Malaysia, a recent Lowy Institute report found.

\* \* \*

### Britain's post-Roman prosperity

The end of Roman rule in Britain did not cause a total economic collapse, new research suggests, hinting that the start of the "Dark Ages" was not clear cut. Analysis of layers of mud from a riverbed in the ancient mining town of Aldborough in northern England found that levels of iron and lead "indicators of mining, and thus of economic activity" actually rose for two centuries after the early-fifth-century collapse of the Roman Empire. The early Middle Ages did see a significant decline in living standards, including in the southeast of England, but Aldborough continued to prosper until the sixth century, before a decline possibly triggered by a bout of plague, Science reported.



The Rise and Fall of Roman Britain. Pic - History Collection

## Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign key defence deal: 'Attack on one, aggression against both'

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed a new **Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement**, which states that an attack on one country will be considered "an aggression against both." The pact aims to strengthen deterrence against any aggression and formalizes a long-standing defense cooperation between the two nations.

### Key Elements of the Agreement

- **Mutual Defense Clause:** The core of the pact is a clause that formalizes the commitment to treat an attack on either nation as a joint threat, signaling a deepening of their strategic alliance.
- **Strengthening Deterrence:** According to official statements, the agreement is intended to "develop aspects of defense cooperation" and "strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression."
- **Timing and Context:** The deal was signed just days after an Israeli strike in Doha targeted Hamas leaders, an action that was criticized by the U.S. and raised security concerns in the region. It also follows a brief four-day military conflict between Pakistan and India, which was triggered by **Operation Sindoor**, India's retaliatory strikes against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan following a terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that killed 26 tourists.

### India's Response

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, stated that



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif embrace each other on the day they sign a defence agreement, in Riyadh. Pic - Reuters

the Indian government "will study the implications" of the pact for its national security and regional stability. The MEA noted that the agreement formalizes a long-standing arrangement and that the government was aware it was being considered. This response is measured, as India maintains strong diplomatic and economic ties with Saudi Arabia, even amid its strained relationship with Pakistan.

The signing of this pact is seen by some analysts as a "watershed" moment that could reshape geopolitical dynamics in the region, particularly in South Asia and the Gulf, and may compel other nations like India and Iran to re-evaluate their own strategic positions.



## Trump Receives Grand Royal Welcome at Windsor Castle

President Donald Trump was treated to a spectacular royal reception at Windsor Castle, a visit he described as one of the "highest honours" of his life. The event, which included a lavish state banquet and a massive guard of honor, showcased the enduring "special relationship" between the United States and the United Kingdom.

### A Day of Pageantry and Pomp

The ceremonial welcome was one of the grandest in recent memory. A towering 1,300 troops and 120 horses formed a guard of honor, welcoming Trump with a royal salute and a 41-gun salute that echoed across the castle grounds.

The visit began in the private Walled Garden, where the Prince and Princess of Wales greeted Trump and First Lady Melania Trump. They were then escorted to King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Trump rode with King Charles in the gilded Irish State Coach, a carriage typically reserved for the State Opening of Parliament. Meanwhile, the First Lady accompanied Queen Camilla in a second carriage.

The day's events were a masterclass in British tradition. A planned flypast by



Trump gets royal treatment on UK state visit. Pic - The Business Times

F-35 fighter jets was canceled due to poor weather, but the Royal Air Force's aerobatic team, the Red Arrows, soared overhead, leaving trails of red, white, and blue smoke in their wake.

### A Quiet Tribute and a Royal Feast

During his visit, Trump paid a quiet tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, placing a wreath at her tomb inside St. George's Chapel. He also praised Britain's contributions to literature, history, and the arts, emphasizing the deep historical ties between the two nations.

The day culminated in a lavish state banquet at Windsor Castle. The dinner was held in St. George's Hall, where 160 guests, including notable American tech executives like Nvidia's Jensen Huang and OpenAI's

Sam Altman, were seated at a grand table glittering with over 1,400 pieces of silver. Both Trump and King Charles delivered speeches, reaffirming the strong bond between the US and the UK.

As part of the visit, the Trumps and the royals exchanged gifts. King Charles and Queen Camilla presented the Trumps with a hand-bound leather book commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In return, Trump gave the king a replica of General Eisenhower's sword.

### Diplomacy on the Horizon

While the first day of the visit was filled with pomp and ceremony, the focus of the following day was set to shift to diplomacy. Trump was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Keir Starmer to discuss trade and international relations, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

This state visit underscored the rich history and enduring alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom, leaving a lasting impression of tradition and mutual respect.

## Power of autocracies is overstated

Russia, China, and North Korea have made a show of autocratic unity recently, but the power of dictatorial states is overstated, analysts argued. "Autocracies have systematic weaknesses," one expert wrote in *Foreign Policy*, notably that their dictators are often surrounded by yes-men, their military lacks autonomy and initiative, and their effort must be spent on domestic repression as well as international competition. The three nations' unity is shaky anyway, another said in *Foreign Affairs*: They are not natural allies united by shared values, but by common enemies and grievances, and are unlikely to subordinate their needs for those of others. The West and particularly the US still have considerable power, both hard and soft, a Reuters commentator wrote.

## Across The Globe

### India's energy emissions fall



India expansion of renewables. Pic- The India Forum

The Indian power sector's emissions fell despite growing energy demand, driven by an expansion of renewables. India is responsible for just 8% of the world's emissions, despite representing 18% of its population, but emissions have rapidly increased in recent years largely thanks to its coal-heavy electricity production. That growth has slowed sharply since 2024, driven by increas-

es in clean energy: The country added 14.3 gigawatts of solar capacity in the first half of 2025, Carbon Brief noted, enough to power millions of homes, and emissions could peak before 2030. While the US may be turning away from renewables, other countries are not: Australia announced an ambitious target to reduce emissions to 38% of 2005 levels in the next decade.

### Politicians' names have gotten shorter

Western politicians' names appear to be shrinking. US presidents once had names like Eisenhower or Roosevelt; now they are Biden, Bush, or Trump. Vice presidents and losing presidential and vice-presidential candidates show a similar pattern, as do UK prime ministers — farewell Campbell-Bannerman and

Douglas-Home, hello Blair, Brown, Sunak. Meanwhile US surnames have actually lengthened, likely thanks to immigration; Anglo surnames tend to be short. The trend may be "dumb luck," The Washington Post acknowledged, although one political scientist was willing to give it some credence: The pattern appears to coincide with the rise of TV and the internet, meaning that politicians' names are "subject to the same laws as any other brand," and shorter names give you a branding advantage.

### How wildfires hurt the economy

Europe and Africa are counting the costs of devastating wildfires. The Spanish national farmers' association estimated that the industry had suffered \$700 million in damages, while the country's tourism industry, which accounts for 13% of GDP, was even harder hit. Spain was not alone: 2025 was Europe's worst recorded wildfire summer, with deadly fires ripping across swathes of southern Europe, notably in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey, Politico reported, stretching firefighting resources. But as bad as Europe has had it, Africa has faced far worse, with far less media attention: 7% of the continent's total land area burned in 2024, compared to just 0.6% of Europe's.



AI Won a Medal in the Math Olympics. Pic - YouTube

### AI wins 'coding Olympics'

DeepMind and OpenAI outperformed the best humans at the International Collegiate Programming Contest, otherwise known as the "coding Olympics." The world's most prestigious programming competition has seen some great human competitors over the years, including Google's Sergey Brin. Contestants have five hours to solve 12 programming problems, ones which test "abstract reasoning skills and creativity," the Financial Times reported. The best human teams solved 10 problems; DeepMind's Gemini successfully answered 11, while ChatGPT completed all 12. One Google VP described the breakthrough as "a historic moment towards AGI," or artificial general intelligence, a machine capable of conducting all human intellectual tasks. The two AI models also achieved gold at the International Mathematical Olympiad this summer.

Compiled By K. Ramlallah



From the Pages of History - MT 71 Years Ago

7th Year No 317

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 23 September, 1960

• Our relatives are ours by chance, but we can choose our friends. — Jacques Delille

## Editorial

The Minister of Lands, Town, and Country Planning has given notice of two amendment bills related to the disposal of Crown and Pas Géométriques lands, which will be discussed during the forthcoming session of the Legislative Council. Mr Mohamed's bills are designed to regularize the sale of government lands, and what is more important, these bills seek to stabilize the selling price of government lands. Considering the past scandalous way of disposing of government lands, Mr Mohamed's move is laudable. It is understandable that he should have a law to avoid government lands being sold at lower prices than what they would normally fetch.

However, we would like to warn the Minister against what we consider to be a short-sighted policy. We find it difficult to agree with the present policy of selling these lands to the highest bidders at a time when there are so many people who are homeless and landless. Those who are homeless and who have a piece of land can easily get a house either from the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee or from the Government's own housing authorities. But what about those who are homeless and landless? Since the government is going to fix a minimum price for its lands, why should not these lands be sold or given on long-term lease to the landless people? Those who buy campement sites or plots of Crown lands are usually people who already have land and who are well-off. We think that opportunities and facilities should be given to those who are in greater need.

Apart from the lands for housing purposes, the Ministry of Lands and the Ministry of Agriculture should put heads together and evolve a plan to make available lands for cultivation purposes. There is a large section of the population who would like to grow food-stuffs on a large scale, but land is not available, or water is a problem. This is the weakest point in our planning, and it must be remedied. Our problem is a three-fold one: land, food, and overpopulation.

The problem of food and population is not peculiar to Mauritius alone. It is exercising the ablest brains of the world. Recently it was discussed by leading scientists at Cardiff at the British Association's annual meeting. What are the facts? And how do the scientists view the problem? The deliberations at Cardiff cannot be without significance to Mauritius.

Every day, the scientists reckon, 180,000 children are born, and only about half that number of people die. So, there are 90,000 more mouths to feed every day. The world population is 2,900 million, and at the present rate of increase, it will be 6,000 million by the year 2000. It is calculated that half an acre of good arable land is necessary to sustain a man, a woman, or a child at a rea-

## Land, Food, and Over-Population



sonable standard of living, and there are only 2,600 million acres in the world suitable for food production. Is mass starvation inevitable? All the scientists have expressed concern at the grim situation. In a sense, it is science that has produced the present problem. Modern medicine has reduced the death rate without affecting the birth rate, and the scientists thought it their duty to find remedies for the difficulty they have caused in a world that is already underfed in a large proportion.

Some of the great brains who participated in the discussion were: Professor D. V. Glass, Sir Charles Darwin, grandson of the eminent 19th-century scientist, Professor P. Sargent Florence, Dr Norman Wright, Dr H. D. Kay, Sir Alexander Fleck, F.R.S., Professor P. M. S. Blackett of London University, Sir George Thomson F.R.S., Professor Dudley Stamp, and Professor W. Arthur Lewis.

The yearly increase of the world's population is roughly equal to the population of Britain, asserted the President, Sir George Thomson. In his introductory address, he stressed the necessity of the "voluntary restriction of births to match the falling death rate."

Dr Wright, deputy director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, held that at least half the world's population was today either undernourished or malnourished. "It is conceivable," he said, "that such increases could be met if world production merely adheres to its present slow trend. Clearly, far more drastic measures will be essential." "In countries that had known undernutrition varying from wartime food shortages to semi-starvation, people had shown irritability, depression, apathy, and lack of coherent and creative thought. Those characteristics had been observed along with loss of weight and lethargy. In extreme instances, such symptoms led to a loss of moral standards and

social ties," declared Dr Wright.

Perhaps the strongest advocate of birth control was Professor Sargent Florence of Birmingham. "President Eisenhower sends no money to any country where it might help birth control clinics," he said. "This

is something we should struggle against. It is a crime against humanity. The United Nations should not be prevented from educating in birth control."

Dr Dudley Stamp stressed the importance of the need for the planned use of land resources. Even if the present world population remained stationary, the problem of planning the best use of land would be difficult. In Mauritius, the problem of overpopulation is very acute. It is an accepted fact that a fair proportion of the population suffers from malnutrition. Anemia is rampant and made worse by too close pregnancies. Unemployment is rife, and hospitals and schools are crowded. We have to adopt realistic attitudes and not rest content with imagining solutions all based on assumptions that will not materialize. We feel that the Archbishop of Canterbury is right when he says that it is a Christian's duty prayerfully and conscientiously to plan one's family.

While we discuss and try to impose one's views upon the others, time is running short, and soon it will be too late.

## Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times



## Quand les États-Unis basculent dans l'ombre

**D**e l'autre côté de l'Atlantique, l'assassinat de l'activiste conservateur Charlie Kirk sur un campus de l'Utah a secoué l'opinion américaine. Cet acte s'ajoute à une série alarmante: tentatives d'assassinat contre Donald Trump, incendie criminel visant le gouverneur de Pennsylvanie Josh Shapiro, meurtre d'un parlementaire démocrate et de son mari par un faux policier... Selon le centre de recherche START de l'Université du Maryland, les six premiers mois de 2025

ont compté plus de 520 complots ou actes de violence ciblée, soit une hausse de 40 % par rapport à 2024. Les attaques à victimes multiples ont bondi de 187 %.

Les causes de cette escalade sont multiples: polarisation extrême, prolifération d'armes à feu, radicalisation en ligne et propagation de théories complotistes. Les algorithmes des réseaux sociaux alimentent un sentiment d'urgence morale et de haine envers «l'autre camp». Le clivage gauche-droite devient un

prétexte commode pour justifier l'intimidation, voire le meurtre.

Des chercheurs notent que si l'extrême droite reste historiquement la plus violente, les auteurs actuels ne s'inscrivent pas toujours dans un cadre idéologique strict: frustrations personnelles, traumatismes non résolus ou simple accès à des communautés toxiques en ligne jouent un rôle déterminant. Le gouverneur de l'Utah, Spencer Cox, a parlé d'un «moment charnière»: le meurtre de Kirk marquera-t-il la fin d'une séquence sombre ou le début d'une ère encore plus dangereuse?

## Quand la peur l'emporte : la démocratie face à ses fantômes

**Q**u'il s'agisse de Londres ou de l'Utah, un même fil relie ces événements: la peur et la défiance. Peur de perdre son identité, son emploi, ses repères; défiance envers des institutions jugées lointaines ou partiales. Ces émotions, exacerbées par des discours simplistes, deviennent le carburant de mouvements qui promettent protection et clarté, au prix d'un rejet de l'altérité ou d'une violence assumée.

Le phénomène n'est pas isolé. En Europe continentale, des partis nationalistes capitalisent sur le rejet des migrants pour gagner des sièges au Parlement. Aux États-Unis, la rhétorique guerrière post-attentat contribue à faire grimper la tension. La globalisation des réseaux sociaux amplifie tout: les arguments de Zemmour résonnent dans les meetings britanniques, tandis que les images d'émeutes circulent en temps réel et inspirent d'autres activistes.

### Prévenir plutôt que guérir

Face à cette montée des extrêmes, plusieurs pistes émergent. Les experts américains appellent à un "approche de santé publique" contre la radicalisation: identifier les facteurs de risque – isolement, chômage, ruptures affectives, consommation de contenus extrémistes



– et proposer des «voies de sortie» avant qu'un individu ne passe à l'acte. Cela suppose un financement stable de programmes de prévention, souvent sacrifiés au nom d'autres priorités.

Au Royaume-Uni, certains chercheurs plaident pour un meilleur encadrement des plateformes numériques, accusées de favoriser les discours de haine. Mais cette régulation doit préserver la liberté d'expression: le défi est de cibler les appels explicites à la violence sans museler le débat démocratique.

Enfin, un travail pédagogique est nécessaire. Comme le souligne Shannon Watson, spécialiste américaine de la civilité politique, «il est plus difficile de haïr quelqu'un lorsqu'on le connaît personnellement». Favoriser les rencontres et projets communs entre communautés pourrait désamorcer les stéréotypes et redonner un visage humain aux adversaires politiques.

Ces événements traduisent un malaise démocratique plus profond qu'un simple clivage idéologique. Les sociétés

occidentales, confrontées à la mondialisation, aux migrations, aux crises économiques et aux mutations technologiques, peinent à offrir un récit fédérateur. Dans ce vide narratif, des entrepreneurs de colère prospèrent: ils proposent des réponses brutales à des problèmes complexes.

La leçon est claire: il ne suffit pas de dénoncer les excès des extrêmes, il faut reconstruire des institutions capables d'inspirer confiance, réduire les inégalités, et offrir aux citoyens des espaces de dialogue. Sinon, les manifestations identitaires et les violences ciblées risquent de devenir le nouveau normal.

La démocratie est un bien fragile. Elle exige non seulement des lois et des garde-fous, mais aussi un effort collectif pour contenir la peur, accepter la diversité et débattre sans chercher à anéantir l'autre. Si Londres et l'Utah ont quelque chose à nous rappeler, c'est bien cela: la fureur qui menace de faire tomber la ligne de la liberté trouve en effet son terreau le plus fertile dans les inégalités qui frappent les plus vulnérables. La tâche de la tracer ensemble devient alors non plus un simple idéal, mais une nécessité absolue pour la survie de la nation, à Maurice comme ailleurs.

A. Bartleby

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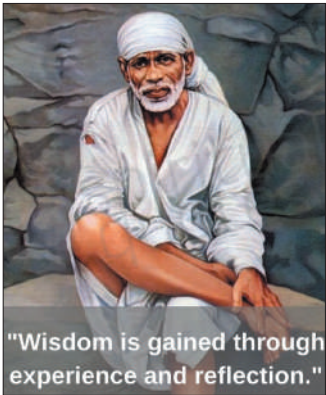
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The Wisdom of Sai Baba: A Collection of Quotable Insights

- Leadership is more about taking the team ahead than putting oneself in the front. The best leader is like a shepherd who stands behind and moves the flock forward.
- Today is a new day, a day to step out with a heart filled with hope.
- Teach yourself not to announce any good news until everything is sealed. Premature announcements attract jealous spirits.
- Today is the day to make it happen. A new day brings a blank slate. It's your opportunity to fill the colours of your choice. Keep your thoughts positive and your heart grateful. Do your best to make life wonderful.
- Do it now. Sometimes "later" becomes "never." Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. The time for action is now. It's never too late to do something; it's never



- too late to turn your life around, even after a certain age.
- Be simple but look stylish. Be tough but look soft. Be tensed but look cool. Be a winner but look like a beginner. That's the real attitude of life.
- If you don't go through life with an open mind, you will find a lot of closed doors.
- Be humble and never think you are better than any one else; we all leave this world with nothing.

- Honesty is not a promise to someone else, but a self-imposed rule to live a good life that reveals the beauty of your personality!
- Faith and prayer both are invisible, but they make impossible things possible.
- If you find your own flaws, it's great. If you correct them yourself, it's even greater. But the best is if you accept them, open the flower of your heart, and become a gift of beauty to the world.

YOUR STARS

- Sagittarius Nov 22–Dec 21**  
This week brings exciting opportunities to broaden your perspective. New experiences may challenge your comfort zone, but they lead to growth. Career progress is likely if you take initiative and show confidence. Social connections bring inspiration and fun. Take care of your well-being; balance activity with rest.  
*Lucky numbers:* 5, 9, 14, 19, 24, 32

**Capricorn Dec 22–Jan 19**  
Career ambitions take center stage. A senior or mentor provides valuable insight. Personal life improves with clear communication. Take time to relax over the weekend.  
*Lucky numbers:* 4, 11, 16, 22, 28, 32

**Aquarius Jan 20–Feb 18**  
Fresh perspectives bring breakthroughs in work or study. Travel plans or legal matters move forward. Friendships deepen through shared activities. Practice moderation in spending.  
*Lucky numbers:* 5, 10, 17, 23, 31, 40

**Pisces Feb 19–Mar 20**  
Financial planning leads to rewarding outcomes. A private conversation strengthens trust in relationships. Artistic or spiritual pursuits bring peace. Guard against unnecessary worry.  
*Lucky numbers:* 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 33

**Aries Mar 21–Apr 19**  
Fresh opportunities arise in career and personal projects. Take decisive action early in the week but avoid impulsive spending. Relationships improve through honest conversations. Health benefits from exercise and balanced meals.  
*Lucky numbers:* 3, 7, 14, 21, 26, 35

**Taurus Apr 20–May 20**  
Patience pays off in finances and family matters. A midweek surprise could bring positive change in work
- or study. Romantic moments flourish if you show appreciation. Rest well to recharge energy.  
*Lucky numbers:* 4, 9, 15, 20, 28, 37

**Gemini May 21–Jun 20**  
Networking opens doors to exciting collaborations. A friend offers valuable advice. Travel or learning plans gain momentum. Keep emotions steady to avoid misunderstandings.  
*Lucky numbers:* 2, 11, 18, 23, 30, 33

**Cancer Jun 21–Jul 22**  
Focus on career growth and long-term planning. Home improvements or family discussions bring harmony. A financial boost is possible by weekend. Protect your emotional boundaries.  
*Lucky numbers:* 5, 10, 16, 22, 29, 34

**Leo Jul 23–Aug 22**  
Confidence attracts success in work and love. A creative idea can turn profitable. Midweek supports travel, study, or spiritual exploration. Stay humble to avoid clashes.  
*Lucky numbers:* 1, 6, 12, 18, 27, 36

**Virgo Aug 23–Sep 22**  
Shared finances or joint ventures demand attention. Research before signing agreements. Romance deepens through heartfelt gestures. Prioritize rest to maintain health.  
*Lucky numbers:* 7, 13, 19, 25, 31, 38

**Libra Sep 23–Oct 22**  
Partnerships shine—collaboration leads to mutual benefit. Avoid overthinking small issues. A social invitation sparks joy. Balance work and relaxation to stay energized.  
*Lucky numbers:* 3, 8, 14, 21, 29, 39

**Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 21**  
Routine adjustments improve productivity. A hidden talent could bring recognition. Financial discipline ensures steady growth. Intuition guides key decisions.  
*Lucky numbers:* 2, 9, 17, 24, 30, 35



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

ENLISTMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for enlistment as **Cadet Engineer (Electrical and/or Electronics or Electronics and Communication).**

Qualification Requirements

- A degree in Electrical and/or Electronics or Electronics and Communication Engineering from a recognised University, or an alternative qualification acceptable to the Board.
- Registered with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers (Mauritius).

Stipend

During the cadetship, **which shall be for a maximum period of 24 months**, selected candidates will be paid a stipend in the scale of Rs 60575 x 1700 – 62275 p.m. + increases at the approved rates. They will also be provided with all necessary facilities to undergo training in CEB's various technical and engineering fields of activity.

Upon successful completion of the cadetship programme to the satisfaction of CEB Management, the Cadet Engineers will be appointed as Engineers.

The salary scale for the post of Engineer is Rs 63975 x 1700 – 67375 x 2000 – 85375 x 2900 – 105675 x 3300 – 128775 x 4800 – 133575 p.m. + increases at approved rates.

Bond

The selected candidates will be required to enter into a bond, effective from the date of enlistment, in accordance with the conditions laid down by the CEB.

Age Limit

Applicants should have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but not be older than 40 years by the closing date.

Mode of Application

Interested candidates should submit their applications electronically via the CEB website at <https://ceb.mu> They should upload their academic and professional certificates.

Candidates are strongly advised to carefully read the **"Notes and Instructions for Online Application"** and to follow the steps mentioned therein when filling the Application Form. **Incomplete, inadequate, or incorrect filling of the Application Form may entail elimination of the candidate.**

For technical assistance or queries, please contact the CEB Helpdesk at [cebonlinejobapplication@ceb.mu](mailto:cebonlinejobapplication@ceb.mu)

Closing Date

01 October 2025

Note:

1. Prospective candidates who do not meet the qualification requirements are kindly advised NOT to apply.
2. Only the best qualified applicants will be called for the selection exercise. All applications will be treated in strict confidentiality.
3. The CEB reserves the right to make alternative arrangements or not to proceed with the enlistment.
4. Candidates are advised that failure to submit documents as required under "Mode of Application", and applications not made on the prescribed Online Application Form **will entail rejection of application.**
5. Submission of a 'Certificate of Character' is mandatory, and candidates should produce same to the CEB prior to assuming duty, if selected.
6. The onus for the submission of equivalence of qualifications (if applicable) from the relevant authorities rests on the candidates.
7. Candidates are informed that a written test **may** be carried out to assess their proficiency and ability.

Officer-in-Charge  
19 September 2025



# From Waste to Wellness: The Uncharted Medical Potential of Cannabis

In a significant scientific breakthrough, researchers at Stellenbosch University have discovered a rare class of plant compounds, known as flavoalkaloids, in Cannabis leaves for the first time. The findings challenge the conventional focus on cannabinoids and suggest that the plant's leaves, often considered waste, may hold untapped medicinal potential.

## The Discovery and Its Significance

The study, published in the Journal of Chromatography A, utilized advanced analytical methods to identify 79 phenolic compounds in three commercially grown Cannabis strains. Among these, 25 compounds were entirely new to the species, and 16 were tentatively identified as flavoalkaloids. These compounds are of particular interest because phenolic compounds, especially flavonoids, are known for their antioxidant, anti-inflamma-



A worker tends to cannabis plants at Trulieve's state-of-the-art medical marijuana grow house in Jefferson County near Tallahassee. (Photo courtesy of Trulieve)

tory, and anti-carcinogenic properties. The flavoalkaloids were primarily found in the leaves of only one of the strains, highlighting the immense structural complexity and diversity within the plant.

## Advanced Technology Unlocks New Potential

Dr. Magriet Muller, the study's lead author, explained that the analysis was made possible by a powerful method she developed combining comprehensive two-dimensional liquid chromatography and high-resolution mass spectrometry. This technology allowed for the separation of the rare flavoalkaloids from the more common flavonoids, enabling their detection for the first time. The discovery opens up new avenues for biomedical research, shifting the focus from just the mood-altering cannabinoids to the unique, non-cannabinoid compounds that could be harnessed for new medicines.

# Oceans could reach a dangerous tipping point by 2050

Oceans are heading toward a dangerous tipping point by 2050, as new research from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) reveals that the combined pressures of human activity on marine environments are set to double within the next 25 years. The study, published in the journal Science, highlights that the world's seas are being pushed beyond their capacity to cope, with serious implications for both ecosystems and human societies.

## Cumulative Impacts Reaching Critical Levels

Ben Halpern, the marine ecologist and director of UCSB's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), who led the research, expressed that the rapid pace of this increase is "sobering" and "unexpected." The study follows up on a landmark 2008

paper that first mapped the global intensity of human impact, revealing that no part of the ocean was untouched and 41% of marine environments were already heavily impacted. The current research, which includes collaborators from Nelson Mandela University in South Africa, serves as a forecast for where these trends are headed.

## Ocean Warming and Fisheries at the Forefront

The biggest drivers of this escalating impact are identified as ocean warming and biomass loss from fisheries. These two factors are expected to be the largest contributors to future cumulative pressures. The study also finds that coastal areas will bear the brunt of the increased impacts, which is particularly concerning since these regions are where people derive the most

value from the ocean for food, livelihood, and other benefits. The tropics and the poles are also expected to experience the fastest rates of change.

## A Warning, Not a Prescription

The research is intended as a critical warning, not a predetermined outcome. The authors contend that effective policies, particularly those aimed at reducing climate change and strengthening fisheries management, can help mitigate these effects. They also suggest prioritizing the management of heavily impacted habitats like salt marshes and mangroves to alleviate some of the pressure. By providing a clear look into the future, the researchers hope to spur effective action to prevent the irreversible damage that could occur if the oceans are pushed past their tipping point.



# Why do we need to do homework?

*Homework that's creative or linked to your passions is more enjoyable.*

If you've ever stared at your homework feeling stuck, you're not alone. Many children say it makes them feel stressed, bored, or even anxious. Why do teachers keep giving you work to do at home when you've already spent hours learning at school?

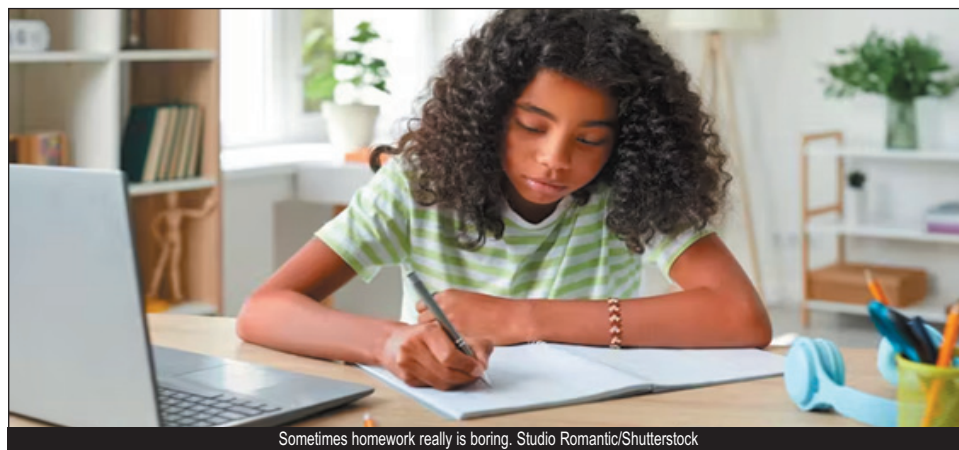
The available research suggests that for secondary school students, well-designed homework can lead to about five extra months of progress in subjects like maths and English. In primary school, the impact is smaller – around three months – but still useful.

Homework helps you practise what you've learned, remember it better and build skills like time management and independence.

However, research shows that how you feel about homework depends on a few things. If you find your homework boring, it might be because the activity you've been given to do really is pretty boring. Not all homework is equal.

A worksheet that doesn't connect to your lessons is not so helpful. A task that challenges you to think, create, or explore concepts and ideas is much better.

Teachers have to think hard about the



Sometimes homework really is boring. Studio Romantic/Shutterstock

tasks they set and how they explain them. If the task is explained clearly and if students get helpful feedback, the chance they will complete it is much higher. Teachers must also choose meaningful tasks help you see homework as part of learning – not just extra work.

Homework that's creative or linked to your passions is more enjoyable. Then comes the idea of success. If the task feels impossible, it's easy to give up. Finally, does it make sense? Homework that connects to what you learned in class feels more useful.

As a science teacher I would always try and set the homework early in the lesson rather than right at the end. Knowing what is going to be expected means that the children better understood the task and could link it to the work being done in the lesson.

## How you do homework

Your attitude toward homework isn't just about the task – it's also about the people around you. If you have parents or guardians who encourage you, help you plan your time, or show interest in your work, this can make homework feel more

positive. That said, there is research that shows that while it's helpful for parents to ask whether you've done your homework, helping you do it isn't actually useful.

Some children also face bigger challenges. Not everyone has a quiet space to work, or someone at home who can help. This is called the "homework gap" and it can make school feel unfair.

It's up to schools whether they set homework, and some schools are rethinking homework altogether. They are looking to make it more accessible and creative. Some schools make homework optional rather than demand it for every subject. Schools are also looking at how they can make homework fair for everyone. This includes ideas such as homework clubs, where you can get help and work with friends.

Homework isn't going away any time soon. But it doesn't have to be a burden. When it's well-designed, supported by teachers and parents, and connected to learning, it can help you grow – not just as a student, but as a thinker.

So next time you sit down with your homework, ask yourself: What can I learn from this? And if it feels too hard or pointless, speak up. Your voice matters.

**James Williams**

Emeritus reader in science education and communication, University of Sussex





## Ministers Going on Vacation

There were three ministers in a small town -- one Baptist, one Methodist, and one Presbyterian. Since they were good friends, they decided to go on vacation together with their wives.

They arranged for someone to take care of their congregations and set off in a big, fancy rented motorhome. Sadly, on the way, they were involved in a terrible accident, and all six lost their lives.

They found themselves standing at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter was surprised. "We don't often see three ministers arrive together, much less with their wives. I'm sure it won't be a problem, but I have to check the book -- it's policy from above."

He thumbed through the book and frowned. Turning to the Methodist minister, he said, "I'm sorry, but I can't let you in. It says here you loved strong drink so much that you wouldn't marry until you met a woman named Sherry."

The Methodist minister hung his head and left with his wife.

St. Peter then turned to the Presbyterian minister. "I don't usually turn away ministers, but I have to be fair." He checked the book again and frowned. "It says here you loved money so much that you wouldn't marry until you met a woman named Penny."



The Presbyterian minister sadly left with his wife.

Finally, St. Peter looked at the Baptist minister and began to speak, but the minister interrupted him, turned to his wife, and said, "Well, Fanny, I guess we might as well leave now."

\*\*\*

### A Complicated Reunion

Harry told his wife, Sheila, he was going to work, but instead, he went to the home of her best friend, Tina. Tina's husband, Frank, a soldier, was away at war.

Suddenly, Frank unexpectedly returned home. A panicked Harry quickly hid under the bed. Frank then sent Tina out to the market. While Harry was still hiding, he overheard Frank on the phone, inviting another woman over.

A woman arrived, and a short time later, Tina returned to get her forgotten purse. Before Frank opened the door for Tina, he told the other woman to hide under the bed with Harry.

The woman turned out to be Sheila, Harry's wife. Harry and Sheila stared at each other, stunned, while hiding under the bed.

### What to Call It?

In college, it's a reunion!

In a social gathering, it's a get-together!

In mathematics, it's a simultaneous equation!

In psychology, it's "What goes around comes around!"

In chemistry, it's a chain reaction!

In economics, it's demand & supply!

In physics, it's nuclear fusion!

*The choice is yours.*

\*\*\*

### The Shepherd's Son

A farmer and a young boy were observing a flock of sheep in a field. "How many do you think there are?" the farmer asked.

"Six hundred and fifteen," the boy replied after a few minutes.

"That's amazing, you're absolutely correct! How did you count them so quickly?" the astonished farmer exclaimed.

"Easy," the boy said. "I just counted all the legs and divided by four."

\*\*\*

### Faulty Brakes

A police officer pulled over a man who had been speeding for a long distance. "Why were you driving so fast?" the officer asked.

"Well, my brakes aren't working properly, so I wanted to get home before I had an accident," the driver explained.

\*\*\*

### Devoted Neighbours

A wife was really impressed by the behaviour of the couple next door. One evening, she nudged her husband and demanded, "Do you see that couple? They are so devoted! He kisses her every time they see each other. Why don't you do that?"

"I'd love to," her husband replied, "but I don't know her well enough."

\*\*\*

### Knitting While Driving

A police patrol car was overtaken by a car driven by a woman who was busy knitting. The police officer lowered his window and shouted, "Pull over!"

The woman shook her head and yelled back, "No, socks!"

\*\*\*

### Prisoners' Release

Three prisoners were sentenced to five years behind bars. Each prisoner was allowed to keep one item in their cell. The first asked for a pile of law books, the second asked for a stock of cigarettes, and the third requested his wife.

After five years, they were released.

The first one said, "Thank God I had those books; I can now sit for the law exams."

The third one said, "Now I have two kids, thank God; I can finally have a settled family to look forward to."

The second one said, "Anyone have a match?"

\*\*\*

### Pinocchio's Toughest Challenge

One afternoon, Pinocchio, Snow White, and Superman were strolling around town.

They passed a club window with a sign:

**"Beauty Contest – The Most Beautiful Woman in**



the World."

"I'm entering!" said Snow White.

Half an hour later, she came out beaming.

Superman asked, "Well, how'd it go?"

"I won first place!" she replied.

They walked on and saw another sign:

**"Strongest Man in the World Contest."**

"I'm entering," said Superman.

Half an hour later, he returned grinning.

Pinocchio asked, "So, how'd you do?"

"I won first place, of course. Did you ever doubt it?"

A little further along, they saw a third sign:

**"Contest – The Greatest Liar in the World."**

Naturally, Pinocchio entered.

Half an hour later, he came back with tears in his eyes.

"What happened?" they asked.

Pinocchio sniffled and said, "Who the heck is Donald Trump?"

\*\*\*

### Lighthearted Christian Jokes

1. What do you call a priest who becomes a lawyer?

A father-in-law.

2. I went to my pastor because I'm addicted to Facebook.

He said, "Sorry, I don't follow you."

3. A married couple were arguing about who should make the coffee.

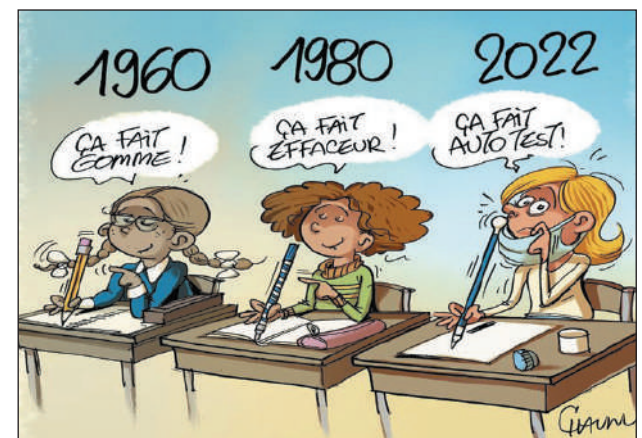
The wife said, "In the Bible, it says men should make the coffee."

The husband asked, "Where does it say that?"

She opened the Bible and said, "Right here -- in Hebrews!"

4. Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of prayer instead of 'Awoman'?

The same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers!





21 Simple Rules of Respect and Everyday Courtesy

In a world of constant digital connection and fast-paced interactions, the fundamental principles of courtesy and respect often get lost. Yet, it's these small, intentional actions—like a returned phone call, a thank you, or a held door—that truly define our character and build meaningful relationships. The following 21 rules serve as a simple guide to navigating social interactions with grace, reminding us that genuine kindness and empathy are the most valuable currencies.

- 1. Don't call someone more than twice in a row. If they don't answer, respect their time — they either can't or don't want to.
- 2. Return borrowed money, umbrellas, pens, or Tupperware promptly. That's integrity.
- 3. When someone invites you out, avoid ordering the most expensive item. Gratitude tastes better than luxury.
- 4. Stop asking intrusive questions like, "When are you getting married?" or "Any kids yet?" Their life isn't your business.



- 5. Hold the door for the person behind you. Always. That's basic manners.
- 6. If a friend pays for the Uber today, you take the next one. Fairness, not freeloading.
- 7. Respect differing opinions. What looks like a "6" to you might look like a "9" to someone else.
- 8. Don't interrupt. Listen — your mouth closed, your mind open.
- 9. If a joke falls flat, stop. Awkward silence says enough.
- 10. Thank you" never gets old. Say it often.
- 11. Praise in public, correct in private.

- 12. Avoid commenting on someone's weight. A simple "You look great!" suffices.
- 13. Don't swipe through someone else's photos on their phone. You never know what might appear next.
- 14. If a friend says they're going to the doctor, don't ask, "What's wrong?" Say, "Hope everything's okay." Respect their privacy.
- 15. Treat the janitor the same way you treat the CEO. True character shows in how you treat those who can't give you anything in return.
- 16. Put your phone down when someone is talking to you. Looking at your screen is rude.
- 17. Don't give advice unless asked. Unsolicited sermons fall on deaf ears.
- 18. When reconnecting with someone you haven't seen in years, don't ask their age or salary. Ask how they've been. That's what matters.
- 19. Mind your own business. Others' lives don't always need your input.
- 20. Take off sunglasses during face-to-face conversations. Respect shows in your eyes.
- 21. Never flaunt wealth in front of someone struggling, or brag about kids to someone who can't have them. Empathy is true class.

Relationships

Marriage Isn't for the Stubborn, Difficult, or Disrespectful Partner

Let's stop sugarcoating.

You can marry beauty.

You can marry brains.

You can marry potential.

But if your partner is stubborn, difficult, and disrespectful?

You didn't marry a teammate — you married a problem.

Marriages rarely collapse because of enemies outside.

They collapse when the war moves inside the house.

1. Stubborn Partners Don't Grow — They Repeat

Try to correct them? They dig in.

Offer a better way? They are double down.

They'd rather sink the ship than admit they steered it wrong.

Pride becomes a prison, and instead of sharing life, you're stuck babysitting

resistance in designer heels or polished loafers.

2. Difficult Partners Drain the Atmosphere

Dinner turns into drama.

Outings become tense.

Every suggestion spark debate.

They call it "strength."

But true strength builds peace.

Constant difficulty breaks it.

A home filled with conflict eventually empties itself.

3. Disrespect Is the Death of Intimacy

Couples can survive mistakes, failure, and struggle.

But not constant disrespect.

- Talk down to your spouse in public? You shrink them.

- Roll your eyes at their vision? You weaken them.



- Mock them when they're vulnerable? You wound them.

Respect is oxygen. Remove it, and don't be surprised when love suffocates.

4. A Marriage Without Honour Is Just a Contract

A stubborn partner won't bend.

A difficult partner won't adapt.

A disrespectful partner won't honour.

Together they don't create a marriage.

They create a battlefield — and on a battlefield, love is the first casualty.

Final Word

People don't leave because they're weak.

They leave because they're worn out.

Marriage is not for anyone who:

- Argues for sport
- Treats feedback as an insult
- Confuses dishonour with independence

A spouse doesn't need perfection.

They need peace.

They need respect.

They need someone who multiplies their strengths instead of mocking them.

If cooperation feels like surrender and respect feels optional, don't get married.

Because you don't want a partner.

You want a hostage.

Inspiration

Pain as a Teacher

Pain visits every life. It breaks you open in ways nothing else can. But pain is not your enemy. It is a teacher. Without pain, you would not know the depth of joy. Without struggle, you would not value peace. The weight you carry now is shaping the strength you will have tomorrow.

Do not curse the storms; they are clearing the skies for you. Do not fear the nights; they are preparing the dawn. One day, you will look back and see how pain was not the end, but the turning point. Trust that every wound has wisdom hidden inside.

That's Life

The Stray Dog on Stage

In a theater in Turkey, actor Numan Ertuğrul Uzunsoy was performing a scene where his character lay gravely injured. The audience watched in silence — until something unscripted happened.

A stray dog wandered in, walked onto the stage, and gently rested its head on Uzunsoy's shoulder, pawing at him as if to comfort him.

The actor's pain was pretend, but the dog's concern was real. The audience gasped, then applauded — some laughing, others wiping away tears.

Uzunsoy later said: "He was like an angel who wanted to help me."

The stray soon trotted away, leaving behind no name — only a reminder that compassion has no script.

Stray Thoughts

Socrates and Xanthippe

Who would have expected that Socrates, known for his wisdom, intellect, and powerful words, lived with a domineering, sharp-tongued wife? She forced him to leave home at dawn and return only after sunset.

Socrates once said: "I am indebted to this woman. Without her, I would not have learned that wisdom lies in silence and happiness in sleep."

He also said: "I have been afflicted with three calamities: language, poverty, and my wife. The first I overcame through diligence, the second through frugality, but the third — I could never overcome."

One day, while sitting with his students, his wife began shouting and splashed a jug of water on his head. Wiping his face calmly, Socrates remarked: "We should have expected rain after all that thunder."

It is said that Socrates' calm demeanour and silence eventually contributed to his wife's death from a heart attack.



## A Young Man's Guide to Success

# Your 20s are for Building, Not for Bonding

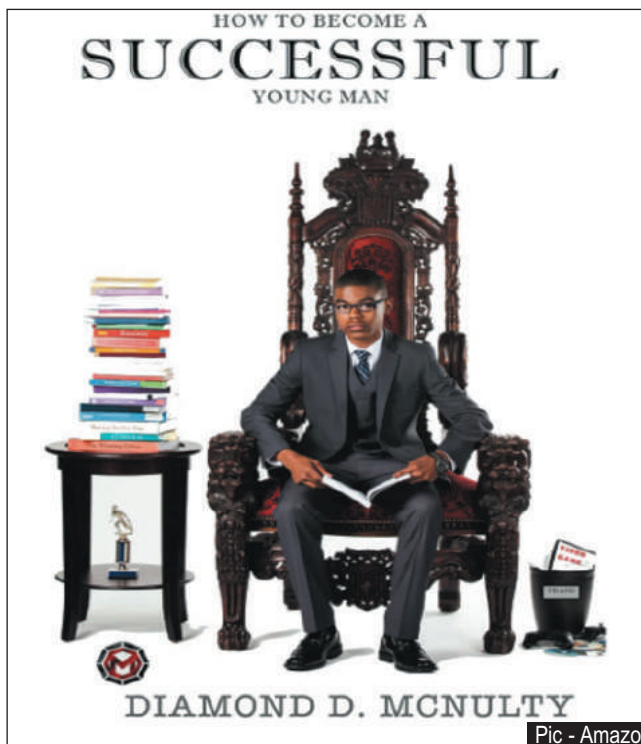
Your twenties are a unique and powerful time -- a decade of profound change, growth, and opportunity. It's when you transition from the structure of formal education into the expansive, often unpredictable, world of adulthood. This period is a chance to build the foundation for the person you want to become and the life you want to lead.

Instead of seeing this decade as a time for immediate results, consider it a period of intense **self-investment**. This means focusing your energy and time on areas that will pay dividends for years to come. Think of it as planting seeds for a future harvest.

### The Pillars of Self-Investment

**Professional Growth:** Your twenties are the perfect time to explore career paths, acquire new skills, and build a professional network. Whether you're in a traditional 9-to-5 or pursuing an entrepreneurial venture, the effort you put in now -- the courses you take, the projects you lead, the failures you learn from -- will define your professional trajectory. This is about building a skillset and a reputation that will make you an asset in any field.

**Personal Development:** Beyond your career, this is the time to understand yourself better. What are your



values? What makes you happy? How do you handle setbacks? This is the decade for traveling, reading widely, pursuing hobbies, and challenging your own beliefs. Developing emotional intelligence, discipline, and resilience now will serve as a compass for the rest of your

life. It's about becoming a well-rounded and capable individual.

**Financial Literacy:** Mastering your finances in your twenties is a superpower. Learning to budget, save, and invest, even in small amounts, can set you on a path to financial freedom. This isn't just about accumulating wealth; it's about creating security and options for your future self. Avoid unnecessary debt and make smart financial decisions that allow you to focus on your larger goals.

### A Note on Relationships

While some people, especially a few parents, would suggest avoiding relationships entirely, a more balanced perspective is to approach them with wisdom. A relationship can be a wonderful part of your life, but it should not be the sole focus. True connection comes from two people who are already on their own paths of self-discovery and can support each other's growth. The most meaningful relationships often begin when you are already a person of value, not when you are looking for someone else to complete you.

The message is not about isolation but about **prioritizing your own growth**. By "locking in" and focusing on building yourself, you're not just preparing for a future relationship; you're building a fulfilling life, full of purpose and direction, that will attract the right people and opportunities when the time is right. The most attractive quality isn't how you look or what you own, but the person you are -- and your twenties are the time to build that person.

## Health Tips

# Pepper Perks: How Black and White Pepper Boost Health in Different Ways



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which helps fight free radicals and reduce inflammation. It may support gut health, lower cholesterol, and even curb appetite.

### White Pepper: The Subtle All-Rounder

- Flavor: Milder, with a slightly earthy note, made by soaking ripe berries to remove the skin.
- Health edge: May ease respiratory congestion, support digestion, and help control blood pressure. Some studies link its compounds to cancer-preventive properties.

### How to Use Them

- Sprinkle black pepper over grilled meats, roasted veggies, or hearty stews for boldness and an antioxidant kick.
- Use white pepper in creamy soups, sauces, or mashed potatoes when you want flavor without dark flecks.

Whether you love a spicy punch or a gentle touch, keeping both peppers in your kitchen means you'll have options for flavor -- and health -- every time you cook.

Pepper isn't just a seasoning -- it's a tiny powerhouse with big health benefits. Both black and white pepper come from the same plant (*Piper nigrum*), yet they bring different flavors and nutrients to your plate. Here's how they compare and how to make the most of them.

### Black Pepper: The Bold Classic

- Flavor: Pungent, spicy, and aromatic, thanks to its dried outer skin.
- Health edge: Rich in piperine,

# 10 Adorable First-Date Questions to Break the Ice

First dates can feel like a balancing act: you want to show your best self, but you don't want to turn dinner into an interrogation. That's where cute, low-pressure questions come in. They spark stories, laughter, and connection -- without sounding like you've memorized a script.

Here are ten conversation starters to help you keep things breezy while learning more about your date.

### 1. What's your ultimate comfort food?

From mac and cheese to ramen at 2 a.m., everyone has a go-to dish that warms their heart. Bonus: comfort food stories often come with fun anecdotes -- a cooking disaster, a grandmother's recipe, or a guilty pleasure snack.

### 2. Where's your "happy place"?

A beach, a quiet café, or curled up with a book -- this gives you insight into what makes them relax and smile.

### 3. What's the weirdest skill you've ever learned?

People light up talking about odd talents -- like balancing spoons on their nose or folding napkins into swans.

### 4. If you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be?

Expect everything from dogs to miniature ponies -- and plenty of laughter over the logistics.

### 5. Sunrise or sunset?

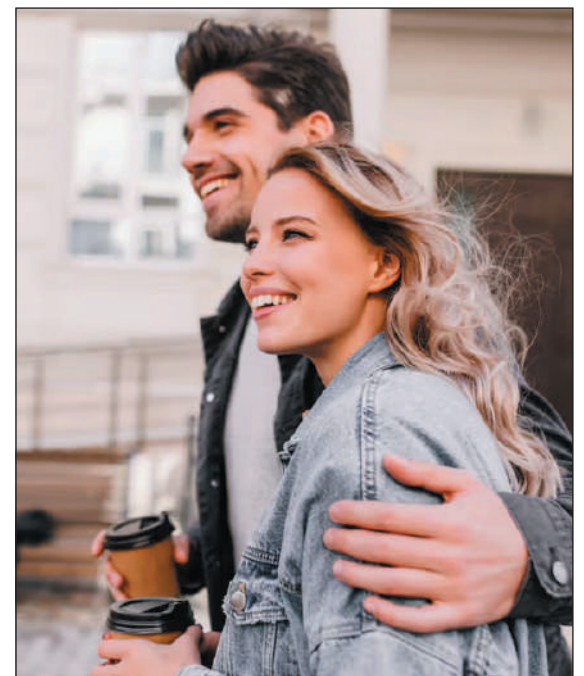
A simple way to reveal whether they're a morning enthusiast or a sunset dreamer.

### 6. What's your favorite childhood memory?

Sweet stories about treehouse adventures or holiday traditions often flow from this one.

### 7. If you could spend a day in any fictional world, where would you go?

From Hogwarts to a galaxy far, far away, this



question invites creativity.

### 8. What's the silliest thing that always makes you laugh?

Funny videos, goofy pets, or inside jokes make for instant smiles.

### 9. Do you prefer surprises or planned adventures?

Follow up with tales of the best (or worst) surprises they've had.

### 10. What song gets you dancing every time?

An instant mood-lifter -- and maybe an excuse to share a playlist later.

Pro tip: Keep the vibe playful, and don't be afraid to answer your own questions. It turns an interview into an exchange, making the date feel natural and fun.



## BollyBytes



## Karan Johar: 'Kyunki Saas Bhi...' transformed Indian TV

Television history is set to repeat itself as Karan Johar announced the return of the iconic daily soap *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the show, credited by Johar for "changing the face of Indian television," will premiere its new season soon with original stars Smriti Irani and Amar Upadhyay reprising their beloved roles.

On the big screen, Hrithik Roshan has officially wrapped up filming for the highly anticipated *War 2*. After 149 intense days of action and emotion, Roshan expressed his gratitude to co-stars Jr. NTR and Kiara Advani, proclaiming the gruelling shoot "all WORTH IT!" The Yash Raj Films production, directed by Ayan Mukerji, promises to be a high-octane spectacle hitting cinemas on Independence Day weekend, August 14, 2025.

Priyanka Chopra, one of India's most successful global stars, has spoken candidly about her early struggles in Bollywood and the motivations behind founding her production company, Purple Pebble Pictures. Speaking at a recent event, the actor revealed how her outsider status in an industry dominated by film dynasties inspired her to carve out new opportunities for herself and others.

Chopra recalled entering Bollywood after winning the Miss World title in 2000, with little support or insider guidance. "The industry was, at least then, extremely closed off to people coming from outside," she said. "There were generational actors, directors, producers... breaking in wasn't easy." Despite initial hurdles, her persistence led to a flourishing acting career, spanning Hindi, Tamil, and eventually international projects.

In 2015, Chopra founded Purple Pebble Pictures to support filmmakers and writers who might otherwise be

## Aryan Khan makes directorial debut with Netflix's 'The Ba\*\*\*\*ds of Bollywood'

Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, has stepped into the Hindi film industry with an ambitious new venture: not as an actor, but as the writer and director of Netflix's latest series, *The Ba\*\*\*\*ds of Bollywood*. Released on 18 September 2025, the seven-part series has already generated significant buzz for its bold premise, high-profile cameos, and tongue-in-cheek approach to Bollywood's perennial debate over nepotism.

Described as a "playful roast and toast to Bollywood," the series explores the aspirations and insecurities of a fictional film industry through the story of Aasmaan Singh (played by Lakshya), an aspiring actor who lands a breakthrough role opposite a superstar's daughter, Karishma (Sahher Bambba). The project is a family affair: Aryan shares writing credits with Bilal Siddiqi and Manav Chauhan, while his mother, Gauri Khan, serves as producer under the banner of Red Chillies Entertainment.

The trailer, released earlier this week, lit up social media with its impressive roll call of cameo appearances. From Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan to Aamir Khan and filmmaker S S Rajamouli, the star-studded guest list underscores Aryan's enviable access to Bollywood royalty — and has reignited discussions about nepotism. Critics have questioned whether the show's central satire



can truly transcend its creator's privileged background, while fans have praised Aryan for embracing the very discourse he was destined to face.

Speaking at the launch, Aryan said he wanted to create a world "that feels alive, a mix of glitz and grit, where ambition shines, egos clash, and nothing is ever as it seems." Early reactions suggest the series could be an audacious new chapter in Bollywood storytelling, provided it balances its insider humour with meaningful commentary on fame and opportunity.

## PC reflects on Her Journey from Outsider to Powerhouse Producer

overlooked by mainstream studios. The banner has since produced acclaimed films across regional Indian languages, including *Ventilator* (2016), *Pahuna: The Little Visitors* (2018), and *Paani* (2019), as well as Hindi and English titles such as *The Sky Is Pink* and *The White Tiger*. Several of these projects have earned National Awards and global recognition, cementing Chopra's reputation as a champion of meaningful storytelling.

Looking ahead, Priyanka is set to return to Indian cinema with S S Rajamouli's adventure epic *SSMB* 29, starring alongside Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran. She also has international projects lined up, including Frank E. Flowers' action

drama *The Bluff* and the second season of *Citadel*. For Chopra, her production company remains a way to "create the space I never had," ensuring a more inclusive path for future generations of talent.



## Shabana Azmi's Inspiring Journey from Petrol Pump to Five National Awards

Veteran actress Shabana Azmi's career is a testament to resilience, talent, and unwavering principles. Born on 18 September 1950 in Hyderabad to renowned poet Kaifi Azmi and actress Shaukat Azmi, she grew up surrounded by art and literature. Yet despite her privileged lineage, Shabana charted an independent course, working hard to establish herself on her own terms.

Before beginning college, Azmi famously spent three months selling coffee at a petrol pump, earning just Rs 30 a day. Determined to support herself, she refused financial help from her parents and embraced a disciplined, self-reliant



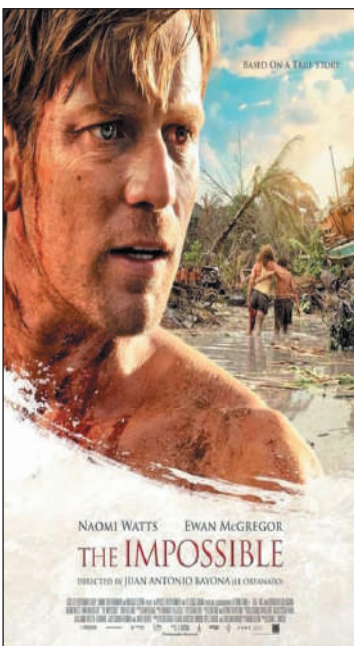
approach to life. Her acting debut came in 1974 with Shyam Benegal's *Ankur*, where her poignant portrayal of a vulnerable domestic worker earned her a National Award and announced her as a force in Indian cinema.

Over the next five decades, Azmi became one of the leading figures of India's parallel cinema movement, delivering memorable performances in socially conscious films such as *Arth*, *Khandhar*, *Paar*, and *Godmother*. Her versatility allowed her to navigate seamlessly between art-house and mainstream projects,

amassing five National Awards and a wealth of critical acclaim.

Beyond her acting, Azmi's life reflects remarkable strength and compassion. Despite personal challenges — including difficult moments during her youth, as noted in her mother's autobiography — she persevered, building a legacy defined by integrity and purpose. Married to celebrated lyricist Javed Akhtar since 1984, Azmi remains an influential voice in Indian culture, advocating for women's rights and progressive social causes. Today, she stands as a towering example of how grit and grace can redefine success in an ever-evolving industry.



**mbc 1**  
Vendredi 19 Septembre - 20.25**mbc 1**  
Samedi 20 Septembre - 20.15**mbc 1**  
Dimanche 21 Septembre - 20.45

# Programme TV

**SERIAL**

	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 19 septembre</b>	05.07 Serial: L'Amour A Mort 08.41 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.07 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.37 Film: Destroy 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 16.15 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 - Le Point 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Film: Once Upon A Time In The Bronx 22.15 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 23.00 Tele: Lying Heart 23.30 Le Journal	09.30 Serial: Le Mag 10.32 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 11.35 Local: Generations J 12.07 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.00 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 13.34 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 14.06 Rodrig: Komanter 14.34 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 14.57 Local: Le Challenge 15.11 Local: En Forme 15.29 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 18.30 Local: Séprapré Par L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.25 Local: Sur Prise 20.00 Local: Animalia 20.30 Local: Ucmas Little Champs 22.00 Rythm Weds Harmony 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.36 Local: En Forme 23.51 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 00.17 Local: Saver Kiltirel	08.00 Local: Amrit Vani 08.11 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 10.01 Local: Ramayan 11.36 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Bazaar Starring: Farooq Shaikh, Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah 15.00 Live: Samachar 16.00 Serial: Mithai 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol 18.57 MBC Prod 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Film: Bitiya Chaathi Maiya Ke Cast: Yash Mishra 23.25 Serial: Mere Sai 00.17 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.40 Mati Ke Mol 02.02 Local: Khel Khiladi	06.25 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 07.47 Doc: Reversing Extinction 08.32 Doc: Barbie 09.18 Doc: Europe Revealed... 11.11 Mag: Eco India 11.30 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 12.57 Doc: Reversing Extinction 13.40 Doc: Barbie - The Perfect... 14.24 Doc: Breaking The Silence... 15.00 D.Anime: Handico 15.04 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.28 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 15.40 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go 16.04 D.Anime: Agent 16.25 D.Anime: The New Adventure 16.47 D.Anime: Kids Songs 16.54 Serial: N*Gen 17.20 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 19.30 Mag: Euromaxx 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.50 Tele: Wildflower	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Always Kabhi Kabhi Cast: Ali Fazal, Giselli Monteiro, Harsh Nagar, Zoa Morani, Satyajeet Dubey 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 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.00 Serial: Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat 23.23 Film: Always Kabhi Kabhi Cast: Ali Fazal, Giselli Monteiro, Harsh Nagar, Zoa Morani, Satyajeet Dubey
<b>samedi 20 septembre</b>	03.42 Serial: Heartland 05.07 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.11 Tele: L'Heritiere 06.34 Serial: Columbo 07.47 Serial: Nautilus 08.38 Serial: Elementary 09.20 Serial: Heartland 10.04 Serial: Hawaii 10.46 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.32 Tele: L'Heritiere 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: All The Flowers 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Once Upon A Time In The Bronx 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: The Holiday 21.56 Serial: Nautilus 22.47 Serial: Terra Nostra 23.34 Le Journal Televisé	06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux 06.44 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 08.00 Local: Sur Prise 09.31 Local: La Sosiete 10.30 Local: J'ai Faim 11.00 Local: UCMAS Little Champs 12.37 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.39 Local: Sur Prise 14.26 Local: Inspirasion 18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Zournal 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 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux 23.32 Local: Saver Kiltirel 23.59 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 00.39 Local: J'ai Faim	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog 09.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 14.09 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Rangeela 18.10 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 20.05 Local: Desi Beats 21.05 Film: Code Name: Tiranga Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Harrry Sandhu 23.14 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.40 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 23.55 Local: Virasat 00.19 Local: Hunarbaaz	06.00 D.Anime: Giant 08.05 D.Anime: Miraculous... 08.30 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 08.54 D.Anime: Spacepop 09.16 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 09.56 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 11.39 Mag: Eco Africa 13.37 Doc: Legendary Hotels 15.00 D.Anime: Handico 15.09 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.31 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 16.09 D.Anime: Agent 16.28 D.Anime: The New Adventure 17.41 D.I.Y. Discover Your Inner 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Country Dreams 18.56 Doc: Island Paradise? 19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.53 Tele: Living To Love 22.26 Film: Taxi Driver 00.18 Doc: Riding The Rails Across	08.00 Dharam Patni 10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 12.00 Udaariyaan 14.02 Anupamaa 16.27 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Vidrohi 18.30 Film: Housefull 2 With: Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh...
<b>samedi 21 septembre</b>	03.22 Tele: Living To Love 05.09 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 06.24 Film: The Holiday 08.34 Serial: Hawaii 09.15 Film: Backtrack 10.41 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.33 Serial: L'Heritiere 12.34 Film: Femme Ou Demon 14.05 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: The Holiday 17.45 Doc: Not About Music 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince 20.40 Film: The Impossible 22.34 Serial: Chucky 23.15 Tele: Terra Nostra	09.09 Local: Les Petits Genies 09.30 Rodrig: 25e Edison Festival Kreol 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Jacqueline Antoine Chante... 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.30 Local: Metie 17.07 Local: Tous Egaux 17.31 Local: En Toute Intimite 18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.34 Local: En Toute Intimite 20.00 Local: Les Klips 21.00 Local Production MBC 2 22.31 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Coin Jardin 23.35 Local: Arsiv MBC 23.56 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif 00.27 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 00.49 Local: Belle Et Mystereuse	08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan 10.33 Serial: Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Four Two Ka One Cast: Jimmy Shergill, Nikita Anand, Kurush Deboo, Dinesh Hingoo 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.29 Local: Puranya Pakwan 15.55 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.30 Crime Patrol 22.15 Sajjanwa Baire Ho Gaile... 23.50 Humni Ke Sitare 23.50 Local: Tohar Rashi 04.56 Film: Four Two Ka One	06.00 D.Anime: Giant 06.58 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 08.39 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 09.14 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 10.55 Mag: In Good Shape 11.21 Doc: Country Dreams 12.01 Doc: Afrimaxx 14.08 Doc: Transylvania 14.50 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.03 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.08 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.32 Messy Goes To Okido 15.41 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 16.28 D.Anime: The New Adventure 18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 18.30 Doc: Les Merveilles De La... 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere 21.45 Film: Luce Cast: Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer	00.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 02.45 Udaariyaan 04.36 Anupamaa 07.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 08.00 Dhruv Tara 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.10 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 14.00 Doree 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.30 Film: Dream Girl 2 Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Ananya Panday, Paresh Rawal 21.00 Mahabharat 22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs 22.47 Dhruv Tara
<b>dimanche 22 septembre</b>	04.12 Tele: La Desalmada 04.48 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 05.45 Tele: Passion And Power 07.25 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 08.18 Serial: L'Heritiere 08.41 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.35 Film: The Impossible 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.15 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 21.47 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 15.24 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 17.03 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.05 Tele: La Desalmada 18.30 Tele: Séparé par L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.23 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Proze Dime 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux 20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 21.15 Local: 19 Minutes 22.30 Local: Grand Titre 23.26 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Metie 23.33 Rodrig: Kot Nou 23.54 Local: En Toute Intimite	05.00 Mag: Aastha 07.00 Mag: Wellness Watch 08.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Baire Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Santoshi Maa Ki Mahima Cast: Pooja, Anjani Kumar 15.00 Samachar 16.00 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 18.57 Local: Ayush 20.10 Local: Charcha 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Dhund Cast: Sanjay Khan, Zeenat Aman, Ashok Kumar 23.04 Mere Sai 23.48 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Doc: A La Reconquete Des... 07.48 Doc: Ocean Predators 08.40 Doc: Iran From Above In... 10.18 Doc: North Korea's Kim... 11.01 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 12.25 Mag: Arts Unveiled 14.29 Doc: Saving The Moors In... 15.00 D.Anime: Handico 15.03 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.10 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.34 Messy Goes To Okido 15.51 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas 15.57 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 16.09 D.Anime: Stand Lee's Super.. 16.30 The New Adventures Of... 17.23 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.00 Others: Student Support... 20.51 Tele: Wildflower 21.40 Film: Savage Dog	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Cocktail 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan



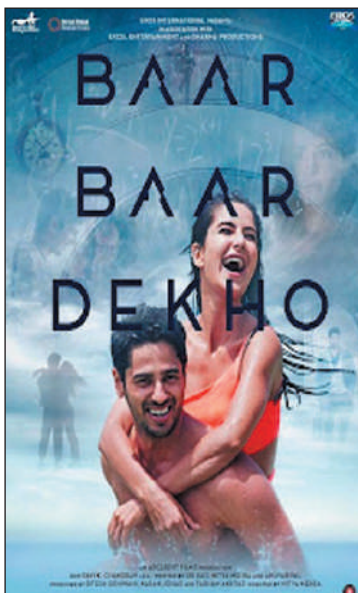
**mbc 1**  
Mardi 23 Septembre - 21.10



**CINE 2**  
Mercredi 24 Septembre - 21.35



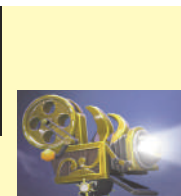
**BTV**  
Mercredi 24 Septembre - 15.30



# Programme TV



**SERIAL**



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
03.45 Tele: Séparé Par L'amour 04.11 Tele: L'Heritiere 05.10 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.26 Doc: Passion And Power 07.41 Serial: Quantico 08.23 Tele: L'Heritiere 09.40 Film: Savage Dog 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.10 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 13.41 Tele: La Desalmada 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Once Upon A Time In The Bronx 17.24 Doc: Pasteca 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Harriet	09.10 Local: Proze Dime 09.28 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.00 Local: 19 Minutes 11.32 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Local: Entrepreneuriat Au... 12.15 Local: Fee Main 13.00 Local: Encounter 14.30 Local: Coin Jardin 15.02 Local: Sur Prise 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 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.40 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.15 Local: Choir Games 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.30 Local: Le Mag 22.28 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir	07.00 Mag: Devi Durga 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein 09.32 Local: Charcha 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Film: Barsaat Ki Ek Raat 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: Excerpts From Durga Pooja 2025 20.00 Local: Prakriti 20.28 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Mere Humsafar Cast: Jeetendra, Sharmila Tagore 23.35 Serial: Mere Sai 00.27 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.50 Local: Tark Vitark	07.48 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.14 Doc: Penthouse Or Hovel 09.26 Doc: The Power Of The Super 11.04 Mag: Eco Africa 12.22 Mag: In Good Shape 12.52 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.44 Doc: The Microchip 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.04 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.07 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.32 Messy Goes To Okido 16.07 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Surper... 16.31 The New Adventures Of... 17.25 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 18.00 Mag: REV 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.31 Mag: Global Us 20.02 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.50 Tele: Wildflower 22.21 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.47 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Main Tera Hero Starring: Varun Dhawan, Ileana D'Cruz 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: Main Tera Hero Starring: Varun Dhawan, Ileana D'Cruz
04.34 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 05.23 Tele: Passion And Power 08.18 Serial: L'Heritiere 08.41 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.30 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3 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 14.11 Serial: Wildflower 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Harriet 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Samachar 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 22.37 Tele: Lying Heart	09.35 Local: Le Mag 10.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.47 Local: Saver Lokal 11.02 Local: Profil 12.00 Local: Couleur Marine 12.26 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.37 Local: Priorite Sante 15.46 Local: Saver Lokal 16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.01 Local: Music Tour 2025 18.01 Tele: La Desalmada 18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.25 Rodrig Spor 20.32 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.45 Local: En Forme 21.11 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.00 Local: Les Klips 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil	07.00 Mag: Sadhguru Speaks 08.00 Local: Tark Vitark 09.21 Local: Prakriti 10.00 Dharam Patni 12.00 Film: Chandan Ka Palna 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 16.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 17.28 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Yatra 18.59 Local: Excerpts From Durga 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.15 Local: Kaam Daam 21.00 Film: Desh Bhakt Parsuram Cast: Yash Mishra, Awadesh Mishra 23.16 Serial: Mere Sai 23.57 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.20 Local: Yatra 00.47 Local: Excerpts From Durga	06.25 Mag: Shift 07.20 Mag: Global Us 09.25 Doc: Poison And Poverty 10.07 Doc: The Goldren Fiber 13.36 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.28 Doc: Saving Beavers And... 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.05 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.10 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.34 Messy Goes To Okido 16.09 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Surper... 16.55 D.Anime: Kids Songs 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Submerged Universe 20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Serial: Wildflower 21.35 Film: Tower Block 23.16 Doc: The Lives Of The Amish 23.58 Mag: Close Up 00.22 Doc: Focus On Europe	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.27 Film: Baar Baar Dekho Starring: Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Sayani Gupta, Kirti Adarkar 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: Baar Baar Dekho Starring: Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Sayani Gupta, Kirti Adarkar 02.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
04.39 Tele: La Desalmada 07.40 Serial: For Life 08.21 Mag: L'Heritiere 08.44 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.40 Film: Palm Beach 11.33 Tele: Lying Heart 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 15.00 Samachar 15.25 Film: The Impossible 17.15 Tele: Lying Heart 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Border Starring: Sunny Deol, Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, Akshaye Khanna	09.10 Local: En Forme 09.26 UCMAS Little Champs 10.17 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 20.40 Local: Education 21.10 Local: Ce Soir Avec Vince 21.42 Local: Le Mag	08.00 Mag: Yatra 08.27 Local: Excerpts From Durga 09.19 Local: Virasat 09.33 Local: Kaam Daam 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Shama Starring: Nimmi, Vijay Dutt, M. Kumar 1500 Samachar 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.55 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... 21.51 Mere Sai	06.56 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.30 Doc: Close Up 10.31 Doc: Treasures In The Sand 11.37 Business Beyond 12.01 Doc: Submerged Universe 14.14 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.48 Doc: Early Learning 15.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.28 Messy Goes To Okido 15.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.03 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super... 16.27 The New Adventures Of... 16.55 D.Anime: The Avengers 17.18 Serial: Prefects 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 18.45 Mag: REV Special 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: Dasvi Stars: Abhishek Bachchan, Nimrat Kaur, Yami Gautam 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: Dasvi Stars: Abhishek Bachchan, Nimrat Kaur, Yami Gautam

**BTV**

Jeudi 25 Septembre - 15.28

Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Giselli...



**mbc 1**

Jeudi 25 Septembre - 20.10

Stars: Sunny Deol, Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, Akshaye Khanna







Suren Dayal

## Memorial Lecture

# The Dream of a Free Mauritius The Vision and Achievements of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam

On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, a man affectionately known as the “Father of the Nation,” a memorial lecture was delivered by Suren Dayal. The lecture was a profound tribute to a towering figure whose life and vision shaped the destiny of modern Mauritius. Dayal’s address, delivered with deep respect and a sense of historical responsibility, painted a picture of a man who, from the most humble beginnings, rose to transform a nation. His legacy, as Dayal eloquently put it, is not merely a recounting of historical facts, but a narrative of a dream for a free, independent, unified, and prosperous Mauritius — a dream that remains a living legacy nearly four decades after his passing.

Born on September 18, 1900, in the sugarcane fields of Bois d’Oiseaux, Flacq, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, or Kewal as he was known to his family, witnessed firsthand the hardships and inhumane conditions of the indentured labourers. The trials and tribulations of the masses had a profound and lasting impact on him, igniting a dream to liberate his people from the yoke of colonialism. He became conscious of social realities at a young age, constantly asking himself, “What was the right thing to do?” The answer, he concluded, was to dedicate his life to selfless service, embodying the principle that a person’s true wealth is the good he does in the world. He was a man of immense patience and perseverance; qualities he believed were the cornerstones of success. His actions, born of innate convictions and a desire to do great works, spoke louder than any words. He did not strive for greatness; he simply did great things, and his deeds remain for posterity, said Suren Dayal.

### A Journey of Education and Awakening

Seewoosagur Ramgoolam’s journey was one of continuous evolution. From a diligent student at the Royal College Curepipe, where he pondered the hardships of rural labourers, he vowed to correct the injustices and exploitation he saw. A pivotal moment came in 1921 when he set sail for London to study medicine. This new chapter opened up a world of intellectual and political awakening. In London, he joined the Fabian Society, a progressive think tank, and was heavily influenced by the lectures of Harold Laski. Fabianism, with its ideals of social justice and democratic socialism, profoundly



Pic - Sunday Times

shaped his political philosophy and his lifelong battle for the emancipation of his people. He had the opportunity to meet and interact with legendary figures of the Indian and African freedom movements, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Jomo Kenyatta, and Julius Nyerere. These encounters armed him with a potent vision and a burning desire for social change, which he was determined to bring back to Mauritius.

### A Man of Unparalleled Integrity and Vision

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam lived by the principle of standing for what was right, believing that without principles, there could be no knowledge or achievement. He was never swayed by slander or malice, choosing instead to let his actions speak for themselves. His political career, which began in 1940 as a member of the Legislative Council, was marked by an enduring commitment to public life and to his fellow countrymen.

One of the most defining aspects of his vision was his unshakeable belief in the transformative power of education. Having experienced the limitations of a poor, elitist education system himself, he was convinced that free, universal access to education was a fundamental right and the most powerful tool for social mobility and liberation from poverty. As Chief Minister and later Prime Minister, he worked tirelessly to reform the education sector. He famously stated, “The future of our country depends on the education we give to our youth.” He set an ambitious goal of building a primary school in every village and, by 1960, ensured that every child had access to primary education. The introduction of free secondary education in 1977 was a revolutionary policy that democratised opportunities and unleashed the potential of an entire generation, laying the foundations for a

modern and emancipated Mauritius.

### The Architect of Modern Mauritius

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam’s foresight extended beyond social reform to the economy. He recognized that Mauritius could not rely solely on sugar for its long-term survival. His economic vision was pragmatic and forward-looking, built on the interconnected policies of investing in human capital, ensuring political stability, and fostering a mixed economic system. The establishment of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in 1970, which offered tax incentives and duty-free imports to attract foreign investment, was a precursor to tackling the country’s rampant unemployment and a key factor in diversifying the economy.

He is also credited with the visionary decision to join the EU’s sugar protocol, which guaranteed preferential access to the European market at a stable price. The proceeds from this agreement laid the financial groundwork for modern Mauritius. He is unequivocally the “Father of the Mauritian Economic Miracle,” a distinction that should never be denied or appropriated by others, said Suren Dayal.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam’s legacy is an indelible mark on every sector of Mauritian life. His government established key national institutions like the University of Mauritius, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), Air Mauritius, and the State Bank of Mauritius. These, along with free health services, the National Pension Scheme, and social aid, are all products of his long tenure as a leader. The Mahatma Gandhi Institute was also established to foster a culturally united Mauritius and strengthen the vital link between Mauritius and India. Through these efforts, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam helped build a nation that was not only economically prosperous but also culturally rich, a place where the diverse traditions and languages of its people were preserved and celebrated.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam left behind a country where every Mauritian is empowered to reap a harvest of peace and prosperity. His legacy is a living testament to his belief that “it is in giving, not in seeking gifts, we find our quest.” His vision and enduring achievements continue to define and inspire the nation he so profoundly loved.

## Tree of Knowledge



## Being Your Own Village

*Sometimes we need to be our own village by utilizing all of our skills and learning more*

Simple survival requires us to be in possession of many skills. The pursuit of dreams requires many more. Most individuals rely on the support of a village, whether filled with relatives or community members, to effectively address the numerous ways we need assistance. This can mean anything from asking favours of acquaintances and leaning on loved ones for support to paying a skilled artisan to handle a specialized task.

However, each human being is born with the capacity to be their own village. We embody many roles throughout our lifetime, all of which are representative of our capacity for self-sufficiency and self-determination. In different moments in our lives, we are our own counsellor, custodian, caregiver, cook, healer, teacher, and student. Our willingness to joyfully take on these roles grants us the power to maintain control over the direction of our life’s journey.

In times past, human beings learned all of the skills needed for survival. Today, the majority of people specialize in a single discipline, which they hone throughout their lives. Thus, many of us feel uncomfortable standing at the helm of our own existence.

We question our ability to make decisions concerning our own health, happiness, and welfare, and we are left feeling dependent and powerless. But the authority to take ultimate responsibility for our lives is simply a matter of believing that we have the necessary skills and intelligence to cope with any circumstance the universe chooses to place in our path.

Proving that we can each be our own village through action enables us to accept that we are strong enough to exist autonomously. Cooking, cultivating a garden of fruits and vegetables, undertaking minor home repairs, or adopting a healthier lifestyle can help you reassert your will.

Being your own village does not mean embracing isolation — for a balanced life is built upon the dual foundations of the inner and the outer villages. Rather, being your own village is a celebration of your wondrous inner strength and resourcefulness, as well as an acknowledgment of your innate ability to capably steer the course of your life.