

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Followers who tell the truth, and leaders who listen to it, are an unbeatable combination." -- Warren Bennis

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Accountability vs. Impunity: Why Sarkozy's Sentencing Matters

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was sentenced to five years in prison for criminal conspiracy in the Libyan campaign financing case yesterday. The Paris court found him guilty of criminal conspiracy over efforts to secure campaign funds from the Gaddafi regime for his successful 2007 presidential bid. The sentencing of Sarkozy is more than just a judicial footnote; it is a profound inflection point in the global narrative of political accountability. This verdict, building upon two previous convictions for corruption and illegal campaign financing, sends a clear and resounding message: no one, not even a former head of state, is above the law in a functioning democracy.

The complexity of the ruling — convicting Sarkozy on the serious charge of “criminal conspiracy” for allowing his aides to seek Libyan funds, even without conclusive proof that the money was actually used — underscores a crucial aspect of French law: the **intent** to corrupt or conspire against public trust is itself a crime. This principle is vital. It shifts the focus from merely tracking laundered cash to upholding the integrity of the democratic process, recognizing that the mere **attempt** to solicit opaque foreign funding is a profound breach of faith.

The Dark Side of Political Financing

Sarkozy's case throws a harsh spotlight on the shadowy world of political financing and what invariably comes with it: opaque deals with financiers and, in this instance, foreign regimes. Political campaigns are expensive machines, and the vast sums required often create a dangerous dependence on wealthy donors, powerful corporations, or, most alarmingly, foreign governments.

When these funds are not transparent, a corrupt bargain is struck. The transaction ceases to be a donation and becomes an investment, where the currency of exchange is not money but future policy, or regulatory leniency. These opaque deals allow powerful individuals to buy influence, effectively hijacking the democratic mandate for private (or foreign) gain. The public, whose trust and taxes fund the state, is kept in the dark about who truly holds the leash on their elected officials. This deliberate obfuscation corrodes the very foundations of public life, transforming political leadership from a public service into a commodity for sale.

Sarkozy's alleged dealings with Muammar Gaddafi represent the most serious form of this corruption: exchanging a foreign leader's money for diplomatic leverage. While Sarkozy and his co-defendants, including former close associates Claude Guéant and Brice Hortefeux, will undoubtedly continue their strenuous legal battles, the court's judgment has already served its primary purpose: exposing the conspiracy to the court of public opinion.

The independence of the institutions

The French judicial system's determination to hold a former President accountable — symbolised by the judge's surprising decision that Sarkozy will face imprisonment even while appealing — stands in stark contrast to the impunity enjoyed by political leaders in many other parts of the world.

In numerous countries, particularly those with weak



democratic institutions, authoritarian regimes, or entrenched oligarchies, the political elite operate within a fortress of shielded power. Here, political leaders are often protected from prosecution by a combination of weak rule of law, compromised judicial systems, and constitutional immunity clauses designed not to facilitate governance but to protect personal enrichment.

We frequently see leaders or their henchmen in these regions amassing huge wealth while their populations toil to make ends meet. The national wealth, intended for public goods and services, is systematically diverted into private accounts, often held offshore or invested in opulent real estate abroad. When citizens dare to question or protest, the state's apparatus — police, security forces, and in some cases captured media — is used to silence them.

The difference lies in the strength and independence of the institutions — specifically, an independent judiciary and a free press. In France, a prosecutor could bring a case, judges could rule, and a sentence could be passed against a former president because the state's institutions possess a degree of autonomy and a commitment to the rule of law that transcends any single politician.

The Rise of the People's Determination

However, the tide is turning. Across the globe, there is a palpable determination of citizens to hold their leaders accountable, even where official institutions fail. Recent years have seen massive protests in some countries aimed at driving away leaders perceived as corrupt.

From the streets of Latin America to the squares of South-East Asia and Africa, populations are no longer willing to tolerate the blatant disparity where politicians flaunt ill-gotten gains while public hospitals lack basic medicines, daily living becomes a headache due to rising commodity prices and infrastructure crumbles. These are not merely economic protests; they are moral uprisings against a broken social contract. They are a rejection of the idea that political office is a licence for theft.

The energy behind these movements is often fuelled by the very transparency that corrupt leaders seek to suppress. Social media and an increasingly globalised network of investigative journalists (both official and citizen-led) are making it harder for the corrupt to hide. Whistleblowers, often at immense personal risk, leak documents; databases expose offshore holdings; and citizen

monitors track the flow of public contracts. This constant surveillance — the “digital flashlight” on corruption — is providing the evidence that fuels public outrage and mobilises street action.

These protests are an essential check on power in places where legal checks have failed. They force the hand of complacent parliaments, pressure compromised judiciaries, and ultimately, they can lead to the fall of seemingly untouchable figures. While such transitions are often messy, they represent the ultimate democratic impulse: the sovereign will of the people demanding justice.

The Imperative of Transparency and Integrity

The Sarkozy verdict, therefore, is a moment for reflection. It is a powerful reminder to every political leader that accountability is not an option; it is a non-negotiable requirement of democracy.

To safeguard our political systems against the cancer of corruption, two imperatives must be met. First, there must be **Mandatory Transparency in Political Financing**. This means that every donation, every expenditure, and every campaign debt must be public, fully traceable, and subject to independent audit. Crucially, the loopholes that allow for dark money, shadow groups, and the exchange of “in-kind” favours must be permanently closed. Second, we must ensure **Unbreakable Judicial Independence**. The separation of powers must be fiercely protected, guaranteeing that judges, prosecutors, and anti-corruption agencies are granted the resources and institutional safeguards necessary to investigate and prosecute anyone, regardless of their past or present office.

The Sarkozy case, the global protests against corruption, and the relentless pressure of informed citizens are all pieces of the same puzzle. They signal a collective, global awakening to the threat that corruption poses to democratic legitimacy and social stability. The battle against impunity remains difficult and ongoing, but the principle established by the Paris court — that the law must reach the very pinnacle of power — is a profound victory. This precedent should embolden every citizen striving for a truly fair, transparent, and accountable polity.

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Prakash Neerohoo

Secteur public

Quelles leçons de gouvernance à tirer de la situation à la BOM?

La crise de gouvernance à la Bank of Mauritius (BOM) a connu un dénouement positif avec la démission de Rama Sithanen de son poste de gouverneur telle qu'exigée par le Premier ministre Navin Ramgoolam. La situation avait atteint un tel point de pourrissement que la crédibilité et la réputation de la Banque centrale dans le monde étaient en jeu. Il fallait désamorcer cette crise au plus vite et le Premier ministre a agi correctement. Toutefois, remettre la BOM sur les rails demande une nouvelle équipe de direction compétente avec un sens poussé de l'éthique des affaires.

En effet, la situation scandaleuse à la Banque de Maurice posait un test de leadership pour le Premier ministre. Il avait deux options: soit crever l'abcès en demandant au gouverneur de rendre son tablier, ce que tout le monde souhaitait ; soit temporiser pour laisser la tempête passer en espérant des lendemains meilleurs, ce que souhaitait une petite coterie acquise au statu quo.

Première option

En choisissant la première option, le Premier ministre a pris le taureau par les cornes pour permettre un changement salutaire à la tête de la Banque centrale, laquelle s'enlisait dans un marasme sans précédent où se mêlaient des conflits d'intérêts, des tergiversations sur les décisions à prendre pour faire la lumière sur les largesses financières de la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) et des ingérences alléguées d'une tierce partie dans les affaires internes de la banque. La Banque centrale n'avait jamais été autant discréditée dans ses annales. Pourtant, il lui fallait être prudent car le FMI, le Groupe d'Action Financière de l'OCDE et les agences de notation internationales surveillaient son évolution erratique.

Sil avait choisi la seconde option, le Premier ministre aurait permis une dégradation de la situation jusqu'à un point de non-retour qui aurait été catastrophique pour l'image du pays. L'actuelle équipe de direction de la BOM était incapable de faire son autocritique ou de changer de cap. Elle faisait montre d'un déni non-plausible des allégations de gouvernance douteuse et d'arrogance face à la critique. Elle péchait par suffisance intellectuelle en essayant de défendre l'indéfendable à travers une communication d'amateur (interview radio, communiqués officiels).

Condition nécessaire, mais pas suffisante

Si le départ de Rama Sithanen est une condition nécessaire au changement désiré, il n'est pas une condition suffisante pour assainir la situation à la BOM. Pour permettre à la BOM de prendre un nouveau départ, il faudrait remanier son conseil d'administration de fond en comble afin de lui permettre d'agir en toute indépendance par rapport aux recommandations ou décisions du gouverneur, quel qu'il soit.

Le conseil d'administration est composé de huit membres: le gouverneur, ses deux adjoints et cinq directeurs dits indépendants. Le 29 août 2025, les cinq directeurs dits indépendants du conseil d'administration



Pic - facebook.com

« La nomination de personnes proches du pouvoir, aussi compétentes soient-elles, à la tête d'institutions stratégiques ne permet pas nécessairement une gestion efficiente, au-dessus de tout soupçon. Les conflits d'intérêt potentiels existent du fait de leur passé politique et de leur engagement récent dans les affaires. Il faut des garde-fous pour empêcher les conflits d'intérêts d'entraver une gestion saine et efficace. L'éthique personnelle des nominés, évaluée à partir de leurs antécédents professionnels ou de leur passage dans les affaires, devrait être un critère déterminant... »

ont émis un communiqué dans lequel ils ont pris parti pour le gouverneur dans le conflit qui l'opposait à son deuxième gouverneur adjoint, Gerard Sanspeur. Il est impensable qu'aucune voix au sein du conseil d'administration n'ait tenté de trouver un compromis entre les deux protagonistes.

A posteriori, on se rend compte que le communiqué émis par les cinq directeurs pour clouer le deuxième gouverneur adjoint au pilori, en solidarité avec le gouverneur, était un acte hasardeux, dépourvu de l'objectivité requise des directeurs dits indépendants. Ce communiqué avait mis le Premier ministre au pied du mur en

l'obligeant de demander au deuxième gouverneur adjoint de quitter son poste.

Directeurs indépendants

Il est essentiel qu'un nouveau conseil d'administration soit constitué avec un gouverneur compétent et intègre et deux adjoints non moins compétents. Le nouveau gouverneur devrait avoir de l'expérience professionnelle, une vision de la réforme institutionnelle nécessaire, une connaissance profonde de la politique monétaire et une indépendance prouvée en matière d'analyse économique. Il est aussi crucial que les directeurs dits indépendants du conseil d'administration aient la capacité d'exercer un esprit critique, sans devoir s'aligner systématiquement sur les avis du gouverneur.

« Au lendemain des élections, le gouvernement du changement avait sans doute l'obligation de se doter de conseillers et de gestionnaires a priori fiables pour assurer une transition douce dans les institutions vers un style de gestion plus adapté à l'agenda de nouveaux gouvernants. Or, cette époque transitionnelle a connu des inepties dans le processus de nomination avec pour résultat que certaines institutions ont vu un changement de tête sans aucun changement de méthode de gestion... »

En sus de la gestion de la politique monétaire qui relève des fonctions intrinsèques de la BOM, avec pour objectifs la stabilisation de la roupie et le contrôle de l'inflation, le nouveau conseil d'administration aura du pain sur la planche avec trois dossiers prioritaires.

Le premier dossier est la MIC, une filiale de la banque, dont les investissements dans des sociétés privées (Rs 49 milliards) et des actifs fonciers (Rs 8 milliards) ont subi une baisse de valeur significative pour cause de surévaluation au moment de leur acquisition. Plus que jamais, un audit judiciaire de ces investissements est nécessaire pour faire une évaluation correcte des actifs de la MIC avant de les transférer à une entité publique indépendante de la BOM, comme recommandé par le FMI.

Le deuxième dossier est la banque en faillite, Silver Bank, dont les prêts toxiques de Rs 7 milliards sont un scandale sans précédent avec des soupçons de corruption et de détournement de fonds. Une enquête rapide sur ce dossier est nécessaire pour épingler les coupables et récupérer autant que possible les fonds déboursés. Dans ce dossier, la BOM a fait preuve d'amateurisme à ce jour.

Le troisième dossier est l'état déplorable des relations industrielles marqué par la suspension d'un syndicaliste pour une cause banale. La BOM devrait privilégier le dialogue avec le syndicat des employés au lieu d'adopter une approche unilatérale et cavalière.

“Simply being a ‘sympathiser’ of a previous government is not a legal ground for dismissal”

‘The government must provide evidence of the alleged misconduct or sabotage’

LEX

The Prime Minister, reacting to the police questioning and seizure of a journalist's devices (Narain Jasodanand) over allegations against the Bank of Mauritius Governor, publicly denounced the action. He claimed the incident occurred without the knowledge of the Deputy Prime Minister or the Commissioner of Police, alleging it was an act of "sabotage" by stooges from the previous regime who are trying to undermine the current government. This week's Qs & As examines the specific actions the government can legally take -- from formal disciplinary processes and mandatory transfers to the difficult task of proving misconduct/sabotage while respecting the fundamental principles of job security and political neutrality.

* At a press conference last Saturday, the Prime Minister commented on the police questioning of journalist Narain Jasodanand. The journalist had levelled allegations against the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius and his son. The Prime Minister stated that neither the Deputy Prime Minister nor the Commissioner of Police was made aware of the action, which he claimed was an act of sabotage by "stooges" from the previous government. The Prime Minister's statement lends credence to a similar accusation made earlier by the Minister of Education, who claimed that officials in his ministry were also carrying out acts of "sabotage." If those claims are true, what course of action should the government take?

Instead of delaying action, the government should take firm and decisive steps to identify and address those officials who are allegedly impeding or sabotaging the implementation of the new administration's mandate. Allowing internal resistance, potentially driven by residual loyalties or a reluctance to shift from the previous regime's operational "culture," hinders effective governance.

If governmental decisions regarding civil servants — including postings, promotions, or disciplinary measures — are perceived to be guided primarily by political considerations, family connections, caste, or race, officials who are resisting the new policies will be emboldened to continue their uncooperative actions.

The actions of civil servants must adhere to established professional standards. As stated in the 'Code of Ethics for Civil Servants' (prepared by Mr Suresh Seeballuck):

"Ministers bear political responsibility for government policies and Public Officers have a long-established role in assisting with the development as well as implementation of such policies. The relationship between Public Officers and Ministers shall be based on mutual trust and



“The government must provide evidence of the alleged misconduct or sabotage. Simply being a “sympathiser” of a previous government is not indeed a legal ground for dismissal. The actions must constitute a breach of duty, such as insubordination, dereliction of duty, or misuse of office. However, proving that an action was intentionally taken to “sabotage” the government can be difficult without clear evidence of intent...”

confidence. Public Officers shall work with their Ministers to the best of their abilities, with integrity, courtesy and respect.”

The government must ensure that this professional standard of mutual trust and diligent cooperation is enforced to ensure the effective functioning of the public service.

* If the government believes a civil servant has committed misconduct, it must follow a formal disciplinary process — issuing a charge, giving the official a chance to respond, and conducting a formal inquiry. The Public Service Commission (PSC) ultimately makes the final decision on any disciplinary action, including dismissal. But that's a long and hazardous process, isn't it?

It is and it is not. The Head of the Civil Service can identify the culprits and request the Public Service Commission to take appropriate action. What causes the delay is the repeated request by the lawyers representing the civil servant before a disciplinary committee. Here, the ball would be in the camp of the members of the disciplinary committee, who should be firm.

* What is the specific legal definition of misconduct for a civil servant in this context? Does “sabotage” or “political sympathy” meet that definition?

Misconduct by a civil servant is a serious, deliberate breach of established rules, codes of conduct, or duties that negatively impacts the integrity of the public service or the public's trust. It encompasses acts like corruption, dishonesty, misuse of public resources, harassment, and gross negligence, and it can result in severe disciplinary actions, including dismissal from their position.

“Sabotage” would fall under the definition of misconduct. While the word “sabotage” may not be explicitly listed in the regulations, the act itself would constitute a severe form of misconduct. Sabotage, which involves intentionally damaging or hindering operations, directly violates several key duties of a civil servant

* Isn't it correct to state that, simply put, the government cannot easily dismiss civil servants given that the law provides job security to prevent politically motivated or arbitrary firings?

Yes, there is a security of employment for civil servants. But employment carries responsibility and obligations. In the Seeballuck 'Code of Ethics', the factors that should guide a civil servant are clearly set out.

* We presume that simply being a “sympathiser” of a previous government is not a legal ground for dismissal; the government must provide evidence of the alleged misconduct or sabotage, isn't it?

In the 'Code of Ethics', it is clearly stated that: “Whatever be their own political beliefs, Public Officers owe loyalty to the Government of the day. They should always serve the Government of the day. Public Officers should observe political neutrality in their day-to-day functions and avoid activities likely to impair, or seen to impair, their political impartiality or the political impartiality of the Civil Service. They should not, therefore, act in a way that is determined by party political considerations or use official resources for party purposes.” If a civil servant cannot subscribe to this principle, either he quits or is made to quit.

The government must provide evidence of the alleged misconduct or sabotage. Simply being a “sympathiser” of a previous government is not indeed a legal ground for dismissal. The actions must constitute a breach of duty, such as insubordination, dereliction of duty, or misuse of office. However, proving that an action was intentionally taken to “sabotage” the government can be difficult without clear evidence of intent.

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* Are there any precedents where the PSC has ruled on a case of alleged politically motivated misconduct or sabotage by a civil servant?

No, not to my knowledge. But if a civil servant is believed not to be politically neutral or is sabotaging the work of the government, he must be dealt with.

Cont.on page 17



Anil Madan

The Dragon and the Elephant. Is the US-India relationship in peril?

India and the US are too important for each other's success and security in too many ways for a dragon to drag them apart

The conventional wisdom is that China and India are adversaries. The conventional wisdom is that India is too dependent on Russia for oil and fighter aircraft. The conventional wisdom is that the US and India need each other to counter the threat posed by China. The conventional wisdom is that it is in India's and America's interest for the two countries to forge a strategic partnership to keep China from achieving overwhelming dominance in Asia and the Pacific. The conventional wisdom is that India must resist bullying by the US and therefore find rapprochement with China while maintaining a solid trading relationship with Russia. The conventional wisdom is that India must find a way to navigate this maze. Conventional wisdom is right to some extent. But the conventional wisdom may be too simplistic.

Viewing the Sino-Indian relationship from a 2024 perspective, one would hardly have expected President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commit to strengthening strategic ties at the recent meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. But that meeting took place against the backdrop of both countries facing significant tariffs imposed by President Trump on their exports to the US. To be sure, China had worked a pause during which tariffs were reduced but the prospect of higher levies remained. From an Indian perspective, Trump's reasons for imposing a 50% tariff on India, viz., because it imported Russian oil and thus funded Putin's war against Ukraine and is a member of BRICS which is generally opposed to the US, seemed unfair and one-sided. After all, China too imported Russian oil. And let us not forget that the EU countries as well continued to import Russian natural gas and oil.

President Xi seemed on a charm offensive when he declared in remarks in a meeting with the Indian delegation, that China and India were among the world's great civilisations and said to Prime Minister Modi that it is vital to be good friends, a good neighbour, and for the dragon and elephant to come together.

So, are the US and India drifting apart and the China and India drifting closer together?

The steep 50% tariffs levied by Trump's executive order are a punitive threat to India's trade with its largest export partner, the US. The Indian government estimated that the tariffs will impact some \$48 billion worth of exports. Business owners and government spokespersons have fretted that exports to the US market will no longer be commercially viable. In turn, the tariffs if continued will lead to job losses and dampen economic growth.

“Concerns about a fracture in the strategic importance of India and the US to each other may be overblown. Jake Sullivan, President Biden's National Security Adviser was from a different administration. Nevertheless, his remarks at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, in January of this year emphasized that the India-US partnership is critical for stability and security in the Indo-Pacific. He declared that as a result, America is deeply invested in India's success and India in America's success...”



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India's economy has been one of the fastest growing among major countries and trade relations with the US have been a key part of that growth. A think tank founder, Ajay Srivastava, a former Indian trade official, was reported to have described the new tariff regime as a strategic shock that threatens to wipe out India's long-established presence in the US.

Concerns about a fracture in the strategic importance of India and the US to each other may be overblown. Jake Sullivan, President Biden's National Security Adviser was from a different administration. Nevertheless, his remarks at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, in January of this year emphasized that the India-US partnership is critical for stability and security in the Indo-Pacific. He declared that as a result, America is deeply invested in India's success and India in America's success.

Sullivan recited some statistics worth keeping in mind. Over 1,000 American companies are operating in India. Over \$50 billion in foreign direct investment flowed into India from the United States, and Indian private sector investment in the United States recently surpassed that of China — investments that, by some estimates, are generating over 400,000 US jobs. And over 300,000 Indian students are studying in the United States. In fact, international students in the US come from India more than any other country in the world.

Just last month, President Trump's nominee for ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, dismissed fears that India was drifting towards China. He pledged to draw India closer to the US and to open its markets to American goods. Nevertheless, he also pledged to get India to end purchases of Russian oil. That, of course, was a theme in Trump's recent address to UN General Assembly — that not only India, but China and Europe must stop purchasing Russian oil and thus funding its war against Ukraine. Perhaps India wasn't being singled out after all. And Sergio Gor told US senators, during his confirmation hearing, that India and

China had little in common and were unlikely to forge closer ties. “While we might have our moments of hiccups right now, we are on the track of resolving that. Our relationship with the Indian government... is much warmer,” said Gor.

Mr Gor said he would make it a top priority to ensure that India “is pulled in our direction, not away from us,” and added that he will deepen ties on defence and technology cooperation. Elaborating, on his pledge, he committed to prioritizing deepening defence and security cooperation with India, expanding joint military exercises, advancing joint development and production of defence systems and concluding critical defence sales.

It seems that the US commitment to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) comprising the United States, India Japan, and Australia remains very much in place.

Mr Gor seems to echo the sentiments expressed by Mr Blinken, then Biden's Secretary of State that: “This is a moment of unprecedented strategic alignment among our four countries. We have four countries that are united by a shared vision for a free and open, connected, a secure, a prosperous, resilient Indo-Pacific region.”

So, who wins here? Does the dragon succeed in courting the elephant, or is there more to the story?

One would think that the deep penetration of the Indian diaspora in America's tech, defence, and financial businesses would predispose India to tilt to the US. And, of course, there is the longstanding hostility between India and China, lingering border disputes and now trouble over water rights, all of which suggest that papering over the differences is a Herculean task. Are Trump's tariffs enough to push China and India closer together? Can there be a new era of cooperation between China and India?

If there is to be such cooperation, can India stand to let China dominate, unchallenged, the Indo-Pacific region? That hardly seems possible.

The recent signing of the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan with the extension of Pakistan's nuclear umbrella to Saudi Arabia may be the factor that changes everything. Although, according to CNBC, an unidentified “senior” source told that outlet that Saudi sales of oil to India would continue uninterrupted despite that agreement with Pakistan, it is difficult to predict what will happen if another India-Pakistan conflict flares up.

The dilemma for India is that it probably needs to continue buying Russian oil and thus antagonizing Trump. China is not the answer because it has no oil to sell to India. On the other hand, Trump's efforts in bringing the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan together in the White House, opens the possibility for the flow of Central Asian oil and gas to India as well as to Europe.

Further complicating the US-India relationship is Trump's recent announcement of a \$100,000 one-time application fee for H1-B visas, under the program that allows skilled tech workers, doctors and nurses visas to work in the US. One must think that given the provisions of Trump's Executive Order allowing for exemptions and waivers for certain companies, the H1-B fee is unlikely to survive to any meaningful extent. So, I see this as a disappearing problem.

To me, the conclusion seems clear. India and the US are too important for each other's success and security in too many ways for a dragon to drag them apart.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Me Antoine Domingue

“Nous avons déjà touché le fond en matière de corruption et de criminalité, et pourtant nous faisons semblant de l'ignorer”



L'actualité institutionnelle mauricienne a été secouée cette semaine par des événements retentissants: le départ du Gouverneur de la Banque centrale sur requête du Premier ministre, suivi de l'arrestation de l'ancien Commissaire de police. Ces situations, qui mettent en lumière de potentielles défaillances au plus haut sommet de l'État, soulèvent des questions fondamentales sur la gouvernance, la redevabilité et l'intégrité des institutions du pays. Pour décrypter ces signaux, *Mauritius Times* a interviewé Me Antoine Domingue. L'homme de loi livre une analyse sans concession, dénonçant un «système absurde» qui mine la confiance publique. Il appelle à des réformes urgentes pour restaurer l'éthique, notamment dans la police et les nominations politiques. Me Domingue alerte sur le risque démocratique lié à l'instabilité institutionnelle et sur l'ampleur colossale du blanchiment d'argent révélée par la FCC.

Mauritius Times: Deux événements majeurs ont marqué l'actualité institutionnelle cette semaine: d'une part, le départ du Gouverneur de la Banque centrale, sur demande du Premier ministre; d'autre part, l'arrestation de l'ancien Commissaire de police (CP), sous des charges provisoires relatives à la FIAMLA et à la *Financial Crimes Commission Act*. Le départ forcé de Rama Sithanen et l'arrestation de Anil K. Dip sont des signaux forts qui obligent à la fois à une lecture systémique et à une évaluation des conséquences sur la confiance. Quelle analyse en faites-vous?

Antoine Domingue: Cela ne fait que confirmer que les hommes passent et que les institutions doivent s'en accommoder. Force est de constater, encore une fois, que les institutions ne valent guère mieux que les hommes qui les composent. Dans le choix des nominés politiques et des responsables non élus, il ne suffit pas d'avoir des personnalités de renom: faut-il encore qu'ils soient capables de travailler en équipe, dans la durée et, sans l'ombre d'un doute, en l'absence d'un quelconque trafic d'influence...

En ce qui concerne l'ancien Commissaire de Police, Dip, parti subrepticement à la retraite à minuit au volant d'une Porsche de service, j'avais depuis longtemps demandé, dans les pages de Week-End, à ce qu'on le démette. Cette demande était justifiée par plusieurs éléments, à commencer par les frasques de son *Special Striking Team*. S'y ajoutaient les démêlés de son fils devant la justice, qui ont provoqué ses attaques grotesques à l'encontre du DPP avec l'appui de l'ancien Premier ministre, et le fait que les millions d'honoraires pour ces actions aient été financés par nos

“ Les hommes passent et que les institutions doivent s'en accommoder. Force est de constater, encore une fois, que les institutions ne valent guère mieux que les hommes qui les composent. Dans le choix des nominés politiques et des responsables non élus, il ne suffit pas d'avoir des personnalités de renom : faut-il encore qu'ils soient capables de travailler en équipe, dans la durée et, sans l'ombre d'un doute, en l'absence d'un quelconque trafic d'influence... ! ”

rien de provisoire. En fait, c'est un système absurde qui a été dénoncé et qui n'a que trop duré.

On en est à un point où l'ensemble de la population exige que le Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP) se saisisse de tous ces dossiers et intente les poursuites nécessaires dans les meilleurs délais afin que les suspects deviennent enfin des accusés et soient déférés devant la justice pour être jugés.

On ne peut plus se contenter de charges provisoires régulièrement rayées par les cours de district par suite de l'inactivité ou la complaisance des enquêteurs ou de la poursuite. Ces simulacres de justice doivent cesser!

* Le départ du gouverneur de la Banque centrale (BoM) sur requête du Premier ministre illustre clairement une reprise en main politique. Dans quelle mesure cet événement met-il en évidence des failles systémiques dans les critères et les processus de nomina-

tions politiques au sommet de l'État ?

Cette «reprise en main» politique dont vous parlez a pris son temps en ce qui concerne le gouverneur sortant. Ce ne fut pas le cas pour le *Second Deputy Governor*.

La décision de se débarrasser du *Second Deputy Governor* illico presto, dans la précipitation, par un coup de téléphone du Premier ministre (en présence de l'Attorney General) un vendredi matin juste avant le Conseil des ministres, n'est pas justifiée. Le motif avancé — que le *Second Deputy Governor* serait allé trop loin, sans autre précision — n'est pas un motif en soi!

C'était une décision irréfléchie, prise sur un coup de tête et dans l'urgence pour complaire à l'ancien gouverneur et sur la base d'un rapport qu'il avait lui-même commandité. Ce rapport n'était que le fruit d'une enquête secrète menée à l'insu du *Second Deputy Governor*, sans même qu'il ne soit entendu. Voilà à quoi ont servi les deniers publics!

Cela remet encore une fois en question le processus décisionnel au plus haut sommet de l'État qui pêche par son injustice et son irrationalité flagrantes. Je ne pense pas que cela est dû à des raisons systémiques, attribuables au système en tant que tel, mais au manque d'éthique, de transparence et de rationalité de la part de nos gouvernants.

Ce qui fait que dans tous les cas de ces échecs à répétition, et qui finiront par se répéter si l'on n'y prend garde, ils finiront tous par échouer au seuil de la *Financial Crimes Commission* (FCC) au Réduit Triangle, devenu le deuxième centre d'enfouissement et dépotoir le plus infect du pays après Mare Chicose!

* Par ailleurs, pour le public, voir une enquête s'ouvrir contre une figure aussi influente comme l'ancien CP peut restaurer une certaine confiance dans le fait que la justice soit capable de se saisir de dossiers sensibles, sans distinction. Mais sa valeur finale dépendra entièrement de la capacité de la justice et de la FCC à mener l'affaire à terme de manière impartiale. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Dans l'état actuel des choses, je n'ai aucune raison de douter de la volonté et de l'ardeur de la FCC de mener cette enquête à son terme ni de celle du DPP de diligenter l'affaire devant la justice. Mais dans combien de temps?

☞ Suite en page 7

'L'argent sale est partout et c'est pourquoi nous n'arrivons toujours pas à conjurer le fléau de la drogue'

☞ Suite de la page 6

Les investigations de la FCC ne peuvent pas durer indéfiniment ni être reportées pour des futilités... Les investigations devraient être complétées «*in a matter of months not years*». Il en va de même pour les poursuites au pénal devant la *Financial Crimes Division*. C'est d'ailleurs ce qu'exige le «*reasonable time requirement*» de l'article 10(1) de la Constitution, sans que j'aie nulle besoin de le rappeler...!

*** Au fait, comment évaluez-vous l'état actuel de la confiance du public dans les institutions mauriciennes, à la lumière des scandales récents?**

Cette confiance est érodée et se situe à son niveau le plus bas suite aux scandales récents entourant le *reward money* et les agissements de Monsieur Tevin Sithanen, fils de l'ancien gouverneur de la banque centrale. Ces derniers font d'ailleurs l'objet d'une enquête approfondie de la FCC sur dénonciation de l'ancien *Second Deputy Governor*.

Deux plaintes en diffamation ont également été intentées devant la Cour suprême par le père et le fils Sithanen contre l'ancien *Second Deputy*



(*Secretary for Home Affairs -SHA*).

L'approche doit donc obligatoirement être holistique quant au contrôle de l'utilisation des fonds publics dans leur ensemble. Je me demande s'il ne nous faudrait pas une Cour des Comptes. Il faut dégager les mécanismes de contrôle et il est maintenant évident que le Directeur de l'Audit et le *Public Accounts Committee* (PAC) n'ont pas pu ou n'ont pas su prévenir ces débordements. Il faut donc instaurer un mécanisme de contrôle en ligne qui permette les *spot checks* inopinés assortis de *compliance reports* (rapports de conformité). La *Secretary for Home Affairs* (SHA) devrait donc se pencher sur ces questions en conjonction avec les cadres du ministère des Finances, le directeur de l'audit et le PAC.

Si ce n'est pas déjà fait, n'est-il pas grand temps qu'on le fasse afin que l'*internal control* de la Police qui a failli dans sa tâche soit immédiatement mis au pas ou dessaisi et remplacé par des *external auditors* *worth their salt*.

En tout cas, le *reward money* n'est que le sommet de l'iceberg symptomatique d'un mal beaucoup plus profond. Il y a eu la commission d'enquête Sik Yuen sur la police et la douane: relisez le rapport de cette commission d'enquête ainsi que les dépositions des

“ L'heure n'est plus aux charges provisoires qui n'ont, dans l'état actuel des choses, rien de provisoire. En fait, c'est un système absurde qui a été dénoncé et qui n'a que trop duré. On en est à un point où l'ensemble de la population exige que le Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP) se saisisse de tous ces dossiers et intente les poursuites nécessaires dans les meilleurs délais afin que les suspects deviennent enfin des accusés... ”

Governor, dont ils furent naguère très proches. On attend donc impatiemment l'issue pour que le public puisse enfin distinguer le bon grain de l'ivraie!

*** Les appels à plus de transparence et de redevabilité (*accountability*) se multiplient. Selon vous, quelles réformes législatives urgentes pourraient véritablement renforcer l'éthique et la bonne gouvernance à Maurice?**

Il est urgent d'appliquer les réformes de l'Alliance du Changement. Pour cela :

Il faut l'introduction immédiate du *Freedom of Information Act*, accompagnée d'un certificat d'urgence du Premier ministre, afin de garantir la transparence et la redevabilité que nous appelons de nos vœux en vain depuis des années.

Il nous faut un *Police and Criminal Evidence Act* qui protège les citoyens contre les décisions contradictoires, disproportionnées et les excès de la police.

Il nous faut introduire le *Public Interest Litigation* et les *class actions* (actions de groupe).

Il est essentiel que le système judiciaire se modernise et se digitalise et soit adéquatement doté en personnel (*adequately staffed*). De même, toutes les agences d'application de la loi (*law enforcement agencies*) doivent être digitalisées et en connexion constante et en temps réel avec le Bureau du Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP), qui doit être en mesure de suivre toutes les enquêtes pénales au fur et à mesure de leur déroulement.

Il nous faut urgemment un Commissaire de Police digne de ce nom, capable de maintenir l'ordre public (*law and*

order) et *who leads from the front and not from the rear*, comme c'est le cas actuellement et comme l'actualité l'a malheureusement démontré. Ce Commissaire de Police doit en outre pouvoir s'exprimer de façon claire et cohérente.

Il faut enfin que les fonctionnaires embusqués qui servent leurs anciens maîtres politiques du MSM et qui poursuivent un agenda politique soient débusqués et mis hors d'état de nuire. Sinon, le changement profond plébiscité par l'électorat en 2024 par un retentissant 60-0 se fera toujours attendre, et c'est le gouvernement actuel qui en fera les frais. Il faut, de surcroît et de toute urgence, rajeunir les cadres afin que les vieux fossiles qui ont été récemment déterrés et qui sont aujourd'hui dépassés débarrassent le plancher. Ne sait-on pas que les cimetières sont peuplés de gens irremplaçables ?

*** Le dossier hautement controversé des fonds de récompense alloués aux policiers (*reward money*) révèle-t-il, à votre avis, des failles systémiques au sein de la police, ou est-ce un problème isolé de mauvaise gestion?**

Les recrutements au sein de la police, les promotions, les qualifications, toute sa structure, son mode de fonctionnement et les qualifications, le rôle ainsi que les attributions et les pouvoirs du Commissaire de police et de ses adjoints doivent être revus de fond en comble. Cela passe aussi par une obligation de repenser (*rethinking*) la *Disciplined Forces Service Commission* et du Secrétaire aux affaires intérieures

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nombreux témoins et vous serez édifié.

Les dysfonctionnements mis à jour par la commission Sik Yuen perdurent et les solutions au cas par cas (*piecemeal solutions*) n'y feront rien. Au vu des récents événements et des agissements contre le DPP, même l'article 71 de la Constitution qui régit le poste constitutionnel du Commissaire de Police doit être entièrement revu à la loupe et de fond en comble.

Il faudrait donc urgemment songer à rappeler l'ancien Chef Juge Bernard Sik Yuen (ou quelqu'un d'autre de son acabit), pour que l'on se penche immédiatement et en profondeur sur tous les maux qui affligent notre police, pour que l'on y mette bon ordre une fois pour toutes afin de lui rendre ses lettres de noblesse...!

*** Par ailleurs, un bilan préliminaire des enquêtes menées par la FCC au cours des neuf derniers mois révèle l'ampleur du butin de blanchiment d'argent faisant l'objet d'investigation: Rs 67,7 milliards. Au vu de cette somme colossale — l'équivalent des allocations annuelles de la pension de retraite de tout le pays —, dans quelle mesure ce montant record justifie-t-il une révision urgente des moyens légaux et financiers alloués à la lutte contre la grande criminalité économique?**

Il nous faut songer à une Cour des Comptes avec des Magistrats indépendants et inamovibles afin de remplacer le *Independent Review Panel* qui ne fonctionne plus et qui est chargé d'examiner les contestations concernant les marchés publics.

☞ Suite en page 8

'Il faut que les fonctionnaires embusqués qui servent leurs anciens maîtres politiques du MSM et qui poursuivent un agenda politique soient débusqués'



☞ Suite de la page 7

Il nous faudrait un corps d'Inspecteurs des Finances dignes de ce nom et que les deniers publiques et les dépenses publiques quels qu'ils soient «*be kept under constant scrutiny*». Comme je viens de vous le dire, cela passe aussi par la réforme des marchés publics (*public procurement*) qui sont dans un fouillis et dans un désordre indescriptible. La *Public Procurement Act* devrait être complètement revue, car elle comporte de nombreuses failles.

* Au regard de l'énormité du problème de blanchiment d'argent révélé dans le circuit, les efforts de Maurice pour sortir des listes grises internationales (GAFI) ont-ils réellement produit un changement structurel ou s'agissait-il principalement de mesures de mise en conformité cosmétiques?

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Je ne vous le fais pas dire. Nous sommes en plein cosmétologie. C'est une évidence et ce ne sont pas les questionnaires intempestifs de septembre 2025 de la FIU, communiqués tardivement par courriel aux *Law Practitioners* 21 jours après la lettre de sa directrice (en date du 3 septembre 2025) qui feront l'affaire.

Nous venons de constater que pas moins de 0.8 millions de roupies viennent

“ Nous avons déjà touché le fond en matière de corruption, de népotisme, d'argent sale, de trafic d'influence, de trafic de drogue, d'abus de pouvoirs, de passe-droits et nous faisons semblant de l'ignorer... Le nouveau gouvernement a hérité d'une situation catastrophique et malgré le mandat non équivoque qui lui a été confié, il n'arrive toujours pas à conjurer les démons de l'ancien régime et il n'arrive même pas à tenir ses promesses...”

d'être transférées au mépris des règles les plus élémentaires au nez et à la barbe de la Banque centrale. Et pourtant, cette institution est chargée de la supervision des banques commerciales. On peut donc affirmer, sans crainte d'être contredit, que la FIAMLA is more

honoured in the breach than the observance.

Voyez par vous-même les nombreuses affaires qui perdurent devant la *Financial Crimes Commission* (FCC) et la *Financial Crimes Division* (de la Cour Intermédiaire), ainsi que les personnages clés (*dramatis personae*) qui y sont impliqués. L'argent sale est partout et c'est pourquoi nous n'arrivons toujours pas à conjurer le fléau de la drogue.

* Pour revenir à l'enchaînement des départs forcés et des arrestations au sommet des institutions (BoM, Police), un phénomène qui engendre un climat d'instabilité, quel risque démocratique à long terme encourons-nous si ces institutions vitales continuent d'être perçues comme politisées ou infiltrées par la criminalité économique?

Les risques sont évidents et, tôt ou tard, cela finira par exploser (excusez mon langage). Si nous ne prenons pas les mesures énergiques qui s'imposent, nous nous retrouverons un beau matin de printemps dans la même situation que le Népal, car nous savons tous que les mêmes causes entraînent les mêmes effets.

* Quel scénario d'évolution socio-politique prévoyez-vous pour Maurice

dans les cinq prochaines années si les problèmes de corruption et de trafic de drogue ne sont pas résolus de manière décisive?

Nous avons déjà touché le fond en matière de corruption, de népotisme, d'argent sale, de trafic d'influence, de trafic de drogue, d'abus de pouvoirs, de passe-droits et nous faisons semblant de l'ignorer. Récemment j'ai été conduit à dénoncer publiquement un cas de «*spin doctoring*» et de propagation de fausses nouvelles en première page d'un journal. Tous les compteurs sont au rouge.

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Chaque semaine le peuple est dans la rue au sujet de la réforme irréfléchie du *Basic Retirement Pension* (BRP). Il y a une recrudescence de la violence et des vols avec violence: récemment contre un expatrié attaqué à l'arme blanche nécessitant son admission en ICU ou un autre dépouillé de pas moins de 0.7 millions de roupies dans sa villa. Ce sont des signes qui ne trompent pas.

Je ne souhaite pas jouer aux prophètes de malheur: j'ai récemment exprimé publiquement mon pessimisme dans les colonnes d'un hebdomadaire et je vous laisse donc deviner ce qu'il en adviendra, et cela beaucoup plus tôt qu'on ne le croit; à moins que l'on ne se ressaisisse pendant qu'il est encore temps...!

PRESS NOTICE



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

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

PROCUREMENT FOR RENEWAL OF MICROSOFT CLOUD LICENSE

Procurement Ref. No: TNR-0013 and EDB/IFB/2025/209

1. The Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius is proceeding with an Open National Bidding online and is inviting potential bidders to submit their bids through the Government eProcurement System for the Procurement for Renewal of Microsoft Cloud License.
2. Documents may be downloaded from the eProcurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system EDB/IFB/2025/209
3. Bids must be submitted online on the eProcurement System at latest by **Thursday 02 October 2025 up to 14h00 (Local Time)**.
4. Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall decrypt and re-encrypt their bids as from by **Thursday 02 October 2025 up to 15h01 (Local Time) up to Friday 03 October 2025 up to 15h00 (Local Time)**.
5. Bids received will be opened online on **Friday 03 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 bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

Ground Floor, 7 Exchange Square, Wall Street, Ebène 72201, Republic of Mauritius
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Sada Reddi

A Story of Land and Legacy

The Tapestry of Old Mahebourg: People, Place, and Progress

Visiting the different sites of old Mahebourg, one can only imagine all the people who lived and worked there in the past. Ruins of buildings, streets, roads, canals, and a wharf remind us of African, Mozambican, and Indian slaves, White, Coloured, and Indian artisans, Indian convicts, indentured labourers, and the White and Coloured proprietors who transformed that disregarded flat piece of land from Cent Gaulettes Road to the seacoast into what became known as the town of Mahebourg. Whoever they were, one needs to give some names to this heterogeneous group of people, although we can hardly put faces to their names unless we probe deeper into family albums.

After the grid plan of the town had been mapped and the land allotted, either bought or rented to the inhabitants, land clearing by slaves enabled the first houses and buildings to emerge from the ground. Early government buildings sited at Pointe de la Colonie were functional. After 1810, the British administration not only made use of them but also added new buildings. By the 1840s, it was a quiet, small town with a buzzing commercial street, a river wharf, and a market.

The main commercial street, along Rue des Créoles, had a number of retail shops, owned by merchants such as the Decube, Gestas, Montille, Boete, Quesnel, Montille, and Fabien Rault. Shops belonging to Fayd'herbe and Adonsce were luxury shops for the elite, indicating the existence of a consumer culture. From these outlets, one can imagine women and men shopping for fabrics, hats, ribbons, and shoes for their social gatherings at Pastourel's house or for balls and receptions held at the Robillard mansion. As indentured labourers grew in numbers on sugar estates, they provided a market for Indian goods and textiles.

Indian merchants and hawkers stepped in to supply the market and by the mid-nineteenth century, there were already 150 little Indian shops in town, mostly run by Muslim and a few Tamil merchants. There were also two pharmacies belonging to Baillace and Etienne. At Baillace pharmacy, newspaper subscribers could collect *Le Cernéen*, *La Balance*, and the *Government Gazette*. When it was announced that a new publication, *Le Mauricien*, would appear on the 2nd of October 1833, subscribers had

to turn to Mr. Font for their copy.

On the wharf, Rochecouste, Etienne, Pastourel, Fabien, and Desmazures owned warehouses to store sugar and other agricultural produce. Goods were loaded on boats and canoes, either ferried to villages along Grand Port Bay, or sent to or received from Port-Louis for their shops. A few of the proprietors also owned boats, ferries, and coasters. The wharf would have been busy with bags of goods being loaded or unloaded by slaves while Indian sailors, living in the nearby *bancasal*, would be operating the different vessels.

Some of the inhabitants living in the town were Brodelet, Spoulet, Avice, Keating, Suran, Cheron, and Montille. There were a few Indians from Pondichéry such as Nayna, Pitchen, Maniacara, Saveriya, and Pachimoutou. The townsfolk had built houses made of wood, usually with one storey, in the middle of a yard surrounded by gardens and trees. They cultivated some crops to feed them throughout the year and reared animals: cows, pigs, and poultry. Some used the house frontage as a shop. With the continuing development of the town, the services of several artisans and other skilled workers were required. There were masons, sailors, carpenters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, carters, but also tailors, seamstresses, and laundresses, all of them assisted by both skilled and unskilled slaves.

The anti-slavery laws

No one could live or survive without two or three slaves. Names of some of the slaves were Alexis, Marianne, Jean Louis, Coralie, Brigitte, Jeannot, Papillon, Cécile, Felix, Désiré, and Modeste. Alexis, who failed to give a shave to Mr Robillard because he was drunk, had impudently replied to his master that he could go to Mahebourg for his shave. He was condemned to receive 25 lashes from the whip.

In the 1830s, when the abolitionist John Jeremie was in Mauritius to implement the anti-slavery laws, slave owners opposed abolition. Volunteer corps were formed to maintain control over the slave workforce and mobilize against the British government. In Mahebourg, five inhabitants were arrested and imprisoned on a charge of collecting arms for an insurrection. They were Brodelet, Robillard, Keating, Fenaillet, and Grandemange from the elite class. There were several witnesses in the Grand Port case and among them were Saminaden Arlanda - mason; Favori - carpenter; Ladaube - butcher; Romarin Poisson - carpenter; and Pierre Thibault - cabinet maker. In *Le Cernéen* were published letters and petitions to support the accused. The petitioners deplored the fact that they were lodged in prisons in Port Louis together with hundreds of slaves, among whom one was awaiting execution. A rumour that they were chained in irons was quickly dissipated so that their reputation might not sink low among their slaves.

The 1830s was a period of great expectations among slaves that they would be free.



Mahebourg Mouchoir Rouge Island Pic - Vintage Mauritius

It appears that they had become restless, increasingly defiant, and challenged orders from their owners. Proprietors regularly lodged complaints against them and they were severely punished. *Le Cernéen* too wrote about increasing slaves' defiance of their owners in this period, but one should guard against such depictions because it was in the interests of slave owners to exaggerate slaves' behaviour to oppose and delay emancipation. Nonetheless, it is well known that slaves always rejected their enslavement, and protests, both overt and covert, including marooning, were endemic to slavery.

There were several schools in the first half of the nineteenth century. There was a government school where George Clark was teaching. He was the one who discovered the skeletons of the Dodo at Mare aux Songes. A prize-giving day in 1854, unusually held in the Magistrate Court of Mahebourg, provides the names of pupils at school and hence the names of inhabitants of Mahebourg. The pupils were Adelcy Poisson, Aurele Poisson, J. Joseph François, David Saveriya, Honoré Fabien Rault, P. Eole Simonet, Cyril Lefevre, Canon Rasou, Arthur Avice, Evariste Michaud, Auguste Barbe, Céline Baptiste, Rosalina Poisson, Adonia Potage, Eugénie Lucile, Elmiré Michaud, Élodie Rose, Héloïse Andore, and Evrestie Barbe.

After the abolition of slavery, many of the ex-apprentices cultivated small gardens, turned hawkers, were self-employed artisans, and many became fishermen, for there were a few fisheries and two of the proprietors were Aufrey and Etienne.

Indian immigrants

When Indian immigrants were first employed on Rivière la Chaux Sugar Mill is not known. But during the apprenticeship period, 1835-1839, apprentices and Indian labourers worked side by side, and later, more Indian labourers worked for Rivière la Chaux Estate, later Villeneuve and Beau Vallon sugar estates. The area extending from L'Allée Gheude to and around the Catholic Church is mostly inhabited by Indians, mostly descendants of Indian indentured labourers. With more laborers in Mahebourg and during the early sugar boom, the town attracted Indian merchants and in 1845 there were around 150 Indian shops in the town, mostly Muslim merchants and a few Tamil merchants. Names like Mamoojee, Moolna, Dustgheer, Salejee, Atchia, Haboo, Natoo, Cassim, Bahamia, Mussajee, Mahmod, together with a few Tamil merchants.

Cont on page 10



Mahebourg Market - Pic - Vintage Mauritius

A Story of Land and Legacy

The Tapestry of Old Mahebourg: People, Place, and Progress



Cont. from page 9

In the 1850s, the great landowners and proprietors were given new responsibilities by the government. Two planters, P. Mollières and A. Rochecouste, formed part of the committee presided over by the local magistrate to deliver licenses for restaurants, taverns, and distilleries. They also were members of the Comité des Pauvres (Committee of the Poor).

In 1854, the country was visited by cholera, and the two most affected areas with high mortality were Port-Louis

and Mahebourg. The early cases occurred in Mahebourg from people coming from Port Louis. In Port Louis, the Health Committee opened a new cemetery in Roche Bois. In Mahebourg, the Health Committee was presided over by Robertson and the other members were the district doctor and two inhabitants, Mollières and Montochio. Early measures included whitewashing houses with lime, and all pigs were removed to Ville Noire.

During French rule, Catholic religion was the official religion, but the different groups freely practised their own religions, whether they were slaves or Indians. This religious pluralism was maintained by the British in the Capitulation terms signed by the inhabitants, including Indians, particularly Tamils, who were allowed to retain their customs and religion.

Religious pluralism

Taking advantage of this religious pluralism, the inhabitants built several places of worship with or without assistance from the government. In the nineteenth century, a new Catholic church was built in 1849, although Avice the Commissioner had made an appeal for subscription since 1837. There was an Anglican Church for British soldiers and a Church of Scotland. After the cholera epidemic,

which killed about hundreds of people in Mahebourg, Tamil merchants and proprietors — Sanassy, Kathan, Tasabady Chetty, Priambitaby Valaydon, and Pachimootto — appeared before notary Macquet in 1854 to buy a plot of land at Beauvallon to build a kovil (temple) to protect their village. They spelled out their objectives: to set up schools, to teach their language, to build a kovil, and to set up a solidarity fund to help those in difficulty because of diseases and epidemics and to preserve their culture and values. The kovil was completed in 1856 and in 1869, Muslim merchants built their own Mosque.



Today, Mahebourg may be the only town with places of worship for every religious and sub-religious group. It has remained a dynamic plural society as it was since its origins and almost a face-to-face society where most families know, meet, and encounter each other as they did 200 years ago.

Sada Reddi

Analyse

Quelles leçons de gouvernance à tirer de la situation à la BOM?

• Suite de la page 3

Lorsque le ministère du Travail lui-même n'est pas d'accord avec la mesure de suspension, cela indique que quelque chose ne tourne pas rond au niveau du management supérieur.

Leçons de gouvernance

La crise à la BOM comporte des leçons importantes pour le pays en matière de gouvernance d'entreprise. La première leçon est que la nomination de personnes proches du pouvoir, aussi compétentes soient-elles, à la tête d'institutions stratégiques ne permet pas nécessairement une gestion efficace, au-dessus de tout soupçon. Les conflits d'intérêt potentiels existent du fait de leur passé politique et de leur engagement récent dans les affaires. Il faut des garde-fous pour empêcher les conflits d'intérêts d'entraver une gestion saine et efficace. L'éthique personnelle des nominés, évaluée à partir de leurs antécédents professionnels ou de leur passage dans les affaires, devrait être un critère déterminant.

La deuxième leçon est que certains nominés bardés de diplômes universitaires peuvent avoir une forte intelligence académique (IQ), mais ils manquent d'intelligence émotionnelle (EQ) pour gérer



une grande organisation dans laquelle la gestion prudente des ressources humaines, fondée sur l'équité, est primordiale. Le succès du management moderne dans une grande organisation dépend d'une combinaison d'aptitudes techniques et de compétences générales (*soft skills*) telles que la communication, l'esprit d'équipe, l'adaptabilité, le leadership, la capacité de résoudre les divergences d'opinion, l'éthique du travail et l'interaction personnelle.

À l' lendemain des élections, le gouvernement du changement avait sans doute l'obligation de se doter de conseillers et de gestionnaires a priori fiables pour assurer une transition douce dans les institutions vers un style de gestion plus adapté à l'agenda de nouveaux gouvernants. Or, cette époque transitionnelle a connu des inepties dans le pro-

Secteur public

cessus de nomination avec pour résultat que certaines institutions ont vu un changement de tête sans aucun changement de méthode de gestion.

On a l'impression que la vieille école de management fondée sur l'amateurisme et le copinage continue de plus belle dans certaines organisations

publiques. Ce qui s'est passé à la BOM est une opportunité de revoir le mode de nomination des cadres du secteur public afin de rendre la gestion des organismes d'État plus saine et efficace avec un accent sur la compétence, la moralité personnelle et l'éthique des affaires.

Prakash Neerohoo

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Official Padayatra Itinerary

DATE	ITINERARY	DATE	ITINERARY
01-Oct-25	SSR AIRPORT - ROSE BELLE TEMPLE	27-Oct-25	BEL AIR - QUATRES SEOUR
02-Oct-25	ROSE BELLE - PHOENIX	28-Oct-25	QUATRES SEOUR - PETIT SABLES
03-Oct-25	PHOENIX - POINTES AUX SABLES	29-Oct-25	PETIT SABLES - VIEUX GRAND PORT
04-Oct-25	POINTES AUX SABLES - VALLES DES PRETRES	30-Oct-25	MAHEBOURG - GROS BILOT
05-Oct-25	VALLES DES PRETRES - TRILOIT	31-Oct-25	GROS BILOT - RIVIERE DU POSTE
06-Oct-25	ISKCON TRILOIT - LONG MOUNTAIN	01-Nov-25	RIVIERE DU POSTE - GRAND BOIS
07-Oct-25	LONG MOUNTAIN - CONGOMAH	02-Nov-25	GRAND BOIS - ROSE BELLE ISKCON
08-Oct-25	CONGOMAH TO LAMITIE	03-Nov-25	ROSE BELLE - MIDLANDS
09-Oct-25	LAMITIE - MONT ST ANDRE ISKCON	04-Nov-25	MIDLANDS - NOUVELLE FRANCE
10-Oct-25	NEW NILACHAL ISKCON - P. AUX PIMENT	05-Nov-25	NOUVELLE FRANCE - MARE DALBERT
11-Oct-25	P. AUX PIMENT - GRAND BAIE	06-Nov-25	MARE DALBERT - LA FLORA
12-Oct-25	GRAND BAIE - PANCATTATVA ISKCON	07-Nov-25	LA FLORA - P. MAGNIEN
13-Oct-25	PANCATTATVA ISKCON - PETIT RAFFRAY	08-Nov-25	P. MAGNIEN - LESCALIER
14-Oct-25	PETIT RAFFRAY - LESPERANCE	09-Nov-25	LESCALIER - TYACK
15-Oct-25	POUDRE DOR - R DU REMPART	10-Nov-25	TYACK - SURINAAM
16-Oct-25	R DU REMPART - LAVENTURE	11-Nov-25	SURINAAM - BAIE DU CAP
17-Oct-25	LAVENTURE - LESPERANCE Q. MILITAIRE	12-Nov-25	BAIE DU CAP - CASE NOVALE
18-Oct-25	LESPERANCE - LAVENIR	13-Nov-25	CASE NOVALE - FLIC EN FLAC
19-Oct-25	LAVENIR - DAGOTIER	14-Nov-25	FLIC EN FLAC - BAMBOUS ISKCON
20-Oct-25	DAGOTIER - MONTAGNE BLANCHE	15-Nov-25	BAMBOUS - ROSE HILL
21-Oct-25	MONTAGNE BLANCHE - KEWAL NAGAR	16-Nov-25	ROSE HILL - MANDIR BASSIN Q. BORNES
22-Oct-25	KEWAL NAGAR - TROUX DEAU DOUCE	17-Nov-25	Q. BORNES - CAMP CAVALE
23-Oct-25	TROUX DEAU DOUCE - BELLE MARE	18-Nov-25	CAMP CAVALE - CAMP FOURQUEREAUX
24-Oct-25	BELLE MARE - POSTE DE FLACQ	19-Nov-25	C. FOURQUEREAUX - PHOENIX TEMPLE
25-Oct-25	POSTE DE FLACQ - CAMP DE MASQUE PAVE, BONNE MERE, FUEL		
26-Oct-25	CAMP DE MASQUE - BEL AIR		

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Shyam Bhatia

Britain's Shrug: Talent Versus Ancestry

Other democracies place a premium on symbolism. Britain prefers pragmatism. Competence is celebrated; ancestry is waved away. It is a habit that has allowed spies to keep their pensions, plunderers to be bronzed

On October 1, Blaise Metreweli will take over as the first woman to lead Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, MI6. Whitehall is preparing to hail it as a landmark: a career officer with three decades of service, fluent in Arabic, a veteran of Middle Eastern operations, and architect of MI6's technology strategy.

Yet her rise comes with a shadow. Earlier this year *The Times* revealed that her grandfather, Constantine Dobrowolski, was identified in German archives as a Nazi collaborator. Known as "The Butcher," he was linked to the killing of Jews and resistance fighters in the Second World War.

In response to my query, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office offered this: "Blaise Metreweli never knew or ever met her paternal grandfather. Blaise's ancestry is characterised by conflict and division and as is the case for many with Eastern European heritage, only partially understood. It is precisely this complex heritage which has contributed to her commitment to prevent conflict and protect the British public from modern threats." That, in essence, is the official shrug.

Policymakers are not naïve. They knew the Nazi connection would surface. That they pressed ahead anyway shows how highly they value her. Metreweli is unusual among British spymasters.

She speaks Arabic fluently, and unlike many chiefs who rise through management, she spent years in operational roles across the Middle East. In an era when linguistic skills are scarce, she could run assets directly rather than through interpreters.

She also broke the mould by crossing into MI5, where she ran hostile-states counter-intelligence. That role meant tackling Russian, Chinese and Iranian penetrations on home soil — an unusual crossover for an MI6 officer.

Most recently, she served as MI6's Director-General for Technology and Innovation, informally "Q." She has been credited with pulling the Service into the digital age, developing tools to confront cyber intrusions and AI-driven espionage. In 2024 she was awarded a CMG for services to British foreign policy. Colleagues describe her as steady, professional, and scandal-free. Whitehall's calculation is clear: her skills are rare, her record is clean, and she is uniquely qualified to face the challenges of Russia, China, Iran, and Islamist networks. The ancestry is treated as a footnote.

Elsewhere the story would play differently. In Germany, the very notion of a Nazi collaborator's descendant leading the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) the country's foreign intelligence service, is inconceivable. The German word Vergangenheitsbewältigung — "working through the past" — describes a collective duty of remembrance.

AMID RUSSIA FEAR, UK APPOINTS FIRST-EVER WOMAN SPY CHIEF



MI6 gets first-ever woman chief as starmer warns of unprecedented threats to UK. Pic - YouTube

“Even a faint family link to Nazism can derail a career. High office demands not only competence but symbolic purity. In Israel, the symbolism would be equally explosive. Imagine Metreweli, after a successful tenure, appointed ambassador to Tel Aviv. Sending the granddaughter of a Nazi collaborator to represent Britain would be seen not as neutral but as grotesque. In Washington, the idea of Osama bin Laden's grandchild being appointed Director of the CIA is unimaginable. The symbolism alone would sink any nomination, however brilliant the candidate's record. Congress would erupt, the media would howl, and the White House would retreat within hours. In America, association with atrocity is a disqualifier. In Britain, it is a shrug...”

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This is not new. Britain has a long record of overlooking atrocity when it suits. Anthony Blunt, a Soviet spy at the heart of the Cambridge ring, was exposed in 1979 but kept his pension and lived out his days quietly, punished only by the loss of his knighthood. Robert Clive was condemned in Parliament for plunder in India yet is still honoured with statues in Shrewsbury and outside the Foreign Office, while his loot is celebrated as heritage in British museums.

General Reginald Dyer, architect of the Amritsar massacre in 1919, was officially censured but pensioned off comfortably after the British public raised a subscription in his honour.

William George Archer, a colonial magistrate who ordered troops to fire on unarmed student protesters in Bihar in 1942, killing seven teenagers, later returned to London as a curator at the V&A and is remembered mainly as a scholar of Indian art. The pattern is consistent: brutality abroad, rehabilitation at home. Men who presided over killings and loot returned not in disgrace but as honoured servants of the state.

Metreweli herself cannot be blamed for her bloodline. She is not complicit in her grandfather's crimes. But ancestry carries symbolic weight. If she succeeds, she may be remembered as the first female "C," the spymaster who modernised MI6. If she falters, headlines may not dwell on cyber tools or Arabic fluency but on "the Butcher's granddaughter."

Abroad, the risk is greater. In Berlin and Tel Aviv, the past is never just a footnote. In Washington, the CIA-bin Laden analogy would strike home immediately. Whitehall is betting that her record will eclipse the shadow. But history has a way of intruding at awkward moments.

Britain has played this game before. When Keir Starmer appointed Peter Mandelson as ambassador to Washington, he knew the baggage: the Epstein connection, the history of controversy. He judged that the pluses outweighed the negatives.

For a time, the calculation seemed sound, until fresh disclosures about Epstein brought the whole appointment crashing down. Whitehall is making the same gamble with Blaise Metreweli. They know the shadow of her grandfather; they believe her record eclipses it. The risk is that, as with Mandelson, the past may yet return to demand its price.

What this appointment reveals is less about Metreweli herself than about Britain. Other democracies place a premium on symbolism, sometimes excessively, sometimes cruelly.

Britain prefers pragmatism. Competence is celebrated; ancestry is waved away. It is a habit that has allowed spies to keep their pensions, plunderers to be bronzed, and butchers to be buried with honour. And now it allows a Nazi collaborator's granddaughter to rise to the pinnacle of British intelligence.

No one should be judged guilty for the crimes of their forebears. But societies are judged by what they shrug off, and what they cannot forgive. Germany insists on remembrance. Israel guards it as survival. America politicises it into disqualification. Britain, alone, shrugs.

Shyam Bhatia is a London-based Indian-born British journalist, writer, and war reporter. He has covered conflicts in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Sudan, and is a former diplomatic editor for The Observer. His career also includes roles as US correspondent and Foreign Editor for the Deccan Herald (Bangalore) and Editor of Asian Affairs magazine (London).

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Of Pensions and the Perils of Longevity

The setting is contemporary Mauritius, yet the dilemma is timeless: the clash between promised social security and grim fiscal reality. The newly elected Alliance du Changement (ADC) government, citing the financial ruin left by its predecessors, has announced a drastic pension reform, forcing citizens to work five years longer. Here, the great Athenian philosopher Socrates — a stranger to modern budgets but no stranger to virtue — finds the recently “un-retired” Cephalus, an elder raging against the tyranny of arithmetic. In this humorous dialogue, they grapple with the true meaning of justice when the cost of living long collides with the price of governance, and the pursuit of a dignified retirement is complicated by spreadsheet terrorism and the lingering scent of political profligacy.

Plutonix

Characters:

Socrates: The tireless philosopher, slightly exasperated by the modern political theatre, and still seeking to define the true nature of “justice” in an era of fiscal collapse.

Cephalus: The recently “un-retired” elder. He is deeply invested in the immediate, tangible aspects of the social contract — namely, his promised pension and the right to a comfortable nap.

Setting: A gathering in Port Louis. A massive, slightly damp protest banner reading “60 ANS, C’EST ASSEZ! — NOUS SOMMES FATIGUÉS!” flutters in the background. Cephalus is trying, and failing, to unfold a complicated government information leaflet.

Socrates: Good Cephalus! By the beard of Zeus, you look less like a serene sage basking in the afterglow of a life well-lived and more like a man who just discovered his stock portfolio is now invested entirely in a defunct dodo farm. What profound contemporary tragedy has curdled the serenity of your golden years? Is it the *quality* of the harbour coffee, perhaps?

Cephalus: (Gesturing wildly with the crumpled leaflet) Worse than coffee, Socrates. Worse than bad coffee! They have declared war on my dignity, my repose, and, most criminally, my nap schedule! The Alliance du Changement (ADC) — the very government we so recently entrusted with power, the people who promised us paradise, free WiFi, and perhaps a small unicorn — have decided that my official age of blessed, pensioned decrepitude is no longer sixty, but sixty-five! They call it a “gradual, phased implementation” over five years. I call it five extra years of being forced to wear trousers and pretend I understand email attachments.

Socrates: Ah, the Great Pension Pause. They claim it is a matter of justice — specifically, fiscal justice. They say the national treasury is lighter than a politician’s promise in the wind, hollowed out by the previous regime’s “huge, unsustainable expenses” and relentless “financial wastage.”

Cephalus: Wastage! Yes! They funded grand, shiny projects with all the fiscal sobriety of a toddler with a bank vault key. And now, *I*, who have been a model citizen and only occasionally exceeded the speed limit, must pay for their fiscal carnival! My poor back, which has honourably supported three different Mauritian economic pillars over four decades — from the sweat of the sugar fields to the precision of textiles to the endless paperwork of offshore banking — must now prop up the national debt for five extra years! Tell me, Socrates, is it my fault that the former administration treated the public purse like an ATM with unlimited withdrawals and no



need for a receipt?

Socrates: You posit that the virtue of accountability dictates that the financial burden must fall solely upon the profligate. And a compelling point it is. But consider this, old friend: If a ship is demonstrably sinking because the previous captain drilled holes in the hull to install a lavish jacuzzi, must the current passengers refuse to bail water until the former captain has been properly tried and summarily dunked in the ocean? The state, they argue, faces an immediate crisis. The present need, they say, transcends the history of blame. And what, precisely, is their elegant *intellectual* justification for this agonizing delay?

Cephalus: (He gestures towards the official government communique with disgust) They cite “Demographic Reality,” Socrates. They speak of a “rapidly ageing population” and, with a distinct lack of poetry, a “shrinking base of young taxpayers.” They say people live longer now — a true miracle of science and good island air — and so the system designed for a shorter lifespan is no longer viable.

Socrates: This is where the notion of justice becomes exquisitely murky. We have a conflict between the Justice of the Past (the promised contract at sixty) and the Justice of the Future (the solvency of the state). Is it a greater injustice to the current elderly to delay their benefit by five years, or a greater injustice to the future young to demand that a small, shrinking number of them finance an ever-growing number of pensioners for an ever-increasing duration? Which generation’s survival is paramount?

Cephalus: But the young must also honour the implicit “social contract” with the old! That is the very foundation of civilization, Socrates. We laboured, paid our taxes, and contributed under the promise of retirement at sixty. The trade unions are livid — and rightly so. They call this an act of “betrayal,” forcing those in arduous manual labour — the fishermen, the factory workers, the bus drivers, the labourers — to work five

extra years with weary bones. They say the “standard of living” is rising, but for many, that means a higher cost of living, not a greater physical capacity to endure hard labour past sixty! For these labourers, an extra five years is not a philosophical meditation on work; it is a profound physical toll!

Socrates: An excellent point, worthy of a philosopher king’s chief accountant. The contract is indeed two-sided. But if the terms of life itself — longevity, health, and crucially, the birth rate — have changed so dramatically since the contract was drafted, does absolute, rigid adherence to the original terms still qualify as *ultimate* justice? Or does true justice require a re-negotiation to ensure the contract itself does not become an impossible debt that crushes the very young who are meant to inherit and perpetuate the society? The system of Universality, which grants the BRP to all regardless of contribution, is now colliding with the hard wall of Sustainability.

Cephalus: I fear the young will be crushed regardless, Socrates. The public anger is not just about the principle; it is venomously exacerbated by the perception of “financial wastage” under the past rulers. When citizens see vast sums squandered on dubious projects and hear tales of corruption in the papers, they are monumentally loath to accept personal, painful sacrifice. They see the **mass protest** in the capital not as an exercise in democracy, but as a necessary expulsion of pent-up economic rage!

Socrates: The method of implementation is also a stain upon their claim to justice. The Opposition Parties call the reform “undemocratic and disproportionate,” pointing to the perceived “lack of public consultation” and the “rushed” manner of its implementation via the Finance Act 2025. They feel *silenced* and *coerced*. If the ADC government, despite winning a magnificent super-majority, acts in a way that is perceived as coercive and ignores the collective, established voice of the people, have they secured true authority? Or merely momentary power? Power, Cephalus, is easily acquired by the simple majority of the ballot box. But authority is secured only by persuasion and demonstrable prudence. Did they use persuasion before the act, or merely cite necessity after the fact?

Cephalus: They cited necessity and then offered a small, statistically complex olive branch: the targeted Income Support scheme for the most vulnerable between sixty and the new pension age.

Socrates: Ah, the Mitigation Measure — a political tourniquet. This is a critical detail. What is the true intent of this measure? Is it an act of genuine, philosophical compassion, or merely a cold political calculation designed to prevent a full-blown revolution? If it is truly aimed at the most vulnerable and poor, does that not elevate the reform above mere fiscal prudence to the level of social equity?

Cephalus: Perhaps. But the critics are not appeased! The original BRP, while costly, fostered a profound sense of social solidarity, Socrates. It was a birthright, a foundational assumption of simply *being Mauritian*. To introduce means-testing feels like a descent into cold, inhuman calculation, treating citizens not as co-owners of the state, but as mere fiscal liabilities to be managed and itemized on a spreadsheet by some humourless bureaucrat.

☞ Cont. on page 18

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy sentenced to 5 years in prison in Libya campaign case

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Thursday was sentenced to five years in prison after a Paris court found him guilty of conspiring criminally with Libya over illegal election campaign funding.

The court spared the 70-year-old the humiliation of being marched out of the courtroom by police officers by saying that the date of his incarceration will be decided later. However, in a major surprise, the judge said that Sarkozy will be imprisoned even if he appeals, reports HT.

Sarkozy was found guilty on a key charge of acquiring illegal financing from the then-Libyan government of leader Muammar Gaddafi for his 2007 presidential campaign. He reportedly took money from Libya in a criminal association plot from 2005 to 2007 to finance his campaigns in exchange for diplomatic favours.

The Paris court cleared Sarkozy of the three other charges, including passive corruption, illegal campaign financing and concealment of the embezzlement of public funds, the Associated Press reported.

Additionally, two of Sarkozy's close associates from his presidential era, former ministers Claude Guéant and Brice Hortefeux, were also found guilty of criminal association. The men conspired to seek Libyan funding for Sarkozy's 2007 campaign, but the judges weren't convinced that the conservative leader was directly involved in the funding effort or that any Libyan money was actually used in his winning presidential campaign.

In his verdict, the chief judge said that Nicolas Sarkozy allowed his close aides to reach out to Libyan officials "to obtain or try to obtain financial support in Libya for the purpose of securing campaign financing."

The court clearly stated that it couldn't be sure that the Libyan money ended up being used in Sarkozy's campaign. It went on to



Nicolas Sarkozy Sentenced to Prison for Libyan Campaign Financing. Pic- NewsBreak

explain that, however, as per French law, a corrupt scheme can still be a crime even if money was not paid or cannot be proven.

During the hearing and sentencing, Sarkozy was also accompanied by his wife, the singer and model Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, in the courtroom.

After being elected in 2007, Nicolas Sarkozy lost his bid for reelection in 2012. He has denied all the charges levelled against him during the three-month trial earlier this year.

'Will fight until the end'

After the court's verdict, former French president Nicolas Sarkozy said the ruling poses "extremely serious" concerns about the current state of law in France. He said the Paris court's ruling undermines confidence in the French justice system. Sarkozy affirmed his "innocence", adding that he will appeal against this ruling.

Sarkozy said "this ruling means those who convicted me want to see me sleep in prison as soon as possible".

"I will fight right after until the end to prove my innocence in this affair," the former French president affirmed.

Slovakia accuses Western Europe of 'hypocrisy' on Russian gas

Slovakia's populist-led government is pushing back hard against mounting pressure from the European Union and the United States to completely halt its purchases of Russian energy, arguing that it would be economically devastating and accusing some Western European states of hypocrisy for increasing their own Russian gas imports.

Speaking on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Slovak Foreign Minister Juraj Blanár asserted on Wednesday that his country and its ally, Hungary, have no immediate, sustainable, or affordable alternative to Russian supplies. Blanár stated that forcing Slovakia to break contracts running until 2034 could result in a crippling loss of as much as 10 billion euros.

The Sticking Point: Infrastructure and Cost

Slovakia, like Hungary, is heavily reliant on Russian oil and pipeline gas due to infrastruc-

ture built over decades. Both EU members have maintained political ties with Moscow despite the war in Ukraine, arguing that immediately weaning themselves off Russian supplies would be too costly and logistically impossible in the short term.

The resistance comes as the EU advances its 19th sanctions package against Russia, aiming to phase out Russian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports by the start of 2027 — a year earlier than originally planned. Additionally, EU nations are negotiating legal proposals to end imports of all Russian fossil fuels by 2028.

However, the sanctions proposal requires unanimous backing, and both Hungary and Slovakia have threatened to oppose new energy sanctions. The current LNG ban is designed to spare them, as it does not affect the pipeline gas and oil they continue to receive.

Across the Globe

China promises to slash emissions

Chinese leader Xi Jinping vowed to cut his country's emissions by up to 10% below their 2035 peak, taking a veiled swipe at US President Donald Trump who this week railed against renewable energy. "Green and low-carbon transition is the trend of our time," Xi said, pushing other countries to pursue renewables even if some are "acting against it."

Earlier, Trump had called climate change "the greatest con job ever," and said renewable energy was destroying Western nations. Since the start of his second term, Trump has slashed funding for green energy and boosted oil and gas production. However, China's emissions remain far greater than those of the US: Beijing's proposed 10% cut equates to roughly four times the UK's entire output.

US government risks shutdown

The US federal government will shut down next week if Congress and the White House cannot reach a budget deal by midnight Tuesday, Sept. 30, sparking recession fears. All discretionary federal spending would halt, and non-essential employees would be furloughed, although mandatory outlays such as Medicare and social security would continue.

Washington has narrowly averted several similar shutdowns in recent years, often by imposing short-term continuations, but "the two sides did not even appear to be talking," The New York Times reported. The Trump administration told agencies to prepare for a round of mass firings if funding runs out. Moody's chief economist warned that a prolonged shutdown could push the "quite vulnerable" economy into recession.



WHO rejects White House's claim of Tylenol autism link. Pic- Semafor

WHO rejects Tylenol autism link

Global health authorities rejected the US government's claim that the popular painkiller acetaminophen, better known as Tylenol in America, causes autism when taken during pregnancy. The World Health Organization said that "extensive research" had found no link between acetaminophen and autism, and recommended that pregnant women continue to follow medical advice.

Health regulators and government officials in Australia, the EU, South Africa, and the UK issued statements reassuring citizens that the drug — known as paracetamol outside North America — is safe. Acetaminophen is the only over-the-counter painkiller recommended for pregnant women; US President Donald Trump said that women should "tough it out" if they are experiencing discomfort while expecting.

US vows to help Argentine economy

US Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent said Washington was ready to prop up Argentina's economy, after an electoral setback for President Javier Milei's government led to investors losing confidence. "Treasury remains fully prepared to do what is necessary," Bessent said, announcing the \$20 billion package.

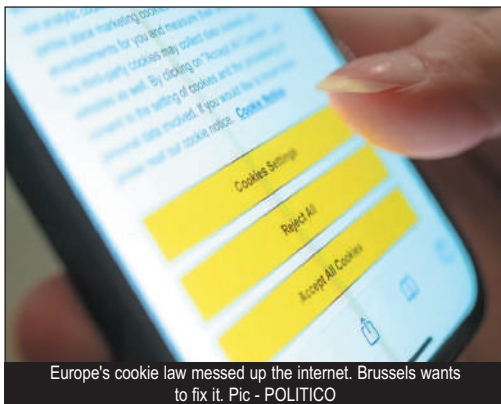
The move reflects US President Donald Trump's personalistic approach to foreign policy: He vowed support for Milei — an ideological ally — after a regional electoral loss for his party sent equities and the peso tumbling. Investors fear Milei will fail to secure enough congressional seats in October's legislative election to deliver on his anti-austerity agenda, which has sparked economic growth and led to the first budget surplus in decades, though spending cuts have angered many.

Across The Globe

Kenya eyes US trade deal

Kenyan President William Ruto said he expected to sign a trade agreement with the US before the end of the year, as he looks for a reprieve from Washington's punishing tariffs. Ruto also vowed to pursue a five-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act — a 25-year-old free-trade agreement between sub-Saharan Africa and the US — in a meeting with the American secretary of state.

Though the region's trade reliance on Washington has rapidly diminished as China has become its biggest market, several nations still rely on the US for a large share of their exports, the loss of which would put millions of livelihoods at risk.



Europe's cookie law messed up the internet. Brussels wants to fix it. Pic - POLITICO

EU may scrap cookie law

The European Commission wants to change the cookie pop-up law that has hounded web users for the last 16 years. Cookies allow websites to store information about users, such as whether they've logged in before, or what they viewed. The 2009 ePrivacy directive requires websites to let users opt out of all but "strictly necessary" cookies, which in practice means that consent banners appear every time a user accesses a new website and are usually clicked away without thought.

Brussels wants to reduce the burden of red tape on its businesses, and cookies are a focal point of those plans, Politico reported: One possible workaround would be letting people set their cookie preferences once, for example in their browser settings.

Russia's economy shows cracks

Russia will raise its value-added tax rate to 22%, an indication the Ukraine war is dragging on its economy. President Vladimir Putin had pledged not to raise taxes before 2030, but spiraling military and security expenditure — and reduced income from oil thanks to sanctions and Ukrainian drone attacks on refineries — have hit Moscow's exchequer.

US President Donald Trump said this week that Russia was in "big financial trouble," which Moscow dismissed, but the budget deficit is expected to reach 2.6% for the full year, against an expected shortfall of 0.5%. Economic growth is also slowing, with

official forecasts falling from 2.5% to 1% for this year.

Taiwan plays export geopolitics

Taiwan briefly imposed controls on semiconductor exports to South Africa in an attempt to use its global chip dominance as a geopolitical tool, sparking a row with China. South Africa had moved Taiwan's de facto embassy from Pretoria to Johannesburg to placate Beijing, a symbolic downgrade that angered Taipei. Beijing does not recognize Taiwan's independence and uses its economic and diplomatic might to discourage others from doing so too.

Taipei has long used its chip industry as "a shield from Chinese aggression," Bloomberg reported, but this represented its first use as a "diplomatic sword." Beijing said the decision would backfire, and Taiwan backed down after two days, suggesting it was uncomfortable weaponizing its exports, Bloomberg said.

Zelenskyy warns of new arms race

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on allies to send more arms to defend his country against Russia, saying "the only guarantee of security is friends and weapons." Addressing leaders at the UN General Assembly Wednesday, Zelenskyy appeared to echo US President Donald Trump's criticism of international organizations' peace efforts, saying they are "too weak" to stop global conflicts.



Russia wants to expand war against Ukraine, Zelenskyy warns at UN. Pic - The Hindu

In his call to arms, Zelenskyy also raised concerns about AI-driven warfare and blamed Russia for spurring the "most destructive arms race in human history." Zelenskyy's speech came a day after Trump suggested Ukraine can win the war, but it's unclear whether the US president will back that rhetoric up "with money and materiel," The Atlantic wrote. "Until then, it's just talk."

'Triple sabotage': Trump calls for arrest over 'sinister' tech glitches at UN

US President Donald Trump has called for an investigation into three "sinister events" at the United Nations headquarters, describing them as a "triple sabotage" during his visit to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

The incidents, which included a stalled escalator, a malfunctioning teleprompter, and sound issues in the Assembly hall, were highlighted by Trump as deliberate attempts to undermine his appearance, reports HT.

In a post on Truth Social on Wednesday, Trump said the UN should be "ashamed" of itself. "A REAL DISGRACE took place at the United Nations yesterday — Not one, not two, but three very sinister events!" he wrote.

The first incident occurred when the escalator leading to the main speaking floor came to a "screeching halt" shortly after he and First Lady Melania Trump stepped onto it.

"It stopped on a dime. It's amazing that Melania and I didn't fall forward onto the sharp edges of these steel steps, face first. It was only that we were each holding the handrail tightly or, it would have been a disaster. This was absolutely sabotage," Trump said, adding that those responsible should be arrested.

As he began his address to the 80th UN General Assembly session, the teleprompter failed. "Then, as I stood before a television crowd of millions of people all over the world, and important leaders in the Hall, my teleprompter didn't work. It was stone cold dark. I immediately thought to myself, 'Wow, first the escalator event, and now a bad teleprompter. What kind



No coincidence: Trump claims 'Triple Sabotage' over UN mishaps, demands Secret Service. Pic - Channel 3000

of a place is this?" he said.

Trump delivered a 57-minute speech without the teleprompter, which resumed functioning about 15 minutes later.

"The good news is the speech has gotten fantastic reviews. Maybe they appreciated the fact that very few people could have done what I did," he added.

The third issue, according to Trump, was that the sound system in the UN General Assembly hall was allegedly off after his speech, preventing world leaders from hearing him unless they used interpreters' earpieces.

"The first person I saw at the conclusion of the speech was Melania, who was sitting right up front. I said, 'How did I do?' And she said, 'I couldn't hear a word you said,'" Trump said.

Trump said that the three incidents were not coincidental, calling them a "triple sabotage at the UN." He said he had sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General demanding an immediate investigation and asked that "all security tapes at the escalator should be saved, especially the emergency stop button. The Secret Service is involved."

Syria redefines itself on world stage

Syria's president hailed his country's return to the global stage, in the first UN speech by a Syrian head of state since 1967. Ahmed al-Sharaa's address Wednesday, nine months after he led a faction of rebels that toppled the government of Bashar al-Assad, reflected Damascus' desire to redefine itself to the international community, much of which has long associated the country with war and oppression.

Sharaa called on countries to help develop Syria's economy, but despite

his diplomatic efforts, his past as an al-Qaida fighter has "fueled questions about what he truly believes," The New



Syria's new leader denounces Iran, calling its proxies a regional threat. Pic - NPR

York Times wrote: Sharaa has the backing of Washington, but ongoing sectarian violence has posed a challenge for his young government.

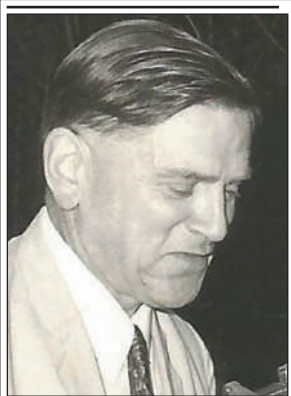
From the Pages of History - MT 71 Years Ago

7th Year No 317

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 23 September, 1960

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



Peter Ibbotson

A Development Board

Private enterprise in Mauritius lacks initiative — it's "private unenterprise." The only alternative is for a Government Development Board to be set up

Last week, I suggested that the economy of Mauritius needed diversification if the national income was to be maintained. I also suggested that a very real help to such diversification would be the setting up of a Development Board with certain statutory duties: to stimulate, facilitate, and undertake the development of industry and of agricultural undertakings or projects not already sufficiently well established (including the tourist hotel industry). The main objectives of such a Development Board would be to increase employment prospects within Mauritius and to improve the external balance of trade by expanding the production of locally made goods and foods. In the initial stages, three lines of approach would appear to be indicated: expansion of existing local industries, encouragement of new local industries, and stimulation of investment from overseas.

Economic development requires the best possible use of the three factors of production — labour, raw materials, and finance. In Mauritius, there is a surplus supply of (mostly low-grade) unskilled labour, a paucity of raw materials except clay and coral sand (which could, in certain circumstances, be used as the raw materials for a cement industry), but a good supply of agricultural land, and a considerable amount of capital investment concentrated mainly in the mono-crop sugar. That means Mauritius exhibits all the phenomena of a plantation economy. The absence of minerals has prevented the building up of a manufacturing industry, and the price of land has so soared as to make any considerable expansion into crops other than cane impracticable (without fully subsidised agriculture). Cane alone employs a large labour force, besides being suited to local conditions and yielding a high return per arpent. In any case, historical accident made Mauritius a producer of basic raw material to be exported to the colonial power in exchange for consumer goods and capital equipment. In other words, the philosophy of colonialism in the nineteenth century exploited Mauritius, and the present-day economy is an unhappy hangover from those days.

The small secondary industries which have grown up have done so in spite of the economic system, not because of it. To manufacture a local product to replace the imported article cut directly at the interest of the importer, who had previously drawn his commission on importing a branded product with an assured sale and was now asked to handle a local product of unproved quality and problematical demand. Nonetheless, vested interests of importers must not be allowed to stand in the way of economic development. The whole is greater than the part; the economic well-being of Mauritius is more important than the private profit of a few importers. How can the economic position be improved? Professor Arthur Lewis, whose advice has often been sought in and by colonial territories, says that if there are metallic ores, then try and develop heavy industry. Otherwise, such development is impossible except uneco-

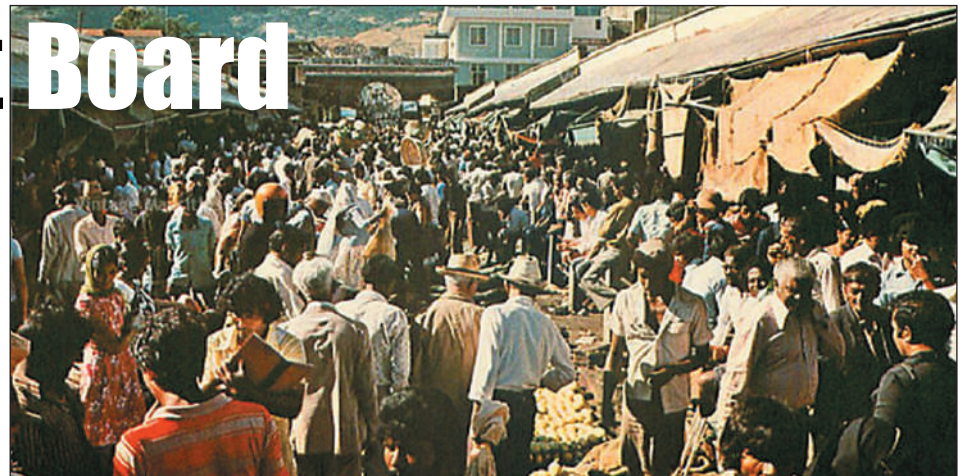
nomically. Alternatively, try and develop secondary industries based on processing any raw materials or natural produce found locally; or try and produce consumer goods, relying on a plentiful supply of local hand labour to outweigh the cost of importing the raw materials in whole or in part. Any type of industry could be encouraged which can absorb a high percentage of labour cost in the finished article, or in which the products are very bulky and so incur heavy freight charges in relation to total value.

The attack on the balance of payments can be two-pronged. Local or imported raw materials can be fabricated and exported in order to earn revenue; or the products can be sold locally (even if made from imported raw materials) in order to reduce import costs. (Clearly, raw materials would cost less than manufactured goods so that the balance of payments, put in very simplified terms, would be reduced by at least the amount of the labour cost in the manufactured imports.) Ideally, the effort should be directed at building up an export industry; but the second prong of the attack should not be neglected, provided that the locally-made product is at least as good as the imported product and costs less rather than more.

It has been established in the Caribbean that industry which is highly capitalised needs fewer workers but pays higher wages per worker. Low capitalisation is concomitant with large working staffs but lower wages per worker. Thus, a soft drinks factory employing 50 workers had a capital cost of £70,000 — that is, capitalisation of £1,400 per worker. Against this, a mixed citrus and banana plantation employing 200 workers had a capital cost of £74,000 (capitalisation of £370 per worker) and paid average annual wages of only £93 per worker. A raw sugar factory would call for capitalisation of £8,500 per worker, with correspondingly higher wages per worker.

A cement factory in Mauritius would need high initial capitalisation per worker, and the wages would therefore tend to be high. If there is continued disinclination to utilise the existing clay and coral sand (plus bagasse ash) for cement manufacture, then the local clay could well be used to manufacture hollow clay blocks and other domestic building products. Coral sand could have a building use; certainly, coral block can be utilised in certain types of constructional and foundation work. Fishing, like the fishing industry of many another colony (e.g., Barbados, Fiji, Seychelles), is at present under-capitalised and under-organised. Has every effort been made to utilise sugar by-products in the most efficient manner possible?

And, given efficient production and distribution, there is no reason why market gardening and fruit farming should not be so developed that import of vegetables and fruit could virtually cease. Market gardening is essentially a small man's business, but the actual marketing of fruit and vegetables calls for a marketing cooperative or a marketing board (the one arising from the growers' own initiative, the other from government sponsoring). If the yield of sugar per arpent continues to increase, there is every reason to believe that the export quotas under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement



Port-Louis Central-Market in the early 1960s. Pic- Vintage Mauritius

could be met from the estates; thus, the land at present farmed by the small planters and *métayers* could be released from sugar and turned over to market gardening — unless the small planters and *métayers* grew sugar under an internal quota system, so that some of the estate lands became free for market gardening.

A Development Board could assist all such undertakings; it could also assist the establishment of secondary manufacturing plants relying on imported raw materials. Barbados and Malta, which are like Mauritius in that they are small, overcrowded islands, have each established a Development Board in the recent past. In its first year of operation, the Barbados Board provided capital for a new printing works, mechanisation of a limestone quarry, establishment of a frozen fish processing plant, mechanisation of a furniture works, the buying of a new packaging plant for a confectionery works (confectionery ought to be made in Mauritius), set up a shoe factory, and expansion of a plant for the manufacture of acetylene gas. In later months, the Board has materially assisted the development of the tourist hotel industry.

In Malta, the Aids to Industry Board has launched a drive in the last six months to attract new industries; new factories at low rentals, tax concessions, and grants are among the inducements to set up in Malta. Nine firms are already going ahead; they include a cotton mill to employ 500 and a car assembly plant to employ 250. Another eleven applications are under consideration by the Aids to Industry Board, including projects varying from plastics, clothing and knitwear to the propagation of plant cuttings. Reviewing the success of the Board's campaign recently, *The Times* said that the great attraction of the island to industrialists was presumably "a source of abundant and relatively cheap labour."

Admittedly, Malta is near expanding markets in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, while Barbados can catch the American market, and Mauritius is more remote. But Hong Kong is far from the markets to which it exports great quantities of clothing, and Japan can compete with the European market in Europe itself. There is no reason why Mauritius cannot compete on the world market despite its comparative remoteness from centres of population; and development of the tourist industry can be aimed at capturing some of the East, South, or Central African tourists.

But private enterprise in Mauritius seems to lack initiative; in fact, it is rather private unenterprise! Given that lack of energy and initiative, the only alternative is for a Government Development Board to be set up, charged with the statutory duties outlined at the beginning of this article. And it should be set up under the managership of an energetic person who realises the importance and vital urgency of economic development and diversification in Mauritius.

“Simply being a ‘sympathiser’ of a previous government is not a legal ground for dismissal”

‘The government must provide evidence of the alleged misconduct or sabotage’



Cont. from page 4

In Guyana, there is an Integrity Commission Act that makes it a legal offence to disobey the Civil Servants' Code of Conduct. Such an act in

Mauritius would be a significant step toward strengthening public accountability and fighting corruption by clearly defining misconduct as an offence and establishing an independent body to enforce ethical standards.

*** What are the legal limits on the government's power to “clean up” the civil service?**

The government cannot clean up the civil service wholesale. The work of the State must continue irrespective of the political allegiance of civil servants. Recently, the Head of the Civil Service, Mr C. Seeballuck, reminded all civil servants of their obligations and duties. This is a good move.

However, he should go further by holding regular meetings with civil servants in each ministry to personally reinforce the Code of Ethics. Crucially, every civil servant must be provided with a copy of the Code. Furthermore, the Permanent

Secretary of each ministry must be held accountable for ensuring their officials consistently maintain professional and ethical standards.

*** Could a civil servant who is disciplined or fired on these grounds successfully sue the government for wrongful termination? What would be the legal basis for their claim?**

A civil servant may apply to the Supreme Court for a judicial review. Such applications are, however, rarely successful. The Court will not interfere with findings of fact made by the original decision-maker. Instead, the Court's role is to ensure that the decision-making process itself is not flawed — specifically, by determining whether the proper procedure was followed and the rights of the civil servant were respected.

*** Besides formal disciplinary action, are there any other legal tools or mechanisms the government could use to address this issue? For example, can an official be reassigned or transferred against their will?**

Yes. The Head of the Civil Service (or the competent appointing authority) generally holds the legal power to transfer or reassign a civil servant without their consent. This mechanism is a common administrative tool and is a valid legal means to address various issues, including operational necessity, professional development, and even internal friction.

LEX

World News

Alibaba makes superintelligence push



Alibaba unveiled plans to ramp up AI spending past its previous target of \$50 billion, sending its shares soaring on Wednesday. The Chinese tech giant joins other global firms in pledging eye-watering sums toward AI develop-

ment, aimed at supercharging advancements and providing enough power to meet demand. The AI drive by Alibaba and peers like Baidu could reignite foreign investor interest in the sector after years of retreat from China, Bloomberg wrote.

In a rare turn for Chinese tech, Alibaba is leaning heavily into superintelligence — a hypothetical AI system surpassing human intellect — mirroring efforts by US firms like OpenAI and Meta. It indicated “a remarkable departure from the cautious, instrumentalist rhetoric that has dominated Chinese tech discourse,” one China tech commentator wrote.

The benefits of hormone therapy

Science is increasingly suggesting that hormone replacement therapy could have neuropsychological benefits. A review of 53 studies found that women who started HRT within five years of menopause were less likely to go on to develop Alzheimer's disease, while starting it later was associated with an increased risk, New Scientist reported. Sex hormones could “be

mental health drugs,” The Economist reported earlier this year, citing evidence that suggests HRT could ease anxiety and depression in patients. The area has been dominated by poor science: In the early 2000s, research suggested HRT could cause breast cancer, but reanalysis of the data showed the risk was overstated, a 2022 New Scientist piece noted.

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Of Pensions and the Perils of Longevity

☞ Cont. from page 13

Yet, I grant you, you make a strong, irritatingly logical case for focusing limited resources on the truly needy. It is a terrifying paradox: The just principle of universality appears to be the ultimate engine of injustice for the future. I understand the complexity now, Socrates. Justice in the public sphere is not merely a simple, abstract transaction of debt and due, but a continuous, high-stakes calculation of intergenerational equity, fiscal necessity, and the fragile restoration of public faith.

(Cephalus suddenly brightens, a mischievous, politically charged glint in his eye.)

Cephalus (Cont.): I think we should therefore seriously think of campaigning to retire our politicians at 65 years — in line with what they are themselves proposing to the people! If they decree that sustained, difficult labour for the masses must extend to sixty-five for the good of the nation, then should not the sustained, difficult *management* of the nation require the same standard? Wouldn't that, Socrates, amount to true fairness? Or perhaps even poetic justice?

Socrates: (Socrates raises an eyebrow, a slow, knowing smile spreading across his face.)

Socrates: Ah, Cephalus! You move from existential dread to revolutionary proposal with the agility of a young Olympic runner! Your idea is



indeed perfectly symmetrical, which appeals deeply to the mathematical purity of Justice. But tell me: If we retire our politicians precisely when they have finally mastered the labyrinthine arts of governance — just as they learn where all the secret off-shore accounts and budgetary black holes are hidden — would that not simply be handing the keys of the State over to a fresh crop of expensive, inexperienced enthusiasts? We might achieve fairness, yes, but perhaps at the expense of competence! Is the State better served by an experienced rogue or an idealistic amateur? It is a fascinating new dilemma.

Cephalus: (Sighing, the revolutionary fire dying down a little) An experienced rogue, you say? Perhaps you have a point. The sheer time it takes for a politician to become truly effective at profligacy is in itself a form of arduous labour. Very well, Socrates. I shall not start the "Retire the Rulers" movement today. My back simply isn't up to composing another protest sign.

Socrates: Go in peace then, my dear friend. And may the gods grant that those who rule — whether young and enthusiastic or old and experienced — possess the unique wisdom to balance the nation's books without entirely forgetting the human dignity and the well-deserved nap that those very numbers represent.

(Socrates watches Cephalus slowly and deliberately depart, before turning his attention to a small, discarded government financial statement. He shakes his head, not at the numbers, but at the sheer, tragicomic complexity of modern ethics.)

Aviation Industry

SSR International Airport wins environmental award at ACI Africa Conference



Environment & Sustainable Development Awards 2025: Emanuel Chavez (President, ACI Africa), Lormus Bundhoo (CEO, AML-ATOL), and Ali Tounsi (Secretary General, ACI Africa)

The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) International Airport in Mauritius has significantly boosted its profile in the continental aviation sector, securing a key leadership position and earning major recognition for its sustainability efforts at the 34th Airports Council International (ACI) Africa General Assembly and Conference. The event, held last week in Lusaka, Zambia, convened African aviation leaders and experts to discuss strategic growth and long-term sustainability challenges.

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), the operator of SSR International Airport, achieved a significant victory with the election of its CEO, Mr Lormus Bundhoo, to the ACI Africa Board of Directors. Mr Bundhoo will serve a three-year term (2026–2028). This election is a clear testament to the confidence placed by regional peers in the expertise of Mauritius's airport. It solidifies the airport's increasing role as an influential and strategic player in African airport development.

Mr Bundhoo, who is the CEO of AML-ATOL, also distinguished himself as a participant in a high-level panel titled "Perspectives

on Airport Growth Strategies in Africa."

SSR International Airport was selected to be part of this exclusive panel — an honour given to only a handful of operators from the more than fifty participating organisations in the African region. The panel served as a vital platform for exchanging best practices and necessary guidance to foster sustainable growth and attract new investments across the continent. Mr Bundhoo's contribution was particularly praised for articulating the strategic vision of AML-ATOL. He highlighted the critical ability of airports to successfully combine performance, innovation, and sustainability in the current rapidly evolving operating environment.

AML's dedication to environmental stewardship was officially recognized at the Environment & Sustainable Development (ESD) Awards 2025 ceremony held during the conference.

The airport's initiatives in favour of recycling, energy efficiency, and the reduction of its carbon footprint were celebrated. This award solidifies SSR International Airport's reputation as a regional model for sustainable management.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius 22 November – 21 December

Exciting news or travel plans brighten your week and broaden your perspective. Learning opportunities help advance a career goal. Keep all communications clear to avoid misunderstandings.

Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 11, 19, 27, 35

Capricorn 22 December – 19 January

Finances begin to stabilize as you review budgets or investments with discipline. Your responsible approach attracts recognition from those in authority.

Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 16, 23, 30, 38

Aquarius 20 January – 18 February

Personal goals gain fresh momentum, encouraging you to take the lead on key projects. Relationships require a careful balance of freedom and commitment. Express your ideas with confidence.

Lucky numbers: 1, 9, 15, 21, 28, 37

Pisces 19 February – 20 March

Inner reflection guides you toward wise choices and

emotional clarity. Take time to rest and recharge before new ventures begin. A private conversation brings valuable insight and renewed peace.

Lucky numbers: 3, 10, 17, 25, 31, 39

Aries 21 March – 19 April

This week brings a powerful surge of confidence that helps you take bold steps in career or financial matters. Relationships benefit from open and honest dialogue. Stay patient with delays and avoid rushing decisions — your persistence will pay off.

Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 12, 18, 27, 35

Taurus 20 April – 20 May

Practical planning leads to steady progress in both work and personal life. A family matter may require your calm and reliable approach. Focus on long-term gains instead of quick wins and trust your inner sense of timing.

Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 16, 20, 29, 36

Gemini 21 May – 20 June

New ideas spark growth in work, study, or creative projects. Networking opens surprising opportunities that could shift your direction. Avoid scattering energy by prioritizing tasks and staying grounded.

Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 14, 19, 25, 33

Cancer 21 June – 22 July

Finances and shared resources come into focus, making this a good time to review agreements or investments. A partner's support strengthens your plans. Balance effort with rest to keep emotions calm and clear.

Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 17, 23, 30, 38

Leo 23 July – 22 August

Partnerships shine in both personal and professional areas. Compromise brings success and mutual respect. A creative project gains attention midweek, giving you a chance to showcase your talents.

Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 13, 21, 28, 37

Virgo 23 August – 22 September

Health and daily routines improve with small but consistent changes. A work project demands careful analysis — trust your eye for detail and do not rush the final touches. Efficiency brings rewards.

Lucky numbers: 3, 10, 15, 22, 31, 39

Libra 23 September – 22 October

Romance and self-expression flourish, making this a great time for love and artistic pursuits. A social event opens doors to valuable friendships or alliances. Balance fun with responsibilities to avoid stress.

Lucky numbers: 5, 12, 18, 24, 32, 40

Scorpio 23 October – 21 November

Home and family matters take priority, with opportunities for renovations, repairs, or emotional healing. A fresh start is possible if you protect your privacy and focus on strengthening inner security.

Lucky numbers: 2, 9, 14, 20, 29, 36

Volcano erased an island's plants: DNA reveals how life starts over



Scientists from Tokyo Metropolitan University have unlocked new insights into how life takes root in freshly devastated landscapes.

By tracing the genetic lineage of a now-extinct plant population on Nishinoshima, a volcanic island repeatedly wiped clean by eruptions, researchers examined DNA from common purslane collected just before a 2019 eruption. They found that the plants were closely linked to populations from nearby Chichijima Island, but also bore unique

traits caused by a “founder’s effect,” where a handful of seeds carried by wind or birds shaped the entire gene pool.

The study offers a rare, time-lapse look at colonization dynamics in isolated ecosystems, revealing how chance events, seed dispersal, and volcanic resets interact to guide early plant evolution. Understanding this process not only enriches ecology but could help inform restoration projects on other fragile islands and volcanic zones.

Guava’s secret molecule could fight liver cancer

Chemists at the University of Delaware have made an important breakthrough in the fight against liver cancer by developing a cost-effective way to synthesize complex molecules found in guava plants.

Using advanced techniques in natural product total synthesis, Professor William Chain’s team designed a scalable pathway to reproduce compounds that target hepatocellular carcinoma, one of the deadliest forms of cancer worldwide. Their research, published in *Angewandte Chemie*, highlights how plant-derived chemicals can be turned into affordable treatments when sophisticated laboratory methods make them accessible at scale.

With more than 42,000 U.S. diagnoses projected for 2025 and survival rates below 15% for



advanced cases, this innovation may spur further global collaborations to transform natural compounds into life-saving therapies. Future work aims to optimize these molecules for clinical testing, potentially opening new horizons for precision cancer medicine.

Sleepless nights may raise dementia risk by 40%, Mayo Clinic reveals

Chronic insomnia could accelerate brain aging and significantly heighten dementia risk, according to new research from the Mayo Clinic published in *Neurology*. Following over 2,700 older adults for an average of 5.6 years, scientists discovered that participants reporting persistent difficulty falling or staying asleep experienced

faster declines in memory, problem-solving, and reasoning skills. Brain imaging showed more amyloid plaques and white matter damage among poor sleepers, hallmarks of Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

The study underscores how restorative sleep is not just a luxury but a cornerstone of cognitive health. Researchers recommend that anyone struggling with long-term sleep problems seek professional help, as therapies ranging from behavioral strategies to targeted medications could help preserve brain function and quality of life as people age.



Why do we dream?

Why scientists still can’t agree what dreams are for.

Think about it: how easy do you find it to remember your dreams every night? Not everyone can do this. If we can’t remember our dreams, we can’t study them.

Some ancient cultures like the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans believed that dreams were important messages from the gods. But even they could not agree about exactly where dreams come from, why they happen or what they might mean.

In the last 100 years, many scientists across the world have learned a lot about the science of dreaming. But even still, there is disagreement.

Some scientists think dreams have an important job, others do not. I’ll explain some of the most well-known ideas.

Around the year 1900, an Austrian psychologist (someone who studies how we think) called Sigmund Freud published an influential book called *The Interpretation of Dreams*. In it, Freud wrote about his experiences of talking to other people about their dreams (and his own dreams too).

He believed that dreams came from wishes or desires buried deep in the mind. He thought these wishes were usually transformed in some way to disguise them in the dream, as they could be quite scary or rude.

Freud would help people to work out what these hidden wishes and desires

might be, so they could address them in waking life. He also wrote that dreams are a part of the process that helps keep us asleep, that dreams protect sleep from disturbances. And there is some evidence to support that idea.

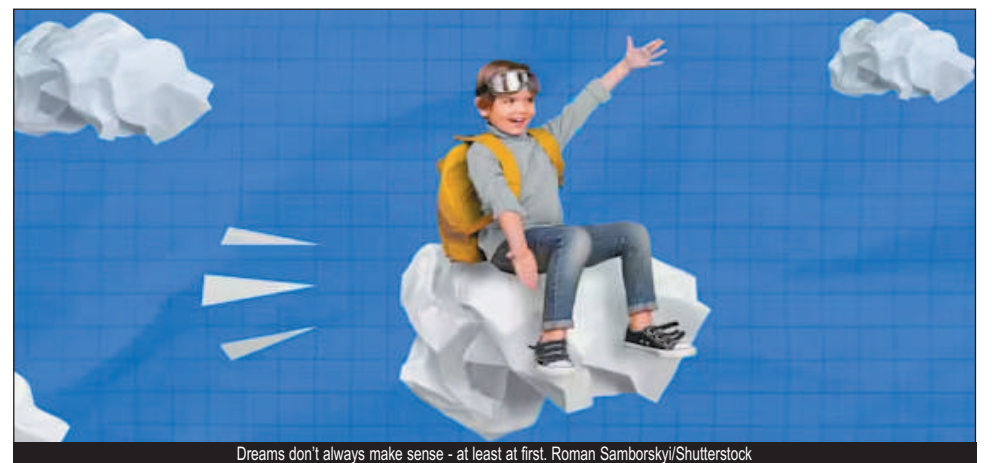
Freud’s ideas had a great influence on thinking about dreams for many decades. But since Freud’s time, we have learned much more about how sleep works. And that has inspired new ideas about what dreams might (or might not) be doing.

In the 1970s, scientists like Allan Hobson started to reject Freud’s ideas about dreams, and suggested that perhaps dreams don’t do anything important. In Hobson’s view, dreams had no hidden meaning or function to them.

He thought they might just be random side-effects of chemical processes going on in the brain during sleep. It is one good explanation for why dreams often seem so strange. Hobson thought little bits and pieces of knowledge and imagination get activated and merge together meaninglessly.

But other scientists since then have noticed that not all dreams are strange. Many of them are in fact quite ordinary, and some have content that is important to the dreamer.

Perhaps you have dreamed about something that happened in your life recently, like a fun day out with your school friends or family, or maybe you



Dreams don't always make sense - at least at first. Roman Samborski/Shutterstock

dreamed you were in a film you watched the day before.

We often dream about things that had a significant effect on us in waking life, or are related to worries we carry with us. And this I think is the most important thing we need to realise: our dreams are connected with our waking lives.

Some scientists now believe that dreaming about these things might help us to process them, or give us new ideas about what to do in our waking life. This is still difficult to test though. Whether or not this is what dreams are really doing by themselves, you have the choice to look at your dreams and decide what new ideas you can draw from them.

Another interesting idea is that dreams evolved long ago to help us survive threats. A lot of people seem to report dreaming about being chased by monsters or dangerous animals. Maybe you have too.

Some scientists see this as evidence for a threat simulation system that emerged back when we were living in caves and had to hunt for our food while trying not to be hunted ourselves.

If we survive a threatening encounter in a dream, that could better prepare us for surviving real threats when we are awake. The problem with this idea though is that it is too dangerous to test properly.

Even if someone dreams about fighting a tiger, for example, scientists cannot then lock people in a cage with a real tiger and see how well they survive!

That’s one of the exciting things about being a scientist. There are still lots of questions to answer and we’re learning new things all the time.

Anthony Bloxham

Lecturer in Psychology,
Nottingham Trent University



Hospitality Hell: When "Pool Privileges" Meet Decency

One of the ongoing headaches in my little corner of hospitality hell is -- our pool. It's lovely. So lovely that guests say, "Let's book a room and spend the weekend swimming!" Which is fine. Until they add, "...and invite fifty friends over!" Which is *not* fine.

Today's a full house. Premium rates -- \$340 instead of our usual \$109. I checked in a family of four. Not long after, I checked the pool and see 14 people lounging around. A quick peek at the cameras confirms it: they all piled into that one room.

Standard protocol: call the room (no answer), find them at the pool, inform them the extras aren't allowed to use the facilities. Cue the predictable excuses:

- * "No one told me!"
- * "Someone said it was fine."
- * "We always do this."
- * "You're picking on us."

But this time? The woman looks at me and says, "Can I get another room? Would that work?"

"Uh... yes. Yes, it would."

She agrees. As I'm entering the system, she and her husband come down. I brace for a fight. But instead, the husband says, "Can we get the new room near our first one?" I managed to make it work -- two doors down.

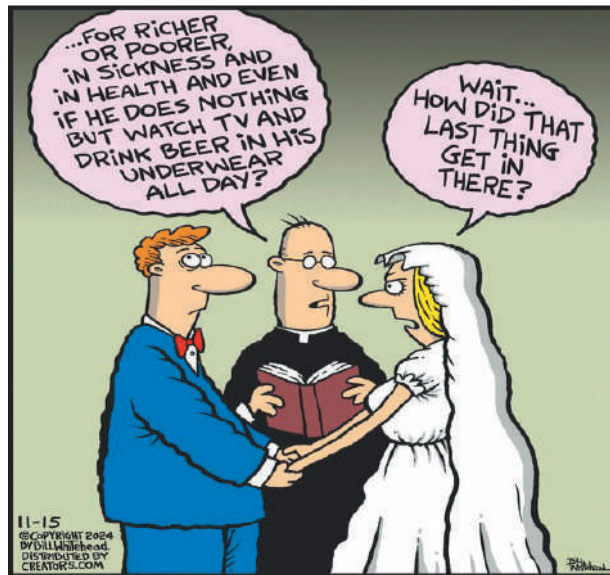
She hands me her card and asked for the rate. I tell her: "\$125."

She blinks. "Why is it less than the first room?"

I answer, "Two reasons: One, that's our rate tonight. Two, I gave you a discount because -- exact words -- you aren't acting like an asshole about this."

They spent the evening happily swimming. No drama. No yelling. A rare, decent guest interaction.

Now, I know come Monday I'll probably find the room trashed, cops called, and breakfast pillaged -- but for *one night*, I got to reward good behavior instead of battling the usual nonsense.



* * *

The Great Hotel Bathroom Disaster

So my brother's wedding was coming up, and let's just say... my stomach and I have never been on the same team. Pretty much anything I eat sends me running. No big deal, I thought -- just time my bathroom breaks well, right?

Then my sister and brother-in-law showed up two days early to stay over. We've got one bathroom. Challenge accepted.

I start tiptoeing my way around bathroom timing -- early morning, late night, stealth mode. All manageable... until the day before the wedding. I'm running errands, stressed, and each time I come home, nature calls. But every time I try to use the bathroom, I get interrupted. Loud voices, knocking, text messages -- the whole shebang.

I like a quiet "battlefield," if you know what I mean. I can't go when there's noise. It's psychological warfare.

Finally, around 4 a.m., I'm desperate. My stomach is bubbling like a science experiment. But the guest is locked in the bathroom -- and his room -- and I've got no key. I panic, grab my car keys, and drive to the nearest gas station.

"Sir, I need to use your restroom or it's gonna be a disaster," I tell the clerk. He lets me in. The door opens... and out runs a roach. I look up -- five more on the walls. At that point, I had a decision: brave the roaches or find another place. I chose life.

Ten minutes later (okay, four -- I was speeding), I arrived at a Marriott. I walk in confidently like I belong there, head straight to the lobby restroom, and finally... relief.

Except... the toilet won't flush.

I try for 20 minutes. Nothing. I do what any panicked person would do -- I vanish.

The next day? Wedding goes great. Laughs, dancing, family in town. We decided to hang out in a hotel lobby. My friend drives... to the *same* Marriott.

I'm sweating but try to stay cool. Then the hotel clerk walks over, looks me dead in the eye, and says something like, "Sir... we remember you. You caused a plumbing issue, and our cleaning team had quite the mess."

Cue me turning beet red while everyone else bursts out laughing. And just like that, I became the *legend* no one will let me forget.

* * *

The Cannibals in Corporate Culture

Recently, a large corporation hired several cannibals

to increase their diversity.

"You are all part of our team now," said the Human Resources rep during the welcoming briefing. "You'll get all the usual benefits, and you can go to the cafeteria for something to eat -- but please, don't eat any employees."

The cannibals promised they wouldn't.

Four weeks later, their boss said, "You're all working very hard, and I'm very satisfied with your performance. In fact, the company's results have noticeably improved. However, one of our secretaries has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to her?"

The cannibals all shook their heads. "No," they replied.

After the boss left, the leader of the cannibals turned to the others.

"Which one of you idiots ate the secretary?" he demanded.

A hand rose hesitantly.

"You fool!" the leader snapped. "For four weeks we've been eating managers, and nobody noticed a thing. But you had to go and eat someone who actually does something!"

* * *

Holiday Hijinks and Restaurant Humour

Two priests on holiday in Hawaii decided to take a real break by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed, they headed to a shop and bought some really outrageous shorts, sandals, sunglasses, and other tourist gear.

The next morning, they went to the beach dressed in their new outfits. Relaxing on beach chairs and enjoying a drink, the sunshine, and the scenery, they noticed a gorgeous blonde in a tiny bikini walking straight toward them. They couldn't help but stare. As she passed, she smiled and said, "Good morning, Father," nodding and greeting each one individually before walking on. Both priests were stunned. How in the world did she recognize them as priests?

The next day, determined to be even less recognizable, they went back to the shop and bought even more outrageous outfits -- so loud you could hear them before you saw them. Again, they settled on the beach to enjoy the sunshine. After a while, the same gorgeous blonde, this time in a string bikini, came walking toward them. They were glad for their sunglasses, because their eyes were about to pop out of their heads. Once again, she greeted them individually: "Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father," and started to walk away.

One of the priests couldn't stand it anymore. He called out, "Just a minute, young lady. Yes, we are priests, and proud of it, but I have to know -- how in the world did you know?"

The blonde smiled and said, "Oh, Father, don't you recognize me? I'm Sister Mary."



When Parents Grow Old

They may move a little slower.
They might forget what they just said.
They might tell the same story again and again.

But don't stop them.
Let them talk. Let them share. Let them feel heard.

Because once upon a time, they listened to your every word.
Even when it made no sense.
Even when you couldn't get the words out.

They gave you their time, their patience, their energy, without asking for anything in return.
Now it's your turn.

Let them hold on to their old things.
The faded chair. The chipped mug. The quiet routines.
They may look like clutter to you, but to them, it's life. A life they built. A life they still want to feel close to.



Let them enjoy time with old friends.
The familiar laughs. The old stories. The comfort of people who've known them for decades.
They once made space for your world. Now let them have theirs.

Let them light up around their grandchildren.
In those little faces, they see echoes of you, and a

reason to smile all over again.

Let them be wrong sometimes.
You made mistakes too.
And they never made you feel ashamed.

Let them enjoy their days, even if they don't look the way you think they should.
They spent years making sacrifices, putting your needs before their own.
Now let them rest. Let them choose.

Let them live this last stretch with dignity, with love, with you.
Give them your hand.
They once held yours so gently, so tightly, when you were learning to walk.

Now they're the ones who need steady ground.
So hold them.
The way they once held you.
Without question. Without condition. With all the love in the world.

Stray Thoughts Kafka to Milena

Dear Milena,
Iwish the world were ending tomorrow. Then I could take the next train, arrive at your doorstep in Vienna, and say: "Come with me, Milena. We are going to love each other without scruples, fear, or restraint. Because the world is ending tomorrow."
Perhaps we don't love unreasonably because we think we have time. But what if we don't? Or what if time, as we know it, is irrelevant? Ah, if only the world were ending tomorrow. We could help each other very much.

Franz Kafka

Wisdom from Africa

A child who is not taught by his mother will be taught by the world. Meaning: Lack of home training results in harsh life lessons.
The mouth does not eat if the legs do not walk. Meaning: Hard work is necessary for survival.
When the roots of a tree begin to decay, it spreads death to the branches. Meaning: Problems at the foundation affect the whole.
You cannot build a house for last year's summer. Meaning: You cannot fix the past; focus on the present.
The one who fetches the firewood infested with ants invites the lizard to dinner. Meaning: Your choices invite your consequences.
Wisdom does not come overnight. Meaning: It takes time to grow wise.
A man who counts his money by candlelight may be poor in the morning. Meaning: Impatience or secrecy may lead to loss.
Even the best dancer on the stage must retire. Meaning: No one stays on top forever.
You cannot hide smoke if there is fire. Meaning: Truth will eventually come out.
If the moon is not full, the stars shine more brightly. Meaning: Absence of leaders reveals others' potential.

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That's Life

The Quiet of Growing Up

When children are small, a house is never still.

Tiny shoes by the door. Laughter echoing down the hallway. Arguments over homework. Slamming doors. Midnight snacks were stolen from the kitchen.
Parents -- though exhausted -- carry it all with full hearts.
Then, slowly, the noise changes.
The shoes are replaced with keys. The hallway grows quiet. The midnight fridge raids stop.
One day, children pack their bags -- not for school, not for camp -- but for life. They leave to build their own dreams, families, and homes.
That's the measure of love: raising children strong enough to fly on their own.
Still... it leaves a silence. Not of failure, but of fullness.
Parents smile at their children's success, cheer from afar, yet carry a quiet ache -- a missing piece that never really fills. Because no matter how old children get, they will always be:

- The little one who once needed help tying shoes.
- The teenager who slammed the door but returned for a hug.



- The dreamer who whispered, "Watch me, Mom. Watch me, Dad."

Parents measure time not by clocks, but by presence. And when that presence grows less, the house feels bigger, and the silence heavier.
So, if you still have the chance:
Call home. Visit. Sit and listen, even if the stories are familiar.
For parents, happiness is not in gifts or titles. It is simply this:
Knowing their children are safe. Knowing they are loved.
And, every once in a while, hearing their laughter echo down the hallway again.

Sacred Divine Feminine

Life Lessons & Personal Growth

The Power of Patience and Knowing Your Worth

Save your breath.
Not every person you meet needs to know every little thing about you.
You don't have to remove the bandage around your heart and explain why you carry this pain every day.
You don't have to tell anyone why the clouds in your room hide the sun on your worst days.
You don't have to explain why your pillow used to wipe away your tears when nobody else would.
You don't owe a single person anything, and you don't have to sell your-

self short by revealing your secrets just to be criticized for your past.
Put your secrets and past experiences somewhere safe and hide the key until you're ready to share it.
Save your breath and wait, because I promise you... one day, someone will come into your life. It will feel like you've known them since the beginning of time, and when they gently grasp the key you've held locked away all these years, you will take a deep sigh of relief and realize what it feels like to finally be home.

Cody Bret

ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST

Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are tired as opposed to well-rested. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse, and regret.

Don Miguel Ruiz,
The Four Agreements

Men's Health

14 Common Cancers and How to Spot Them

Most people are aware of someone in their family who has been diagnosed with cancer. The sooner doctors find cancer, the sooner treatment can begin. Therefore, it is helpful to be familiar with the most common types of cancer and their warning signs.

There are more than 100 types of cancer, and some are more common than others, depending on factors such as age, gender, and racial or ethnic group. For instance, prostate cancer exclusively affects men, while breast cancer is significantly more prevalent in women. It is important to remember that many cancers do not have symptoms in their early stages. If you do experience symptoms, they could also be indicators of other conditions, so you will need to undergo tests to determine the cause.

Here are 14 of the most common types of cancer and their potential warning signs.

1. Non-melanoma Skin Cancer

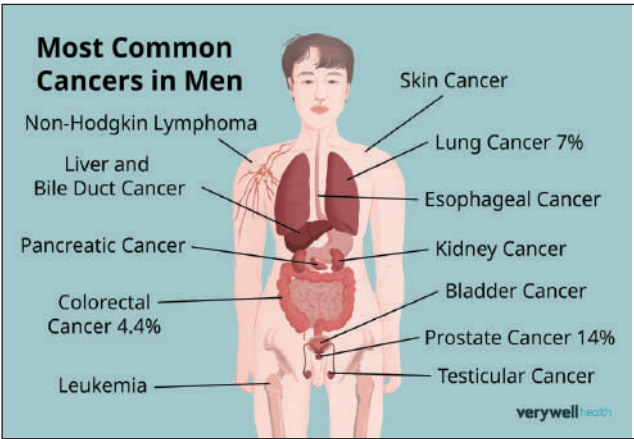
Non-melanoma skin cancer, which includes basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, is the most common form of cancer, affecting over a million Americans annually. The exact number of new cases each year is not clear because doctors can often treat it in their offices without reporting the cases to cancer registries.

- **Basal Cell Carcinoma Signs:** Sores that do not heal, or heal and then reappear; raised, scaly red patches; small, shiny, smooth lumps that are pink, red, or white; pale, flat areas of skin that look like scars; sores or growths that bleed, itch, or have small blood vessels on their surface; pink growths with raised edges or indents. Basal cell carcinoma is most likely to develop on the head, face, neck, and torso.
- **Squamous Cell Carcinoma Signs:** Scaly, red patches with uneven borders; wart-like growths; sores that bleed easily, do not heal, or form a crust that does not go away; growths that are itchy, irritated, or painful. This type of cancer usually forms on areas of the body that have been repeatedly exposed to sunlight, such as the face.

2. Breast Cancer

- **Signs:** A new lump or mass in the breast, armpit, or around the collarbone (most lumps are painless, but some may be painful or tender); swelling, irritation, or dimpling of the skin on the breast (which may cause the skin to look like an orange peel); thickening, redness, or scaliness of the skin on the breast; pain in the breast or nipple; nipple discharge that is not breast milk; nipple retraction (a nipple that is "dented" or turned inward).

3. Lung Cancer



- **Signs:** A persistent cough that does not go away and worsens over time; coughing up blood; wheezing or shortness of breath; constant chest pain; bone pain; hoarseness or other voice changes; regular lung infections; unexplained weight loss; loss of appetite; frequent headaches; blood clots. Lung cancer often does not cause symptoms until it is in advanced stages because the lungs have few nerve endings.

4. Prostate Cancer

- **Signs:** Problems with urination, such as trouble starting or holding back urination, leaking, interrupted flow of urine, or a sudden uncontrollable urge to urinate; pain or burning sensation during urination; frequent need to urinate, especially at night; difficulty getting or keeping an erection; changes in ejaculation, such as pain or a decrease in the amount of fluid ejaculated; blood in the urine or ejaculation fluid; pain in the lower back, thighs, hips, or pelvic area; pressure or pain in the rectum. Prostate cancer does not typically cause early warning signs.

5. Colon and Rectal Cancers (Colorectal Cancers)

- **Signs:** Unexplained weight loss; weakness and exhaustion; changes in bowel habits (like constipation, diarrhea, or narrow stool) that last for more than a few days; abdominal or gut pain that comes and goes but lasts for more than a few days; pressure in the rectum or abdomen (which might feel like a constant need to have a bowel movement); blood in the stool (which may look dark red or black); rectal bleeding (which may appear as bright red blood on toilet paper).

6. Melanoma

- **Signs:** A mole or mark on the skin that is asymmetrical, with uneven, scalloped, or notched edges; a mole or freckle that has a variety of colors (such as brown, black, white, red, pink, or blue); a mole that is larger than the tip of a pencil eraser; a mole or mark that is growing quickly or has changed color or shape; a mole or mark that is bleeding, itching, or crusting.

7. Bladder Cancer

- **Signs:** Blood in the urine (the first and most

common sign); changes in urination, such as difficulty urinating, a weak urine stream, pain during urination, or being unable to urinate.

8. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

- **Signs:** Enlarged lymph nodes (which may feel like lumps under the skin); unexplained weight loss; constant weakness or fatigue; chills, fever, or night sweats; a swollen abdomen; feeling full after eating only a small amount; shortness of breath or a persistent cough; pain or pressure in the chest; a severe or regular infections; easy bruising or bleeding.

9. Kidney Cancer

- **Signs:** Blood in the urine; pain in one side of the lower back that is not caused by an injury; a lump on one side of the lower back; constant fatigue; low appetite; unexplained weight loss; a persistent fever; anemia.

10. Leukemia

- **Signs:** Fever, chills, or night sweats; exhaustion or weakness; unexplained weight loss; swollen lymph nodes; an enlarged liver or spleen; frequent nose bleeds; easy bleeding or bruising; tiny red spots on the skin called petechiae; bone pain.

11. Pancreatic Cancer

- **Signs:** Unexplained weight loss; pain in the upper abdomen that may radiate to the back; depression; blood clots; developing diabetes; exhaustion or weakness; yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes (jaundice). Pancreatic cancer often does not cause signs until the disease is advanced.

12. Thyroid Cancer

- **Signs:** A lump or swelling in the front of the neck; pain in the front of the neck that may radiate up to the ears; trouble swallowing or breathing; persistent voice changes, like hoarseness; a constant cough.

13. Liver Cancer

- **Signs:** Unexplained weight loss; lack of appetite or feeling very full after eating a small amount; nausea or vomiting; an enlarged liver or spleen; pain in the gut or near the right shoulder blade; a swollen abdomen; unexplained skin itching; yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes (jaundice); abnormal bruising or bleeding; fever; enlarged veins on the belly; lightheadedness or fainting; weakness or confusion; constipation.

14. Endometrial Cancer

Endometrial cancer is a type of uterine cancer that affects the lining of the uterus.

Signs: Abnormal vaginal bleeding, such as bleeding between periods or after menopause; abnormal vaginal discharge; pain or pressure in the pelvic area; unexplained weight loss.

This article is based on information from WebMD and is for informational purposes only. If you notice any of these signs, it is crucial to consult a doctor for proper diagnosis and treatment.

Health Tips

Why NASA Loves Rebounding — And You Might, Too

Looking for a workout that's easy on the joints yet surprisingly effective? According to NASA research, bouncing

on a mini-trampoline — known as "rebounding" — can deliver serious cardio benefits in just ten minutes.

The Science Behind the Bounce

Back in 1980, NASA scientists compared jogging with trampoline jumping. They found that rebounding can be up to 68% more efficient than running, thanks to the way it challenges muscles, bones, and balance while giving the heart a solid workout.

Why Rebounding Wins

- Low impact: The trampoline absorbs shock, making it gentler on knees and hips.
- Big returns: Even short sessions can match or beat a half-hour jog.
- Bonus perks: Improves coordination, lymph flow, and mood — and yes, it's fun!

How to Start Safely

- Pick a sturdy rebounder and clear enough space around it.

- Warm up with gentle bounces, then try jumping jacks, twists, or high knees for about ten minutes.
- Cool down with slow hops and stretches.

Rebounding is perfect for anyone short on time or looking to mix up their fitness routine. Before you know it, those ten minutes of bouncing will fly by — and so might your fitness plateau.

Vikrant Massey on his National Award win alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji

Fresh off his first-ever National Award win for his performance in '12th Fail', actor Vikrant Massey is experiencing a career high. Massey shared the Best Actor National Award with Shah Rukh Khan ('Jawan'), and the celebrations included fellow winner Rani Mukerji.

In an exclusive interview with NDTV's Sikta Deo, Massey reflected on the monumental day.

Sharing the Stage with 'Legends'

When asked about winning alongside two industry titans, Massey shared that both Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji were "genuinely happy" and "really proud" of him. He emphasized that in that moment, he didn't see the icons, but the individuals:

"I just saw a boy from Delhi who dreamt of becoming a successful actor... I was sitting just six feet away from him, and that in itself is proof that he still has it in him to



keep growing and bettering himself. The same applies to Rani ji, she has been working for over 30 years. And then there's me, just 21 years into cinema... So it was truly a moment I will always cherish."

From Pressure to Responsibility

Massey gently corrected the notion that the award brings pressure, reframing the feeling as "responsibility."

He explained that representing 140 crore people through cinema is a privilege that must be carried with care. For him, the award is "only the beginning."

Impact and Upcoming Projects

Massey expressed his hope that '12th Fail' continues to inspire people from all walks of life, affirming that artists are there to entertain, inform, and inspire.

Looking ahead, he has several projects lined up:

- **'White':** A film based on the life of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. They have completed one phase of shooting and plan to release it by the second quarter of next year.
- **'Dostana 2':** Massey revealed he is stepping into new territory with this "full-blown masala entertainer." He is excited to be "dancing on screen after a very long time," doing something he has never done before.

Massey's transition from an acclaimed performer in a realistic drama like '12th Fail' to a commercial entertainer like 'Dostana 2' certainly signals an exciting new phase in his career.

Bollywood Fights Back: Stars Demand Personality Rights Amid Deepfake Surge



India's top Bollywood celebrities are taking a stand to legally shield their identities against commercial misuse and the growing threat of deepfakes. In recent weeks, major figures like director Karan Johar, and actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan have petitioned the Delhi High Court to protect their "personality rights," also known as publicity rights, reports BBC.

These rights grant an individual commercial control over their unique persona, including their name, image, voice, mannerisms, and catchphrases. However, India lacks a dedicated statute for this, forcing judges to rely on common law and judicial precedent — a system experts say is insufficient compared to codified laws in the US and Europe.

This legal fight isn't new. It traces back to a landmark 2002 ruling where singer Daler Mehndi successfully sued over unauthorized dolls made in his likeness. More recently, actor Anil Kapoor sued to protect his voice and the catchphrase "jhakaas," while Jackie Shroff won protection for his image and nicknames.

The Need for Codification

Despite these victories, the reliance on common law presents major challenges. Legal experts argue that codifying personality rights would provide clarity and consistency.

Crucially, it could address the issue of heritability. Currently, Indian courts link personality rights to the constitutional right to privacy, which is deemed to die with the individual. This was highlighted in 2021 when the father of the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput was unable to stop a film based on his son's life, as the court ruled the right to publicity was not heritable.

Codified law could also integrate clauses for compensation and damages, acting as a stronger deterrent than current measures, which can often only stop the material's circulation after reputational and financial harm is already done.

The AI Threat

The urgency for stronger legal safeguards is amplified by technology. With generative AI creating realistic deepfakes and the recent use of a celebrity's voice by a major AI model, laws are struggling to keep up. While some argue that an uncoded system allows for greater judicial interpretation, others insist that the complexity of modern technology demands clear, statutory definitions.



Ultimately, while the courts offer some recourse, experts agree that increased public awareness of these rights and a strong desire by individuals to enforce them remain key to fighting the persistent exploitation of celebrity identities in the digital age.

Former Narcotics Control Bureau Chief Sues Over 'Ba**ds of Bollywood'

Former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) zonal director Sameer Wankhede has filed a defamation suit in the Delhi High Court seeking an injunction and Rs 200 million in damages against the producers of the Netflix series, "Ba**ds of Bollywood". The damages, if awarded, are requested to be donated to the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital.

Wankhede alleges the series was deliberately conceptualized to malign his reputation and negatively portray anti-drug enforcement agencies. The suit names Red Chillies Entertainment Limited, headed by Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, along with Netflix, X, and Google as parties.

The series is co-written and directed by Aryan Khan, Shah Rukh Khan's son, whose 2021 arrest followed Wankhede's raid on the yacht Cordelia in Mumbai. While Wankhede led the initial action, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the NCB later found "several irregularities" in the raid and exonerated Aryan Khan and



five others in 2022. Wankhede himself later faced a probe for allegedly demanding a Rs 250 million bribe from Shah Rukh Khan.

In his plea, Wankhede also pointed to an alleged violation of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, stating the series depicts a character making an obscene gesture after reciting the national slogan 'Satyamev Jayate'. The suit contends that the series "outraged national sentiment" through the use of offensive material.

A Scientific Look at Beauty: The Golden Ratio

The concept of beauty has long been debated, but science offers a framework for understanding what makes a face aesthetically pleasing. According to dermatologist Dr. Madhuri Agarwal, the golden ratio — a mathematical proportion found in nature — is a key benchmark. This ratio, approximately 1.618, suggests that certain facial proportions and symmetry are universally considered attractive.

The Ideal Face

Dr. Agarwal detailed the specific features that align with this scientific ideal:

- **Face Shape:** An oval face with a smooth, slightly convex forehead.
- **Brows:** High, arched, and well-defined.

- **Eyes:** Ideally, almond-shaped.
- **Lips:** Well-defined, with the corners of the mouth aligning with the imaginary lines drawn from the inner corners of the eyes.
- **Pout:** A pout that rests neatly between the two lines of the nose.

Actresses Who Come Close to the Ideal

While beauty icons like Aishwarya Rai and Deepika Padukone are often praised, Dr. Agarwal named a select group of actresses whose features align more closely with the golden ratio.

- **Classic Stars:** Madhubala and Asha Parekh were cited as the "gold standard" of beauty in the past.
- **Contemporary Stars:** Kriti Sanon, Kajol, and Madhuri Dixit were named as modern-day examples who come very close to the scientific ideal.

mbc 1
Vendredi 26 Septembre - 20.25



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SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 26 septembre	05.07 Serial: L'Amour A Mort 08.47 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.13 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.40 Film: Femme Ou Demon 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 15.30 Tele: Living To Love 17.24 Doc: Not About Music 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes - Le Point 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Film: Das Boot 23.47 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 00.32 Le Journal 01.07 Tele: Lying Heart 01.29 Doc: BRGRS	09.39 Serial: Le Mag 10.32 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 11.30 Local: Couleur Marine 12.07 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.00 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 13.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 14.06 Rodrig: Komanter 14.30 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 14.57 Local: Le Challenge 15.16 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 Fashion FX & Lifestyle 22.00 Local: La Sosiete 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.21 Local: En Forme 23.35 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 23.57 Local: Agir Ensemble	08.00 Local: Amrit Vani 08.11 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 10.01 Local: Ramayan 11.36 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: 2G Apartment Starring: Akhil Kotak, Darshiina Barot, Chetan Daiya 15.00 Live: Samachar 16.00 Serial: Mithai 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol 18.57 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Film: Insaaf Cast: Manoj Tiwari, Pawan Singh, Sangeeta Tiwari, K. Khandelwa 23.36 Serial: Mere Sai 00.24 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.48 Mati Ke Mol 01.14 Excerpts From Durga Pooja	06.25 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 07.47 Doc: Saving The Temples 08.32 Doc: International Adoptions 09.18 Doc: Europe Revealed... 11.08 Mag: Eco India 11.34 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 12.57 Doc: Saving The Temples... 13.40 Doc: International Adoptions 14.24 Doc: Our Future Cities 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.04 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.31 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 15.40 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.04 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super... 16.29 D.Anime: The New Adventure 16.52 D.Anime: Kids Songs 16.56 Serial: TheAvatars 17.20 Serial: Prefects 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: Sapne Sajan Ke Cast: Jackie Shroff, Karishma Kapoor, Rahul Roy 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: Sapne Sajan Ke Cast: Jackie Shroff, Karishma Kapoor, Rahul Roy
samedi 27 septembre	03.44 Serial: Heartland 05.12 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.11 Tele: L'Heritiere 06.34 Serial: Columbo 07.47 Serial: Nautilus 08.29 Serial: Elementary 09.11 Serial: Heartland 09.54 Serial: Hawaii 10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.30 Tele: L'Heritiere 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: All The Flowers 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Little (2019) 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: The Shamer's Daughter 21.47 Serial: Nautilus 22.34 Serial: Terra Nostra 23.30 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: Fashion FX & Lifestyle 12.32 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.30 Local: Sur Prise 14.52 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir 16.13 Local: Agri Ensemble 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.28 Rodrig: Coin Zen 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025 21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux 23.34 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: Rocketery 18.10 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 20.05 Local: Desi Beats 21.05 Film: Sif Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Adrija Sinha, Surya Mohan... 23.07 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.33 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 00.29 Local: Desi Beats 01.29 Film: Sif Ek Bandaa Kaafi...	06.00 D.Anime: Giant 08.05 D.Anime: Fireman Sam 08.35 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 08.59 D.Anime: Spacepop 09.16 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 09.56 Mag: Recipes For Kids 11.47 Mag: Eco Africa 13.42 Doc: The Secret Of The Stone 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.09 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.31 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 16.09 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super... 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: Relative Or Foe? 19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.53 Tele: Living To Love 22.26 Film: The Happening 23.58 Doc: Saving Beavers And...	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: Dishoom With: John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez
dimanche 28 septembre	03.37 Tele: Living To Love 05.10 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.12 Tele: L'Heritiere 06.35 Film: The Shamer's Daughter 08.10 Serial: Hawaii 08.55 Film: Little 10.44 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.30 Serial: L'Heritiere 12.34 Film: The Far Country 14.46 Doc: Not About Music 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Ordinary Love 17.52 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince 20.40 Film: Chasing Mavericks 22.31 Serial: Chucky 23.15 Tele: Terra Nostra	09.09 Local: Les Petits Genies 09.30 Local: Kouchou 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Local: Proze Dime 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.30 En Direct De L'Eglise St Francois D'Assise 17.10 Local: Les Petits Genies 17.36 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: Ivresse Mëtisse 22.31 Local: Lakwizinn Gramama 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 Production	08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan 10.33 Serial: Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Lekar Hum Deewana Dil Cast: Armaan Jain, Deeksha Seth, Nikita Dutta 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.29 Local: Puranya Pakwan 15.55 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 16.56 Local: Desi Beats 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 20.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.30 Crime Patrol 22.15 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaille... 23.20 Humni Ke Sitare 23.50 Excerpts From Durga Pooja	06.00 D.Anime: Giant 06.50 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: Saving Beavers And... 13.00 Doc: Humans 13.56 Doc: Southern 14.51 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.03 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.08 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.32 Messy Goes To Okido 15.41 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.28 D.Anime: The New Adventure 18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 18.30 Doc: A La Reconquete Des... 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere 21.45 Film: Tower Block Cast: Sheridan Smith, Jamie Thomas King	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: Brahmastra Part One-Shiva Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt 21.00 Mahabharat 22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs 23.00 Dhruv Tara
lundi 29 septembre	04.12 Tele: La Desalmada 04.43 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 05.35 Tele: Passion And Power 07.14 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 08.14 Serial: L'Heritiere 08.35 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.30 Film: Chasing Mavericks 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 14.06 Tele: Wildflower 15.00 Samachar 15.35 Serial: Columbo 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 09.56 Local: Clin D'Oeil 10.37 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 11.00 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 15.24 Local: Metie 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 Individual Income Tax... 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux 20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 21.15 Local: 19 Minutes 22.30 Local: Grand Titre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Metie 23.33 Rodrig Mo Pei 00.09 Local: En Toute Intimite	05.00 Mag: Aastha 07.00 Mag: Eco India 08.00 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaille Hamar 12.00 Film: Hira Aur Pathhar Cast: Ashok Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Shabana Azmi 15.00 Samachar 16.00 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 MBC Production 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Kangan Cast: Mala Sinha, Sanjeev Kumar, Ashok Kumar 23.13 Mere Sai 00.12 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.21 Doc: A La Reconquete Des... 07.48 Doc: Ocean Predators 08.27 Doc: Iran From Above In... 10.39 Doc: Little Britain In The... 11.09 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 12.25 Mag: Arts Unveiled 14.29 Doc: Punk Mum 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.06 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.34 Messy Goes To Okido 15.42 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.06 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super... 16.30 The New Adventures Of... 16.56 D.Anime: The Avatars 17.18 Serial: Prefects 17.43 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover... 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.00 Others: Student Support... 20.51 Tele: Wildflower 21.40 Film: Hollow In The Land	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Paathshala Cast: Anupamaa, Shreyas Talwar, Anshika Sharma 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 30 Septembre - 21.10



CINE 12
Mercredi 1 octobre - 21.35



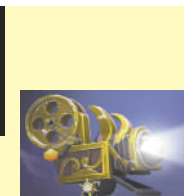
B TV
Mercredi 1 octobre - 15.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 30 septembre

MBC 1

02.24 Tele: Séparé Par L'amour
03.15 Tele: La Desalmada
04.27 Tele: Passion And Power
06.01 Serial: Quantico
07.29 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer
08.00 Tele: Das Boot
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: Christina Noble
17.24 Doc: Pasteca
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Triple Alliance

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Individual Income Tax
09.35 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
10.37 Local: Mangeons Veg
11.11 Local: 19 Minutes
11.35 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Local: Entrepreneuriat Au...
12.26 Rodrig Mo Pei
13.07 Local: Saver Kiltirel
14.39 Local: Tous Egaux
15.54 Local: Sur Prise
15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.00 Local: Individual Income Tax
18.01 Tele: La Desalmada
18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
19.40 Local: Son Ladan Mem
20.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.30 Local: Le Mag
22.28 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Zarkash
08.00 MBC Production
08.52 Live Studio Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Film: Ab Kya Hoga
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
16.00 Dharam Patni
17.28 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 MBC Production
20.00 Local: Prakriti
20.28 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Seeta Aur Geeta
Cast: Hema Malini, Sanjeev Kumar, Dharmendra
23.41 Serial: Mere Sai
00.39 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
01.01 MBC Production

MBC 5

07.48 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.14 Doc: Island Paradise?
09.35 Doc: Adam And I
11.04 Mag: Eco Africa
12.22 Mag: In Good Shape
12.49 Mag: Tomorrow Today
13.45 Doc: Island Paradise?
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.04 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.07 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.29 Messy Goes To Okido
16.07 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Surper...
16.31 The New Adventures Of...
17.17 Serial: Prefects
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: Business Africa
22.52 Mag: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Khiladi 786
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Asin, Mithun Chakraborty
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: Khiladi 786
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Asin, Mithun Chakraborty

mercredi 1 octobre

04.34 Tele: La Desalmada
05.02 Tele: Seref Meselesi
07.20 Serial: Columbo
08.55 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.45 Film: Triple Alliance
11.30 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: Don't Let Go
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
12.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.30 Local: Priorite Sante
15.46 Local: Saver Lokal
16.50 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 Zournal Kreol
19.30 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 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
07.00 Mag: Eco India
08.00 MBC Production
10.00 Dharam Patni
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Badaltey Rishtey
Cast: Jeetendra, Rishi Kapoor, Reena Roy
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
16.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
17.28 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 MBC Production
20.19 Magazine Serial
21.00 Film: Bandhan Toote Na
Cast: Manoj Tiwari, Rani Mukherjee
23.50 Serial: Mere Sai
00.47 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
01.08 MBC Production

06.25 Mag: Shift
07.20 Mag: Global Us
09.25 Doc: 1001 Days
10.16 Doc: Ali And The Sound Of...
13.36 Mag: Business Africa
14.28 Doc: From Gray To Green
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.05 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.34 Messy Goes To Okido
15.40 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.09 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Surper...
16.50 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: Evita English
23.53 Doc: Troubled Teen Industry
00.45 Mag: Close Up
01.11 Doc: Focus On Europe

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Mili
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Shekhar Dayal, Usha Kiran, Sharda Khanna, Ashok Kumar, Mr. Khanna, Shobha Khote
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: Mili
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Shekhar Dayal, Usha Kiran, Sharda Khanna...

jeudi 2 octobre

04.48 Tele: La Desalmada
07.29 Serial: For Life
08.09 Mag: L'Heritiere
08.44 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.30 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins
11.30 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: La Journee Des Violents
17.15 Tele: Lying Heart
17.59 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: 23rd March 1931
Starring: Bobby Deol, Sunny Deol, Amrita Singh

09.10 Local: Agir Ensemble
09.35 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
10.27 Local: Saveurs Plus
10.51 Local: Les Klips
11.43 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Local: ES Science
13.05 Rodrig Spor
13.31 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
14.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc
14.30 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 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Rodrig: Komanter
20.00 Les Grandes Lignes
20.30 Local: Encounter
21.26 Local: Ce Soir Avec Vince
22.00 Local: Le Mag

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
06.59 Mag: Ghazal Ke Saaye
09.00 Live From Studio D Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: The Burning Train
Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Jeetendra
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.55 Serial: Ramayan
17.31 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Radha Krishna
19.01 MBC Production
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.30 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya...
21.51 Mere Sai

06.56 Mag: Arts Unveiled
08.38 Doc: Close Up
10.17 Doc: Dancing Despite War
11.41 Mag: Planet A
12.23 Doc: Submerged Universe
14.11 Mag: Focus On Europe
14.48 Doc: Early Learning
15.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.28 Messy Goes To Okido
15.53 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.03 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super...
16.29 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: Business Beyond
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.49 Tele: Wildflower

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Satrangee Parachute
Stars: Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain
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: Satrangee Parachute
Stars: Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain



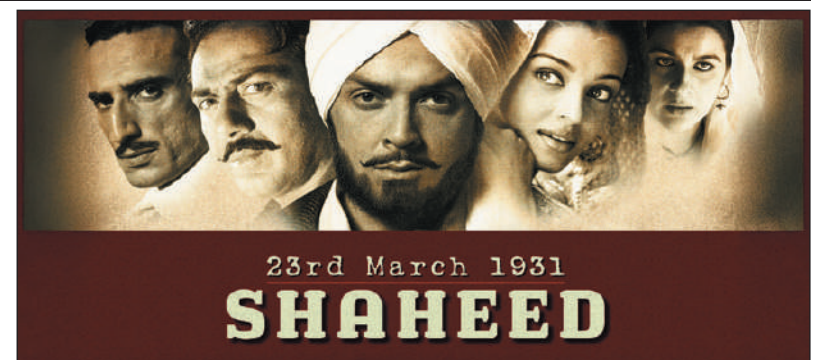
Jeudi 2 octobre -
15.28

Stars: Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain



Jeudi 2 octobre -
20.10

Stars: Bobby Deol, Sunny Deol, Amrita Singh





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Titbits

Leadership, Polarization, and Public Discourse in a Fragmented World

The US President recently addressed the United Nations, delivering a speech that departed from the highly formal style often favoured at the General Assembly. The President's direct and spontaneous language contrasted with the more traditional, carefully crafted speeches of other world leaders.



President Trump spoke for an extended period, significantly exceeding the typical time limit for leaders, a move interpreted by supporters as a demonstration of his distinct approach to global diplomacy.
Pic - abcnews

One point of contention arose when French President Macron's diplomatic efforts regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were met with scepticism, with some critics suggesting his proposals lacked a deep understanding of the situation on the ground. The US President, on the other hand, used his platform to criticize the European Union's immigration policies, alleging that open borders were contributing to social and cultural changes in member states. He also defended his administration's domestic policies, which included border security measures, deportation of undocumented immigrants, efforts against human trafficking, and increased measures to reduce crime in US cities.

The President's address also contained a strong critique of the United Nations' effectiveness, questioning its ability to resolve global conflicts and noting the perceived irony of the Human Rights Council being comprised of representatives from

countries with questionable human rights records.

Despite anticipating an 'isolationist' message from some media, the President's speech ultimately affirmed the importance of national sovereignty and distinct national identities, while also expressing a desire for positive international relations. The core message emphasized the

authorities and media have a duty to foster a commitment to civilized interaction and debate, even where profound disagreements exist on topics like abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, or religious belief.

* * *

Domestic Tensions and Media Response in France

Elsewhere, France is facing significant domestic challenges, including high rates of urban violence, drug-related crime, and sexual assault, which have raised serious concerns about public safety and the effectiveness of law enforcement.

Some observers suggest that the French media and political class often understate or avoid deeper sociological analysis of these issues to prevent exacerbating tensions or being seen as validating the narratives of far-right political parties. This hesitancy is often linked to the difficult subject of crime committed by individuals of immigrant backgrounds, particularly those from North Africa.

Tragic instances of crime involving victims like Philippine de Carlan, who was murdered in Paris, and the killing of policemen have brought these issues into sharp focus. The public statements from victims' families, such as the mother of Ms de Carlan, and the widows of slain police officers, reflect a growing public frustration with the perceived failure of government institutions to protect citizens and law enforcement adequately.

In a highly charged political atmosphere, some political actors, particularly those on the far-left, are frequently accused of prioritizing their political base among citizens of immigrant stock, which critics argue sometimes leads to downplaying or inadequately condemning violence.

In an era of increasing polarization, it remains of paramount importance for both leaders and the media to uphold principles of non-violence, clearly condemn criminal acts, and promote respectful civic engagement as the only viable path for resolving deep-seated societal conflicts.

US vision for global engagement, suggesting a leadership role based on its constitutional principles. The President spoke for an extended period, significantly exceeding the typical time limit for leaders, a move interpreted by supporters as a demonstration of his distinct approach to global diplomacy.

* * *

Polarization and Public Discourse

The address raises the central question of how societies and their leaders should respond to divisive issues on both the world stage and domestic platforms. It is evident that societies globally are becoming increasingly polarized across various lines: political ideologies, social policies, and core values.

Social media has amplified the voices of ordinary citizens and alternative news sources, but it also often becomes a breeding ground for abusive language and aggressive, anonymous commentary. This trend of deterioration in public discourse extends to political leaders and public figures, where reasoned debate is sometimes replaced by personal attacks and inflammatory rhetoric. Tragically, this environment of hostility can sometimes escalate to violence.

The incident involving US influencer Charlie Kirk has become a flashpoint for discussing political violence. Any act of political violence, including the murder of a public figure or activist, should be unequivocally condemned by all political leaders and media outlets. When violence occurs, the focus of public commentary should be on the condemnation of the act itself, rather than allowing discussions of the victim's controversial views to distract from the criminal nature of the crime. Responsible

“In a highly charged political atmosphere, some political actors, particularly those on the far-left, are frequently accused of prioritizing their political base among citizens of immigrant stock, which critics argue sometimes leads to downplaying or inadequately condemning violence. In an era of increasing polarization, it remains of paramount importance for both leaders and the media to uphold principles of non-violence, clearly condemn criminal acts, and promote respectful civic engagement as the only viable path for resolving deep-seated societal conflicts...”

Tree of Knowledge



Ways to Live Consciously

- ◆ Live simply and deliberately. By choosing not to get caught up in the details of this fast-paced world, you are doing your part to slow down the rat race and quell consumerism. You will also discover that you have more time to enjoy being alive.
- ◆ Stay in touch with yourself. Soul searching, meditation, and journaling are just a few of the many activities you can take part in to stay aware and learn as much as you can about your emotions, reactions, likes, dislikes, dreams, and fears. Having a solid sense of self gives you a firm foundation for living in this world.
- ◆ Support or teach others as often as you can. This can help you form connections with people while also giving you an opportunity to make the world a better place.
- ◆ Consciously choose what you will allow into your being. The media bombards us with visions of hate, war, and pain. Be judicious about what you read, watch, and listen to.
- ◆ Acknowledge the beauty that resides around you. Whether you live in a sprawling metropolis or a stereotypical suburb, there are natural and man-made wonders just waiting to be discovered by you.
- ◆ Nurture your ties to your community. If you don't have one, create one that you can belong to. Modern life can be isolating. When you have a community, you have a circle that you are a part of. Its members – loved ones, friends, or neighbours – can be a source of support, caring, guidance, and companionship.
- ◆ See the larger picture. Remember that the way you choose to live is not the only way to live. Widen your perspective by exploring other modes of being through research, travel, and discussion.
- ◆ Embrace the challenges that life presents to you and challenge yourself often. After a time, even the most exciting jobs or lifestyles can seem routine. Never stop assimilating new knowledge about whatever you are doing, and your life will never seem dull.
- ◆ Move your body. In this busy world, it can be easy to live a sedentary life. Movement reacquaints us with our bodies and connects us to the earth in a visceral way. It also restores our vitality.
- ◆ Make time for stillness, silence, and solitude. The world can be noisy, and we are subject to all kinds of noises nearly every waking hour. We are also often on the go and unable to relax. Being alone in a peaceful place and making time for quiet can help you stay in touch with yourself.



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