

MAURITIUS TIMES

• “Great things happen nationally when topmost leadership is goaded and supported from below.” -- John W. Gardner

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- ‘We have been spared the ordeal of totalitarianism. Our history, overall, is a story of the growth of an enabling, not a repressive, state’

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The Drug Scourge

A National Crisis Demanding the Highest Political Will

The problem of drug proliferation has ceased to be a peripheral concern; it has metastasized into a national crisis threatening the fundamental stability and security of our society. The escalating rate of drug trafficking and consumption, particularly of insidious synthetic varieties, has reached a critical stage, manifesting directly in an undeniable spike in crime, including more frequent burglaries and acts of aggression. This is not merely a social ill; it is a ticking time bomb that is corroding the national fabric, impacting our economic future, and shattering the lives of our youth. The fight against this scourge demands immediate, unwavering resolve, and a strategic intervention from the very pinnacle of political power.

This issue is not secondary to debates about the Budget, deficits, or pension reform; it is a fundamental threat to the very fabric of our society. It is a drain on our human capital, a destabilizing force in our communities, and a corrupting influence on our institutions. The true depth of this societal 'canker' is obscured by the inherently covert nature of the illicit trade, but the consequences — shattered lives, broken families, and communities grappling with addiction — are profoundly destructive and undeniable.

The Problem of Perception and Political Will

The recent criticisms levelled at the National Agency for Drug Control (NADC), particularly its new leadership, for the persistent rise in drug activity, is understandable given the gravity of the situation. However, in our view, laying the blame squarely at the NADC's feet is unfair and strategically misguided.

The NADC is facing the daunting task of coordinating a national response against an entrenched, sophisticated, and transnational criminal enterprise. The recent, well-publicized internal dissent, including the critical distance taken by government partner Rezistans ek Alternativ (ReA), highlights a genuine malaise and the urgent need for a clear, coherent national strategy. While ReA's critique rightly questions the agency's initial efficacy five months in, it simultaneously underscores a crucial point: the responsibility for defining the overarching anti-drug policy rests not with the agency, but with the ministerial committee and, ultimately, the highest levels of political leadership.

The drug issue is, at its core, a political issue, demanding political decisions. It is the political leadership that commands the necessary power, the institutional framework, the personnel, and the legislative tools to address this crisis. Their responsibility is to set a clear, uncompromising direction, empower the NADC, and ensure coordination across all key institutions—police, customs, intelligence, and justice. Merely criticizing the agency risks deflecting attention from where the real power to effect change lies.

Unmasking the Infiltration and Corruption

The effectiveness of our fight is intrinsically linked to the strength and integrity of our law enforcement. It is deeply troubling that local residents in small villages can easily identify a dozen synthetic drug sellers, yet their identities somehow remain unknown to the police. This glaring dis-



connects points to systemic failures: either a severe lack of resources and intelligence capabilities or, more disturbingly, a pervasive infiltration of corruption within the very institutions sworn to protect the public.

Past commissions of inquiry, most notably those led by Justices Rault and Lam Shang Leen, have unequivocally confirmed the alarming reality of lower-level politicians and public officials undermining key public institutions. While large drug seizures and arrests are announced, these figures tell us nothing about the vast quantities that filtered through undetected, supporting an illicit industry whose proceeds are estimated at several percent of our GDP.

The pervasive nature of this illicit industry demands that we ask uncomfortable questions: Are powerful mafia-like drug gangs operating with impunity within our borders? If drug cartels have infiltrated our system to the extent that they can embarrass a large swathe of law-and-order officials, can they truly be dealt with effectively by the current repressive anti-drug regime? Our intelligence agencies must surely possess information on individuals whose lifestyles and assets far exceed their declared means. The challenge lies not in mere apprehension, but in dismantling the complex money-laundering mechanisms—through fast-food outlets, casinos, and sophisticated distribution circuits—that sustain this criminal ecosystem.

The Pragmatic Shift: Legalisation and Depenalisation

A central element of the required political intervention involves a courageous, evidence-based review of our counter-drug strategy, moving beyond a strictly repressive regime that has failed to stem the tide. The political leadership has the option to strengthen the laws to deal with trafficking, or it can choose a more pragmatic path: the legalisation or Depenalisation of cannabis.

The current debate, intensified by recent contradictory statements from the NADC Chairman, highlights the confusion and the urgent need for clarity. Our current repressive approach has overwhelmingly failed to solve the drug problem, often merely filling prisons with users rather than dismantling criminal networks.

A shift towards a pragmatic policy—namely, the managed Depenalisation of cannabis—holds the potential to

produce better results, as demonstrated in several international jurisdictions. Uruguay became the first country to fully legalize cannabis in 2013, regulating its production and sale. In the United States, multiple states, including Colorado and Washington, have legalized cannabis for recreational use, generating significant tax revenue and redirecting law enforcement resources. More recently, Canada implemented federal legalisation in 2018. These examples suggest that a regulated market can successfully divert consumers from the illicit trade, allow police to focus on serious trafficking, and provide an economic alternative to criminal organisations.

This is not a call for simple, blind legalisation. As Navin Ramgoolam prudently noted during the NADC bill debate, the complexity demands scientific studies and nuanced debate. Depenalisation removes criminal sanctions for personal use, allowing for warnings or fines, while legalisation permits regulated sale, possession, and cultivation. The crucial factor is whether users, particularly those currently consuming synthetic drugs, can be genuinely persuaded to shift to a legal, regulated cannabis product. There is a real risk that if synthetic drugs remain significantly cheaper and more readily accessible, users might not switch.

The NADC must thoroughly investigate these aspects. The political leadership must resolve this debate swiftly, armed with data and international best practices, and implement a policy that truly steers individuals away from more harmful substances. The sooner this issue is resolved, the better for the country.

A Societal Time Bomb

The fight against the drug scourge is a fight for our national soul. It is a responsibility that lies, unequivocally, with the highest level of government. They possess the men, the institutions, and the tools to deal with this crisis.

To disarm this societal time bomb, we must:

- **Unflinchingly root out corruption** at every level of our law enforcement and political structures.
- **Empower the NADC** with a clear mandate, full resources, and political backing, recognizing that it is an implementing body, not the ultimate policy-maker.
- **Implement intelligent, evidence-based drug policies**, including a definitive and evidence-led decision on the managed Depenalisation of cannabis.
- **Secure our borders** and dismantle the complex money-laundering networks that are the lifeblood of the illicit trade.

The stakes are too high. Failure to act decisively and comprehensively now will condemn future generations to a society defined by crime, addiction, and institutional decay. The time for hesitant, fragmented policy is over. Only a bold, uncompromising, and politically-driven national strategy can safeguard our future.

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Prakash Neerohoo

Politique fiscale indirecte

Baisse du seuil d'enregistrement de la TVA: quelle rationalité économique?

Toute mesure fiscale fait toujours des mécontents. Il s'agit pour le gouvernement de faire une analyse des coûts et bénéfices pour savoir si le jeu en vaut la chandelle.

Depuis le 1er octobre, une mesure fiscale annoncée dans le budget 2025-26 est entrée en vigueur: l'abaissement du seuil d'enregistrement à la Taxe sur la Valeur Ajoutée (TVA) de Rs 6 millions à Rs 3 millions de chiffres d'affaires annuel. Cela signifie que les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) devront percevoir la TVA de 15% sur leurs ventes de produits et services taxables à partir du moment qu'elles engrangent un chiffre d'affaires de Rs 3 millions.

Toutefois, avant le 1er octobre, les PME ayant un chiffre d'affaires inférieur à Rs 6 millions ne percevaient pas de TVA. Par conséquent, la nouvelle mesure n'est pas bien accueillie par des consommateurs aussi bien



«Il est concevable que beaucoup de PME qui dépassent légèrement le seuil de Rs 3 millions de chiffre d'affaires annuel veuillent réduire leurs ventes pour rester en-dessous du seuil. Cela causerait une compression de main-d'œuvre et de coûts d'exploitation. Autrement, l'enregistrement leur impose l'obligation de percevoir la TVA par le biais d'un système de comptabilité manuel ou informatisé. C'est la paperasse des reçus de vente et des déclarations fiscales périodiques qui leur causerait beaucoup d'ennuis. Les PME, qui luttent pour leur survie économique, n'ont sans aucun doute pas besoin d'une bureaucratie administrative supplémentaire...»

que les PME affectées. Les uns et les autres y voient beaucoup d'inconvénients. Au fond, quelle est la rationalité économique de cette nouvelle mesure?

Il convient d'analyser la nouvelle mesure fiscale dans une perspective large en tenant compte de plusieurs facteurs:

- (a) l'intention du législateur,
- (b) l'impact sur le revenu fiscal indirect de l'État,
- (c) l'élargissement de l'économie formelle,
- (d) l'impact de la taxe indirecte sur l'inflation, et
- (e) les nouvelles obligations de quelque 7 000 PME affectées par la nouvelle mesure.

Toute mesure fiscale a de profondes implications financières et économiques.

D'abord, voyons l'intention du législateur. Le gouvernement avait proposé la nouvelle mesure dans le cadre d'une consolidation fiscale visant à accroître les revenus de l'État tout en limitant la croissance des dépenses publiques en vue de limiter le déficit budgétaire (6% du PIB). Il est estimé que la nouvelle mesure va générer environ Rs 2 milliards de recettes supplémentaires de TVA.

Au cours des dernières années, la TVA a représenté 40% en moyenne des revenus fiscaux de l'Etat. Le tableau 1 ci-dessous indique que toutes les taxes indirectes, y compris la TVA, représentent 66% des revenus fiscaux de l'État. En matière de fiscalité, la tendance chez nous a été de taxer la Consommation (produits et services) davantage que le Revenu (revenu individuel et des sociétés), le Capital (défiscalisation des gains en capital sur les avoirs) ou la Propriété (absence de taxe immobilière).

Taxes indirectes

Dans le dernier budget, le gouvernement a reculé sur certaines propositions d'augmenter les taxes directes (impôts sur les revenus) en raison d'une levée de boucliers de la part des contribuables (individus et sociétés). Ainsi, l'introduction d'un taux marginal d'imposition de 35% sur le revenu annuel de plus de Rs 12 millions a été limitée à trois ans (juillet 2025- juin 2028). Puisque les contribuables sont plus sensibles à une hausse de l'imposition directe, le gouvernement trouve plus facile de jouer sur le tableau de l'imposition indirecte. Toutefois, au lieu d'augmenter le taux de TVA, il a préféré élargir l'assiette de cette taxe en baissant le seuil d'enregistrement pour amener plus d'entreprises dans le filet de la TVA.

Il faut souligner qu'un seuil d'enregistrement de Rs 3 millions n'est pas exceptionnel si on le compare aux normes internationales. Au Canada, par exemple, le seuil d'enregistrement à la TVA est de \$30 000 de chiffres d'affaires annuel, soit Rs 1 020 000 (au taux de change de Rs 34 par dollar canadien). On voit donc que le seuil est très bas au Canada où \$30 000 est l'équivalent du salaire minimal.

L'expansion de l'assiette fiscale de la TVA répond à un autre impératif, celui d'élargir l'économie formelle en amenant plus d'opérateurs économiques dans le circuit monétaire. Nous savons que l'économie informelle, qui est une multitude de micro-entreprises et de travailleurs indépendants non-enregistrés sous aucune loi, à l'exception probablement de l'exigence d'un permis d'exploitation, est significative dans l'économie globale du pays.

Table 1: MRA Revenue Collection

Taxes	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Ratio
	Rs M	Rs M	Rs M	Rs M	Rs M	
Corporate tax	13,899	11,776	16,481	22,816	28,313	19.81%
Income tax	11,099	11,560	13,999	16,318	15,543	10.88%
Tax deducted at source	1,718	1,821	2,180	2,807	3,312	2.32%
VAT	32,680	28,579	38,266	49,372	61,475	43.02%
Customs duties	1,216	1,180	1,528	1,650	1,931	1.35%
Excise duties	18,925	18,680	20,144	21,336	23,513	16.45%
Taxes on gambling	1,720	1,774	1,930	2,764	3,360	2.35%
Passenger fee	1,211	24	613	1,755	2,779	1.94%
Special levy on banks	946	950	1,028	1,195	1,648	1.15%
Special levy on telecoms	185	157	148	200	176	0.12%
Covid levy	0	1,439	1,219	120	0	0.00%
Environment protection fee	330	89	326	565	638	0.45%
Advertising structure fee	44	46	35	60	30	0.02%
Miscellaneous	308	252	252	191	194	0.14%
Total Tax Revenue	84,281	78,327	98,149	121,149	142,912	100.00%
Social security contributions	8,060	4,474	4,714	0	0	
Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG)	0	5,247	8,349	9,934	11,424	
Other tax collections	1,365	1,332	1,399	2,434	0	
Total Revenue Collections	93,706	89,380	112,611	133,517	154,336	
Note: MRA report for 2024-25 not available yet						
Respective shares of direct and indirect taxes in tax revenue						
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Total direct (income) taxes	33%	34%	31%	36%	34%	
Total indirect taxes	67%	66%	69%	64%	66%	
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

Économie informelle

Contrairement à d'autres pays, Maurice n'évalue pas statistiquement l'économie informelle en proportion du Produit Intérieur Brut (PIB). Si elle l'avait fait, on aurait pu identifier les sources d'évasion fiscale et trouver les moyens de les éliminer.

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Or, les signes extérieurs de richesse dans le pays (propriétés mobilières et immobilières) démontrent l'existence d'une économie parallèle dominée par les transactions en cash, ce qui potentiellement implique l'évasion fiscale sur une grande échelle. En passant, il ne faut pas confondre l'économie informelle (activités non taxées et non-régulées) et l'économie illégale (trafic de drogue et paris illégaux). Il semble que la seconde soit plus importante que la première. En sachant que le Ratio Taxes/PIB est de 22% à Maurice comparée à la moyenne de 34% dans les pays de l'OCDE, on se rend compte que Maurice a encore du chemin à parcourir pour optimiser sa capacité fiscale.

L'abaissement du seuil d'enregistrement permettrait d'améliorer l'efficacité de la collecte de la TVA telle que mesurée par le «VAT Revenue Ratio - VRR», un indicateur qui mesure la TVA collectée en proportion de la TVA potentiellement percevable (taxe sur la consommation totale) s'il n'y avait ni évasion fiscale ni exemptions/remboursements de taxe. Comme indiqué au tableau 2, le «VAT Revenue Ratio » était de 0.71 en 2024, ce qui est conforme à la performance de nombreux pays dotés d'un système de TVA, mais indique quand même un potentiel inexploité de 0.29. En principe, un VRR inférieur à 1.00 indique une certaine mesure de non-conformité (évasion fiscale) et le poids des exemptions de taxe.

Théoriquement, Maurice a un déficit de VAT (VAT Gap) de Rs 25, 5 milliards, qui est la différence entre la TVA potentielle (fondée sur la consommation finale dans l'économie) et la TVA perçue. La baisse du seuil d'enregistrement à la TVA permettra de récupérer une partie du déficit car il y aura toujours des produits/services non-taxables (*zero-rated supplies*) et des produits/services exempts de taxe (*exempt supplies*).

Table 2: VAT Revenue Ratio

	Variables	Rs
A	VAT Revenue 2023-24	61,475,000,000
B	Consumption 2024	580,200,000,000
C	VAT Rate 15%	0.15
D=B x C	Potential VAT	87,030,000,000
A/D	VAT Revenue Ratio	0.71
D-A	VAT Gap	25,555,000,000

Crédit de taxe

La nouvelle mesure fiscale aura définitivement un impact sur l'inflation, dont le taux était de 4,8% en 2024. Puisque ce sont les consommateurs qui paient la TVA, les commerçants ayant un chiffre d'affaires de Rs 3



“Toute mesure fiscale fait toujours des mécontents. Il s'agit pour le gouvernement de faire une analyse des coûts et bénéfices pour savoir si le jeu en vaut la chandelle. Est-ce que les rentrées de recettes supplémentaires justifient une extension de la bureaucratie fiscale? Est-ce qu'une taxe invasive tue l'initiative privée ou l'entrave dans son développement? Est-ce que la taxe prend la priorité sur la maîtrise de l'inflation? Est-ce que la régulation accrue des activités commerciales est nécessaire pour réduire l'économie informelle? Autant de questions pertinentes à régler...”

millions au moins vont répercuter la TVA de 15% sur les prix de vente. Déjà, on apprend que des marchands de nourriture préparée (par exemple, un marchand de dholpuris) qui dépassent le seuil de Rs 3 millions par an seront obligés de collecter la TVA sur leurs ventes.

Pour soulager les consommateurs, le gouvernement pourrait ajouter certains aliments préparés à la liste des produits non-taxables (*zero-rated supplies*). Si un produit est non-taxable, les commerçants peuvent toujours réclamer un crédit de taxe sur les intrants (*Input Tax Credit*) pour récupérer la taxe payée sur les achats liés à leur activité commerciale. En Ontario, au Canada, par exemple, les aliments préparés (*prepared food*) sont non-taxables jusqu'au prix de \$4.00 (Rs 136). Déjà dans le budget, le gouvernement a ajouté certains produits à la liste des produits non-taxables, notamment les fruits et légumes en purée pour bébés, certains légumes en boîte et des légumes congelés emballés.

Puisque la TVA est une taxe régressive qui affecte les pauvres davantage que les riches, le gouvernement devrait considérer la possibilité d'accorder un crédit de TVA aux ménages économiquement faibles basé sur leur revenu annuel (disons, Rs 20 000 par mois x 13 = Rs 260 000). Ce crédit prendrait la forme d'un remboursement de

la TVA payée par une famille moyenne en un an. Sous ce rapport, Maurice peut s'inspirer du modèle canadien. Au Canada, l'Etat verse un crédit de TVA annuel (*Goods and Services Tax Rebate*) de \$ 349 (Rs 11 866) à une personne à bas revenu (\$ 45 521 de revenu au maximum) plus le même montant à l'épouse de la personne et \$184 pour chaque enfant du couple âgé de moins de 19 ans. Une famille moyenne touche donc

\$881 par an, soit Rs 29 554. Toutefois, la famille doit déposer une déclaration fiscale chaque année auprès du fisc pour avoir droit au crédit remboursable.

Il est concevable que beaucoup de PME qui dépassent légèrement le seuil de Rs 3 millions de chiffre d'affaires annuel veuillent réduire leurs ventes pour rester en-dessous du seuil. Cela causerait une compression de main-d'œuvre et de coûts d'exploitation. Autrement, l'enregistrement leur impose l'obligation de percevoir la TVA par le biais d'un système de comptabilité manuel ou informatisé. C'est la paperasse des reçus de vente et des déclarations fiscales périodiques qui leur causerait beaucoup d'ennuis. Les PME, qui luttent pour leur survie économique, n'ont sans aucun doute pas besoin d'une bureaucratie administrative supplémentaire.

Incitations fiscales

Pour venir en aide aux PME, le gouvernement pourrait introduire des incitations fiscales telles qu'un impôt préférentiel de 5% sur les bénéfices (les exportateurs paient déjà un impôt de 3%), l'amortissement accéléré des outils et équipements de production, des prêts avec un taux d'intérêt bonifié pour l'investissement, et l'importation en franchise de droits de douane des matières premières et d'équipements.

Toute mesure fiscale fait toujours des mécontents. Il s'agit pour le gouvernement de faire une analyse des coûts et bénéfices pour savoir si le jeu en vaut la chandelle. Est-ce que les rentrées de recettes supplémentaires justifient une extension de la bureaucratie fiscale? Est-ce qu'une taxe invasive tue l'initiative privée ou l'entrave dans son développement? Est-ce que la taxe prend la priorité sur la maîtrise de l'inflation? Est-ce que la régulation accrue des activités commerciales est nécessaire pour réduire l'économie informelle?

Autant de questions pertinentes à régler...

Prakash Neerohoo

Invitation to Bid

Provision of Cleaning and Security Services for SICOM Premises

The State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM) is inviting suitable eligible local bidders to submit an offer for the provision of:

1. Cleaning Services for SICOM Premises
2. Security Services for SICOM Premises

The firm will be required to provide the above services as per the scope described in the bidding documents respectively, which can be downloaded from the website of the company sicom.mu

Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked:

1. "Provision of Cleaning Services for SICOM Premises – Ref: SIC-QUO/CL-2025-068"
2. "Provision of Security Services for SICOM Premises – Ref: SIC-QUO/SEC-2025-067"

should be addressed to the Group Chief Executive Officer and deposited in the Tender Box located on the Ground Floor, SICOM Building 1, Sir Cécil Court Antelme Street, Port Louis, Mauritius **not later than 23 October 2025 at 13.30 hours (local time) at latest.**

Late bids will not be accepted.

SICOM Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the bids received, and to cancel this process at any time prior to selection without incurring any liability towards any bidder.

02 October 2025



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The Price of Transparency: Assessing the Senior Counsel Bill's Impact

“The separation of powers has always existed in Mauritius in spite of what people may say”

By and large, the Executive has never interfered in the Judiciary

The Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney Bill 2025 in Mauritius marks a pivotal moment in the governance of the nation's legal profession. Designed to replace the Chief Justice's sole discretion with a multi-member recommendation Panel, this proposed legislation aims to usher in a new era of transparency and inclusivity for bestowing the Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney titles. However, the Bill has sparked intense debate, fundamentally raising questions about the balance of power between the Judiciary, the Executive, and the legal professional bodies. Lex's analysis will explore the governance implications of the new panel's composition, its potential impact on the constitutional doctrine of the separation of powers, and whether it successfully mitigates the perceived flaw of 'subjective discretion' in the former system.”

LEX

* The Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney Bill 2025 proposes a significant legal reform, replacing the Chief Justice's sole authority for recommending appointments with a new Recommendation Panel—to be chaired by the Chief Justice and composed of the Senior Puisne Judge, the Attorney General, and the heads of both the Bar Council and Law Society—to ensure a more representative selection process. Would you say that, from a governance perspective, it's a positive step?

For several years, the prerogative of choosing members of the bar and attorneys to be Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney, respectively, was in the hands of the Chief Justice. The last selection has given rise to a lot of controversy, culminating in an action before the Supreme Court to challenge the selection made.

No doubt that this puts the Chief Justice in an awkward and embarrassing situation. What the proposed legislation proposes to do is give a panel the responsibility to choose those who should be elevated to a senior status.

* The Bill moves the appointment process from being almost exclusively Judicial (Chief Justice's sole recommendation) toward a more mixed model that involves both the Executive (the Attorney General) and the legal profession (Bar Council and Law Society), thus diluting the Judiciary's traditional autonomy over the process. Do you see the Bill reconfigure the constitutional doctrine of the separation of powers in Mauritius?

The selection of Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney has nothing to do with the separation of powers. The selection is not a judicial process; the selection of senior members of the profession is an administrative decision.

Up to now, the process has involved the

balance between independence and inclusiveness?

As it is presented, the answer should be in the affirmative. The real impact will be seen when the panel makes its first selection based on the criteria listed in Bill and other established criteria.

* On the other hand, critics, including those in the Judiciary, might be of the view that the proposed Bill would open the door to political influences and corporatist rivalries. In what ways did the previous, strictly judicial process act as a safeguard against both political and corporatist influences?

First, the system as it exists now is not a judicial process. It was an administrative process. Since it is an opaque one, we cannot speculate whether there has ever been any political or other influence on the Chief Justice. We hope there has never been such an influence.

With four seasoned judges on the panel, it would be difficult or impossible to try and influence the panel.

The judges form the majority, and we can trust them to be on their guard against any political influence. This judicial majority is the main safeguard provided by the Bill's composition.

* The context is also important: the Bill is the latest example of what appears to be an ongoing conflict between the Judiciary and the Executive, following other recent controversies like the proposed creation of a Court of Appeal, the Afrinic case, and the appointment of Justice Bellepeau in relation to the latter case without informing the Chief Justice. Do you see the Bill fit into this broader pattern?

The way Judge Bellepeau was appointed as inspector in the Afrinic case was blatantly unconstitutional.

The creation of the Court of Appeal has nothing to do with any tussle between the Judiciary and the Executive; it was recommended by Lord Mackay and if he saw any danger of any conflict between the Judiciary and the Executive, he would not have come up with such a recommendation. The new Bill intends to clear the air so that there is no conflict between the Executive and the Judiciary.

* The trend in democratic Commonwealth countries is towards “Independent Selection Panels/Committees” do-

minated by the Judiciary and/or the Bar itself. The most salient difference with the provisions of the Bill is the membership of the Attorney General on the Recommendation Panel, whereas international best practice favours insulating the selection body from the political executive to safeguard its independence and public perception of neutrality. What's your take on that major difference?

Even if the presence of the Attorney General on the panel appears to be political, his presence alone would not carry any undue political weight if ever he attempts to do so.

Up now Gavin Glover has always acted in consultation with the judges and the Chief Justice.

The Attorney General, as the government's principal legal adviser, Up now Gavin Glover has a professional duty that tempers his political role. Up to now, Gavin Glover has always acted in consultation with the judges and the Chief Justice. In New Zealand, for example, the Attorney-General makes King's Counsel (KC) appointments based on recommendations from selection boards, making the Attorney-General a key figure in the process.

* In democratic countries, particularly those within the Commonwealth, the appointment of Senior Counsels (or King's Counsels) serves to recognize excellence in the legal profession. This honour is typically bestowed upon barristers or attorneys who have demonstrated exceptional legal skill, integrity, and a significant contribution to the administration of justice. To what extent do you think this has been the case in Mauritius so far, and would the Bill improve the perceived issue of “subjective discretion” in the current system?

So far, as explained, we do not know what criteria the Chief Justice has been applying. No doubt he/she would have considered seniority, advocacy, excellence in presenting cases in court, and good conduct. But we do not know. The new legislation sets out explicit criteria, but the list is not limited. This codification of criteria is the most significant improvement against subjective discretion.

* Given the established need for transparency, and the Judiciary's legitimate concerns regarding political influence, can the Mauritian Executive and Judiciary achieve a mutually acceptable reform model that respects both the doctrine of Separation of Powers and the public's right to an independent and transparent legal profession?

The separation of powers has always existed in Mauritius in spite of what people may say. There may have been disagreements on certain matters, but by and large, the Executive has never interfered in the Judiciary. The creation of a statutorily defined Panel, dominated by the Judiciary with professional representation, is a structural move toward mutual respect and greater transparency.



Pic - frankfirmpc.com

Chief Justice alone, who may consult his/her colleagues and other members of the profession before making the final selection. The new structure is an independent selection body, making it a positive development for transparency.

* The Attorney General has expressed the view that the new procedure is intended to be “more transparent and inclusive.” Since the Attorney General's statement implies a flaw in the former system, why did the professional bodies or aggrieved parties did not make their objections public, except for the three counsels — Jacques Tsang Mang Kin, Joyadeep Beeharry, and Avinash Renga Sunasse — who filed a legal case this year?

Up to the new proposal for the new legislation, the selection of senior members of the profession has been an extremely opaque procedure. We can speculate that the Chief Justice in his/her wisdom would adopt certain criteria, but we are not aware of what these criteria are. Given this opacity, it is difficult for the aggrieved parties to challenge the decision, as the grounds for objection are not publicly known or codified.

* Does the composition of the five-member Recommendation Panel, as outlined in the Bill, achieve a satisfactory



Anil Madan

The Arab-Israel Coalition Against Hamas

Back in 2014, in an email to a friend explaining my perception of the Israeli position on a two-state solution, an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and Gaza, I wrote: "Israel is for a two-state solution - one state makes no sense. But they feel they must get the Palestinians out of Jerusalem. And perhaps out of Gaza too - much too valuable as a casino development, sea-side resort, and condo and high-rise center with serious off-shore gas assets."

How things have changed. Israeli PM Netanyahu who at one time suggested that he might find a Palestinian state acceptable so long as it was not armed and therefore incapable of attacking Israel, reversed course and adopted the views of the extreme right-wing members of his coalition government who oppose a separate Palestinian state. Now, with President Trump's latest 20-point peace plan, the idea of a two-state solution has been resurrected, and Netanyahu has once again switched. Is this a serious proposal, or one designed to get the Qataris, Saudis, Egyptians and Jordanians as well as Arab countries on board to support the Trumpian approach? And perhaps, to give Hamas's leaders cover for agreeing to anything with Netanyahu's government, as they try to save themselves from ongoing air attacks and targeted killings?

Eleven years ago, my friend responded that my comment about the development of Gaza was facetious. Today, with President Trump having floated the idea of developing Gaza into the Riviera of the Middle East and once again stating in his peace plan that "New Gaza will be fully committed to building a prosperous economy and to peaceful coexistence with their neighbours," perhaps my comment will seem prescient.

No, back then I wasn't being facetious about the development of Gaza. I just never believed that with Hamas in charge, there was any realistic prospect of peace with Israel. But how to get Hamas out of the mix? The attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, gave Israel licence to attack Hamas head on. This is something I predicted just a few days after that attack. Of course, I didn't expect that the Israeli onslaught would continue virtually unabated for two years and that Hamas would last this long. I have long believed that most prejudice stems from economic disparities. And conversely, exploiting economic opportunity for the mutual benefit of opposing parties often offers a glide path to resolving differences. The development of Gaza is that economic opportunity. It is also the impetus that gives Israel the glide path to escape from the trap of being charged with genocide and war crimes.

In the past, I have commented that it has always been a great surprise to me that Israel did not build homes, factories, schools and universities for the Palestinians so that they could lead productive lives and have something to lose. Hamas's message has been that they have nothing to lose, and the Gazan population bought that message with horrific consequences as we have seen.

It is not just Israel that needs an exit. In 2023, I wrote to another friend, and once again mentioned the development of Gaza:

As for Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, I am sorry, but they don't give a damn about the Palestinians either. Increasingly, in the geopolitical matrix, the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza have become more of a burden than these countries want. They see the need to deal with the Iranian threat, with climate change, and with economic imperatives that necessarily implicate Israel if they are going to maintain goodwill and constructive relations with the US, Britain, and the EU. India too is on board as are Australia, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia.



Pic - Naomi Schanen, Claire Parker -The Washington Post

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Russia is a weakening power and an embarrassment to the world and Xi Jinping's stature in the Middle East is not a major factor except perhaps with Iran.

When push comes to shove, the pressure to reach a comprehensive settlement involving all the Middle Eastern countries that matter (excepting Iran) will be irrepressible and the engagement of those I have mentioned will be seen as a counterweight to ongoing Israeli repression. Of course, that is the prelude to a two-state solution in which the Palestinian state is not armed, but one that is generally dependent and reliant on Israel and Egypt. Remember that the Gazan waterfront presents enormous opportunities for development of resorts, casinos, and the like. And there is natural gas offshore.

Put in this context, the peace proposal offers an exit ramp for the Arab and Muslim countries — not including Iran — and for the US. When Trump got Netanyahu to apologize to the Emir of Qatar for the attack on Doha, that set the stage. One can now understand that the major Arab countries, Gulf States, and Egypt no longer want Hamas to be the dog that wags the tail of Middle East politics.

With indirect negotiations underway between Hamas and Israel through intermediaries in Egypt, Trump

announced that both had signed on to at least the first phase of the proposal. He posted a statement on his social media site:

"I am very proud to announce that Israel and Hamas have both signed off on the first Phase of our Peace Plan. This means that ALL of the Hostages will be released very soon, and Israel will withdraw their Troops to an agreed upon line as the first steps toward a Strong, Durable, and Everlasting Peace. All Parties will be treated fairly! This is a GREAT Day for the Arab and Muslim World, Israel, all surrounding Nations, and the United States of America, and we thank the mediators from Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey, who worked with us to make this Historic and Unprecedented Event happen. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS!"

Tump had given Hamas a deadline, but any deadline will *de facto* be soft since no one realistically expects Hamas to swallow the whole plan, hook, line and sinker. And, of course, there are details to be worked out between Israel and Hamas and as well with the Palestinian Authority.

Those curious can read the twenty points of the peace plan. Some highlights include:

- A commitment that no one will be forced to leave Gaza and those who wish to leave will be free to do so and free to return.
- Hamas and other factions agree to not have any role in the governance of Gaza, directly, indirectly, or in any form. All military, terror, and offensive infrastructure, including tunnels and weapon production facilities, will be destroyed and not rebuilt.
- There will be a process of demilitarization of Gaza under the supervision of independent monitors, which will include placing weapons permanently beyond use through an agreed process of decommissioning, and supported by an internationally funded buy back and reintegration program all verified by the independent monitors.
- The United States will work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) to immediately deploy in Gaza. This force will be the long-term internal security solution.
- Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza. As the ISF establishes control and stability, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will withdraw based on standards, milestones, and timeframes.

Some questions arise. How realistic it is for people to stay? Given that most of Gaza has been reduced to rubble, it is difficult to say. How willing is Hamas to give up control and power? Perhaps safe passage for Hamas leaders will be sufficient incentive. But safe passage to where? And what of the prisoners that Israel will release? Where will they go? Perhaps they won't have a choice, but it's difficult to imagine any wanting to settle in Gaza's rubble without food and water.

The idea of the ISF led by Arab and Muslim nations is intriguing if only because it shows how willing they are to reject and abandon Hamas. As I wrote back in October 2023, Hamas had made a massive miscalculation. The pigeons are coming home to roost.

Finally, note that the plan says nothing about Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Ultimately, if there is going to be a Palestinian state, it must include the West Bank or a substitute. Other than Jordan and Sinai, there are few alternatives.

We shall see.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Satyajit Boolell, SC, Chairperson, NHRC

“The prison authorities are bound by the provisions of the law; we cannot read the law with a pinch of salt”

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens in Mauritius. Since his appointment, Satyajit Boolell, SC, the former Director of Public Prosecutions, has brought a fresh wave of visibility to the Commission as its Chairperson. In this week's interview, Mr Boolell, SC, offers a candid and comprehensive assessment of the current state of human rights in the nation. He delves into his vision for the NHRC, the necessary reforms for the correctional and judicial systems, and the Commission's commitment to operational reality while upholding the rule of law. From addressing the nuances of the Melrose Prison disturbances to expanding the scope of rights awareness, his insights map out the way forward for one of Mauritius's most vital democratic institutions.

Mauritius Times: You've been in office for only four months, but if you were to prepare a report on the state of human rights in Mauritius for 2025, what would the overall picture look like?

Satyajit Boolell: I would start by seeking answers to three questions to roadmap the report: first, our track record on human rights observance from a historical perspective; second, whether that observance has been instrumental in promoting our democratic ideals; and third, how we envisage the future in the face of challenges to civil and political values - essential to democratic life and to the economic, social, and cultural rights vital for our existence.

I shall provide brief answers. Human rights are our birthright as human beings. Equal treatment is essential to delivering them. They are not a gift of government but part of our common humanity, encompassing our rights to freedom, equality, and upholding our dignity.

Mauritius has a rich history and culture of human rights, dating back to the French period when the “Declaration des Droits et des Devoirs de l'Homme et du Citoyen” was adopted by the *Assemblée Coloniale* of the Isle de France (Mauritius) in 1794. The constitutional road leading to the 1968 Constitution resonates with our struggle for universal suffrage, the right to strike, and the right to expression to vindicate injustices and secure access to a fair and impartial justice system. These various stages leading to Chapter II of our Constitution ought to be highlighted.

Second, we should value the fact that since independence, we have been spared the ordeal of totalitarianism. Our history, overall, is a story of the growth of an enabling, not a repressive, state. The fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under Chapter II to all our citizens are enforceable by an independent Judiciary. Moreover, any legislation enacted by Parliament that infringes those rights

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The source of Chapter II is the European Convention of Human Rights, which itself originated from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on 10 December 1948. The NHRC, which I preside over, is one of the institutions vested with statutory powers to act as guardian of the rights guaranteed under Chapter II.

Third, the way forward? Do we overhaul the system completely or consolidate our institutions with further rules of checks and balances? There is, in my opinion, a strong case for continuation and consolidation.

I believe these are the key areas a report on the state of human rights should address. Our track records are, in fact, both promising and reassuring. We need only look at the sweeping protests across Madagascar, where basic human rights are denied, to realize how fortunate we are. There are obvious challenges ahead in an era where the world is divided, resorting to protectionist measures, and the spectre of a new cold war is raising its head. The UN commission of inquiry has just confirmed the world's worst-kept secret: that Israel is committing genocide.

The Mauritian government has committed itself to a Constitutional Commission to review our Constitution, especially Chapter II, to provide for economic, social, and cultural rights, environmental rights, and to consolidate the electoral process. It could not be better news.

*** What would you say to those who question the need for a specialised and dedicated institution to oversee the full spectrum of human rights, given that existing laws already provide certain protections against abuses?**

The existence of an institution like the NHRC emanates from the international obligations of the Government subsequent to adhering to Human Rights Treaties. The NHRC is an independent body established to promote and protect human rights. It acts as a bridge between the government and civil society, facilitating dialogue and cooperation to address human rights challenges.

Believing in human rights is to believe in human beings; it is to strive for everything we need to live with the possibility of flourishing in the world where we live. I should mention that the NHRC is the fastest route to a remedy for a violation of a person's fundamental rights. Once there is a finding to



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that effect, the NHRC will refer the matter to the Attorney General to compensate the victim, if justified.

*** The NHRC has been more visible in 2025 — with a new leadership team, round-tables, prison visits, and reports. What's next?**

There are many options available, from engagement with decision-makers to public awareness campaigns, but first, the NHRC must be accepted as a credible institution that makes serious proposals. It must be seen to be independent, impartial, fair, and just. It is under those circumstances that it can mobilise public support and create pressure on the government to act. It should also ensure collaboration with the government at all times and integrate its recommendations into existing policies and frameworks, ensuring that human rights considerations are prioritised.

● Cont. on page 8

'We have been spared the ordeal of totalitarianism.'

Our history, overall, is a story of the growth of an enabling, not a repressive, state'

● Cont. from page 7

* What safeguards does the NHRC employ to guarantee its analyses are objective and protected from external pressures — whether from civil society lobbies, traditional media, or social media pressures?

All members serving the NHRC take an oath of office to act with impartiality, integrity, and confidentiality. The independence of the institution is statutorily guaranteed, and members enjoy security of tenure.

Allowing extraneous factors to influence a member of the Commission would constitute a violation of their oath of office.

« We should stop sending all drug users, irrespective of the drugs used, to jail. These addicts need treatment and require serious attention to rehabilitate them in society. There is an urgent need to revisit the whole policy defining certificate of characters. I have also mentioned that reforms should start at the level of our District Courts. Magistrates should be assisted by lay persons familiar with community dynamics. Second, and this is one of the recommendations of the Melrose Report, judges and magistrates should receive feedback on the effectiveness of the punishment they have imposed... »

* How does your extensive experience in policing, examining police conduct, and overseeing prison conditions and rehabilitation — gained during your tenure as Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) — inform you in your capacity as Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in addressing these issues?

The DPP creates the link between the police and the judiciary. It is his responsibility to assess the evidence in every case. He is at the service of justice, and he stands between the State, represented by the Commissioner of Police, and the citizen, forming the second pivotal link. His client is the administration of justice. These principles were benchmarks during my tenure of office as DPP.

Since my assumption of office as Chairperson of the NHRC, I have noticed that there exists a glaring disconnect between the courts that sentence offenders and the prisons that receive them. It explains why there is such a high rate of re-offenders.

It is high time that we move from the conventional approach, first by rethinking our sentencing policy and exploring alternative diversion programmes, especially when it comes to young offenders. We should stop sending all drug users, irrespective of the drugs used, to jail. These addicts need treatment and require serious attention to rehabilitate them in society. There is an urgent need to revisit the whole policy defining certificate of characters. I have also mentioned that reforms should start at the level of our District Courts. Magistrates should be assisted by lay persons familiar with community dynamics. Second, and this is one of the recommendations of the Melrose Report, judges and magistrates should receive feedback on the effectiveness of the punishment they have imposed.



I welcome the government's commitment to making our courts more accessible, and the Attorney General is doing excellent work in that respect. We should remember that the founding fathers of our Constitution were adamant that the Supreme Court would act as the guardian of human rights guaranteed under Chapter II. In the future, it will be open to the NHRC to petition the Court on important issues that may have adverse consequences for the lives of citizens.

* As regards the Melrose Prison disturbances, the Commissioner of Prisons argues that the Fact-Finding Committee report is overly "legal" and lacks an "operational" perspective, suggesting that the alleged abuses of force should be viewed with a pinch of salt — given the need to contain explosive situations. As a former DPP, who is well aware of the operational pressures within detention facilities and police operations in volatile areas, would you agree the Commissioner of Prisons may have a point?

With due respect to the Commissioner, I do not see things from that perspective. Yes, our report employs a legal approach because that is our basic mission: to look at the facts and apply the law to them. One can't criticize a judge for delivering a judgment that seems too legalistic simply because he didn't write it from the perspective of, say, a policeman.

The use of force is governed by the Reform Institutions Act, the statute that dictates how the prison services must act. The prison authorities are bound by the provisions of the law; we cannot read the law with a pinch of salt.

What the Commission undertook was an assessment of the evidence, coming from prison officers, the Commissioner's officers, the medical personnel, and some detainees. It reached the conclusion that there were wide lacunas in the existing protocols to deal with situations that officers faced at Melrose. We are hoping that, in light of the recommendations of the Commission, these lacunas will be addressed to enhance operational efficiency and transparency, and we (the NHRC) will fulfill our mission to monitor and check whether they are really efficient and compliant with the law.

* Don't you think it would be in the public interest - and important for the protection of human rights - that

de-escalation protocols and use-of-force frameworks are not merely legalistic but realistic, practical, and applicable within the operational realities of our prisons, particularly the high-security ones, and police interventions in the field?

The use of force is prohibited under all circumstances save where the Reform Institutions Act makes provisions for it. It is a recourse of the last resort and then under specific conditions. The Prison Standing Orders are also clear that the use of force is a last resort measure to be used where necessary, and that the use of force must at all times be necessary and proportionate to the threats encountered.

De-escalation protocols and use-of-force frameworks must be more than mere theoretical or tidy clauses on paper; they must be executable in the chaos of real-life situations and serve the public interest. A rulebook that fails under pressure protects absolutely no one: not prison officers, not persons deprived of liberty, and not the public at large.

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Let us be clear, legality is the floor, not the ceiling. Standards of legality, necessity, proportionality, and accountability must be translated into plain, actionable steps that a prison officer can use under pressure to protect himself, his fellow colleagues, and the detainees. Operational realism is itself a human-rights safeguard when staff have credible, tested measures to de-escalate, which consequently sharply reduce the risks of injury, retaliations, and violations.

Accordingly, the NHRC recommends that every use-of-force and de-escalation policy is stress-tested against real operational scenarios before adoption and is routinely audited against hard outcomes such as injuries, complaints, lengthy restraint duration, and medical referrals.

As stipulated in our recent report *"Disturbances at Melrose High Security Prison"*, we further recommend the convening of correction services, police, medical services, and Judicial officers to co-design standard operating procedures that meet international benchmarks like the Mandela Rules, the Code of Conduct for prison Officers, and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms, whilst taking into consideration our national realities in order to be better prepared to uphold the fundamental rights of all individuals in times of crisis.

● Cont. on page 9

'Allowing extraneous factors to influence a member of the Commission would constitute a violation of their oath of office'



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● Cont. from page 8

At the NHRC, one of our priority commitments remains ensuring the enforcement of rights-compliant use of force is operationally executable. Anything less endangers officers and detainees and undermines the rule of law.

*** However, isn't it true that we often overlook the fact that many prisoners, particularly habitual offenders, are far from being "choirboys," and that despite the authorities' genuine efforts, most rehabilitation and welfare measures have largely failed to reform them?**

Let us not mix oil and water. Of course, many detainees are dangerous criminals, but it should not be a reason to

« Let us not mix oil and water. Of course, many detainees are dangerous criminals, but it should not be a reason to marginalise them and treat them as hopeless cases. This is why the NHRC has been pressing for a rehabilitation programme that does not stop at the prison gates but extends beyond to ensure proper reinsertion into society... »

marginalise them and treat them as hopeless cases. This is why the NHRC has been pressing for a rehabilitation programme that does not stop at the prison gates but extends beyond to ensure proper reinsertion into society.

*** The NHRC is best known for its investigative role, which includes monitoring police conduct and prison conditions. However, its mandate also extends to promoting awareness of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. What methods or tools does the NHRC use — or plan to use — to measure how effectively it is raising awareness of these rights in Mauritius?**

Not exactly. Our mandate is extended to Chapter II of the Constitution, which deals essentially with Civil and Political rights. But then again, isn't the right to life precisely about our economic, social, and cultural rights? In promoting human rights, we make no such distinctions and go as far as third and fourth-generation rights are concerned.

It is important to note that at the NHRC, we have two Divisions: the NPMD (National Preventive Mechanism Division), regulated by the Act of 2012, which deals with the monitoring and investigation into the treatment of detainees; and the Human Rights Division, which operates under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1998, and is mandated to promote, protect, educate, and raise awareness of human rights.

To generate concrete results—as stipulated in our 2024 report—we track who we reach, what knowledge they gain, and the resulting changes.

Firstly, every sensitisation session is targeted by the audience, and attendance is recorded so we know exactly which communities we are serving and how often. In 2024, our Human Rights Division delivered talks from Tyack to

Souillac in women's forums, youth hubs, and disability groups, reaching over 2,000 people sensitized throughout the island. Specific examples include sensitizing 55 youth animators and students at the Souillac Youth Hub, 48 members of the public at Quartier Militaire, and 32 people with disabilities at Maingard Community Centre. Each entry is recorded with the date, venue, target group, and headcount.

Moreover, we measure learning and confidence, not just attendance. Our programmes specify outcomes upfront and we ensure those outcomes are delivered. When we trained 200 head boys and head girls at the Mahatma Gandhi



Institute in June 2024, we did more than "raise awareness": we built leadership capacity on child rights and mental-health stigma for those young leaders to advocate the same in their own schools. Likewise, our collaborations with the National Women's Council and the Citizens Advice Bureau were designed to equip women, seniors, and public officers with practical tools to tackle inequality and increase practical understanding of their fundamental rights.

Furthermore, we treat complaint patterns as a real-world barometer of awareness and access. We compute monthly totals and analyse category and gender trends; in 2024, we recorded 163 complaints across the year, presented by month and gender. Tracking how many matters are properly routed to the NHRC versus civil disputes that belong elsewhere dictates whether the public understands what a human-rights issue is and how to pursue redress.

From 2025 onward, we're closing the gap between what we do and what people experience. We are widening protection where most matters lie: housing, health, social security, and also climate and environment justice. We shall also draw a clear, simple line between true human-rights issues and a private civil dispute, so fewer people are bounced from office to office. We further intend to make reporting safer and easier through secure, transparent channels.

We will keep tracking who we reach, what they learn, whether cases land in the right place the first time, and how quickly remedies follow.

*** What has probably come as a surprise is**

the decision of the NHRC to take up the case of the Air Mauritius retirees whose acquired travel privileges were allegedly suspended following a legal action they had initiated. One would have thought that the primary jurisdiction for such cases lies with the Ministry of Labour. Is the NHRC mandated to look into such matters?

I can't discuss a matter which is before the Commission.

Air Mauritius is defined as a public body under the Protection of the Human Rights Act. The NHRC, being an independent entity, ensures that it will operate strictly within its mandate.

*** It is understood that health, education, and housing are considered fundamental human rights because "they are essential to human dignity, well-being, and the full realisation of other human rights." But where does individual responsibility fit into this equation?**

Unless one wants to take a narrow view of the scope of human rights, the right to health, education, and housing are inherent in the right to life, to protection of the law, to freedom of conscience, expression, and association. These rights require from the individual serious considerations involving legal, moral, and ethical issues.

A parent may not want his child to attend a school not in conformity with his religious beliefs, or to live in an unpoluted environment, or to accept that children have free and unsupervised access to the internet at school.

Human rights, as Eleanor Roosevelt once put it, begin in small places close to home. It's in the personal sphere that we first apply our values and experience our rights and freedoms. As human beings, we value our autonomy, but at the same time, we yearn for belonging and respect; we look for freedom and also for protection.

The individual is at the centre of these decisions and choices and will always face competing interests in battles for liberty, equality, and recognition.

Mauritius Times

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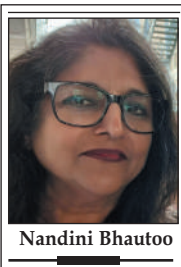
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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times



Nandini Bhautoo

The Literary Scene

Of Book Fairs, Art Centres and Literary Dialogues

In the wake of the recently organized Trou d'Eau Douce Book Fair, it is worth reflecting on the implications of sustained literary activity for the life of the nation.

Observers might argue that in this age of hyper-technology and the seemingly omnipotent role of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives, books have lost their sway. Yet books will always remain vital as windows opening readers to experiences and awareness beyond the confines of their immediate environment. The increasing depth and sophistication of thought can only be cultivated through the long-form exercise of reading - something that short-form content such as TikTok and Instagram videos can never replace.

Moreover, as useful as AI is proving to be, it is essential to remember that the critical corrective of human perspective will always be needed to counteract the possible biases that might be systematically built into the algorithms we interact with. Upholding the practice of reading, therefore, is not an exercise in nostalgia but a matter of practical necessity.

In this light, the initiative of organising book fairs is highly laudable. The Trou d'Eau Douce Book Fair, in particular, seems to position itself as an alternative to the "Sun, Sea, and Sand" stereotype of the tropical island destination - especially since it was literally held on the beach. However, it is worth asking who the targeted beneficiaries of such an event are. Ideally, it should appeal to all citizens, regardless of geography, creed, or other divisions.

Yet, the predominance of a Francophone sensibility in the event's structure and programming raises questions about its decolonial potential. In *Le Mauricien* last week, Sheila Bunwaree rightly asked why only Francophone Indian Ocean writers were invited. Few local critics may be aware that a number of Anglophone Indian Ocean writers have achieved international literary recognition.

Among them, Abdulrazak Gurnah from Zanzibar, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Romesh Gunasekera from Sri Lanka, a major voice in the global literary landscape, also from Sri Lanka, writers such as Daya Disanayake and Shyam Selvadurai. Malaysia, which also borders the Indian Ocean, has produced important writers like Rani Manicka, whose *The Rice Mother* vividly portrays the realities of inter-island migration. Amitav Ghosh, too, gifted us *The Ibis Trilogy* - for which he conducted research in Mauritius, exploring local landscapes and oral histories to construct his grand diasporic narrative.

If we extend the horizon further, Arthur C. Clarke, though British, lived in Sri Lanka; and Michael Ondaatje, author of *The English Patient*, though Canadian by residence, is of Sri Lankan origin. Indonesia, another country that shares a



“Observers might argue that in this age of hyper-technology and the seemingly omnipotent role of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives, books have lost their sway. Yet books will always remain vital as windows opening readers to experiences and awareness beyond the confines of their immediate environment. The increasing depth and sophistication of thought can only be cultivated through the long-form exercise of reading — something that short-form content such as TikTok and Instagram videos can never replace...”

coastline with the Indian Ocean, produced the remarkable Pramodya Ananta Toer, author of *The Buru Quartet*.

Beyond the realm of English-language fiction, there are worlds to be discovered through the prism of Hindi, Urdu, and other languages. Among Mauritian writers, Abhimanyu Unnuth remains a towering figure in this category. If we truly wish to speak of island fiction, then works emerging from these linguistic traditions deserve recognition, despite the subversive potential of the social and political realities they engage with. By identifying what is excluded, we can better infer what is included - beyond the official rhetoric of inclusiveness.

Of course, private organisers have every right to tailor their events to specific audiences, consciously or otherwise. The pity, however, is that such a one-sided sensibility exists in a context where alternative events of similar stature are rare. This is why it is of utmost importance that the national artistic and literary scene be strengthened through a structured institution - one capable of organising and coordinating truly multicultural literary and artistic events.

At the *Assises de la Culture* organized by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage last September, many called for greater national recognition of the various disciplines of drama, art, and literature. Such recognition cannot occur in a piecemeal fashion. Otherwise, we risk repeating the fate of *Confluences* - a once-promising initiative that was discontinued following a change in political leadership. It is imperative, therefore, to establish an independent, multidisciplinary **National Arts Centre**, which could ensure the sustained organisation of such events beyond the contingencies of political fortune.

And if funding is the concern, logic dictates that such a centre would pay for itself and contribute far more to the

economy than a sports stadium. It would create employment, offer a range of cultural experiences - from the folkloric to the intellectual - and provide much-needed entertainment spaces beyond the commercial trap of shopping centres. In the process, it would expand citizens' perspectives and enrich national dialogue. The centre could also address pressing social issues such as bullying, femicide, and street violence through inclusive forms like forum theatre and street theatre.

Moreover, it could provide a platform for local artists while exposing audiences - especially those unable to travel abroad - to international artistic excellence, something technology can now easily facilitate. It is in the dynamic interaction between the local and the global that creativity flourishes. Ensuring that this process reaches beyond niche circles could enhance the quality of life for all citizens while attracting the interest of cultural tourists.

Finally, to those who claim, as was heard during the *Assises de la Culture*, that audiences do not follow artists' endeavours - I would argue they do, provided we know how to engage them by tailoring art to their concerns, rather than by upholding elitism as policy. More than anything else, a multidisciplinary arts centre could serve as a vital catalyst for the cultural, educational, and economic growth of the nation.



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

Invitation for bids

(Authorised under Section 17 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

Procurement of Contract WW562W – A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SEWER EXTENSION WORKS
Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/09/2025

Open National Bidding

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Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2025/1687**.

Bids must be submitted online on the E-Procurement System at latest by

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Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt** and **re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 05 November 2025 from 14.01 till Friday 07 November 2025 up to 13.00.**

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 07 November 2025 up to 16.00.**

The Wastewater Management Authority
2nd Floor, Head Office
Jerningham Street
Curepipe
Mauritius

The **Wastewater Management Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

The Great Marital Recession: Why Fewer People Are Saying “I Do”?

The philosopher Socrates once defined the “good life”; now, he grapples with its modern decline. On the bustling waterfront of Port Louis, he confronts his companion, Cephalus, with the puzzle of the dwindling “I Do.” As Mauritius records a sharp decline in civil marriage, this Socratic Dialogue investigates the paradox of a society that proclaims the value of family but systemically undermines its foundational commitment.

Plutonix

Setting: A sunny afternoon on the waterfront of Port Louis, Mauritius. As Socrates (aged but eternally curious) and his affluent contemporary, Cephalus (now a successful, if slightly exasperated, Mauritian businessman), are observing a modern couple taking a selfie by the Caudan water-wheel, their conversation quickly turns to the Great Marital Recession in Mauritius.

Socrates: My dear Cephalus, tell me, what wisdom does the modern age offer on the nature of commitment? I observe these young couples — they cling to one another like barnacles to a hull, yet they seem to avoid that sacred, time-honoured declaration known as the ‘marriage’, which your local papers report is dwindling faster than the mango supply in December.

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates, you speak of the Great Marital Recession, as I call it. The numbers are clear: fewer people here in Mauritius say, ‘I do.’ Back in the 90s, we had over 11,000 unions annually; now, we barely scrape past 8,000. It’s a global trend, of course, but here it hits particularly close to home. They say the institution is “in search of meaning.”

Socrates: “In search of meaning”? But surely marriage was the meaning! It was the pillar, the safe harbour for the soul. Yet, if I understand the sociologists correctly, the young are now prioritizing their “personal accomplishment, careers, and studies.” Tell me, are these pursuits inherently *antagonistic* to sharing a wardrobe and a surname?

Cephalus: The young believe so, Socrates. There are sociologists who are now saying that they approach marriage “under a more pragmatic angle.” It’s not just about love; it’s a social and economic contract. And contracts, I find, are best avoided if the terms are too binding.

Socrates: Ah, the contract. A document written by lawyers for the *inevitable* divorce. But if the goal is security, why abandon the institution that historically *provided* security? Does this fear stem from the *partner*, or the *cohabitation*?

Cephalus: People who are in close contact with young women at the local university suggest a shift, especially for women. Many women, they say, are now avoiding commitment due to fear of “conjugal violence, drugs, and precarity.” They choose to become “independent, launching their own activities... becoming their own husband,” as they humorously put it.

Socrates: A magnificent, if slightly tragic, observation! So, the women, having grown wiser and more self-sufficient, look at the potential spouse and calculate, “Is this man an asset, or a liability that must be managed?” If the historical male role was to provide stability, and if he now offers instability, why would a rational, educated woman choose to chain herself to a sinking ship? The modern woman has achieved independence, only to discover that the modern



Pic - global.chinadaily.com.cn

man often hasn’t!

Cephalus: Precisely. But there is a second major affliction: Economics. The cost of living, the price of housing — these are soaring higher than a kite at Le Morne. Sociologists say getting married is seen as “investing, making expenditures, contracting debts.” It is a psychological and economic pressure too great for them to bear.

Socrates: So, the vow of eternal love is being usurped by the vow of eternal debt! The young wait for “better economic stability,” delaying marriage perhaps indefinitely. But what of those who do marry? The sad thing though is that one in three marriages ends in divorce here. Why such immediate disappointment?

Cephalus: A lack of emotional and psychological preparation, it seems. They rush into the arrangement with fluffy expectations — perhaps influenced by the idealized, unstable models they see on their ‘social networks’ — only to find that marriage requires maturity, communication, and a real responsibility. They view it as a constraint, not a considered choice.

Socrates: I see. So, they rush toward the finish line — the wedding day — believing it to be the *beginning* of bliss, only to find it is the beginning of the *real work*. They haven’t been taught that the wedding is merely the *launch* of the ship, and the marriage is the lifetime of navigation through storms. But Cephalus, what about the global trend, as reported by global media? They worry about a “relationship recession” leading to a catastrophic decline in the birth rate.

Cephalus: Yes, this is the gravest implication. Economists argue that marriage is fundamentally an “assurance function” for the family. It provides the material security and formalized commitment necessary for the difficult, long-term task of raising children.

Socrates: So, the government worries about the birth rate but avoids the real cause! Instead of simply subsidizing children after they arrive, the evidence suggests they should be subsidizing the *marriage* itself!

Cephalus: The Hungarians and Swedes, bless their bureaucratic hearts, discovered this. By offering significant tax advantages for married couples, they boosted the marriage rate, and after a lag, the birth rate followed. It appears that when the state imposes a “marriage penalty” — making it financially easier to remain single or cohabiting — it acts directly against its own demographic health!

Socrates: Fascinating! So, we have two forces destroying the pillar of society: A liberated, discerning woman who wisely avoids instability, and a foolish, self-sabotaging

state that financially penalizes its own citizens for making a stable, pro-natal choice!

Cephalus: A grim summary, Socrates. The young seek freedom and self-fulfilment outside the traditional structure, while economic pressures — the debt, the housing crisis — drive them toward cohabitation or remaining single, which are statistically less favourable for raising children.

Socrates: And so, Cephalus, as the sun begins to set over this thriving port, we conclude our inquiry not with a romantic flourish, but with a stark, pragmatic equation. The “Great Marital Recession” in Mauritius is not merely a crisis of the heart; it is a failure of stability—a societal penalty imposed upon commitment.

Until then, these young men will continue to find their ‘network’ on their phones, and these women will remain their own, capable, but lonely, “husbands.” Let us find some good Mauritian coffee; my contemplation has made me thirsty.



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

Invitation for bids

(Authorised under Section 17 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

**Procurement of Contract WW564W – A
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SEWER
MAINTENANCE WORKS**

Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/11/2025

Open National Bidding

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Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2025/1693.**

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A Shifting Landscape: American Views on Israel and Antisemitism After October 7



The partisan split in public opinion on Israel predates the current war with Hamas, but recent polling suggests that some Americans have lost sympathy with the Israelis over the course of the war. Pic - PBS

Nearly two years after the October 7, 2023, attacks in Israel and the country's ensuing invasion of the Gaza Strip, American public opinion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is more divided than ever. Concerns are also mounting sharply about the safety of Jewish communities at home. While the partisan split in views on Israel is not new, recent polling indicates that a notable segment of Americans has lost sympathy for Israelis over the course of the war.

These shifts in public opinion, even as Israel and Hamas begin indirect talks over a U.S.-proposed peace plan, could have lasting implications. The war has amplified debates in the U.S. not just about foreign policy, but also about the safety and visibility of Jewish communities, where fears of discrimination are rising. While U.S. adults also express concern about anti-Muslim sentiment, there hasn't been a similarly dramatic shift in that specific measure.

A Growing Divide on the U.S.-Israel Relationship

For decades, Americans of both major parties generally expressed more sympathy toward Israelis than Palestinians. This has changed since the war began.

- **Sympathy at an All-Time Low:** American sympathy for Israelis hit an all-time low in 2025, falling beneath 50% for the first time in almost 25 years of Gallup's tracking. This drop was primarily driven by Democrats and independents.
- **Palestinian Sympathy Rises:** Concurrently, sympathy for the Palestinians has increased, with about one-third of U.S. adults saying they sympathize more with the Palestinians this year.
- **Support for Aid Drops:** A Pew Research Center survey found that only 31% of Americans thought the U.S. was providing the "right amount" or "not enough" military assistance to Israel.
- **Disapproval of Military Response:** About half of Americans now say Israel's military response in the Gaza Strip has "gone too far," according to the most recent AP-NORC survey. Shortly after the October 7 assault — in which militants killed about 1,200 people and took 251 hostages — that figure was 40%.
- **Jewish-American Disapproval:** A Washington Post poll of Jewish Americans conducted in early September indicated that about half also disapproved

of Israel's military action in Gaza. An even higher share, 61%, said they believe Israel has committed war crimes against Palestinians in Gaza.

Beyond partisanship, age is an increasingly noticeable dividing line. Pew found that about 4 in 10 adults under 30 thought the U.S. was providing "too much" aid to Israel, compared to about one-third of adults overall. Additionally, an AP-NORC poll found that only about one-quarter of adults under 30 called Israel a "close ally" of the U.S., a stark contrast to around half of adults over the age of 60.

Rising Concern About Treatment of American Jews

As attitudes toward Israel shift, concerns about the safety and treatment of American Jews are escalating. After the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, which killed 11 Jewish Americans, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) relaunched its antisemitism survey. Since 2021, the share of Americans who say there is at least some discrimination against Jews has risen, according to Pew.

- **Perceived Discrimination Doubles:** In 2024, Pew found the share of Americans who said there was "a lot" of discrimination against Jews had doubled compared to 2021.
- **Satisfaction with Treatment Falls:** Between 2021 and 2025, the share of adults satisfied with how Jewish people are treated fell from about half to 42%, according to Gallup. This decrease was the largest in total satisfaction among the eight racial or ethnic groups Gallup asked about. Similar shares of U.S. adults were also satisfied with the treatment of Arab people in the 2024 Gallup survey.
- **Acute Fear Among Jewish Americans:** Concerns are particularly sharp for many Jewish Americans. The AJC's 2024 survey found that about 9 in 10 Jews said anti-Semitism in the U.S. had increased both in the previous five years and since the October 7 attacks.
- **Modifying Behavior:** Out of fear of anti-Semitism, 56% of Jewish Americans surveyed by the AJC said they had avoided at least one action that publicly identified them as a Jew in physical spaces or online. Three years ago, that figure was 38%. AJC's Director of Antisemitism Policy, Holly Huffnagle, stated the "number one reason given for why they feel less secure as Jews in America was the Israel-Hamas war."

These anxieties are further compounded by isolated events, such as a deadly car attack outside a synagogue in England on the holiest day of the Jewish year, throwing the need for increased security into sharp relief.

Fracture points are also emerging within Jewish communities, with Jewish Americans taking sides on college campus protests and expressing divergent views on the handling of the war. However, in recent months, Jewish-American organizations have been increasingly vocal about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Across the Globe

AI for holiday shopping

AI-powered shopping is predicted to jump sixfold during this year's Western holiday season. An Adobe Analytics survey found that 53% of US consumers may use AI for researching gifts, sourcing recommendations, and finding Black Friday deals. Adobe also found that AI traffic to retail sites jumped 1,300% in 2024, reports Reuters.

The move to rely on AI to find gifts could influence our choices — and not necessarily for the better. When Google Maps became popular, it started sending lots of cars down previously quiet side streets. Perhaps AI will similarly recommend that everyone buy the same Cinnamoroll plushies or Swiss Army Knives for their loved ones.



Could AI help you save on holiday shopping?
Pic - Consumer Affairs

EU meat producers fight back

The European Parliament voted to restrict the use of words such as "steak," "burger," or "sausage" to describe only meat products. Meat consumption in the EU is down, thanks to high costs and concern over animal welfare and meat's environmental impact, while plant-based alternatives are on the rise, reports Reuters.

German producers made 126,500 tons of alternative meat products last year, more than double the 2020 figure. But a growing backlash from meat producers is influencing politicians worldwide. Several US states have banned lab-grown meat, while the German chancellor this week declared "sausage is not vegan." Linguists may differ: The terms "veggie burger" and "veggie sausage" have been widely used since the 1980s.

Starmer in India to boost business ties

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer led a business delegation to India (8-9 Oct), part of efforts by London to court a fast-growing economy and reduce its vulnerability to protectionism from its biggest trading partners. Britain has in recent months been hit by US tariffs targeting key export sectors and now faces the prospect of its steel sales to the EU — a major market — being curbed.

Starmer faces domestic pressure over immigration, and easing visa restrictions is one of India's key demands. Reuters reported earlier that the British leader would also likely ask his counterpart about New Delhi's seemingly deepening ties with Moscow: India's prime minister wished Russia's president a happy birthday this week.

Russia and the 'Axis of Upheaval'

Russia is sharing important battlefield lessons it has gleaned from its Ukraine invasion with China, Iran, and North Korea, a leading analyst argued in *Foreign Affairs*. The assessment contradicts Western conventional wisdom that Moscow has approached the conflict more as a meat grinder than with strategic nous, reports Reuters.

"Russia realizes that warfare is changing, so its military must change, as well," the piece said. It comes amid mounting evidence of cooperation between what Washington hawks have dubbed the "Axis of Upheaval": China is reportedly helping Iran evade US sanctions with a barter-like trading system, and is an increasingly critical investor in Russia, while Beijing's premier is due in Pyongyang this week.



Could AI help you save on holiday shopping?
Pic - Consumer Affairs

Global Leaders Hail Historic Israel-Hamas Ceasefire and Hostage Deal

World leaders on Thursday widely welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire and hostage-release deal between Israel and Hamas, expressing hope that the agreement could mark the beginning of the end of the two-year war in Gaza and pave the way for a permanent political solution.

The deal stipulates that Hamas will release all 20 living hostages in the coming days in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. In parallel, the Israeli military will begin a withdrawal from the majority of Gaza.

International reaction was overwhelmingly positive, with leaders praising the diplomatic efforts and expressing optimism for the future of the region.

Calls for Peace and a Permanent Political Solution

The overwhelming sentiment from global figures was that the agreement is a crucial first step toward lasting peace, with many calling for a permanent resolution centered on the two-state solution.

- **Palestinian Territories:** President Mahmoud Abbas hoped the agreement would be "a prelude to reaching a permanent political solution," leading to the establishment of an "independent Palestinian state."
- **United Nations:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged for all hostages to be released "in a dignified manner" and called for a permanent cease fire, stating, "The fighting must stop once and for all." He also stressed the need for the immediate, unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza.
- **Saudi Arabia:** The Kingdom hoped the deal would "lead to urgent action to alleviate the humanitarian suffering... achieve a full Israeli withdrawal, restore security and stability, and initiate practical steps to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution."



World Leaders react to Gaza Truce Deal. Pic - World News Today

- **China:** Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun called for a "permanent and comprehensive" cease fire and reiterated China's position that "Palestinians should govern Palestine."
- Leaders in the region and beyond characterized the agreement as a significant turning point, opening the door for hope and stability.
- **Egypt:** President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called it a "historic moment," noting that it "does not only close the chapter of war. It also opens the door of hope for the peoples of the region for a future defined by justice and stability."
- **WHO:** Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the announcement as a "big step towards lasting peace," adding, "The best medicine is peace," and affirming the WHO's readiness to "scale up its work to meet the dire health needs of patients across Gaza."
- **Turkey:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan publicly

thanked US President Donald Trump, saying he demonstrated "the necessary political will to encourage the Israeli government toward the ceasefire."

European and Western Reactions

European leaders and key Western allies praised the diplomatic efforts and emphasized the need to prioritize civilian safety and humanitarian access.

- **European Union:** Leaders praised the diplomatic efforts of the US, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey. Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas called the deal "a significant breakthrough."
- **France:** President Emmanuel Macron hoped the agreement would pave the way for a "political solution."
- **Germany:** Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the developments were "encouraging."
- **Spain:** Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez emphasized that civilians must be supported so that "the atrocities experienced... never [be] repeated."
- **Ireland:** Deputy Prime Minister Simon Harris forcefully stated the deal "can stop the dreadful bombing, silence the guns, end the famine and genocide, and allow a surge of humanitarian aid into Gaza."
- **United Kingdom:** Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the deal a "crucial first step" and urged that it "be implemented in full, without delay, and accompanied by the immediate lifting of all restrictions on life-saving humanitarian aid to Gaza."
- **Russia:** Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov welcomed the agreement and expressed hope that "signatures will be signed today, and that actions to implement the agreements will follow."

Across The Globe

Renewables pass coal as top energy source

Renewable energy surpassed coal as the world's primary energy source in the first half of 2025, according to a new report. UK-based think tank Ember said the moment marked a "crucial turning point," as solar and wind power kept up with soaring electricity demand as a result of the AI boom.

But the top-line finding masks regional nuances, Ember said. Clean energy growth in the US is slowing, and the pace of adoption in China — the global leader — could temper. In many developing countries, though, renewables are booming: Pakistan imported enough solar panels in 2024 to generate around a third of its current power capacity, the BBC reported.



Renewable energy set to overtake coal as largest source of power globally. Pic - The Independent

No 'silver bullet' for France woes



French markets fall, investors see no 'silver bullet' for political crisis. Pic - Reuters

French politics slipped further into turmoil as rivals and allies alike piled pressure on President Emmanuel Macron following the resignation of yet another prime minister. The country faces a worrying budget deficit and debt load, but successive Macron-appointed premiers have failed to overcome far-right and far-left opposition to pass an austerity budget. Macron has given the outgoing prime minister — the president's eighth — two days to find a solution, but the chances are slim: Investors see no "obvious silver bullet," one analyst told Reuters, France's ascendant nationalist, anti-immigration right wing party "smells blood," Politico said, and Macron's first premier has called for presidential elections to be brought forward in order to end the impasse.

US adversaries weaponize ChatGPT

America's adversaries are using ChatGPT to power hacking, surveillance, and influence schemes, according to a new report from OpenAI. While the US and China are locked in a high-stakes battle over advanced AI technology, OpenAI's report suggests that actors linked to Beijing are using existing tools for relatively mundane tasks like parsing data or improving their language skills, CNN wrote.

OpenAI said it banned a user who asked ChatGPT for help on a tool that could analyze travel and records related to China's Uyghur minority. The findings echo some early fears around the ramifications of generative AI for cybersecurity, providing "a rare snapshot into the broader world of authoritarian abuses of AI," OpenAI said.

CEOs influence Trump by calling him

American CEOs have found success in swaying US President Donald Trump by... calling him. Rather than schmoozing MAGA staffers or making strategic appearances on Fox News in the hope of relaying a message, the leaders of Microsoft, Nvidia, and Dell contacted the president or top aides in August to vouch for Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan, who had faced attacks from Trump. The president backed off, and the White House later took a 10% stake in Intel. Corporate America has been puzzled over how to get Trump's ear in the second term, but the Intel episode suggests a more CEO-friendly form of back-channel influence is returning.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

From the Pages of History - MT 71 Years Ago

7th Year No 318

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 30 September, 1960

• "Mankind is earthen jugs with spirits in them." — Nathaniel Hawthorne

Hindu Marriage Act

Marriage is as old an institution as man himself. All through its chequered history, this institution has gone through countless vicissitudes, and its content and meaning have sharply changed according to different countries and traditions. In India, where traditions seem to die harder than anywhere else, the recent attempts to reform marriage laws raised a huge hue and cry. But subsequently, the din subsided, and today the reformed law relating to Hindu marriage is taken for granted. In the following article, Surabhi Mehta, a correspondent of *Femina*, makes some observations on the Hindu Marriage Act.

Since cases of inter-caste, inter-religious, inter-provincial marriages are steadily increasing, the Indian legislators have passed an Act which enables two people to get married in spite of so many barriers. This Act is known as *The Special Marriage Act, 1954*, and applies to all Indian citizens (except those of Jammu and Kashmir), whatever their caste, religion, or province. It also applies to Indian citizens residing abroad who wish to take advantage of its provisions.

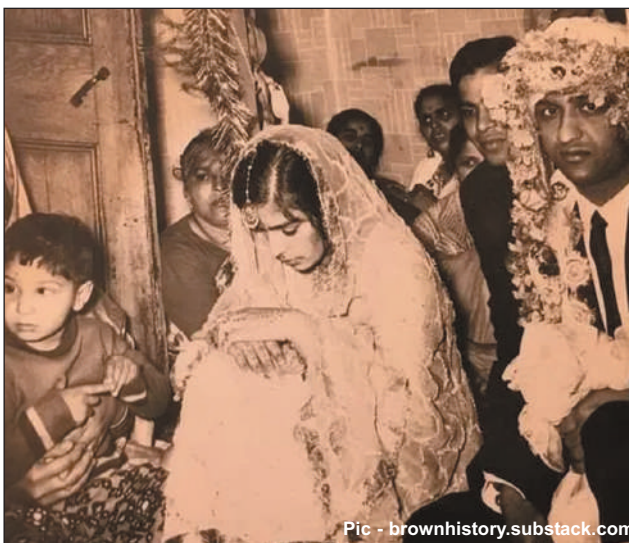
Polygamy Illegal

Thus, a marriage between any two Indian citizens may be solemnized under this Act if certain conditions are fulfilled at the time of the marriage. Hence, the first condition is that neither party has a spouse living. This *makes monogamy the rule*, as long as the marriage is solemnized under this Act. Secondly, that neither party is an idiot or a lunatic. The third condition is that the male must have completed the age of 21 years and the female, 18 years.

The fourth condition is that the parties are not "within the prohibited degrees of relationship" — this means that the bride and the bridegroom should not be related to each other in such a way that a marriage between them would be illegal. Hence, marriages between cousins, uncles and nieces, aunts and nephews, etc., are not allowed, and a long list of "prohibited relationships" is given in the Schedule to the Act.

Marriage Between Cousins Null!

There have been instances of marriages between cousins, but such marriages are null and void under this Act, as they are contrary to one of its basic conditions. A marriage which is solemnized under this Act, but which is contrary to any one of the four conditions laid down by it is void. Usually, when a marriage is void, it is deemed never to have taken place at all, with the result that all the children of such a union are illegitimate. This Act, however, makes a departure from



Pic - brownhistory.substack.com

the ordinary rule by providing that any child begotten or conceived during such a marriage (i.e., before the marriage is declared null and void by a Court) shall be deemed to be legitimate. This provision, however, is not to be construed as conferring upon any such child any right in respect of the property of any person other than its parents (e.g., grandparents or uncles). The intention of this Act is to legitimize the children with respect to succession to the property of their parents, but the legitimacy will not be carried any further.

It is up to the parties to decide whether they want to marry under this Act or not. A couple can always get married according to other forms, such as their own religious rites, but a marriage under this Act is especially beneficial to a couple who belong to different religions.

Once a couple decides to marry under this Act, either or both of them must give notice in writing (which must be in a special form) of their intention to marry to the Marriage Officer of the district in which at least one of them has resided for a period of not less than 30 days immediately before the date on which such notice is given. Such notice must be published by the Marriage Officer by affixing a copy of it in his office, and he must also enter it in the Marriage Notice Book.

After 30 days have expired since the publication of the notice, the marriage may be solemnized, provided no objection has been raised by anyone on such publication.

In The Civil Service

The following list of promotions in and appointments to the Public Service for the week ended **October 6th, 1960**, is released from the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Promotions

Mr M.A.R. Rose, Malaria Inspector Grade I, Health Department, promoted Zone Supervisor.
Mr R. Maugendre, Executive Officer, promoted Senior Executive Officer.
Mr J.M.F. Daurat, Customs and Excise Officer Grade II, promoted Customs and Excise Officer Grade I.
Mr L. Adolphe, Inspector Grade II, Public Works and Surveys Department, promoted Inspector Grade I.
Messrs J. Cunden, D. Seewooruttun, B. Gunesh and I.C. Bissessur, Clerical Officers, promoted Executive Officers.
Mr X. Souroup, Postal Clerk Grade II, promoted Postal Clerk

Grade I.

Mr R. Saddul, Clerical Officer, promoted Higher Clerical Officer.
Mr M. Putty, Messenger, promoted Senior Messenger.

Appointments

Messrs M. Pyndiah and A. Mathoorasing appointed Junior Laboratory Assistants, Health Department.
Mr H. Moorlah appointed Messenger.
Mr S. Bhoojedhur appointed Temporary Stock Inspector, Department of Agriculture.
Miss L.M. Harter appointed Temporary Typist.

Acting Appointment

Mr P. Guillot, Executive Officer, to act as Finance Officer Grade II.

Published in *Mauritius Times*, 7th Oct 1960

Before the solemnization of the marriage, the bride and the bridegroom must make a declaration stating their respective ages, that they have no other spouse living, and that they are not within the prohibited degrees of relationship. They must sign this declaration, along with three witnesses, and the Marriage Officer must countersign.

The marriage may then be solemnized in the presence of the Marriage Officer and these witnesses, either at the office of the Marriage Officer or at any other place (when a small fee may be charged to cover travelling and other expenses). The marriage may be in any form, but to make it complete and binding under this Act, each party to the marriage must say to the other, in the presence of the Marriage Officer and the three witnesses, "I... take thee... to be my lawful husband (or wife)."

After the solemnization of the marriage, the Marriage Officer enters a certificate in the Marriage Certificate Book, and such certificate must be signed by the couple and the three witnesses.



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

Invitation for bids

(Authorised under Section 17 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

**Procurement of Contract WW563W –
Sewerage Project at Clairfonds, Nehru Street, Phoenix.
Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/10/2025**

Open National Bidding

The **Wastewater Management Authority** is inviting bids from eligible and qualified bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius through the Government E-Procurement System for the **Procurement of Contract WW563W – Sewerage Project at Clairfonds, Nehru Street, Phoenix.**

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System

<https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>

Reference Number on the system: **WMA/ONB/10/2025.**

Bids must be submitted online on the E-Procurement System at latest by **Wednesday 05 November 2025 up to 13.30 (Local Time).**

Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt** and **re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 05 November 2025 from 14.31 till Friday 07 November 2025 up to 13.30.**

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 07 November 2025 up to 16.00.**

**The Wastewater Management Authority
2nd Floor, Head Office
Jerningham Street
Curepipe
Mauritius**

The **Wastewater Management Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

06 October 2025

QBL: 70 Years of Growth, Innovation, and Commitment

Quality Beverages Limited (QBL), a subsidiary of the Currimjee Group and a leader in Mauritius's Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. This milestone marks seven decades of partnership with consumers and a significant contribution to the country's socio-economic development.

QBL kicked off its celebrations with a grand gala evening on Friday, October 3, at the Château de Labourdonnais in Mapou. The event was attended by Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, Aadil Ameer Meea, members of the Currimjee family, group executives, and a host of personalities, clients, and partners.

The evening paid tribute to Abdulla Currimjee, whose foresight in introducing Pepsi-Cola to Mauritius in 1955 sparked seven decades of passion, evolution, and success. The founding of QBL also represented the Currimjee Group's entry into the nascent industrialisation era in Mauritius, at a time when the country was grappling with high unemployment.

Anchored in Legacy, Focused on the Future

Anil Currimjee, Chairman of the Board of Currimjee Jeewanjee and Company Ltd, highlighted the deep roots of the company's commitment. "QBL's 70 years echo the seven decades of commitment and contribution by the Currimjee family and the Currimjee Group to the industrial development and economic fabric of Mauritius," he stated. He emphasized that the company's future ambition is to strengthen partnerships and cultivate a relationship of trust based on collaboration and a common vision.



From L to R: Iqbal Oozeer, Managing Director of Currimjee Jeewanjee Company Ltd, Azim Currimjee, Director of Currimjee Jeewanjee Company Ltd, Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, Inigo de Prado, Managing Director of QBL

"We are guided by a deeper aspiration: to give meaning to everyday life, to open the way to new opportunities, and to instil a sense of belonging and purpose in the lives of Mauritians and beyond," he added.

The Pillars of Future Growth: Innovation, Partnership, and Sustainability

Recounting QBL's journey, Iqbal Oozeer, Managing Director of Currimjee Jeewanjee and Company Ltd and Chairman of the QBL Board, expressed his admiration for the company's ability to create and sustain powerful brands. "Brands that inspire confidence, that carry stories, and that are now part of our collective memory," he remarked.

Mr Oozeer further stressed that while the Currimjee Group has built solid brands over the last 135 years, the focus is now on preparing for the future. This future, he said, must be built on three distinctive pillars: innovation, partnership, and growth through synergies.

He was clear that "growth and profitability alone are not

enough." He called for the company's journey to be "impregnated with sustainable practices, in the preservation of our planet for future generations. This means building responsible businesses, respecting our communities, and requires perfect alignment with our group's values that anchor us to our heritage."

A Transformation into an FMCG Powerhouse

QBL has evolved from a non-alcoholic beverage company into a major FMCG player in Mauritius, with an annual turnover exceeding Rs 3 billion. The company provides families daily with a portfolio of over 40 brands, spanning beverages, food products, soaps, detergents, and personal care items.

Inigo de Prado, Managing Director of QBL, attributed this success to a forward-thinking spirit, impactful strategies, significant investments, and a constant pursuit of quality to meet consumer expectations and market changes.

Mr Prado pointed out that a significant shift began in 2012 with the deployment of a strategic transformation plan. This plan focused on creating better synergies between the different entities of the Currimjee Group's industrial division to optimize operations, ensure growth, and solidify the product portfolio, thereby strengthening market competitiveness.

Expanding Horizons in the Indian Ocean Region

With its extensive portfolio and a dozen international partners, QBL is now setting its sights on consolidating its presence in the Indian Ocean region. The company plans to significantly increase exports to markets like Réunion, Madagascar, Comoros, and Mayotte, while also actively exploring new growth opportunities across Africa.



Wastewater Management Authority

The WMA is looking for dynamic, motivated and result-oriented candidates to fill the following positions:

1. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (ON CONTRACT)

A. QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Degree in Public Relations, Communications/ Journalism or related field acceptable to the WMA Board.

B. EXPERIENCE:

- Minimum 5 years' experience in the field of Public Relations, Communications/ Media Relations.
- Previous experience for having worked in the local media/press will constitute an advantage.
- Candidate should produce written evidence of experience claimed.

C. Candidates should also –

- Be computer literate;
- Possess an outgoing personality with excellent interpersonal, organising and communication skills;
- Have the ability to work under pressure; and
- Be ready to work during week-end/ Public holidays depending on exigencies of service.

DURATION OF CONTRACT: 2 years

SALARY: Negotiable and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

2. ASSISTANT WORKS INSPECTOR (PERMANENT)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A.** Cambridge School Certificate with credit in at least five subjects including English Language, French and Mathematics or Principles of Accounts obtained on one certificate or Passes not below Grade C in at least five subjects including English language, French and Mathematics or Principles of Accounts obtained on one certificate at the General Certificate of Education

VACANCIES

"Ordinary Level".

NOTE: Candidates not possessing a credit in English Language at the Cambridge School Certificate will also be considered provided they possess passes in at least two subjects at "Principal Level" and one subject at "Subsidiary Level" as well as the General Paper obtained on one certificate at the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations.

- B. (a)** The Ordinary Technician Diploma in Building and Civil Engineering awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute
- OR (b)** The Technician Diploma in Construction or in Construction Industry awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute
- OR (c)** The "Brevet de Technicien" in Civil Engineering or in Building Construction awarded by the Lycée Polytechnique Sir Guy Forget

OR Equivalent qualifications to A and B above acceptable to the Board

C. Candidates should be computer literate.

NOTE: In the absence of candidates possessing the qualifications at B above, consideration will be given to candidates possessing the Technician Certificate in Construction or the Technician Certificate Part 1 in Construction awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board. Candidates should produce written evidence of knowledge claimed.

SALARY: In the scale of: Rs 17305 x 260 – 17825 x 275 – 18925 x 300 – 19525 x 325 – 21475 x 375 – 22225 x 400 – 23425 x 525 – 26050 x 675 – 27400 x 825 – 35650 x 900 - 36550

3. TREATMENT PLANT WORKER (SHIFT) (PERMANENT)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- By selection from among candidates who: - Possess the Certificate of Primary Education; and
- (i) Have a positive attitude towards work.

NOTE: In the absence of candidates possessing the Certificate of

Primary Education, consideration will be given to those who can show proof of being literate and have a positive attitude towards work.

SALARY: In the scale of: Rs 13285 x 230 – 13975 x 250 – 15225 x 260 – 17825 x 275 – 18925 x 300 – 19525 x 325 – 21475

AGE LIMIT: Post 1: The age limit is 65 years.

Post 2: Candidates, unless in the Public Sector or Parastatal Organisation, should not have reached 45 years.

Post 3: Candidates, unless in the Public Sector or Parastatal Organisation, should not have reached 48 years.

MODE OF APPLICATION

- Application forms and detailed list of duties are available at the Human Resource Section of the WMA and can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.wmamauritius.mu>
- Qualified candidates should submit the application form duly filled in and signed together with copies of all academic and professional certificates and written evidence of knowledge / experience claimed to: **The General Manager, Wastewater Management Authority, Jerningham Street, Curepipe.**
- For the post of **Public Relations and Communications Manager**, qualified candidates should also submit a comprehensive CV.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION

The closing date for submission of application is not later than **Wednesday 29 October 2025 at 15.30 hrs.**

NOTE: 1. Only the best qualified candidates will be considered.

2. The WMA reserves the right not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.
3. The post applied for should be clearly marked on the left hand corner of the envelope.
4. Late/incomplete application not made on the prescribed form will not be considered.
5. Candidates who possess an equivalent qualification to the prescribed qualification are requested to submit an Equivalence Certificate from Mauritius Qualification Authority or Higher Education Commission, as appropriate.

Wastewater Management Authority
Jerningham Street, Curepipe
Tel: 206 3000 / 206 3056

09 October 2025

WMA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

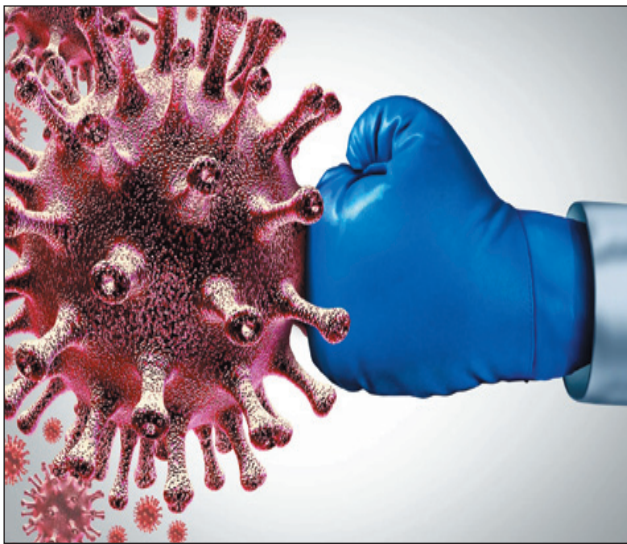
A Common Drug, a Stunning Result: Inhaled Heparin Against COVID-19

An international study led by researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) and King's College London has revealed that an inexpensive, widely available drug could revolutionize the treatment of severe COVID-19 and other deadly respiratory infections. The drug is heparin, traditionally used as an injectable anti-clotting agent, but tested in this study in an inhaled form to target the lungs directly.

The results from a trial involving almost 500 hospitalized COVID-19 patients were stunning: those who inhaled heparin were half as likely to require ventilation and had a significantly lower risk of dying compared to those receiving standard care.

The Triple-Action Advantage

The success of inhaled heparin lies in its unique, triple-action profile. While acting as an anticoagulant, it also possesses strong anti-inflammatory and pan-antiviral properties. No other single drug offers this potent com-



bination, which is critical for fighting severe respiratory infections that often involve harmful inflammation and micro-clotting in the lungs.

According to Professor Clive Page of King's College London, this makes it "a great weapon to have up our sleeve" for future pandemics and against current severe cases.

Researchers believe the benefits extend far beyond COVID-19. By fighting inflammation, viruses, and clotting, the inhaled drug is expected to be useful in treating other serious respiratory diseases like pneumonia and for patients with compromised immune systems. Because heparin is inexpensive and widely accessible, it holds immense promise as a powerful, global treatment option, particularly for low-income countries. Researchers are now developing an optimized inhalation formula and planning further trials to confirm its effectiveness against common infections like influenza and RSV.



What are solar storms and the solar wind? 3 astrophysicists explain how particles coming from the Sun interact with Earth

Space weather isn't referring to rain clouds that float through the galaxy. Instead, it's caused by massive explosions of particles that shoot out from the Sun.

Every day on Earth, you experience weather. You feel the wind blowing and see clouds move across the sky. Sometimes there are storms where the wind gets really strong, it might rain, or there might be thunder and lightning.

Did you know that there's weather in space too? It all starts with the Sun.

The Sun: The bright star in our solar system

The Sun is a very hot, very big ball of gas at the center of our solar system. Its surface can reach a blistering 10,800 degrees Fahrenheit (6,000 degrees Celsius). That's nearly five times hotter than lava that spews from volcanoes on Earth, and just like lava, the Sun glows from the heat.

The Sun is made up of what solar physicists like us call plasma.

Normal gases, like the air you breathe on Earth, are made up of atoms bouncing around. Atoms consist of a positively charged bundle of particles called the nucleus and negatively charged particles called electrons. The nucleus and the electrons are tightly stuck together so that atoms are overall neutral – that is, they have no charge.

A gas becomes a plasma when the atoms it's made of become so hot that their negatively charged electrons split apart from their positively charged nuclei. Now that the charged particles are separated from each other, the plasma can conduct electricity, and magnetic fields may pull the plasma or push it away.

Solar wind blows out of the Sun all the time

Sometimes, the Moon lines up with Sun, blocking it from view and turning the sky dark. This phenomenon is called a total solar eclipse. During an eclipse, you can see faint, wispy structures

surrounding the Moon that extend across the sky. In that moment, what you are seeing is the Sun's atmosphere: the corona.

The corona can reach millions of degrees, which is much hotter than the Sun's surface. In fact, the corona is so hot that the particles shoot out of the Sun, escaping from the Sun's gravity, engulfing the entire solar system. This stream of plasma is called the solar wind.

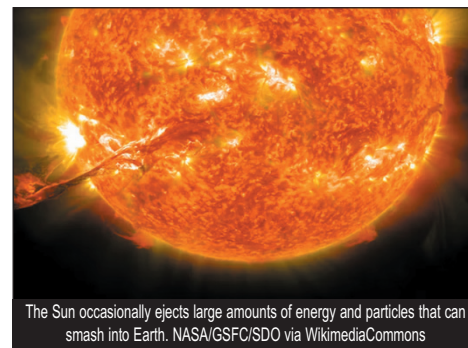
The solar wind's invisible, continuous gust of plasma fills a bubble in space that extends far beyond the orbit of Pluto. It can reach up to 2 million miles per hour (3 million kilometers per hour) – at that speed, the solar wind would take less than a minute to circle the Earth. For comparison, the International Space Station takes 90 minutes to go around the Earth.

While it's hard to see the solar wind directly in photos once it leaves the corona, we can measure the gas directly with instruments in space. Scientists have recently gotten up close and personal with it by sending missions such as the Parker Solar Probe closer to the Sun than ever before. The Parker Solar Probe flies directly into the solar wind and measures the gas directly just as it escapes the Sun – like a weather station.

The Parker Solar Probe also has a specialized camera that points sideways to see the Sun's light as it scatters off the solar wind. Light scattering is the same process that makes the sky blue on Earth.

Big solar explosions

The solar wind surrounds and engulfs the Earth and other planets all the time, but most of the time it is safely guided around us by our planet's magnetic field. However, occasionally the Sun also generates huge explosions that release big clouds of plasma into our solar system, some of which are directed toward Earth.



The Sun occasionally ejects large amounts of energy and particles that can smash into Earth. NASA/GSFC/SDO via Wikimedia Commons

These massive events are called coronal mass ejections.

Compared to the solar wind, which is always blowing, coronal mass ejections are short-lived but extreme. You can think of them as solar storms. Solar storms also involve one important force that doesn't really play a role in the weather on Earth: magnetism.

The Sun is like a giant magnet. All magnets create what we call magnetic field lines, which are lines along which charged particles such as plasma have an easy time traveling. The Sun's magnetic field lines can be very twisted, and the solar wind and coronal mass ejections deform and drag them outward from the Sun.

When these solar storms reach Earth, their coiled magnetic fields can sometimes interact with our planet's own magnetic field and cause disturbances called space weather.

Space weather is caused by the Sun

The Earth has a magnetic field and a protective bubble: the magnetosphere. The magnetosphere shields us from the Sun's solar wind and solar storms, acting like a force field to keep living things safe from the energetic particles released by the Sun.

Most of the time this protective bubble

works so well that you can't tell that there is anything special happening out in space. During particularly big storms, however, some solar wind plasma can make it down into the Earth's atmosphere. As coronal mass ejections pass over Earth, their magnetic field can interact with Earth's magnetic field. The Sun and Earth's magnetic field lines untangle and rearrange, and for a short while these fields can link together and let the Sun's plasma in.

When this happens, it can cause big magnetic storms all over the world. This interaction between ejections from the Sun and the Earth is what scientists refer to as space weather.

Space weather is just like the weather on Earth, generated by its atmosphere. It is important for scientists to understand and predict this space weather, as it can lead to power blackouts, interrupt communication and even cause satellites to prematurely fall down to Earth.

Besides these dangers though, space weather can create beautiful light shows in the sky called Northern Lights, or aurora borealis, and Southern Lights, or aurora australis. You can observe these if you're near the North or South Poles. If you ever get a chance to see them, remember what you're seeing is space weather, the result of eruptions and solar wind from the Sun.

Yeimy J. Rivera

Researcher in Astrophysics,
Smithsonian Institution

Rosa Tatiana Niembro Hernández

Astrophysicist, Smithsonian Astrophysical
Observatory, Smithsonian Institution

Samuel Badman

Researcher in Astrophysics,
Smithsonian Institution



Laughter is the Best Medicine

Liking Women

The bartender raises an eyebrow.

"Rough day?"

"You could say that," the man sighs. "I just found out my dad is gay."

The next day, the same man returns, looking even more dejected. He orders another six double brandies.

The bartender shakes his head: "Back again? What happened this time?"

With a deep sigh, the man replies, "I just found out my son is gay too."

On the third day, the man stumbles in once more, looking completely defeated. Again, he orders six double brandies.

The bartender, now genuinely concerned, leans in and asks, "Jeez, man... does anyone in your family like women?"

The man downs his drink and mutters, "Yeah... my wife!"

Scheduled breaks must be taken on schedule

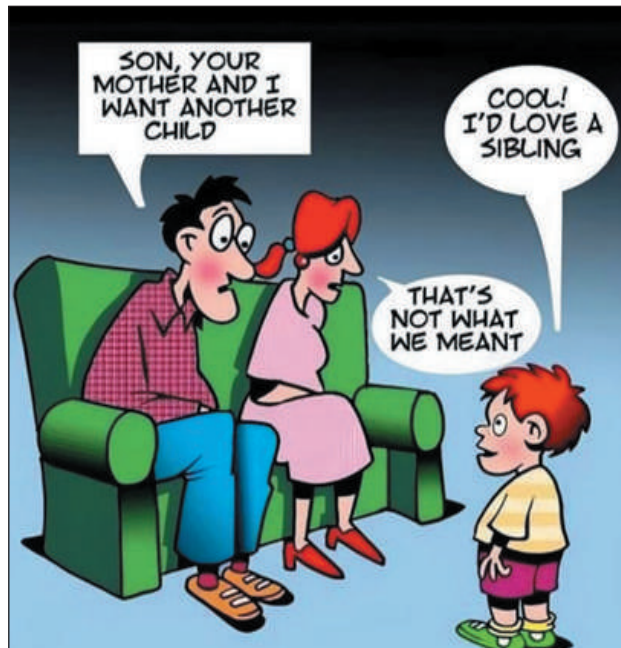
My job involves minimal interaction -- just come in, do the work, and go home, aside from a couple of daily meetings.

A new manager arrived and demanded everyone submit their schedules so she could track comings and goings. Her memo stated: "Your breaks and lunch must be scheduled the same every day and taken on time."

My morning break happens right after the team's 15-minute huddle. A few days later, the huddle ran long, so I got up and left after 15 minutes. She probably assumed I was heading to the restroom--until she spotted me in the break room.

Every time the huddle exceeded 15 minutes, I left. Eventually she asked why. I replied, "My break is scheduled and needs to be taken on time." She said, "Within reason -- you can't just walk out of meetings." I asked if she planned to amend her memo.

She didn't. I didn't change my routine.



The standoff lasted six months, until she transferred. The next manager scrapped the huddles and simply emailed bullet points -- and everything went back to normal.

Bedtime Prayers... and Farewells

Dad listens to his daughter saying her bedtime prayers:

"God bless mommy, God bless daddy, God bless grandma, and... goodbye grandpa."

Surprised, he asks, "Why'd you say that?"

"I don't know... just felt like it," she shrugs.

The next day, grandpa drops dead. Dad thinks, "Wow... weird coincidence."

A month later, bedtime:

"God bless mommy and daddy... and goodbye grandma."

Sure enough, grandma passes away the next day.

Dad realizes this is more than coincidence but doesn't tell his wife. Months go by, until one night he hears:

"God bless mommy..." She looks at him, "...and goodbye daddy."

Panicked, he locks himself in his office the next day, cancels meetings, takes the phone off the hook, and waits. Midnight passes. He's alive, exhausted, drenched in sweat.

He drives home. His wife yells, "Where have you been?!"

"I've had a miserable day!" he gasps.

She sighs, "You had a miserable day? I had a miserable day! First, the milkman drops dead on the steps..."

Two Words

A man joined a silent religious order where you could only speak two words a year to the Bishop.

At the end of the first year, the Bishop asked for his words. "Hungry most of the year," he said, "More food."

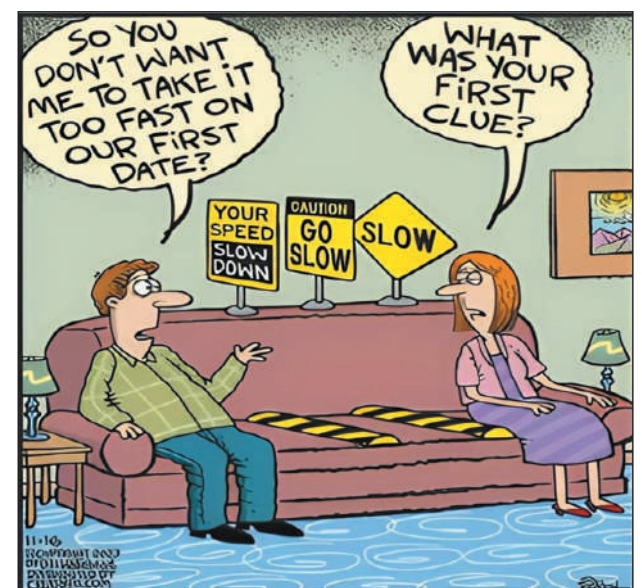
By the end of the second year, feeling cold, he said, "More blankets."

At the end of the third year, realizing the silent life wasn't for him, he said, "I quit."

The Bishop replied, "You may as well go -- you've done nothing but complain since you arrived."

Love by Profession

- She fell in love with a Banker, but he showed no Interest.
- She fell in love with an Astronaut, but he wanted Space.
- She fell in love with a Gym Trainer, but it didn't Work Out.
- She fell in love with a Librarian, but his time was always Booked.
- She fell in love with an Electrician, but there was no Spark.
- She fell in love with a Cardiologist, but he broke her Heart.
- She fell in love with a Geologist, but the relationship was too Rocky.
- She fell in love with an Economist, but he couldn't supply her Demands.
- She fell in love with a Violinist, but he said, "No Strings Attached."
- She fell in love with a Linguist, but he left her Speechless.
- She fell in love with a Seismologist, but he was always finding Fault.
- She fell in love with a Cook, but he left her on the Back Burner.
- She fell in love with a Mathematician, but she couldn't Count on him.



- She fell in love with a Scuba Diver -- on the surface all seemed fine, but deep down, something Fishy was going on.
- She fell in love with a Fisherman, but he wasn't a good Catch.
- She fell in love with a Mason, but they never built a strong Foundation.
- She fell in love with a Teacher, but he had no Class.
- She fell in love with a Tennis Player, but Love meant nothing to him.
- She fell in love with a Magician, but he kept turning Tricks.
- She fell in love with a Lawyer, but he never took her to the Bar.
- At last, she fell in love with a Recovery Agent, and he Seized her.

That's Life

Michael Caine & His Mother



In 1966, British actor Michael Caine was living a dream in Hollywood. Yet he never forgot his mother, Ellen, who had raised him in humble conditions in Rotherhithe.

One day, curious, she asked how much he earned for a film.

"A million pounds," he replied.

"How much is that?" she asked.

Michael paused, then said: *"It means, Mum, that you never have to work again. You won't have to clean or worry anymore."*

It wasn't just money, it was freedom. A son's promise to honour the woman who had given him everything.

University of Life

* * *

When Parents Grow Old...

Let them grow old with the same love that they let you grow.

Let them speak and tell repeated stories with the same patience with which they once listened to yours.

Let them be wrong, just as you often were, and they never embarrassed you by correcting you.

Let them enjoy their friends, their memories, their grandchildren.

Let them live among the objects that have accompanied them for years, for it hurts them when pieces of life are taken away.

Give them your hand, just as they once gave you theirs when you began your path.

(Author Unknown)

Inspiration

Warriors' Call

Warriors... hear me. Every victory demands a price. The road before us is not easy. It is carved with pain, lit by fire, and shadowed by doubt. But we do not turn back. We do not kneel.

Without sacrifice, there can be no victory. The dawn belongs only to those who bleed for it. Strength is born from loss; courage is born from struggle. And though the night stands against us, we will rise with the fire of a thousand souls.

Remember this day. When the ashes fall and the silence returns, it will be known that we stood unbroken. The greatest victories are written not by the hands of fate, but by the will of those who refused to fall.

Solitude & Hope

Replace loneliness with solitude.

Replace sorrow with hope.

Let your pain become the doorway through which wisdom enters you.

In the silence of solitude, you will find yourself.

In the flame of hope, you will light your path.

Through the scars of pain, you will discover truths that no joy could ever teach.

Do not fear the weight you carry.

It is shaping you into something greater: a soul that has walked through fire and learned to turn ashes into light.

By Chamod Senevirathne

Life's Lesson

The Strainer and the Water

A student once asked his teacher:

"I've read so many books... but I've forgotten most of them. So what's the point of reading?"

The teacher didn't answer. He just looked at him in silence.

A few days later, they were sitting by a river. Out of nowhere, the teacher said:

"I'm thirsty. Bring me some water... but use that old strainer lying there on the ground."



The student looked confused. It was a ridiculous request. How could anyone bring water in a strainer full of holes? But he didn't dare argue. He picked up the strainer and tried. Once. Twice. Over and over again... He ran faster, angled it differently, even tried covering the holes with his fingers. Nothing worked. He couldn't hold a single drop.

Exhausted and frustrated, he dropped the strainer at the teacher's feet and said:

"I'm sorry. I failed. It was impossible."

The teacher looked at him kindly and said:

"You didn't fail. Look at the strainer."

The student glanced down and noticed something. The old, dark, dirty strainer was now shining clean. The water, though it never stayed, had washed it over and over until it gleamed.

The teacher continued:

"That's what reading does. It doesn't matter if you don't remember every detail. It doesn't matter if knowledge slips through your mind like water through a strainer... Because while you read, your mind is refreshed. Your spirit is renewed. Your ideas are oxygenated. And even if you don't notice it right away, you're being transformed from the inside out."

That's the true purpose of reading. Not to fill your memory... but to cleanse and enrich your soul.

La Force et les Limites de la super-femme

Toi, qui portes tout depuis des années :

La maison toujours propre, le repas prêt, les tâches à jour, l'enfant lavé, le mari comblé, le patron satisfait...

et toi, brisée à l'intérieur.

On t'a dit que tu pouvais tout faire.

Que tu étais forte.

Que tu étais une femme.

Et toi... tu l'as cru.

Tu es devenue cheffe, infirmière, chauffeuse, psychologue, secrétaire, animatrice pour enfants, conseillère conjugale,

gardienne de tous... sauf de toi.

Et personne ne l'a remarqué.

Personne ne te voit quand tu pleures en silence dans la salle de bain.

Personne ne voit quand ton dos te fait mal, quand ton âme te fait mal, quand tout ton corps crie.

Personne ne te demande : « Et toi, comment tu vas ? »

Parce qu'ils se sont habitués à ce que tu sois là.

Mais la vérité, femme... ça suffit.

La maison peut attendre.

L'enfant va grandir.



Le mari, s'il veut partir, partira.

Le travail te remplacera en deux jours.

Mais toi...

Toi, tu n'as pas de remplaçante.

Tu ne peux plus continuer à te mettre de côté.

Parce que lorsque ton corps hurlera ce que ta bouche a toujours tu, personne n'applaudira la super-femme que tu as été.

On se demandera seulement pourquoi tu ne t'es pas occupée de toi.

Alors, lâche le balai.

Enfile ce vêtement que tu aimes tant,

va au parc, dors un peu plus,

éteins ton téléphone,

mange ce qui te fait plaisir,

sors avec tes amies,

investis en toi, dans ce qui te fait du bien,

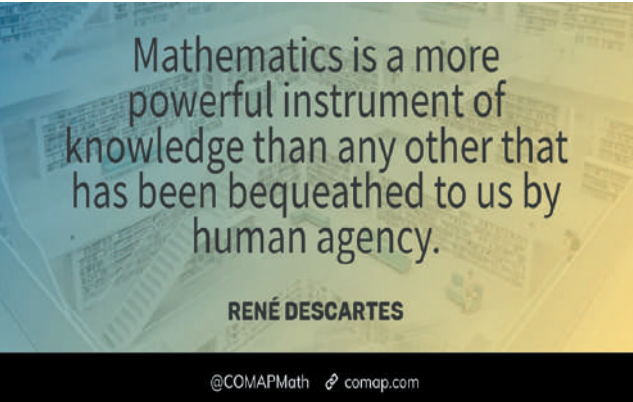
dans ce qui te soigne.

Et si quelqu'un te dit que tu es égoïste...

souris.

Parce qu'enfin, tu es juste envers toi-même.

Le Monde Littéraire



Becoming a better you

Stop Seeking, Start Being: The Journey to Loving the Person You Are

In a culture obsessed with finding "the one," we often place undue pressure on romantic partners to fulfill every need, solve every problem, and make us whole. Yet, as Oscar Wilde wisely noted, "To love oneself is the beginning of a life-long romance." No other person can fill the void or provide the bedrock of self-worth that you must build for yourself.

Falling in love with yourself — a process that involves gaining a deep appreciation for your own worth and genuinely enjoying your own company — is the most empowering journey you can undertake. It is the foundation that allows you to:

- **Give yourself what you need**, instead of waiting for others to do so.
- **Embrace both your strengths and your weaknesses.**
- **Be gentle with yourself** when you inevitably make a mistake or fail.
- **Be comfortable with doing things alone.**
- **Know you're in your corner**, even if nobody else is.
- **Know that you're enough**, exactly as you are.
- **Have the confidence to go after what you really want.**

This level of self-love is not vanity; it is self-preservation. It is how you build a resilient, fulfilling life. Here are ten powerful ways to begin that journey and fall head-over-heels for the person you are.

10 Ways to Cultivate Self-Love

1. Make a List of Your Accomplishments

We all keep exhaustive to-do lists, but how often do we celebrate our done lists? Start keeping a running record of your accomplishments, large and small. This is not about bragging; it's about acknowledging your own value. This list will serve as a powerful reminder of how capable and valuable you are, helping you to feel pride and genuine admiration for yourself.

2. Talk to Yourself Kindly

The tone of your inner voice is critical. If you wouldn't speak to a child or a close friend with harshness, why tolerate that critical tone in your own head? Commit to speaking to yourself—in your thoughts—in a sweet, tender tone. The words matter too: consciously switch out self-criticism for positive, uplifting affirmations. A soft-



spoken person inside your head is the first step toward a loving inner life.

3. See Yourself Through Loving Eyes

We often dismiss our own good points, taking them for granted. To combat this, picture someone who loves you—your spouse, best friend, or a supportive family member—looking at you. How would they describe you? What would they say they appreciate about your character, your humor, or your presence? This exercise helps you focus on your best qualities and realize how much there is in you for others, and for you, to love.

4. If You Don't Like Something, Change It

Unlike with others, if there is a trait you genuinely dislike about yourself, you have the power to change it. Whether it's a tendency toward criticism, a lack of patience, or a habit of procrastination, decide to work on yourself. The act of monitoring your behavior and consciously moving closer to the person you want to be is a powerful form of self-love. It proves that you care enough to invest in your own improvement.

5. Fall In Love With Your Self-Trust

How much can you love someone who constantly lies and lets you down? To fully love yourself, you must be able to trust yourself. Increase your self-trust by doing three things: keep your promises to yourself (follow through on small goals), bet on yourself (back your own plan), and stop arguing against yourself (stop highlighting

your flaws and limitations). The more you realize you will always have your own back, the more you can rely on and love yourself.

6. Take Yourself Out On Dates

Learning to enjoy your own company is paramount. Treat yourself like the cherished companion you are. Take yourself to your favorite restaurant, visit a museum, or simply dedicate an evening to a deeply satisfying personal interest. These solo dates remind you that you are great company and don't need external validation to have a wonderful time.

7. Treat Yo' Self

Show yourself love through acts of kindness and generosity. If you love giving gifts to others, start adding yourself to the

list. This isn't about constant extravagance, but occasionally treating yourself to something you truly want or need, whether it's a good book, a massage, or a tool that improves your well-being. Pampering yourself is a tangible way to say, "I value me."

8. Develop Positive Habits

Caring for yourself is a constant affirmation of your worth. Developing positive habits — like regular exercise, eating well, spending time in nature, or meditating — is a profound form of self-love. When you consistently take good care of your mind and body, you demonstrate that you believe you are worth the effort.

9. Listen to Yourself

In our outwardly-focused world, we often fail to turn inward and listen to our own needs and thoughts. Journaling is one of the best ways to listen to yourself, whether through stream-of-consciousness writing (like "morning pages") or a more directed method. By building a better relationship with your inner world, you validate your feelings and experiences.

10. Ask Yourself What You Need

Make it a habit to pause and ask: "What do I need right now?" Do you need alone time, a creative outlet, more play and laughter, or simply a simplified routine? A person who is attuned to your needs and does their best to fulfill them is easy to love. Become that person for yourself.

Health Tips

The Health Benefits of Almonds

Almonds have long been celebrated for their health benefits and are considered a nutritional powerhouse. These versatile seeds are packed with essential nutrients, including healthy fats, protein, fiber, magnesium, and vitamin E, which contribute to a wide range of health benefits.

Core Health Benefits

- **Heart Health and Weight Management:** The monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats in almonds help lower bad cholesterol, promoting a healthy heart. Despite being calorie-



dense, their high protein and fiber content increase feelings of fullness, which can aid in weight loss by reducing overall calorie intake.

- **Diabetes and Blood Sugar:**

Almonds have a low glycemic index and are effective in regulating blood sugar levels. Their fiber slows the absorption of glucose, preventing sharp spikes in blood sugar, making

them a beneficial addition to meals.

- **Bone, Brain, and Skin Health:** Rich in calcium and magnesium, almonds support strong bones and healthy muscle function. They contain L-arginine, which improves blood flow to the brain, while their vitamin E content protects the skin from UV damage and premature aging.

Versatility and Considerations

Almonds can be easily incorporated into a daily diet, whether consumed raw as a snack, blended into smoothies, or used as a gluten-free flour in baking. While generally safe, they should be avoided by individuals with nut allergies or those with kidney and gallbladder issues due to their oxalate content. Experts recommend a daily intake of 10-15 grams for optimal health benefits. It's an easy way to boost your overall well-being.

BollyByte

Chitrangda Singh Gets Candid About Bollywood Ageing, Fitness, and Career Realism

Actor Chitrangda Singh, set to star opposite Salman Khan in the highly anticipated movie *'Battle of Galwan'*, has engaged in a candid discussion about the intense pressure on actors, particularly women, to maintain a youthful appearance in the film industry. Her own casting in the movie, which is being widely applauded by fans for being age-appropriate — a refreshing change from the common practice of older male actors being paired with significantly younger female leads — lends weight to her observations.

The 49-year-old, who has maintained a consistent screen presence over the years, views the industry's focus on looks as a practical inevitability. "It exists for everybody. At the end of the day, it's a visual medium," she stated. For Singh, an actor's appearance must credibly match the role they are portraying. "If you're playing a 70-year-old, you should look like it, and if you want to



be cast as a 30-year-old, you have to be able to pull it off. That's just the practical side of it," she explained, agreeing that filmmakers have a right to consider appearance when casting.

Singh also addressed the perceived gender imbalance in casting. While acknowledging that male actors, such as "Akki (Akshay Kumar) works on his fitness, watches what he eats," she conceded that there is "more flexibility when it comes to writing characters for men as compared to women." However, she quickly added, "I don't think it's necessarily biased. Male stars drive the film, drive the market, and bring in the money. There's a lot more to consider." She balanced this point by praising her female colleagues, noting, "That

said, Kareena (Kapoor Khan) is doing amazing work right now."

The actor is optimistic about the positive shifts she has witnessed over time, emphasizing that the era of a "short shelf life" for female actors is changing. "The times have changed so much," she noted, highlighting how successful actresses like Vidya Balan still "hold strong screen presence and are being cast frequently. Roles are being written for them, which is a big change."

Finally, Singh situated Bollywood within a broader global context, pointing out that the pressure to maintain one's looks is not unique to the Indian industry. "Look at Nicole Kidman, Demi Moore, everyone is trying to maintain their looks. You have to. At the end of the day, you're selling a story, and it needs to be believable. Of course, actors face pressure in many ways," she concluded. As *'Battle of Galwan'* moves forward, the visibility of actors like Chitrangda Singh continues to develop the discussion about representation, image, and career realism in cinema.

Riddhima Kapoor set to make her Bollywood debut

Riddhima Kapoor, daughter of veteran actress Neetu Kapoor and the late Rishi Kapoor, is all set to make her long-awaited Bollywood debut with the family entertainer, *'Dadi Ki Shaadi'*. The 45-year-old, who has until now shied away from the family's film legacy, confirmed her foray into acting in an exclusive interview, asserting that the decision was entirely her own, reports Indulge Express.

Riddhima Kapoor begins her big-screen journey with *'Dadi Ki Shaadi'*. Addressing rampant speculation, she set the record straight regarding her co-star. "I'm not opposite Kapil in the movie, but I have a fabulous role, and I'm so looking forward to playing the part," she said, pointing to the prominence of her character in the movie's distinctive appeal. Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma also features in a key role in the film.

Breaking onto the silver screen at the age of 45 was an unexpected turn for Riddhima. The opportunity came about via her mother, Neetu Kapoor, who is also part of the cast. After listening to the narration, Riddhima was deeply moved. "The story touched me very deeply. I could relate to myself and my family through its feelings, and I knew I had to be a part of it," she stated. She

prepared extensively for the role with workshops and rehearsals to fully grasp the subtleties of her character.

A 'Second Home' in Shimla

The movie was filmed over 40 days in the scenic settings of Shimla. While staying away from her daughter was a challenge, Riddhima fondly recalled the supportive atmosphere on set, which she called a "second home."

Working alongside her mother was a highlight of the experience. "Working with my mother was surreal, and the chemistry between us transferred beautifully onto the screen," she added. She also spoke warmly of her co-stars, including Kapil Sharma, describing the work environment as professional yet thoroughly enjoyable.

'Dadi Ki Shaadi' is being touted as a clean family entertainer, guaranteed to serve up a mix of laughter, tears, and emotional moments. With the newest Kapoor now set to make her mark in Bollywood, her debut is surrounded by high expectations. Her blend of natural charm and storied family background positions her as one of the most interesting new faces of 2025, ready to add a new level of depth to the silver screen.



'Just Getting Started': Bobby Deol Celebrates 30 Years in Bollywood

Bollywood star Bobby Deol, riding the wave of a phenomenal career resurgence, celebrated a major milestone — 30 years in the film industry — by choosing to spend the afternoon with underprivileged children in Mumbai. The event was a heartwarming blend of nostalgia, encouragement, and a look ahead at the actor's bustling future.

The celebratory meeting, published by Shreyanka Mazumdar of IANS/News18, saw the actor, who

debuted with *Barsaat* in 1995, greeted with enthusiastic performances. The children surprised Deol with energetic dances to patriotic songs, as well as one of his most beloved hit tracks, "Soldier Soldier" from the 1998 movie, *Soldier*.

Deol's three-decade journey has been marked by significant highs and challenging lows. After a successful early phase with films like *Gupt: The Hidden Truth*, *Soldier*, and *Bichhoo*, his career faced a downturn. However, Deol has made a powerful comeback in recent years, starting with digital ventures like *Class of '83* and *Aashram*, before achieving widespread acclaim for his silent, menacing turn as Abrar Haque in the 2023 blockbuster *Animal*.

To commemorate his 30th anniver-

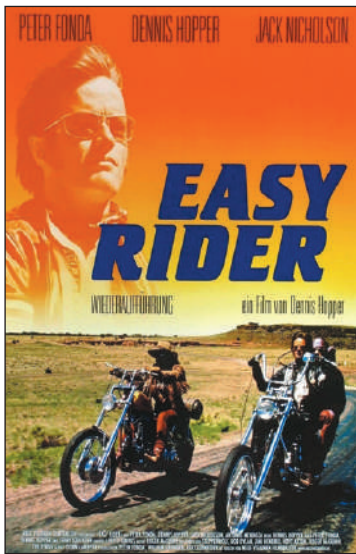


sary, Deol also took to social media, sharing a video montage of his films and highlighting how the success of *Animal* had changed his life. In an emotional message to his fans, he wrote, "30 years of many emotions on and off screen... all made worthwhile by your love. That fire still burns, and I'm just getting started!"

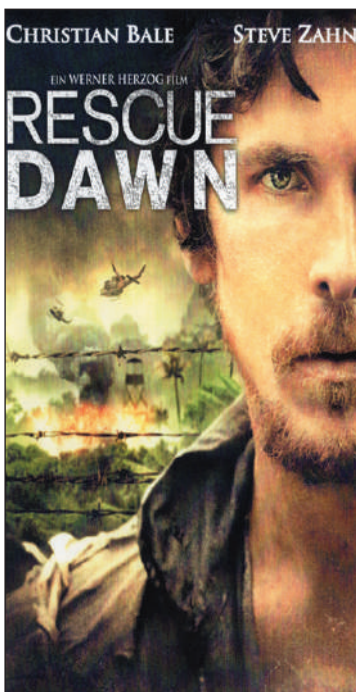
With his "roaring second innings" now in full swing, Deol has a packed slate of major upcoming projects. He is set to star in Anurag Kashyap's directorial *'Bandar'* (Monkey In A Cage), which was recently screened at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Furthermore, he has signed onto the Yash Raj Films' Spy Universe project *'Alpha'* (with Alia Bhatt and Sharvari), and the highly anticipated Tamil political action thriller *'Jana Nayagan'* opposite superstar Thalapathy Vijay.



Vendredi 10 octobre - 20.15



Samedi 11 octobre - 20.15



Dimanche 12 octobre -20.45



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 10 octobre

MBC 1

05.07 Serial: Seref Meselesi
08.38 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Romeo & Juliette
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.19 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Living To Love
17.21 Doc: Not About Music
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Easy Rider
21.54 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.39 Tele: Lying Heart
23.30 Le Journal
00.08 Serial: For Life

MBC 2

09.35 Serial: Le Mag
10.32 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi
11.30 Local: Couleur Marine
12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
13.00 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
13.29 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
14.20 Moments Forts De L'Histoire
14.31 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
14.55 Local: Le Challenge
15.15 Local: En Forme
15.30 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi
18.30 Local: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Sur Prise
19.57 Local: Animalia
20.30 Local: Fashion FX & Lifestyle
21.30 Local: La Sosiete
22.29 Local: Mots & Ecrits
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.30 Local: En Forme
32.32 Mon Jardin Ma Maison

MBC 3

08.00 Local: Amrit Vani
08.11 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
10.05 Local: Ramayan
11.41 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Do Dishayen
Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Prem Chopra
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.27 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Mehfil-E-Ghazal Competition
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.15 Serial: Mere Sai
22.50 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.13 Mati Ke Mol
23.39 Mehfil-E-Ghazal Competition
00.35 Local: Khel Khiladi
01.01 Serial: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

06.25 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
07.45 Doc: Belize: We Are Maya!
08.27 Doc: Gas From Africa
09.26 Doc: The Great Toilet Battle
11.10 Mag: Eco India
11.36 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
12.57 Doc: Belize: We Are Maya!
13.40 Doc: Gas From Africa
14.36 Doc: Rev Special
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.06 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.29 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
15.40 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.04 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super...
16.29 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.48 D.Anime: Kids Songs
16.52 Serial: The Avengers
17.37 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
18.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.50 Tele: Wildflower

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Dhoom Dadakka
Cast: Anupam Kher, Satish Shah, Gulshan Grover, Satish Kaushik, Sammir Dattani...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.25 Shrimad Ramayan
20.55 Anupamaa
21.25 Mere Sai
21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
23.23 Film: Dhoom Dadakka
Cast: Anupam Kher, Satish Shah, Gulshan Grover, Satish Kaushik, Sammir Dattani...

samedi 11 octobre

03.49 Serial: Heartland
05.20 Tele: Seref Meselesi
06.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
06.23 Serial: Columbo
07.34 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
08.26 Serial: Elementary
09.14 Serial: Heartland
09.57 Serial: Hawaii
10.35 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.32 Tele: L'Heritiere
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: All The Flowers
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Maman, J'ai Raté L'Avion
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Rescue Dawn
22.10 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
23.07 Serial: Terra Nostra
23.34 Le Journal Televisé

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
06.41 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
12.00 Local: Memwar Dan Ros
13.41 Local: Sur Prise
14.41 Local: Glwar Dantan
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.40 Rodrig - Coin Zen
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.25 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
23.03 Zournal Kreol
23.23 Local: Tous Egaux
23.32 Local: Saver Kiltirel
23.57 Local: Arsiv MBC
00.35 Local: J'ai Faim

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
10.04 Local: Khel Khiladi
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: Amar Akhbar Anthony
18.10 Live: Samachar
18.37 Live From IGCIC, Phoenix National Celebration Of Dival
21.00 Film: Bajirao Mastani
Cast: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra
23.30 Mag: Indradhanush
04.49 Film: Bajirao Mastani
Cast: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra

06.00 D.Anime: Giant
08.05 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
08.37 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
09.01 D.Anime: Spacepop
09.12 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger
09.46 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
11.10 Doc: Ocean Wild
13.56 Doc: Fake Steak
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.05 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.29 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
16.04 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super...
16.28 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
17.41 D.I.Y. Discover Your Inner
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
18.56 Doc: Forging Into The Future
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.53 Tele: Living To Love
22.26 Film: The Mustang
00.05 Doc: It's In The Air

08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.10 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.10 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Judwaa
With: Salman Khan And Karishma Kapoor
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Crime Patrol



dimanche 12 octobre

02.56 Tele: Living To Love
04.26 Tele: Quotes By Famous...
05.29 Tele: Seref Meselesi
06.01 Film: Rescue Dawn
08.01 Serial: Hawaii
08.59 Film: Maman, J'ai Raté L'Avion
10.38 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Serial: L'Heritiere
12.34 Film: Viceroy's House
14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.35 Film: The Descendants
17.25 Doc: Submerged Universe
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince
20.45 Film: Red 2
22.31 Serial: Chucky
23.23 Tele: Terra Nostra

09.09 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.19 Le Rendez Vous Avec Kiltir...
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.48 Rodrig: Komanter
15.30 Local: Notre Petite Vie
16.54 Local: Tous Egaux
17.14 Local: Les Petits Genies
17.39 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 Upclose And Personal Latin...
21.52 Le Moris Du Rire 3 Backstage Au Trianon
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.322 Local: Coin Jardin
23.36 Local: Arsiv MBC
00.03 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif

06.59 Mag: Eco India
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
10.30 Serial: Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Beta
Cast: Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Aruna Irani
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 MBC Production
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
19.30 MBC Prod
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.04 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
23.08 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
23.37 Serial: Tohar Rashi
23.52 MBC Prod
04.56 Film: Beta

06.00 D.Anime: Giant
06.48 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
08.26 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
09.01 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger
10.31 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
11.01 Doc: Country Dreams
12.01 Mag: Afrimaxx
13.56 Doc: Legendary Hotels
14.38 Mag: Shift
15.01 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.04 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.28 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
15.41 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.03 D.Anime: Stan Lee's...
18.13 Doc: Travel
18.30 Doc: A La Reconquete Des Rocheuses
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
21.42 Film: Tootsie
Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Teri Garr

00.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.58 Udaariyaan
04.48 Anupamaa
06.58 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: Beqabu
Cast: Sanjay Kapoor And Mamta Kurkani
21.17 Mahabharat
22.10 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
23.24 Dhruv Tara

lundi 13 octobre

04.33 Tele: La Desalmada
05.07 Tele: Seref Meselesi
05.50 Tele: Passion And Power
07.35 Serial: The Lazarus Project
08.19 Serial: L'Heritiere
08.42 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.40 Film: Red 2
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.44 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Serial: 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
10.05 Local: Mos Aines
10.31 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
17.03 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
17.34 Local: Couleur Marine
18.05 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.23 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Local: Proze Dime
20.30 Local: Tous Egaux
20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Metie
23.33 Rodrig: Mo Pei
00.07 Local: En Toute Intimite

05.00 Mag: Aastha
07.00 Mag: Eco India
08.29 Local: Tohar Rashi
10.00 Local: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: An Evening In Paris
Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Sharmila Tagore, Pran
15.00 Samachar
16.00 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
19.26 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.06 Local: Charcha
21.00 Film: 36 Ghante
Cast: Raj Kumar, Sunil Dutt
23.09 Mere Sai
23.55 Wagle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: A La Reconquete Des Rocheuses
07.48 Doc: Ocean Wild
08.40 Fear, Power, Remembrance:
10.04 Doc: Germany's Volcanic...
10.46 Doc: A World Heritage Site...
11.29 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
14.10 Doc: Fear, Power...
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.03 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.28 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
15.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.02 D.Anime: Stand Lee's Super...
16.26 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.45 D.Anime: Kids Songs
17.02 D.Anime: The Avengers
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.00 Others: Student Support...
20.51 Tele: Wildflower
21.40 Film: The Last Sunset

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Bezubaan Ishq
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





Mardi 14 octobre - 20.30



Mercredi 15 octobre - 20.30



Mercredi 15 octobre - 15.00



Programme TV



mardi 14 octobre

MBC 1

05.13 Tele: Seref Meselesi
06.01 Serial: Passion And Power
08.45 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: Easy Rider
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.18 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
14.10 Tele: Wildflower
15.30 Film: Rescue Dawn
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Brooklyn
21.55 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
22.40 Tele: Lying Heart The Radio...
23.01 Tele: Video Killed
23.30 Le Journal

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Tous Egaux
09.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
11.13 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
12.03 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
13.16 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.00 Local: Encounter
15.29 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.01 Local: Proze Dime
17.02 Local: Le Mag
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
19.47 Local: Son Ladan Mem
20.00 Local: Rays Of Life
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.31 Local: Le Mag
22.23 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir...
23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion
23.19 Local: Science Quest 2025
23.30 Local: Music Tour 2025

MBC 3

06.59 Mag: Arogya Yoga
08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
08.26 Darshan The Importance...
09.00 Live From Studio Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Karm
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Vidya Sinha and Shabana Azmi
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaille...
15.48 Serial: Dharam Patni
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Hunarbaaz
19.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
19.51 Local: Prakriti Theme
21.00 Film: Pyar Kiye Jaa
23.30 Serial: Mere Sai
00.17 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

MBC 5

07.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites
07.48 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.44 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris
11.06 Mag: Eco Africa
12.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites
12.32 Mag: In Good Shape
13.24 Doc: Relative Or Foe?
13.54 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris
14.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.05 D.Anime: DLes Schtroumpfs
15.41 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.05 Stan Lee's Superhero...
16.29 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.51 D.Anime: Kids Songs
16.55 D.Anime: The Avatars
18.00 Mag: REV
18.45 Mag: Her: Women In Asia
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.50 Tele: Wildflower

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.25 Film: Aa Dekhen Zara
Starring: Bipasha Basu, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Rahul Dev, Sophie Choudry
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.06 Mithai
20.29 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Mere Sai
22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar
23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
23.21 Film: Aa Dekhen Zara
Starring: Bipasha Basu, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Rahul Dev...

mercredi 15 octobre

07.06 Serial: Columbo
08.18 Tele: L'Heritiere
08.39 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: Brooklyn
11.33 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
14.11 Serial: Wildflower
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Brooklyn
17.38 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Live: Grand Titre
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Serial: New Amsterdam
21.00 Serial: Chucky
21.47 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.04 Tele: Video Killed The Radio
23.32 Local: Le Journal

09.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles
09.40 Local: Le Mag
10.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
10.49 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal
12.01 Local: Couleur Marine
12.31 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
13.05 Local: Rays Of Life
14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn
16.05 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.48 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
17.03 Local: Music Tour 2025
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.30 Rodrig Spor
20.00 Divali - Fete De La Lumiere
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc
20.45 Local: Metie
21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.30 Local: Les Klips
22.33 Local: Grand Titre
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur

08.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
08.26 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Naya Daur
Cast: Dilip Kumar, Vijayanthimala, Ajit
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Sayings Radha Krishna
15.47 Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yatra
19.01 Local: Deepon Ki Avali...
19.52 Local: Virasat
20.06 Local: Kaam Daam
21.00 Film: Gharwali Baharwali
Cast: Namit Tiwari, Rani Chatterjee, Monalisa, C.P Bhatt, Anup Arora, BrijeshTripathi
23.30 Serial: Mere Sai

08.43 Mag: Euromaxx
09.24 Odyssey Of The Orphans
10.49 Doc: Healthy Living
11.59 Mag: Made In Germany
12.29 Mag: Global US
13.21 Doc: Canada
14.06 Mag: Euromaxx
14.32 Doc: Superfood Berries
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.29 Messy Goes To Okido
15.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.03 Stan Lee's Superhero
16.27 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.53 D.Anime: The Avatars
17.14 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
17.37 Mag: Carnet De Sante
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.30 Mag: Asia 2050
18.45 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
21.40 Film: Red 2

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Kohra
Starring: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.02 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.00 Mithai
20.31 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
21.00 Anupama
21.28 Mere Sai
22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
22.20 Swaran Ghar
22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
23.58 Film: Kohra
Starring: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran

jeudi 16 octobre

06.14 Tele: Passion And Power
08.16 Serial: L'Heritiere
08.45 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: Tootsie
11.33 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.20 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
14.10 Serial: Wildflower
15.25 Film: Red 2
17.15 Tele: Lyng Heart
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.56 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Selfiee
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Mrunal Thakur, Emraan Hashmi
22.30 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.09 Tele: Lying Heart

09.10 Local: Divali - Fete De La...
09.13 Local: Metie
10.44 Local: Les Klips
11.48 Local: Passerelles
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.06 Local: Rodrig Spor
13.31 Local: Divali - Fete De La...
14.37 Local: Agir Ensemble
15.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
16.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.31 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Rodrig Prog: Komanter
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.30 Emotions En Avant Plan
20.45 Local: En Forme
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
23.00 Zournal Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux

07.00 Mag: Indradhanush
08.00 Local: Yatra
08.27 Local: Deepon Ki Avali...
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
12.00 Film: Pyasa
Cast: Mala Sinha, Guru Dutt
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaille...
15.56 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Local: Divali Mahotsav
18.36 Local: Amrit Vani
18.47 Local: Bhajan Sandhya...
19.01 Sadguru Kabir Ki Gyaan
19.52 Local: Hunarbaaz
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.20 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
21.51 Serial: Mere Sai

07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled
08.32 Mag: Green Shipping
09.12 Doc: Frontex Under Scrunity
10.43 Doc: Bee-Keeping
12.04 Mag: Arts Unveiled
12.34 Doc: Ageless Gardens
12.54 Doc: Close Up
13.46 Doc: Green Shipping
14.32 Doc: Madam Chutney...
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.05 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.40 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.03 Stan Lee's Superhero...
16.28 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.50 D.Anime: Kids Songs
17.16 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.45 Mag: Business Beyond
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.50 Tele: Wildflower

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.31 Film: Deewana Mujh Sa Nahin
Stars: Amir Khan And Madhuri Dixit
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
21.34 Mere Sai
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.05 Serial: Mahabharat
23.31 Film: Deewana Mujh Sa Nahin
tars: Amir Khan And Madhuri Dixit



Jeudi 16 octobre - 15.30

Stars: Amir Khan And Madhuri Dixit



Jeudi 16 octobre - 20.10

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Mrunal Thakur, Emraan Hashmi





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Les voix de la place publique

La première semaine du mois signifie une ruée vers les supermarchés où les clients déambulent dans les divers rayons et scrutent toute une gamme d'articles que la production industrielle mondiale expédie aux quatre coins du monde. Une fois remplis, les cadidies s'orientent vers la caisse et s'entrechoquent au passage, et là, ils sont accueillis par un sourire commercial qui les invite à se vider sur le tapis roulant sans plus tarder.

D'un geste mécanique, les clients exécutent et, aussi rapidement, la carte bancaire règle la facture car le client suivant s'impatiente. Hors de question de marchander ou de contester quoi que ce soit — une compétence exercée plutôt sur les plus faibles, les marchands des trottoirs et ceux des marchés.

La troisième semaine, à partir du 20 du mois, la fréquentation des grandes surfaces se réduit à vue d'œil: le porte-monnaie appelle à la prudence en attendant la prochaine paie. C'est le même scénario qui se joue dans de nombreux pays connectés au commerce mondial, hormis la forêt amazonienne et les îles Andaman, où les lances et les flèches accueillent quiconque s'aventure à les mettre dans le droit chemin de la consommation matérielle et spirituelle.

— Et alors, quelles sont les nouvelles? Et Maurice? lance Patricia de X en guise de salutation.

Je hausse les épaules. Par ce temps ensoleillé traversé par un vent froid, on s'arrête pour un brin de causette.

— Tu n'es pas bien couverte, tu n'as pas froid? remarque-t-elle.

— On est souvent surpris par le temps une fois qu'on met le nez dehors, je lui réponds.

J'apprends qu'elle a fait un saut à Maurice pour assister à un événement familial le week-end dernier.

— Toujours pareil là-bas : la cherté de la vie, la grogne sourde. Comme ici, conclut-elle, en résumant l'humeur ambiante du pays.

Sauf qu'ici, les regards sont tournés vers Paris où le trône du pouvoir est devenu un siège éjectable, à un rythme inouï pour chaque locataire qui y prend place. À Maurice, le siège est bien vissé contre vents et marées.

Certains sont conscients des aléas des intempéries qui influent gravement sur l'agriculture et du contexte international qui n'arrange pas les choses. D'autres lancent des invectives contre le pouvoir central.

Le rapport que les gens entretiennent entre la production alimentaire et leurs besoins a bien changé depuis que le paysan chinois des romans de Pearl Buck levait les yeux au ciel et implorait sa bienveillance pour une bonne récolte. Dans les années 1930, des militants coiffés d'une casquette et un petit livre rouge à la main lui expliquèrent que le responsable de son malheur



“À partir du 20 du mois, la fréquentation des grandes surfaces se réduit à vue d'œil: le porte-monnaie appelle à la prudence en attendant la prochaine paie. C'est le même scénario qui se joue dans de nombreux pays connectés au commerce mondial, hormis la forêt amazonienne et les îles Andaman, où les lances et les flèches accueillent quiconque s'aventure à les mettre dans le droit chemin de la consommation matérielle et spirituelle...” P - Kevub Stent - The Post

n'était pas le Ciel, mais une concentration de richesses entre les mains de quelques bourgeois dévoyés, menant grand train de vie aux dépens de braves gens qui labouraient la terre. La Russie de 1917 et, bien avant, la France de 1792 furent les illustres prédécesseurs du sort réservé à l'Empire du Milieu. Depuis, le tout politique est censé régler les problèmes du monde. Et les divers prétendants au pouvoir multiplient les surenchères pour accéder au trône et gérer les affaires de la Cité. Loin d'être de tout repos, leur Acropole est assiégée par une liste de réclamations et de revendications que le peuple dépose devant leur porte par l'intermédiaire des médias, des radios et des réseaux sociaux — tout ce qui constitue l'Agora moderne, un brouhaha permanent de voix discordantes.

Sn faisant quelques pas le long des allées du marché en plein air, on évoque pélemêle la santé des uns et des autres de nos connaissances, la qualité des produits agricoles et la nécessité de leur bon usage. Patricia raconte que, pour traiter certaines maladies graves, le conseil prodigué par la médecine ayurvédique est judicieux: d'abord, arrêter toute alimentation pendant deux ou trois jours.

— Eh bien, pas tout à fait un jeûne, mais changer d'alimentation au début de la moindre toux, rhume, grippe ou fièvre, c'est ce qu'on faisait dans de nombreux foyers à Maurice dans le passé et encore aujourd'hui, je lui rappelle. C'était l'usage populaire cautionné par les médecins dans le passé et aussi de nos jours.

J'ajoute que j'ai toujours été étonnée qu'en Europe les médecins n'interviennent jamais dans le type d'alimentation à proscrire pendant la durée d'une maladie. Si jamais on leur pose la question, la réponse est toujours: «Vous pouvez continuer à vous alimenter comme d'habitude.»

Une telle lacune m'a toujours laissée abasourdie. Je croyais que c'était du la-xisme dans une société permissive à tout-va, mais, en fait, c'était de l'ignorance malgré toutes les avancées par ailleurs. Ce n'est que depuis quelques années que les médecins ont entrepris de conseiller sur le type d'alimentation à prendre ou à abandon-

ner pendant la durée d'une maladie. Et encore, ils font l'impasse sur les problèmes de santé ordinaires.

— Socrate disait que le meilleur médicament se trouve dans la nourriture, remarque Patricia.

En balayant d'un revers de main les étals de légumes et de fruits, elle soulève la question que personne n'aime entendre.

— Ma chère, on se demande ce qui est consommable de nos jours.

C'est vrai que moult précautions sont à prendre à cause des pesticides, microplastiques et autres métaux lourds. Et l'eau en bouteille, n'en parlons pas! Bah! Pour rigoler un peu, nous évoquons l'anecdote d'une Mauricienne de milieu modeste qui fait des kilomètres pour se procurer du fromage mauricien à 5 euros, ce qui est cher payé même pour un bon salaire!

Alors qu'à proximité, il y a toute une gamme de fromages français au goût exquis. Les goûts et les couleurs... c'est une affaire personnelle, dit-on. Tout comme l'addiction. Et c'est le sucre qui en fait les frais à en croire l'annonce faite sur le prix du chocolat par la MBC. Est-ce le souci de protéger

la santé publique ou un subterfuge pour récolter des recettes par une taxe sur les produits non essentiels? Et un père de famille, tout sourire, qui déclare ne pas priver ses enfants de chocolat pour la bonne raison qu'ils aiment le chocolat! Quelle candeur! Ce monsieur oublie que ce n'est pas aux enfants de dicter le choix des aliments aux parents. C'est le monde à l'envers! Un enfant doit être éduqué. Un budget restreint impose des choix, et non pas un laisser-aller irresponsable.

— De toute façon, on a été mal éduqués, remarque Patricia.

Originaire de Curepipe, Patricia passait les vacances d'été au bord de mer dans un campement appartenant à ses grands-parents à Blue Bay. Tous les jours, les vacanciers suivaient la même routine. Les parents restaient sous la véranda, et à la grand-mère signalait le début de la fête:

— Allez, les enfants, allez jouer dehors!

— Et quand on rentrait au campement, on avait de cloques rouges partout sur tout le visage et le corps. Résultat : j'en subis les conséquences encore aujourd'hui, dit-elle en montrant les bras et jambes recouverts de vêtements longs.

— Ce n'était pas leur faute, il n'y avait pas de crème solaire à l'époque peut-être, je réponds pour épargner de peu ses ancêtres partis depuis longtemps.

De multiples voix s'entremêlent pour annoncer chacune une nouvelle: une voix se réjouit du retour de vacances d'un fils ; un compère commente l'odeur de soufre des guerres à venir sur la scène mondiale et les velléités des acroïdes à se fortifier davantage; une autre voix se plaint de la voiture qui déconne, et telle autre, du bruit des fêtards du week-end.

Un hélicoptère fait sa tournée habituelle dans le ciel bleu. L'agora se vide de ses passants, les voix s'éloignent tout doucement et s'éteignent.

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