

MAURITIUS TIMES

• If you do the work you get rewarded. There are no shortcuts in life." – Michael Jordan

Interview: Nandini Bhautoo

"We cannot, and should not, forget"



'We must remember the immense hardship the indentured labourers endured, ultimately forging a new destiny through a resilient and persistent struggle'

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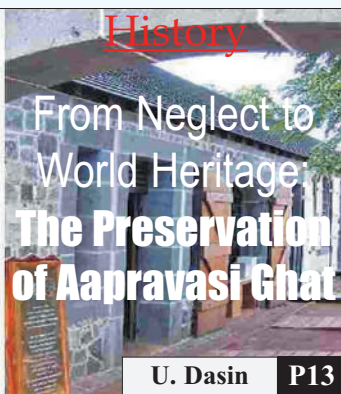
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The Ravatomanga Case Thickens

The ongoing financial scandal, centred on Malagasy businessman Mamy Ravatomanga, is rapidly growing into a much larger and more complex matter than a standard criminal case. What started with a dubious private jet arrival seems to be escalating into a serious political and institutional crisis, potentially exposing vulnerabilities in the highest echelons of national governance and law enforcement.

Public discussion is now being overwhelmed by a deluge of accusatory questions, widely circulated across social media platforms and encrypted messaging services. These questions, direct and politically charged, target a core group of high-ranking government officials. Their bluntness is encapsulated by the taunt that prefaces them: "Come and deny it if you have the courage." These are not idle rumours; they are pointed questions (pregnant with innuendoes) seeking clarity regarding serious alleged misconduct. They interrogate whether a prominent political associate — an alleged intermediary — met with a very high official of the PMO to disclose the monetary demands being made to derail the investigation into Mamy Ravatomanga, and whether the high official had informed the PM about the alleged "mafia truth" operating within the administration, seeking to extract colossal sums from Ravatomanga.

The Twin Pillars of Controversy: Arrival and Influence

The scandal rests on two pillars of controversy that could fundamentally undermine institutional trust. The first is the controversial arrival of the wealthy Malagasy businessman on October 12, 2025. This episode, initially cloaked in the flimsy guise of a "fuel emergency," immediately raised red flags.

The private jet, which also carried the recently dismissed Malagasy Prime Minister, landed on our soil under conditions that triggered a national inquiry into the granting of landing and overflight permits. The company responsible for the VIP handling — Jet Prime Ltd, a subsidiary of the state-owned Airport Holdings Ltd — was instantly embroiled in controversy. The subsequent official inquiry, led by the Secretary to Cabinet, highlighted procedural failings. The fallout was swift, leading to the resignation of a high-profile director from the boards of the airport holding companies, citing a "negative media campaign." Yet, the public is asking why this single resignation should suffice, questioning whether the rot extends further into the management of critical national assets. The fact that high-level board members may have been involved in the

nocturnal reception of the central figure is simply unacceptable, eroding public trust in the stewardship of national companies.

The second, and far more damaging, pillar is the alleged corruption and influence scandal. This involves direct accusations of high-level interference in the investigation being carried out by the Financial Crimes Commission. One Commissioner of this independent body resigned abruptly and has since been detained and provisionally charged with offences including "using office for gratification" and "breach of confidentiality." This unprecedented event would suggest an attempt to compromise the investigation from within the very institution tasked with upholding financial law — a charge that the former Commissioner has strongly denied.

The questions circulating publicly allege that senior officials were centrally involved in seeking to "facilitate the exit" of the businessman in exchange for "many millions." The sums mentioned — including a specific dollar amount allegedly paid to an associate for distribution — are staggering. The core of the matter is whether the power of the State would have been leveraged to broker an international deal for personal illicit gain. The allegation that a senior advisor from the Prime Minister's Office may have facilitated the departure of the businessman's family abroad only adds a further layer of complexity to the case.

Political Firepower and the Pinch of Salt

Adding explosive fuel to this fire is the intervention of the former Prime Minister and leader of the main Opposition party, Pravind Jugnauth. His public statement, made at the Apravasi Ghat this morning, contained pointed innuendoes, directly alleging that current officials sought bribes to expedite the central figure's departure.

While such allegations from the Opposition bench are politically motivated by nature and must always be taken with a large pinch of salt — especially coming from a political party whose recent tenure was marked by a steady stream of controversies and scandals — their gravity cannot be ignored. The intervention elevates the saga from an alleged criminal case to a full-blown political war. The allegations, regardless of their source's credibility, now hang over the government, forcing an immediate and transparent response. The strategic timing and pointed nature of the Opposition's attack ensure that the issue will dominate the national agenda for the next few weeks.

The current government, the Alliance



Pic - Madagascar Matin

du Changement, faces a tactical challenge. It cannot afford to be seen as defensive or dismissive. By inheriting the machinery of state, it also inherits the responsibility to root out any malpractices that have persisted or emerged. Silence, or a limited, piecemeal response, will only validate the Opposition's narrative and amplify the public's mistrust.

Institutional Integrity

The true tragedy of this thickening case lies not just in the potential crime committed by the businessman, but in the profound crisis of integrity it poses for the nation's institutions. The alleged involvement of officials posted in the very nerve centre of governance is the most dangerous dimension. Furthermore, the spectacle of the former FCC Commissioner, though presumed innocent, facing arrest and charges creates a stain on our reputation as a clean, transparent financial jurisdiction. It sends a wrong message to international partners that the very systems meant to police illicit finance may be compromised.

For a jurisdiction that prides itself on its strong regulatory framework and its place on the international stage as a reputable

financial hub, the implications are serious. Without decisive, unambiguous action, the nation's reputation could suffer irreparable damage. The country's economic vitality depends directly on the government's resolve to act transparently and assure the public that no official, regardless of their position, is involved in illicit deals or exempt from the rule of law.

A Call for Comprehensive Action

The time for measured responses and internal reviews is over. The case has reached a critical juncture where only a comprehensive and serious inquiry will suffice. It is in the paramount interest of the Alliance du Changement government and the reputation of the country that this process is launched immediately. This inquiry must be empowered to investigate all aspects of the scandal. It must be transparent, independent, and swift. Only by ruthlessly exposing the truth — from the moment of the controversial landing on October 12, 2025, to the latest rumour of illicit payments — can the government reassure the public and remove any taint of suspicion that characterized the end of the previous one.



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K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally & Kersley Ramsamy

28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),

Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301 /

Tel/Fax: 212 1313

mtimes@intnet.mu;

www.mauritiustimes.com;

facebook.com/mauritius.times



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Secteur public: Y a-t-il une crise de gouvernance généralisée?

Les démissions de certains hauts responsables de certaines entités publiques, sur fond de controverses sur les décisions stratégiques et pratiques de gestion, indiquent une tendance inquiétante pour le pays

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Après un an au pouvoir, le gouvernement, dirigé par l'Alliance du Changement, devrait faire une analyse rétrospective de ses décisions et actions pour voir ce qui fonctionne ou ne fonctionne pas dans son approche générale à la gouvernance.

Les démissions de hauts cadres survenues ces derniers jours ne sont pas des faits anodins mais les symptômes d'une crise systémique qui s'est développée au cours des dix dernières années. Il y en a quatre qui retiennent l'attention particulièrement:

- Rama Sithanen, économiste et ancien ministre des Finances, a démissionné de son poste de gouverneur de la Banque centrale après une série de controverses l'opposant à son ancien deuxième adjoint;
- Kishore Beegoo, un homme d'affaires, a démissionné de ses fonctions de président non-exécutif de la compagnie nationale Air Mauritius à la suite de certaines décisions controversées;
- Junaid Haroon Fakim, un avocat, a démissionné de son poste de commissaire à la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) en marge de l'enquête sur les placements bancaires de Rs 7,5 milliards du magnat malgache Mamy Ravatomanga dans le centre financier mauricien;
- Gilbert Noel, un avoué, a démissionné comme membre du conseil d'administration de Airport Holdings Ltd (AHL) et de Jet Prime Ltd, une filiale d'AHL supervisant les départs et arrivées des avions privés, en raison de ses liens présumés avec le magnat malgache.

Code de gouvernance

Qu'est-ce que ces quatre démissions nous disent sur la gestion des institutions ou des entreprises concernées? Les membres du public peuvent avoir des points de vue différents dépendant de leur culture générale, de leurs affinités politiques ou de leurs amitiés personnelles. Toutefois, il faut faire une analyse objective des situations données en considérant l'intérêt public.

Ces quatre démissions sont des cas d'école en matière de gouvernance publique et donnent d'importantes leçons aux gestionnaires du secteur public. Nul doute que les individus susmentionnés ont des compétences ou de l'expérience dans leurs domaines respectifs. En sus de ces



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qualités objectives, pour accomplir la mission de service public d'une institution ou entreprise d'État, il faut avoir une vision globale du rôle de l'entité publique, le sens de l'éthique des affaires et surtout la conscience de l'intérêt public au-delà de toute considération personnelle, partisane ou familiale. On se joint au service public pour faire une différence dans le destin de la nation et non pas pour d'autres considérations.

A Maurice, les séminaires sur la bonne gouvernance dans le secteur public aussi bien que le secteur privé ne se comptent plus. Les organisations patronales et les associations professionnelles (comptables, directeurs d'entreprise, cabinets-conseils légaux) réunissent fréquemment leurs membres pour les initier au code de bonne gouvernance d'entreprise, aux normes de comptabilité/audit internationales et au code de déontologie professionnelle. Or, le code de gouvernance est beau en théorie mais il demande une application rigoureuse pour être efficace. Ce qui compte davantage que le code écrit, c'est l'intégrité et le

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Il est temps aujourd'hui pour le gouvernement de revoir tout le processus de nomination des présidents, des directeurs et des membres des conseils d'administration des institutions ou entreprises d'État pour assurer qu'ils accomplissent leurs devoirs de façon saine et efficace. Nous comprenons qu'au lendemain des élections, le gouvernement avait l'urgence tâche de placer des hommes de confiance à la tête de ces entités publiques en vue de permettre une transition en douceur de l'ancienne administration à une nouvelle administration afin de parer au plus pressé.

Cependant, lorsqu'un ministre décide du choix d'un nommé, il peut être parfois subjectif. Il faudrait plutôt un comité d'experts et de législateurs qui examine les candidatures potentielles à un poste et choisit le meilleur candidat possible, comme cela existe dans les pays avancés. Ce comité devrait avoir l'opportunité d'interroger les candidats potentiels sur leur vision globale de l'institution ou de l'entreprise, leur conception de la gestion des ressources humaines, leur connaissance du cahier des charges, leur expérience dans les affaires et leurs idées de réforme institutionnelle. C'est grâce à un tel examen des qualités des candidats qu'il sera possible de déceler les forces et les faiblesses d'un candidat particulier.

Banque centrale

Si l'on examine le cas de la Banque centrale, par exemple, on constatera que cette institution stratégique aurait pu faire l'économie de la crise qu'elle a vécue si un technocrate indépendant (comme c'est le cas actuellement) avait été nommé au poste de gouverneur au lieu d'un ancien ministre des Finances, dont la politique économique dans le passé avait elle-même fait l'objet de débats passionnés. Je ne connais aucun pays avancé qui nomme un ancien politicien avec des antécédents controversés au poste de gouverneur de sa Banque centrale. En revanche, il y a d'anciens gouverneurs qui se joignent à la politique pour mettre leurs compétences au service de la nation. Par exemple, Marc Carney, ancien gouverneur de la Banque du Canada et la Banque d'Angleterre, est devenu Premier ministre du Canada après une élection en avril 2025.

Le cas de la Banque centrale est particulièrement intéressant parce qu'il recèle des problèmes fondamentaux qui dépassent les conflits de personnalités et demandent des méthodes de gestion rigoureuse qui accordent la primauté à l'intérêt public. La façon dont le dossier de la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), une filiale qui a déboursé Rs 56 milliards d'argent public à des sociétés dans des circonstances opaques, a été traitée indique l'amateurisme ou l'incompétence, sinon un manque de volonté d'affronter des intérêts économiques privés dont la devise est de «socialiser les pertes et privatiser les profits». Lorsque des gestionnaires publics ne peuvent prioriser l'intérêt public (récupérer les fonds déboursés), ils confondent l'intérêt public et l'intérêt privé, ce qui démontre une confusion paradigmatique au sujet du rôle de la Banque centrale.

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Dans le même souffle, l'incapacité de la Banque centrale de démêler l'écheveau de la Silver Bank, une banque commerciale en faillite avec Rs 7 milliards de prêts toxiques aux dépens des déposants publics, indique une entorse au devoir fiduciaire.

Aujourd'hui, les révélations sur les placements bancaires d'un magnat malgache dans le centre financier mauricien, grâce à un réseau de flux transfrontaliers doté de sociétés-écrans, confirment à fortiori le manque de supervision efficace de la Banque centrale sur les investissements étrangers dans les banques locales. La Banque centrale peut renvoyer la balle dans le camp de la FSC, régulateur des services financiers, pour se dédouaner. Or, la Banque centrale a toujours présidé le conseil d'administration de la FSC, à travers le gouverneur ou son adjoint, justement pour mieux coordonner et superviser les activités dans le secteur bancaire et le secteur non-bancaire. Aujourd'hui, le centre financier international est en désarroi faute de supervision efficace.

Air Mauritius

Le cas d'Air Mauritius est encore plus troublant. Voilà une compagnie d'État qui n'arrive pas à sortir du borbier dans lequel elle s'est empêtrée au cours des dix dernières années. Malgré l'injection de capital (Rs 13 milliards) de la part de sa société-mère AHL, la compagnie a un capital négatif (*negative quity*) en raison des pertes cumulatives de Rs 7,7 milliards. La nomination de M. Beegoo au poste de président non exécutif du conseil d'administration était destinée à préparer la transition vers une nouvelle administration sous un nouveau directeur général (CEO).

Toutefois, M. Beegoo avait ses propres idées et plans pour le redécollage de la compagnie. Il a dit qu'il ne prenait pas des direc-

tives des politiciens du gouvernement, qui est pourtant l'actionnaire majoritaire de la compagnie. Il a personnalisé ses divergences avec le vice Premier ministre sur la façon de gérer la compagnie avec des sous-entendus politiques qui peuvent créer un clivage entre le Premier ministre et son adjoint.

Soit-il ne connaît pas le concept de «*shareholder directive*» qui est valable pour une entreprise d'État, ou il a voulu gérer la compagnie à sa façon. Tous les experts s'accordent à dire que la compagnie a besoin d'un partenaire stratégique étranger qui puisse y insuffler un nouveau dynamisme avec une injection de capital et de nouvelles technologies. Apparemment, M. Beegoo était contre cette proposition. Sa démission devrait permettre à la compagnie de repartir sur une nouvelle base.

Enquête de la FCC

La démission de M. Fakim de son poste de commissaire de la FCC, en marge de l'enquête sur les placements bancaires du magnat malgache à Maurice sous la loi contre le blanchiment d'argent, vient ajouter une autre dimension à une affaire qui se complexifie davantage chaque jour au fur et à mesure que l'on découvre les réseaux de complicité et d'influence entourant les flux financiers entre Maurice et Madagascar.

Quand on est commissaire de la FCC, on est astreint à des normes éthiques très élevées. Il est allégué que M. Fakim aurait rencontré un émissaire du magnat malgache. Pour éviter tout conflit d'intérêt, parfois une démission s'impose. La FCC joue de sa crédibilité dans cette enquête et toute apparence de conflit d'intérêt est nuisible à sa réputation.

Sous ce rapport, il convient aussi de saluer la

démission de M. Gilbert Noel de ses fonctions de membre du conseil d'administration d'AHL et de Jet Prime Ltd, société qui a fait des démarches pour l'arrivée du magnat malgache à Maurice. Puisque M. Noel est l'avoué qui a rédigé l'affidavit du magnat malgache contestant la décision de la FCC de geler ses avoirs à Maurice, il y avait un conflit d'intérêt pour lui de siéger au conseil d'administration de ces deux sociétés et de défendre en même temps son client.

Les quatre démissions susmentionnées doivent interpellier le gouvernement sur les qualités des



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hommes appelés à servir dans nos institutions, les critères de nomination et les garde-fous nécessaires pour éviter les conflits d'intérêts.

Prakash Neerohoo



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Sada Reddi

Drugs in Schools: A Shared Challenge for Parents and Authorities

Why parental fear and inadequate institutional strategies are failing the next generation

An air of pessimism hangs over most conversations today, often centred on widespread discontent, alienation, and distrust. Is this gloom a result of the daily tragedies we face — a weekly murder or dislocation, a stabbing on the street or at home, a woman murdered in cold blood by her husband, or a student committing suicide? Has the country simply become a land of endless sleaze?

The answer may be all of this.

When I met a friend recently at a social occasion, our conversation alternated between anxiety and fear. While trying to decide which school to admit her child to for Grade Seven, she revealed that education was less important in her choice of a college than the kind of discipline and moral training the school could provide to protect her child from substance abuse. According to her, most, if not all, secondary schools have a drug problem, though the extent of the spread may vary. While this may be an exaggeration, it is the genuine perception of many educators and parents. She was agonized, trying to decide which school in her zone had the least problem, and she was undecided on a conclusion. A similar panic has gripped many parents; like sheep, they run in different directions seeking solutions, but unfortunately, the authorities and school managers are not good shepherds.

When a man joined our conversation, he somewhat confirmed the parents' fear and suggested a number of platitudes — that parents should take better control of their children, establish productive communication at home, detect early signs of behavioural changes, and resort to counselling if problems seem intractable. All these suggestions were good advice — the kind one usually finds in self-help books or regularly dished out on the internet. What is often overlooked is that such advice demands significant parenting skills, which most parents lack or find difficult to acquire unless training facilities are made available by the authorities or even by employers.

The man who advised us was a retired policeman who, in addition to his advice, threw some light on drug marketing in



Pic - narcononarrowhead.org

“It is important to highlight that peer pressure, bullying, and school violence are closely linked to drug-taking. However, there is nothing inherently wrong with peer groups. All students belong to groups for socialisation, friendship, and common leisure activities. These groups help young people get along with others, develop different perspectives and communication skills, and forge their own identity. These are the positive benefits of peer groups...”

schools. He provided us with specific strategies used by drug traffickers, which he said were well known to police officers and some school managers, and which must also be made known to parents so they can develop their own counter-strategies. Typically, a few students in upper forms are selected to become drug peddlers; they are provided with advice on how to approach students and are given a large amount of money — far more than they could ever dream of getting as pocket money.

Peer Pressure and the Drug Trap

It is important to highlight that peer pressure, bullying, and school violence are closely linked to drug-taking. However, there is nothing inherently wrong with peer groups. All students belong to groups for socialisation, friendship, and common leisure activities. These groups help young people get along with others, develop different perspectives and communication

skills, and forge their own identity. These are the positive benefits of peer groups.

We should not rule out that there can also be a negative influence that leads students to risky behaviour such as drinking and substance abuse. They fall into the trap simply because they want to feel accepted or valued within the group. It requires good self-esteem and confidence to refuse to go with the flow.

In cases of substance abuse in schools, peer groups can be instrumentalised. Groups of children are identified by drug traffickers, and one of the group members — usually the one who leads and has some influence on others — is targeted and coaxed to taste a drug for free. He is then encouraged to share it with other members of the group. Peer pressure comes into play, and the one who resists is blackmailed or bullied into compliance. From one group, the problem can spread to other groups within the school and across schools.

The Authorities' Dilemma

Police often find it helpless to deal with school cases when informed by school management. Students are minors; at most, the police can inform parents, take a statement, and leave it to school management to offer counselling. Parents who are informed of a sickness allegedly resulting from drug-taking will often refute any allegation to protect their child from stigmatisa-

tion, and whether they can find durable solutions remains unknown.

Teachers are cautious about reporting on pupils for fear of being targeted by parents or drug dealers. They avoid searching school bags in suspicious cases lest students falsely report a loss and level charges of robbery. All educators can do is report to school management, which may or may not inform the Ministry of Education.

In such a situation, parents must take full responsibility for their children. It may be very hard to do so given the pressure of work, but they have no choice if they want their children to grow up healthily in a safe school environment. When everyone calls for a balanced family life, an important component is for families to devote time to children and close monitoring and supervision of their children. But this is easier said than done.

Parental supervision will require parents to follow their children from childhood through adolescence to adulthood. Supervision will vary with the age of the children as they grow up. An important component of supervision is to establish close relationships with children, learn about their friends, and communicate daily about school activities. There is a need to keep acquiring knowledge as the children grow. It is best to create the type of home environment where children feel comfortable to self-disclose their activities and their group of friends. This is important to preempt any problem that might crop up and can be dealt with, especially as adolescents grow up to become more independent and have more discretion over how to use their time.

Digital Supervision

With most young people owning a mobile phone, problems have become more complicated, and children face numerous risks, including cyberbullying. Once again, parents have to reach some agreement about supervision of digital communication while respecting their children's need for privacy.

The authorities should help parents confront such problems by running programmes on public television so that the maximum number of parents can be sensitized about risks and solutions. One can only suggest that parents must talk to children about what they see on the screen, discuss and agree on clear rules for the use of mobiles, and set up other security measures that experts can advise on. It is equally important to encourage young people to denounce and report cyberbullying to the authorities.

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Nandini Bhautoo

“We cannot, and should not, forget”

‘We must remember the immense hardship the indentured labourers endured, ultimately forging a new destiny through a resilient and persistent struggle’

The history of Mauritius is inextricably linked to the site now known as the Aapravasi Ghat, the entry point for nearly half a million indentured labourers. For generations, this history was marginalized, relegated to a footnote in a Eurocentric colonial narrative focused on ‘white gold’ and distant drawing rooms. To discuss the profound meaning of remembering this historical arrival — and how its legacy can forge a more inclusive future — we are joined by Nandini Bhautoo, Senior Lecturer in English and Cultural Studies, and an attentive observer of Mauritian history and culture who shares her personal views on the Aapravasi Ghat and offers a powerful argument for truly decolonizing our national memory.

Mauritius Times: What deeper significance does Aapravasi Day hold beyond the commemoration of a historical arrival? Why is it important to celebrate that momentous event and remember this chapter of our collective past?

Nandini Bhautoo: As I consider your question, memories come from my childhood — of adults speaking around me about the Immigration Depot or Immigration Square. They are but childhood memories, yet the terms themselves are significant.

For a long time, under the colonial administration, the landing site for the thousands of workers who came to enrich the sugar cane plantation in the nineteenth century was treated merely as an appendix. This history had been written not only from a Eurocentric perspective but also from the viewpoint of the landholders — those who had inherited the power to mint money by exploiting not just the land, but the tears, blood, and sweat of dehumanized workers. These labourers were seen as docile hands, whose only significance in the official tapestry of history was to help create “white gold,” as sugar became an increasingly priceless commodity in the drawing rooms of European gentry.

In the narrative, of colonialism, the opulence of the English drawing room was the centre of the world; those whose lives and opinions mattered. The place where the workers landed to enable this machinery to function and maintain its illusions was but a side note, existing on the dim margins of history. And yet, these people arrived with hopes, dreams, and aspirations, only to be thrust into a cruel, exploitative system that immediately dashed those prospects. This system instituted dramatic means of labour enforcement and punishment, including the double cut system, vagrancy laws, and strict control of mobility both within and outside the plantation.

*** It appears that these laws were also applicable across all countries or former colonies who were made to receive Indian migrant workers for the same purpose of keeping afloat the plantation industry after the abolition of slavery. Is that correct?**

Absolutely. In addition, the British were simultaneously implementing dehumanizing systems of social control in nineteenth-century India to manage what they viewed as an unmanageable population fractured by innumerable subdivisions and intrinsic community customs. These customs, which often served as protective networks of support, were entirely incomprehensible to the foreign powers.

In this context, the British Colonial Powers implemented the cruel Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 (CTA), a law that sought to control all nomadic and marginalized communities by branding them as criminals from birth. It is probable that this,



“It is probable that this, in addition to Churchill’s documented role in artificially created famine as well as the exploitation of land for the cultivation of Indigo, Opium, and Tobacco — which rendered agrarian land infertile or unavailable for rotational food crops — are some of the push factors which led to the massive migration of land workers overseas as indentured labourers. It is documented that Winston Churchill, often viewed as a great hero of the British narrative, diverted Indian food supplies to Europe in a supreme display of racist indifference...”

in addition to Churchill’s documented role in artificially created famine as well as the exploitation of land for the cultivation of Indigo, Opium, and Tobacco — which rendered agrarian land infertile or unavailable for rotational food crops — are some of the push factors which led to the massive migration of land workers overseas as indentured labourers. It is documented that Winston Churchill, often viewed as a great hero of the British narrative, diverted Indian food supplies to Europe in a supreme display of racist indifference.

It is because they were pushed to despair that these impoverished nineteenth-century people left en masse, but overseas they endured a continuation of colonial exploitation. However, despite all, they survived and created worlds through endurance, perseverance, faith, and hope. They survived through both state indifference and racial prejudice, which, as the history of twentieth-century Mauritius shows, did not disappear in the mists of the nineteenth century. They endured and built worlds with their sweat and blood, saved to buy land, and worked to ensure that their future generations would live better lives than they did. So, why should we not honour these pioneers? Through sheer grit, they carved a place for themselves and their descendants.

“Their sweat and tears are woven into the tapestry of our collective history and should be celebrated by one and all, in the same way as we are all ready to celebrate the China Town Festival or Zournée Internationale Kreol. Although the denominations are linguistic, cultural, and historical, the fact remains that the onset of these presences on the national territory was through forced subaltern experiences...”

We cannot, and should not, forget. We must remember the immense hardship they endured, ultimately forging a new destiny for themselves, their descendants, and the country through a resilient and persistent struggle within a democratic framework.

I understand that November 2nd was not chosen by a sheer throw of the dice to commemorate the indenture arrival day; it was the day when the first ship docked and the first step on the new land was taken. And in this regard, it is important to emphasise that what the Aapravasi Ghat has become today — a recognized heritage landmark with UNESCO World Heritage status — did not come about on its own.

You know more than anyone that it was B. Ramlallah’s efforts which helped lift the site out of the oblivion it had fallen into: first by bringing a group of volunteers to clear the rubble, then by negotiating to find a place to keep what was left of the immigration documents which had been left to scatter to the vagaries of the tropical weather, and, above all, he exerted a lot of effort to have the site recognized as a landmark in the history of the country. It is most probable that without his persistent efforts, the site would have fallen into oblivion by now, knowing as we do the attitudes of the colonial government at the time.

'Everyone should be celebrating what Aapravasi Ghat stands for: the ontology of our collective beginnings'

● Cont. from page 6

* What does it mean, today, to be the inheritor of "The Great Experiment," and how can that inheritance inspire a more inclusive national narrative?

The Great Experiment was the code name for the massive export of Indian labourers overseas to work in the sugar plantations which had been deserted following the abolition of slavery. It was presented as supposedly more humane, based on a sort of contract — 'Girmit' in the words of the Indo-Fijians. But we all know the conditions of labour were exploitative and dehumanized these workers through many disciplinary strategies.

Historians point out that prior to the arrival of massive waves of indentured labourers, there were stonemasons and road workers who were brought in earlier, under French rule. Later in the twentieth century, a class of merchants, mostly from Surat, ventured into Indian Ocean trade, from the Eastern shores of Africa to the Western Indian Ocean. Those who docked here were the names behind the major Indo-Mauritian trading houses, which rivalled local European trading houses. But the real demographic shift came with the indentured labourers. There were so many of them. One tally says 450,000 poor souls crossed the "Kalapani" in conditions of opprobrium, from both the place they left and where they were going to.

The appellation 'The Great Experiment' is as ironical a term as can be. Experiments are made to try out systems to test whether they work and are shelved afterwards. Except in this case, the very expression shows the dehumanization that was inbuilt in the system from the beginning. If the experiment had not worked, it would have been shelved, and the lives of people tossed aside. Except, these people survived, fought the system as they could, emerged out of the five-year contract having scrimped through beatings and torture, and were sold land with little arable value, which they turned fruitful by dint of hard work.

Richard Allen traces the circumstances in which the indentured labourers were able to move out of the frozen world of the plantation when falling sugar prices forced big landowners to sell their land to pay debts. Often, these were the worst portions of land, on mountain sides, or the least arable sectors. That is why we have such an important population of early Indian settlers in Crève Coeur, Long Mountain, and Les Guibies.

This is our history, and by this, I mean not just the his-

"We would need to walk back on the entrenched division that has been instituted with the establishment of many forms of divisions and subdivisions through the various cultural centres. These have functioned both as a means of identity recognition and as political tools, instrumentalising voting power. Up to this point in our national history, it has proved effective to a certain extent. However, as we advertise ourselves as a vibrant multicultural nation, we should offer ourselves public spaces for the celebration of this multiculturalism by the juxtaposition of the various inheritances within the same spatial and cultural temporality..."



tory of the descendants of these pioneers. Their sweat and tears are woven into the tapestry of our collective history and should be celebrated by one and all, in the same way as we are all ready to celebrate the China Town Festival or Zournée Internationale Kreol. Although the denominations are linguistic, cultural, and historical, the fact remains that the onset of these presences on the national territory was through forced subaltern experiences, which survived colonialism to become the testimonies of resilience across time. So, realistically speaking, everyone should be celebrating what Aapravasi Ghat stands for: the ontology of our collective beginnings.

* **Social reality does not change overnight. What would be the areas where we would still need to devote our attention to ensure thorough decolonisation process?**

It's good that you ask this question. I would like here to make a point about our current language reality in relation to the many inheritances that exist in the national tapestry. The current linguistic system we have inherited, and which is perpetuated through our schooling system, is very much a legacy of colonisation. Gauri Vishwanathan says in *Masks of Conquest* that the political retreat of colonialism does not imply an immediate withdrawal or disappearance of the mental, social, and intellectual structures attached to it. In that sense, the imbrication of languages within our education system and its ramifications into society at large is a case in point. Any observer takes the following for granted — the main languages of instruction are the two major European languages, and everything else exists as peripheral elements within the system.

And yet, what is becoming increasingly obvious is that the emotional and affective power of these languages, which are lumped together in typical colonial style as 'Oriental lan-

"Inclusiveness here should mean the director of Radio One should be able to at least understand basic Bhojpuri and/or Hindi when he launches a book on Bhojpuri, that the translation does not always have to be in one direction, that when parliamentarians choose to occasionally express themselves in Bhojpuri it need not always seen be as a political manoeuvre that can lead to backlash..."

guages,' have greater affective and emotional value in the lives of people. The incredible transformations of culture, language, and society taking place across the Indian subcontinent have seen a proud celebration of the place of their various indigenous languages in the national debate.

However, when it comes to Mauritius, the emotional and affective ties are left at the doors of the educational institutions, and young people have to see their home world acquire minority status on a day-to-day basis. In the collective imagination, therefore, the languages of the home world are peripheralised, despite the strong emotional charge they transmit. The memorialization of place, which is symbolized by the celebration of the Aapravasi Ghat as a monument to the towering power of the past, needs to be extended to a reinvention of the pedagogy and practice of Indian languages both within and outside our school systems. I do realize that what I am saying here is easier imagined in theory than in practice, but the journey of decolonization is not over, and this is something which we will need to think over for the future.

* **There's a dichotomy in the way scholars talk about the historical memory preserved at sites like the Aapravasi Ghat. Western scholars always try to link it to the transnational political angle and how the site relates to social control, native scholars focusing on agency and oral memory. Is there work to be done here in ensuring a more inclusive narrative as we celebrate memory?**

Rightly said, this dichotomy is glaring and uncomfortable because the discourse which is being circulated in the international academic world leaves out or ignores the intergenerational tales and affective memory which have been passed down in families, about the way these dire days impacted the lives of the elders. When you talk about a 'more inclusive national narrative' above, I suppose you are not taking the track of Western Indologists who are prone to see any manifestation of Indian identity as problematic, as they would rather see a subjugated narrative that shows the Indian component of our hyphenated identities as subordinate to the mainstream Western narrative. Under this aegis, it becomes an easy shortcut to privilege languages that seem closer to the Western mainstream, rather than those which have been 'othered' through two centuries of failed effective decolonization of our mental structures.

Inclusiveness here should mean the director of Radio One should be able to at least understand basic Bhojpuri and/or Hindi when he launches a book on Bhojpuri, that the translation does not always have to be in one direction, that when parliamentarians choose to occasionally express themselves in Bhojpuri it need not always seen be as a political manoeuvre that can lead to backlash.

● Cont. on page 8

'We must make Culture a key driver of our next development phase, for true change begins with inner transformation'

● Cont. from page 7

*** What lessons might Mauritius draw from other multicultural societies in transforming historical wounds into collective strength?**

Terms do not exist in a vacuum. When multiculturalism is used in Western societies, it presupposes an unequal hierarchy between mainstream cultures and the other cultures that enter the national tapestry later. Whereas in a country like ours, a multiculturalism of a different order exists, where there is closer parity between the various components of the nation, each with their areas of strength, each with their limits and/or potential for improvement.

Although we certainly have a lot to learn from other nations, it might also be true that the world might have a lot to learn from us, for despite our propensity to criticize from the inside, there is a lot that does work in the country. These days, we are all concerned with the Malagasy axis, and commentators from Madagascar have been lauding the way in which the justice system seems to work here, compared to their world.

Despite all that could and should be improved, it is clear that as a multicultural country, we learn from each other and self-correct as we go along, and that the strength of our democratic system seems for now to be resisting the temptation of counter-democratic takeover.

However, we should not only be patting ourselves on the back. For there is a lot still to be done. Historical lenses allow us not to lose sight of where we come from, but we have to relentlessly work to improve the future. And in this context, it is good to emphasise that societies cannot change unless human beings are given the power to introspect and change. Otherwise, we circularly repeat the same behaviour patterns and perpetuate unchanging societal realities.

You mentioned compartmentalization of memories. This could have been one of our strengths for a while, for the last six decades or so, but as we look towards the future, maybe we should look beyond compartmentalization to ensure that the collective power of all celebrations is truly integrated.

And for this, we would need to walk back on the entrenched division that has been instituted with the establishment of many forms of divisions and subdivisions through the various cultural centres. These have functioned both as a means of identity recognition and as political tools, instrumentalising voting power. Up to this point in our national history, it has proved effective to a certain extent. However, as we advertise ourselves as a vibrant multicultural nation, we should offer ourselves public spaces for the celebration of this multiculturalism by the juxtaposition of the various inheritances within the same spatial and cultural temporality.

About six decades into independence, one has the impression that everybody is at a loss — we know in theory that we have to come up with a new paradigm for national development, but nobody really knows what to do. Once we have dealt with the Economy, Technology, Social, and Historical data collection — nobody has a plan or vision of how to begin societal transformation, which should start from the human being outwards, not the other way round.

This might be an idealistic take, but I think we need to focus on Culture as a major asset for this next phase of development — in a big way. It's by transforming the individual from the inside that society genuinely changes; failing that, we are condemned to repeating the same old para-



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We need to focus on Culture as a major asset for this next phase of development — in a big way. It's by transforming the individual from the inside that society genuinely changes; failing that, we are condemned to repeating the same old paradigms and reproduced, rehearsed actions and attitudes. We have the illusion that social identity is finite, but both social sciences and spirituality say that social identity is but a construct — a construct in which we become trapped, thus solidifying our own mental prisons...”

digms and reproduced, rehearsed actions and attitudes. We have the illusion that social identity is finite, but both social sciences and spirituality say that social identity is but a construct — a construct in which we become trapped, thus solidifying our own mental prisons.

*** It is a tall order to think of a National Cultural Centre, given the complexity of our national tapestry, isn't it?**

Certainly a tall order, but not an impossible one. If a

public space of sharing exists, in the form of a cultural centre, properly managed, it would do the following:

- Provide education and entertainment as an alternative to capitalist shopping centres.
- Encourage people to move out of the margins of their known world by discovering other realities, other truths.
- Help find solutions to major social issues by opening avenues of dialogue on bullying, femicide, drug addiction, violence.
- Bolster the economy by creating jobs and generating revenue through concerts, drama, performances.
- Give students something to look forward to as potential careers.
- Draw the interest of tourists as a major venue that intelligently allies East and West— by bringing talent from India, Africa, China, South East Asia, Australia, Europe, Russia, etc. (Embassies would no doubt be eager and ready to help).
- Help develop folk art, both local and through exposure to international talents.

Create an interest around local performances — use drama properly managed through Forum theatre, street theatre (with specialists in the field) to open avenues of dialogue and reflection and re-educate people at all ages.

Help create a local film industry with local talent and overseas expertise — through the potential strategic collaboration of existing film schools and streaming platforms. Here the reference is to the way in which Doordarshan used *Hum Log* for Nation Building back in the eighties, by dealing with issues of pressing social concerns.

But I do realise even as I enumerate these that it would take a lot to make such a vision happen. So, let us leave it at that as a possible future project for Mauritian society. Because we need to find ways to get out of the divisive structures through which the nation has evolved up to now, be it along the barriers of race, gender, language, and creed.

In an ideal scenario, this should be done through education, but as it is, there are too many vested interests in perpetuating the education system with all its failings. That is why we should begin to think of an alternative that would target all levels of society, across the rural-urban divide.

*** How might future generations reinterpret the legacy of indenture and slavery in light of globalisation and modern migration patterns, and what responsibilities do present generations bear to ensure the continued prosperity and progress of this community?**

While modern discussions — in both politics and academia — often focus on the “transnational migrant” who supposedly lives free of national borders, we shouldn't fully accept this ideal. Nation-states will continue to exist, and a person's identity and opportunities will always be heavily influenced by the strength of their state of origin.

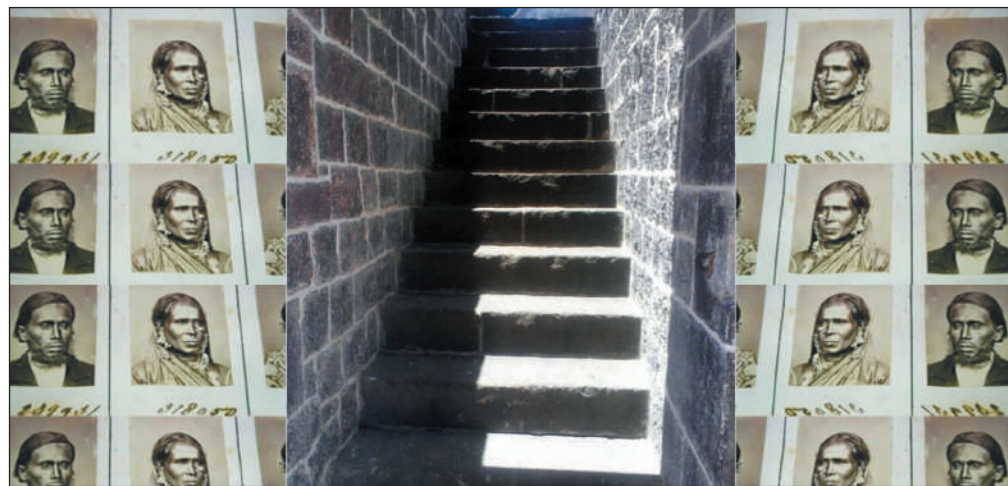
The new patterns of twenty-first-century migration are very different from the harsh plantation labour migrations of the nineteenth century. However, we should not push the responsibility for current societal problems onto future generations. Instead, we are all collectively responsible for facing the complex structural and social issues we've inherited. Our shared goal is to resolve these issues, ensuring that true equality defines our future.

From Neglect to World Heritage: The Preservation of Aapravasi Ghat

By U. Dasin

The 2nd of November marks the day when Mauritius honours the memory of the indentured workers uprooted from India in the nineteenth century and brought to produce “white gold” - sugar - in the colonial plantation economy.

The broader historical context is well known. After the abolition of slavery in 1834, following strong humanitarian protests in the British Parliament, plantation economies across the British Empire faced acute labour shortages. Britain, at the height of its nineteenth-century capitalist expansion, turned to a new experiment in labour: the recruitment of so-called *hill coolies* from northern India, many of whom had prior experience in agricultural work. Mauritius became the testing ground for this “Great Experiment”, which sought to replace enslaved labour with a system of contractual or indentured labour. Between 1834 and 1910, approximately 462,000 Indian workers were brought to Mauritius under this system. Historian Hugh Tinker famously described it as “*A New System of Slavery*” - for although indenture was legally distinct from chattel slavery, in practice it replicated many of slavery’s



13 Steps into an unknown future, which strongly evokes the historical and emotional significance of the Aapravasi Ghat (Immigration Depot) in Port Louis. P - Defi

exploitative, coercive, and dehumanising features.

Indenture was presented as voluntary migration, but most recruits were misled, coerced, or economically trapped into signing contracts they barely understood. Recruiters (*arkatis*) preyed upon poverty, famine, and illiteracy, and many migrants were unaware of their destination or the harsh conditions awaiting them. Though bound by five-year contracts, labourers had little freedom to protest or leave; desertion was criminalised, and punishments included imprisonment or hard labour. Working hours, rations, punishments, and housing were often as harsh as - if not worse than - those under slavery. Overseers exercised absolute authority, using physical punishment, fines, and sexual abuse to enforce disci-

pline.

Colonial laws were heavily biased in favour of planters. Workers could be prosecuted for “breach of contract,” while planters were rarely held accountable for mistreatment. Labourers’ lives were controlled by the state - from medical inspec-

labour were all controlled. It was in truth a new system of slavery.”

Beyond historical debates, the impact of indenture lives on in Mauritian memory - in family stories passed down through generations, often as fragments of erasure, pain, and endurance. Yet official recognition of the contribution of indentured workers came slowly and reluctantly.

The Recovery of a National Memory

Today, we honour this heritage through the *Aapravasi Ghat*, the very site where the first indentured immigrants set foot on Mauritian soil. It stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a beacon of memory — a symbol of the endurance of those who came with nothing but hope. Yet, this recognition did not come easily. It is due, above all, to the vision, devotion, and perseverance of one man: Beekrumsing Ramlallah.

In the month of June 1970, B. Ramlallah, accompanied by his family



Inauguration of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre by Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India and PM Navin Ramgoolam in the presence of M. Choonee and R. Mohit of Aapravasi Ghat on 2 Nov 2014.



Yaj held in the 1970s. B. Ramlallah seen here with daughter Sadhna and Sarita Boodhoo and other participants

tions to movement restrictions - leaving them with no real autonomy. The system was built upon the same racial and economic hierarchies as slavery: Europeans at the top, people of colour reduced to exploitable labour. It was part of the imperial machinery that converted human beings into productive assets while denying them dignity or advancement.

In Hugh Tinker’s words: “*The indentured labourer was a man between slavery and freedom, but nearer the former. His body might not be owned, but his time, his liberty, his movement, and his*

and volunteers from the 4th Mauritius Hindu Scouts, began cleaning the neglected Immigration Depot. The site had been left to decay, its walls crumbling and its history fading. Determined to restore its dignity, he invited Mimosa Studio’s photographer to document the condition of the place and later presented an album of photographs to Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam (SSR) as a silent plea for preservation.

Then came a moment of inspired diplomacy.

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From Neglect to World Heritage: The Preservation of Aapravasi Ghat



Cleaning of the then Immigration Depot on 1 June 1970 by B. Ramlallah, Family and Friends and Members of the 4th Mauritius Hindu Scouts

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Understanding the symbolic power of visibility, though the official programme was already printed, B. Ramlallah requested that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, during her visit to Mauritius in June 1970, be invited to visit the old depot. Upon much insistence, SSR agreed. On 4 June 1970, Indira Gandhi visited the site - renamed 'Coolie Ghat' — and lit a diya, the small flame that has since become the living emblem of memory. That single gesture - the lighting of a lamp amid the ruins - illuminated the forgotten history of thousands. It transformed an abandoned depot into a sacred place of remembrance, linking India and Mauritius across the distance of time and ocean. Since then, the Ramlallah family has consistently held an annual Yaj ceremony on the site of the *Aapravasi Ghat*. His children along with Sarita Boodhoo have helped perpetuate the tradition long after his passing.

The visit of Indira Gandhi brought international attention to the site. In the years that followed, *Aapravasi Ghat* became a destination for visiting dignitaries and a focus of national reflection. B. Ramlallah seized that momentum to press for official recognition of the site. On 4 June 1978, his efforts bore fruit when Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam unveiled a commemorative plaque marking two historic dates: 2 November 1834, when the first indentured workers arrived, and 31 May 1924, when the system of indenture came to an end. The site was eventually declared a National Monument in 1987.

But B. Ramlallah's work went far beyond ceremony. In the early 1970s, he discovered that thousands of invaluable

historical documents — registers of immigrants, marriage records, and other artefacts - lay neglected in the decaying buildings of the Immigration Depot. With the help of Ramnarain Ramsaha, then Commissioner of Public Assistance, he appealed repeatedly to the authorities to safeguard them. His appeals were ignored. When a devastating cyclone struck the island, journalist Trilock Dwarka recalls finding him amidst the wreckage, desperately chasing loose papers blown by the wind.

Contributing to a forthcoming book on Beekrumsing Ramlallah, Trilock Dwarka, then a young journalist for the MBC, recalls:

"He was crying. Tears rolled down his face as he gathered sheets of paper-records of our forefathers- from the ground. He told me that the memory of our people was being erased forever."

Despite this tragedy, Mr Ramlallah persisted. Auguste Toussaint, then Director of the Archives, dismissed the documents as being of "no historical value" and refused to give them shelter at the National Archives. Dr K. Hazareesing, the first Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), was approached. He understood their significance. In 1976, the immigration documents were transferred to the MGI where they were preserved and catalogued, giving birth to the Folk Museum of Indian Immigration - a lasting tribute to the story Beekrumsing Ramlallah had fought to rescue.

In 1987, the Coolie Ghat officially renamed *Aapravasi Ghat* and declared a National Monument. On 18 December 2001, the *Aapravasi Ghat* Trust Fund Bill was passed and came into operation in

July 2002. The 2nd of November was declared a public holiday to commemorate the arrival of the first indentured labourers, as from 2001 onwards. Prior to this however, in 1984 a monument was inaugurated in Phooliyar on the site of Antoinette Sugar Estate, dedicated to the memory of the first 36 Hill Coolies to ever set foot in Mauritius. It was the well-known artist Mala Chummun who sculpted the Lotus monument - a symbol specially chosen as a symbol of gentleness, healing and reconciliation as a coda to a dolorous history of inter-generational trauma. The Phooliyar monument was inaugurated in 1984 by the then Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

Following the efforts of a dedicated team of scholars, researchers and volunteers, a dossier was submitted to UNESCO and on 16 July 2006, *Aapravasi Ghat* was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site during the Vilnius meeting in Lithuania. This was a major moment when

the International recognition allowed the formerly neglect, derelict, overlooked Immigration Depot to be inscribed onto the memory of the world, standing as the only surviving site across all territories where the stones preserve the dolorous imprint of this infamous, yet nation-building reality.

On the 2 November 2014, the *Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre* was inaugurated by Dr Navin Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, and late Srimati Sushma Swaraj, then Minister of External Affairs of India.

Through all these milestones runs a single thread - the moral courage of Beekrumsing Ramlallah, who refused to let a nation forget its beginnings. His faith turned an abandoned depot into a sanctuary of remembrance. His persistence transformed shame into pride, and silence into history.

Today, when we gather at *Aapravasi Ghat*, we do more than honour the past; we renew a promise - that the struggles and dreams of those who came before us will never again be left to the winds of neglect. The small flame that Indira Gandhi lit in 1970 continues to burn - steady, luminous, and eternal - as the flame of our collective memory.

U. Dasin

Mauritius Times

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China: Hope US Will Abide by N-Test Ban. Pic - YouTube

Trump orders nuclear testing, China urges us to abide by ban

US President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon to immediately resume nuclear weapons testing, ending a 33-year moratorium. The dramatic directive, announced just hours before his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea, drew a swift reaction from Beijing, which urged Washington to honor the global testing ban.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, President Trump claimed the move was necessitated by the ongoing testing programs of other nations, specifically citing Russia and a rapidly modernizing China.

"The United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country," Trump wrote. "Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately."

China's Appeal and the CTBT Stalemate

China's response focused on the international framework against nuclear detonations. Beijing stated it "hopes" the US will abide by the nuclear testing ban, referring to the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The CTBT bars "any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion." While the US, China, and Russia are all signatories, the treaty has not legally entered into force because key nations, including the US, have not ratified it.

Russia signed the CTBT in 1996 and ratified it in 2000, but formally revoked its ratification in 2023, bringing it in line with the US non-ratification status.

The United States last tested a nuclear weapon in 1992. If President Trump's order is implemented, it would be the first live US test in over three decades.

The US and Russia remain the world's two largest nuclear powers, possessing over 5,000 warheads each, with China ranking third. Trump warned that China could achieve nuclear parity with the US within five years.

The History and Impact of the Ban

The decision threatens to upend a cornerstone of global arms control. The moratorium on testing was established due to mounting concerns over the catastrophic environmental and health impacts of nuclear detonations.

- In the five decades between 1945 and the CTBT's adoption in 1996, more than 2,000 nuclear tests were conducted globally, with 1,032 by the US and 715 by the Soviet Union.

- Testing in areas like the Pacific and Kazakhstan left lands contaminated, leading to decades of health issues for local populations.

- Since the CTBT opened for signature in 1996, only India (two in 1998), Pakistan (two in 1998), and North Korea (six tests since 2006) have conducted nuclear tests.

Experts warn that a US resumption of live testing could trigger a new nuclear arms race, compelling other nuclear-armed nations to follow suit and destabilizing the fragile balance of power that has held since the end of the Cold War.

China to send youngest 32-year-old astronaut, mice on space mission this week

The crew for China's next manned flight to its space station will include the country's youngest astronaut to undertake a space mission, authorities said Thursday, as well as four lab mice.

The Tiangong space station -- crewed by teams of three astronauts that are exchanged every six months -- is the crown jewel of China's space programme, into which billions of dollars have been poured in a bid to catch up with the United States and Russia.

The Shenzhou-21 mission is set to blast off at 11:44 pm on Friday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, said China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) spokesperson Zhang Jingbo, reports AFP.

Flight engineer Wu Fei, who has just turned 32, is set to become the youngest Chinese astronaut to undertake a space mission, authorities said.

"I feel incomparably lucky," he told reporters on Thursday. "Being able to

integrate my personal dreams into the glorious journey of China's space programme is the greatest fortune this era has bestowed upon me."

He will be commanded by veteran space pilot Zhang Lu, 48, who took part in the Shenzhou-15 mission more than two years ago. Payload specialist Zhang Hongzhang, 39, makes up the third member of the crew.

Also along for the ride are four mice -- two male and two female -- which will be the subjects of China's first in-orbit experiments on rodents, CMSA spokesperson Zhang said.

Beijing's space programme, the third to put humans in orbit, has also landed robotic rovers on Mars and the Moon.

China has ramped up plans to achieve its "space dream" under President Xi Jinping.

Beijing says it aims to send a crewed mission to the Moon by 2030, where it intends to construct a base on the lunar surface.

Across the Globe

Russia's new guard



With Russia's war against Ukraine, the weaponization of food has taken on a new global dimension. Nations need to rethink their approach to food security. Pic - REUTERS/Thomas Peter

A new elite is taking hold in Russia as a result of shifting political dynamics driven by the country's yearslong invasion of Ukraine, increasing tensions with President Vladimir Putin's inner circle. Previously, Putin's confidantes were defined by a number of characteristics: They had followed him from his St. Petersburg days, were

loyal bureaucrats, or, like Putin, were members of the security services. But many of those allies have been moved out of their posts and their subordinates have been punished for ostensibly failing to deliver progress on the battlefield, a Moscow-based journalist noted for 1843. In their place are newly prominent officials, including people purported to be Putin's relatives, far-right extremists once held at arm's length, and ardent war supporters.

Africa's democratic decline

Two of Africa's longest-serving leaders secured extensions to their rule, cementing signs of democratic erosion on the continent. Following days of fierce opposition protests, 92-year-old Paul Biya won an extension to his 43-year presidency of Cameroon, while in Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara -- who has been in power since 2010 -- was elected for another five years. Critics say both votes were marred by irregularities, including challengers being barred from competing. Africa's democracy index score has regressed recently, shrinking each of the past six years, pointing at voter dissatisfaction and weakening institutions. Unless democracy "improves lives and livelihoods... not just those of the political elites, it will remain shallow and hollow," one regional expert wrote.

AI boom boosts billionaire coffers

The collective net worth of the world's billionaires surged by 10% in 2024, buoyed by the AI boom and record high stocks. Last year marked the third consecutive year of rising billionaire affluence, according to a wealth intelligence firm.

The US, home to about a third of the billionaire class, maintained its dominance on the list. Europe surpassed 1,000 billionaires for the first time, while China's economic slowdown spurred below-average growth in Asia. The research also showed that the AI explosion is widening a chasm even among the super-rich: So far this year, stock gains fueled by tech optimism added \$523 billion to the fortunes of the world's 10 richest people.

US to build massive supercomputers



Lincoln Lab unveils the most powerful AI supercomputer at any US university. Pic - MIT News

The US Energy department is building two massive supercomputers powered by semiconductor firm AMD. The machines will run complex experiments that require an immense amount of data-crunching capacity, tackling problems ranging from nuclear power to cancer treatments, officials said Monday. The \$1 billion partnership further deepens the US government's embrace of the country's tech sector, which is pouring billions into building advanced AI infrastructure. Nvidia announced earlier this year that it plans to manufacture AI supercomputers entirely in the US for the first time.

Ukrainians fear second occupation as Russia advances on Kupiansk

The situation in Kupiansk is highly volatile, with Russian forces intensifying their offensive to recapture the city, which holds significant strategic and symbolic importance for Moscow.

Strategic Significance

- **Logistics Hub:** Kupiansk is a vital logistics hub due to its major rail links that connect the region and extend toward Russia. Ukrainian drone commander Dandy noted that its capture would allow Russia to use it for “delivering cargo and ammunition.”

- **Target for Further Advance:** The Russian Ministry of Defense has indicated that seizing Kupiansk could be leveraged to attack further into eastern Kharkiv Oblast towards cities like Chuhuiv and Izyum, and also support efforts to advance toward Slovyansk and Kramatorsk in Donetsk Oblast.

- **Political Goal:** Having previously occupied and then lost the city in 2022, Kupiansk's recapture is also a political target for Russia to “show some kind of victory” following its previous embarrassing withdrawal.



A local woman walks to the distribution point of humanitarian aid in front of housing which was damaged by Russian shelling in Kupiansk, Kharkiv region, Ukraine. Pic - AP

Current Battlefield Situation

• **Russian Advance and Infiltration:** Reports, including the provided text, indicate that Russian soldiers are

infiltrating Kupiansk's streets, with some reports suggesting they are disguised in civilian clothes.

• **Claims of Encirclement:** Moscow claims to have the city encircled, though Ukrainian officials, including President Zelenskyy, have denied these claims, stating that heavy fighting continues but the reports of encirclement are false.

• **Second Occupation Fears:** The city was captured by Russia on the first day of the 2022 invasion and then retaken by Ukraine later that year. Now, three years later, Russian forces are “at its gates once more,” leading to deep-seated fears of a second occupation among the remaining locals.

• **The Drone “Kill Zone”:** The front line has been transformed into a dangerous 15-kilometre (nine-mile) deep “kill zone,” largely due to the use of new deadly tethered drones (also referred to as fiber-optic drones). These drones are hard to detect and “impossible to jam” because they run on fiber-optic cables rather than radio frequencies, allowing them to push further and more accurately into Ukrainian lines.

Across The Globe

Dutch vote tests far-right party

Dutch voters cast ballots Wednesday in a parliamentary election in which a far-right party that led opinion polls for months has seen its advantage narrow into a three-horse race. Anti-immigration nationalist Geert Wilders won a shock election victory two years ago, but his party has struggled to enact policies or maintain a grip on government.

As a result, this latest vote is in effect “a referendum on the far right,” The New York Times noted: Like much of Europe, the Netherlands is grappling with an aging population, a lack of necessary



workers, and a paucity of housing, alongside tensions over immigration. Online betting markets for now have the main center-right party as a narrow favorite over Wilders' PVV.

The science of Hurricane Melissa

A “near-perfect alignment of circumstances” made Hurricane Melissa one of the strongest storms on record for the Atlantic Ocean, Scientific American wrote. Melissa, which has hit both Jamaica and Cuba, is drawing power from the heat difference between the warm ocean and the cold air at its cloud

tops. The storm has been extremely slow-moving, parked over the “warmest water the Atlantic has to offer right now,” a hurricane researcher said. Normally, such a storm would scoop up colder waters from deeper in the ocean, but the area where it's intensified lacks the depth for that. Experts also pointed to the changing climate as a factor in oceans getting warmer and storms more intense.

Japan hails ‘golden age’ with US

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi hailed a “golden age” between Tokyo and Washington after talks with US President Donald Trump resulted in deals on defence and rare earths. Relations between the historic allies had strained after Trump imposed steep tariffs on Japan, but Takaichi — who took office this month as her country's first female leader — has sought to win over the American president by having Japan's emperor greet him on his visit to Tokyo and by dangling the promise of purchasing US-made trucks. The agreement to secure access to rare earths may be the most consequential: China, which produces around 90% of the critical minerals and recently tightened export controls, has poor relations with both the US and Japan.



Saudi's diversification wins

Future Investment Initiative Media

Saudi Arabia opens its flagship business conference Tuesday at a moment of optimism, even as the kingdom faces major macroeconomic challenges. As the Future Investment Initiative gets underway, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's diversification effort is ahead of schedule in many respects: Tourism is growing fast, the non-oil economy now accounts for more than half of GDP, and female participation in the labor force has surged, albeit from a low base. Still, chronically low oil prices, a widening budget deficit, and huge overspending on so-called gigaprojects have forced the kingdom to change gears on investment plans, a move that “reflects both strength and constraint,” a long-time Saudi watcher wrote in a Semafor column.

Foreign capital pours into India's banks

Foreign capital is rushing into India's banks, an industry once seen as fragmented and risky. Bloomberg estimates deals in the country's financial sector have reached \$15 billion this year; Blackstone recently took a stake in India's Federal Bank, part of a surge of bank M&A activity involving players in Dubai, Japan, and Switzerland. India now plans to greenlight foreign investment in state-run banks up to 49%, Reuters reported. Even as overall foreign direct investment in India has taken a hit, global investors want to tap India's large “underbanked population,” The Indian Express wrote. The industry has also seen massive regulatory cleanup following an era of bad loans, defaults, and corporate meltdowns, The Economic Times noted.

Why Halloween starts earlier

Halloween is starting earlier every year in the US, as its popularity leads businesses to stockpile inventory, a business professor argued. A few decades ago, spookiness enthusiasts didn't start preparing Halloween decorations until mid-October; now, they appear in summer, Jay Zagorsky wrote in The Conversation. The average American will spend \$38 on Halloween this year, up from an inflation-adjusted \$18 in 2005; stores must buy more to meet demand, but cannot afford to store unsold inventory until next year, so start displaying merchandise earlier. US-style Halloween has gone global:

It was once relatively niche in the UK, but has become the main event of this time of year, overshadowing the more traditional Guy Fawkes' Night, Smithsonian Magazine wrote in 2014.

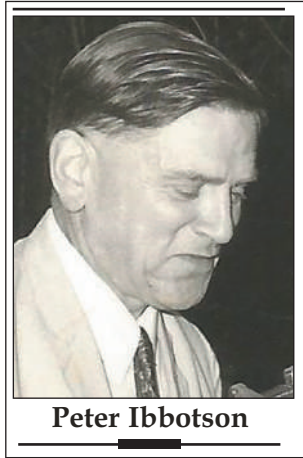
From the Pages of History - MT 71 Years Ago

7th Year No 320

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 14 October 1960

The strongest arm is impotent to impart momentum to a feather. — Arthur Schopenhauer



Peter Ibbotson

Non-Violence Independence

On October 2, 1960, Nigeria, the Land of the negro, of the slave, became free and independent.

On August 15, 1947, when at the hour of midnight India became free, many people made a pledge and took a vow consecrating themselves to liberate as many countries as possible.

Today once more we are redeeming our word to free, from the shackles of colonialism, the land of our friends the Hausa, the Igbo, the Yoruba, and the Fulani. Nigeria has attained independence by peaceful means; through non-violence, her people have become free.

Once more Mahatma Gandhi and his principles score a victory, a bloodless victory. Soon Mauritius also will get her independence, and it too will be an independence attained by peaceful means (as Mr James Johnson once said in the House of Commons, quoting the Mauritius Times, "Mauritius has always come to the Colonial Office in carpet-slippers"). The way of non-violence may be slow, but it is sure.

Socialist Mauritius

Through its leader, Mr Koenig, the Parti Mauricien has rejected the idea of independence for Mauritius. The Labour Party, on the other hand, has consistently asked for independence. What would independence bring to the people by way of benefits? That is a reasonable question.

British Guiana is not independent, any more than is Mauritius. Recently the Government of British Guiana was seeking capital from abroad to carry out various development plans. Loans and grants from the UK were insufficient in total for all the plans which the Government wished to carry out. Accordingly, sources other than the UK were sought; and the Government of Cuba was willing to make a loan to the Government of British Guiana. However, since British Guiana is not independent, permission had to be obtained from Whitehall before the Cuban loan could be accepted. Whitehall refused its permission — with the result that the development hoped to be undertaken with the aid of the Cuban loan cannot now be undertaken.

But an independent British Guiana could have accepted the loan and thus gone ahead with an extra installment of its development program. Similarly with Mauritius. If the funds available from the UK, say under the Colonial Development and Welfare (CD & W) allocations, are insufficient for all the projects vital to the development of Mauritius, the Government must seek funds elsewhere; but unless it is the Government of an independent Mauritius, permission to accept loans from another country must be obtained from Whitehall. If such permission is refused, as in the case of British Guiana, a part of the development programme has to be postponed, whereas an independent Mauritius would not have to jeopardise the full operation of the development plan by having to seek permission for foreign loans.

That is only one instance of how Independence would benefit Mauritius, by cutting the shackles of Whitehall. Five years ago, I wrote in *Advance*. "It is the capitalist system which denies to workers in Mauritius who are eking out a miserable existence the full fruits of their labour; it is only a Socialist Government, with powers to govern without having to defer to Whitehall, which will ensure full fruits to everyone," and I followed this by analysing the inequalities of income under a capitalist economy by reference to the income tax department's

report for the year 1953-54. Let me now bring that analysis more up to date, by reference to the income tax department's annual report for 1957-58 (the latest I have by me).

In 1957-58, only 7,039 individuals were liable for income tax; yet the number of 'economically active' persons in March 1958 — when the island's total population very slightly exceeded 600,000 — was 205,281. (Thus every "economically active" person had, on average, to support two others, in addition to himself, on his income).

But only 7,039 of these were liable to pay any income tax; 7,039 out of 205,281, or roughly 3.5%! This low number of persons liable to income tax is scarcely to be wondered at when we read about the low wages paid and tabulated in the Luce

— I refer especially to the sugar companies — make such high profits to have to pay tax on! Income tax is a method of redistributing for the common good wealth which has been accumulated by means antipathetic to the common good." That is what I wrote in August 1955, and it is what I still stand by in October 1960.

Incidentally it may be instructive to look at some more figures from the report of the income tax department for 1957-58. There is a comprehensive statistical table in paragraph 20 of that report which lists the total net income of individuals and companies whose liabilities to tax had been determined at 30th June 1958; and the statistics relate to the five tax years from 1953-54 to 1957-58. The following table is derived from the statistics given:

GROSS INCOME	1953-54	1957-58	Increase	Increase %
Sugar plantation companies	46.8	75.3	28.5	61
From Professions	3.25	4.1	.85	26
From Employments	40.8	52.5	11.7	28

(The figures in columns 1, 2 and 3 are millions of rupees)

Report. This handful of individual taxpayers paid, or were liable to pay, a total of Rs 17,140,335 among them. Yet in the same income tax year, 239 companies liable to tax paid, or were liable to pay, as much as Rs 45,778,277 altogether! Average out these liabilities, and what do we get? In round figures, about Rs 2500 per individual taxpayer; but nearly Rs 200,000 per tax-paying company! Indeed, 22 companies had to pay tax on over a million rupees of chargeable income; I do not think one would be far wrong in saying that the majority of these 22 millionaire companies were sugar estates; though of course, until the sugar barons make public the full financial details of their operations, we cannot say with accuracy how much tax the estates do contribute to the Exchequer.

What we can say, however, is what I continued my five-year-old article with: "It is right and just that they (i.e., the companies) pay this tax; it is only by underpaying their employees that the companies

In other words, in the five years from 1953-58 to 1957-58, the gross income of the sugar plantation companies went up by 61%, or nearly two-thirds; but the total gross incomes earned by employed persons went up by only 28%, or far less than one-third. For every three rupees earned by the sugar plantations in 1953-54, they earned nearly five in 1957-58; but for every three rupees earned by an employed person in 1953-54, he earned only just under four five years later! Is this fair? Is this just? No, but it's the result of capitalism! (If we compare the total gross incomes of individuals over the five years, we find that they went up by 17%; but the total gross income of all companies went up, during the same five years, by 49 per cent!).

And only a Socialist Mauritius, with full powers to govern, without reference or deference to Whitehall, can get rid of the incubus of capitalism with all its ramifications.



Place D'Armes and the Government House - 1960s-70s - Pic - Vintage Mauritius



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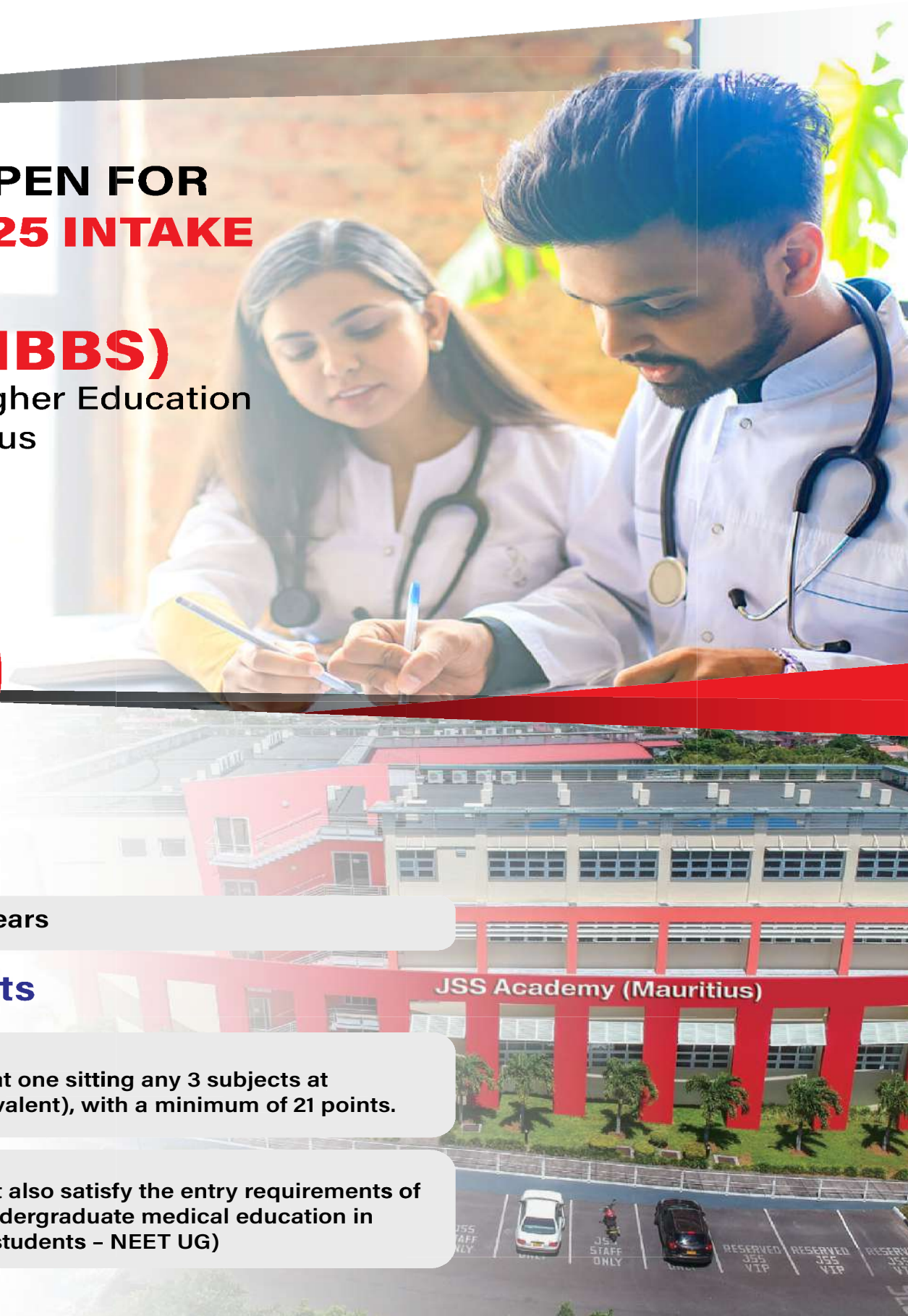
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Savita Tiwari

Cultural Memory and Revival in the Diaspora

Chhath Puja: A Lost Tradition Finding Its Way Back to Mauritius

The return of Chhath Puja to Mauritius will symbolise the reawakening of cultural memory, the reaffirmation of identity, and the continuity of faith that transcends centuries

When the first indentured labourers from Bihar set foot on Mauritian soil in 1834, they brought with them not just their hard work and hope, but also their culture. This was a culture deeply rooted in traditions, songs, rituals, and festivals that carried the fragrance of the Ganga and the simplicity of the village life they had left behind. Among these traditions was the Chhath Puja, one of the oldest and most spiritually significant festivals of Bihar, dedicated to Surya Dev (the highly revered Hindu Sun God, one of the most prominent deities in Vedic and Hindu traditions) and Chhathi Maiyya (a revered Hindu folk goddess, central to the major festival of Chhath Puja, and who protects children, grants fertility, and ensures the longevity and prosperity of the family).

However, when those early Bihari ancestors arrived in Mauritius under the indenture system, life on the sugar plantations was unimaginably hard. The plantation owners were known for their rigid rules and harsh behaviours. No holidays were granted, and if a labourer took even a single day's leave, two days' wages were deducted. Working hours were long, stretching from dawn till dusk, and resources were scarce — even basic food, clothing, and shelter were limited.

Under such severe conditions, it was nearly impossible to observe a demanding festival like Chhath Puja. Over time, as generations blended into the Mauritian landscape, many of these old traditions slowly faded from memory.

Today, Chhath Puja is remembered only faintly among the elderly descendants of those early Bihari settlers. They recall that the festival was not completely forgotten, noting: "Humni ke dadi e vrat karat rahli." (Our grandmother used to keep the Chhath fast.) They remember hearing about



Chhathi Maiyya and the stories related to the Ramayan and Mahabharat in their childhood, told by their *dadi's*, who despite having almost nothing still managed to perform Chhath Puja in the simplest way they could, by offering *Arghya* to the sun. *Arghya* is the central and most significant ritual of the Chhath Puja festival. It is a formal offering, typically of water and milk, presented directly to Surya Dev and Chhathi Maiyya.

In the last century, the festival faded from the memories of the early Bihari settlers in Mauritius. Their descendants, while still upholding Hindu traditions, lost touch with this particular celebration. Yet, some memories never die completely; they lingered quietly in stories and the collective subconscious. Today, nearly 48 percent of the Mauritian population is Hindu, and around 35 percent trace their ancestry directly to Bihar and the surrounding areas. Despite over a century and a half of cultural evolution, the emotional connection between Bihar and Mauritius remains alive — sometimes dormant but never broken.

In the past decade, Mauritius has witnessed a remarkable organic revival of Indian festivals. Ganesh Chaturthi, once celebrated only at homes, now fills the streets with vibrant processions, large idols, *dhol jhakri* dances, and joyous *visarjan* ceremonies. *Garba* during Navratri has grown enormously in scale, with colourful events held across the island and thousands of Mauritians of all backgrounds participating with enthusiasm.

This shows how Indian traditions are evolving organically on Mauritian soil, shaped by devotion, curiosity, and the spirit of community and backed by the power and positive influence of social media. Social media platforms have allowed younger generations to reconnect and rediscover their roots.

And now, it seems that Chhath Puja is poised to make a similar journey, from memory to revival.

In recent years, a few families, mostly NRIs and newer migrants from North India, have begun observing the Chhath Vrat on the island. Seeing them standing by the sea or rivers at dawn, offering *Arghya* to the rising and setting sun, fills the heart with warmth and nostalgia. For many older Mauritians of Bihari descent, it feels like watching a forgotten page of history come alive again.

What is even more heartening is the growing curiosity

among Mauritian Hindus about this unique festival. People want to understand the meaning behind its rituals, the songs, and the stories of Chhathi Maiyya. In an age where information is at everyone's fingertips and resources are easily available, many are beginning to realise that reviving Chhath Puja in Mauritius is not only possible, but also deeply fulfilling.

The Chhath Vrat, once nearly impossible under the restrictions of the 19th-century plantation life, is now within reach of every devotee who wishes to reconnect with their ancestral roots. Modern Mauritius offers the freedom, facilities, and awareness that the early indentured labourers could only have dreamt of. Today, one can easily access

the *vidhi* (procedures), chants, and songs online, and communities can come together in shared devotion, something their forebears were denied.

As the Mauritian Hindu landscape continues to evolve, Chhath Puja may soon find its rightful place once again. Not as a festival of the past, but as a living tradition that bridges time, geography, and generations. It carries within it the simplicity of nature worship, the discipline of devotion, and the strength of womanhood, all of which deeply resonate with the cultural values of Mauritius.

Perhaps in the next few years, the island's beaches and riversides will glow with the light of *diya* during the evening *Arghya*, echoing the songs of Chhathi Maiyya. The scene will not just be worship, but of remembrance. A tribute to the strength, resilience, and faith of the ancestors who once dreamed of the same sunrise, across the ocean, in a land called Bihar.

The return of Chhath Puja to Mauritius will not merely mark the revival of a festival; it will symbolise the reawakening of cultural memory, the reaffirmation of identity, and the continuity of faith that transcends centuries.

For those who stand by the sea today, offering prayers to the sun, it is not just about tradition. It is about coming home, after nearly two hundred years.

La Laura, Mauritius



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A life of service and vision: Remembering Dr Subodh Nundloll

There are individuals whose steadfastness in life provides profound comfort. I felt this strongly with my father, Dr Subodhananda Vyas Nundloll, who died on August 8, 2025, at the age of 75. He was an Anaesthetist who made significant contributions to the public health services of Mauritius.

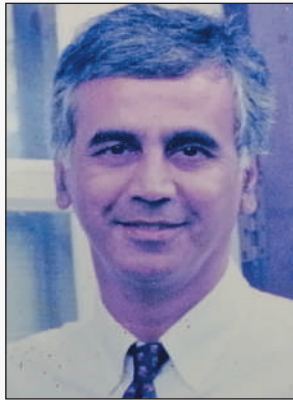
He was born the eldest of four children in 1949, to Parbati Kumari Nundloll (née Davay) and Bharadwaja Nundloll, a Senior Agricultural Superintendent at the Ministry of Agriculture. Academic success appeared to come quite easily to him, it seems, as he skipped two years of primary schooling at St Julien d'Hotman Government School before pursuing his secondary education at the Royal College of Curepipe. He later trained in medicine at the University of Bombay, India (MBBS, 1970-1976).

In 1985, he specialised in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the University of Bordeaux, France, on a scholarship from the French Government. It is through this specialisation that he came to develop a genuine passion for his career, which he would pursue till the age of 74. Ironically, his first encounter with anaesthesia had been at the age of 11, for a surgical procedure, where a General Practitioner had used chloroform for a tonsillectomy. Though common practice at

the time, chloroform for such a procedure was, in fact, fraught with risks.

With a profound sense of duty towards Mauritius, my father harboured the deep conviction that one needed to contribute to our country's growth, bring best practices home, and foster a culture of quality. It is with this conviction that he coordinated efforts locally and internationally for the setup of the Prehospital Emergency Medical Services, also known as the SAMU — the "Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence," with the assistance of the University of Bordeaux, the SAMU of Reunion Island, and the French Government. My father was also a part of the team which trained the emergency medical and paramedical personnel — 25 doctors and 35 nurses.

Prior to the successful inauguration of the SAMU at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital in Rose Belle in 1997, and upon the recommendation of Prof Philippe Emry of the University of Bordeaux, my father was appointed Director of the SAMU services. The SAMU was successfully launched across the whole island and offered assistance to many patients in



distress.

Together with Dr Madho Jingree and Dr Abdool Jackaria, he founded the Association of Anaesthetists of Mauritius. Their shared dedication and leadership laid the foundation of the association. With the help of a very active and dedicated team of colleagues, they organised the first yearly conferences in collaboration with the World Federation of Anaesthesiologists. Such enthusiasm in nurturing the association stemmed from a sincere intention of helping anaesthetists to remain abreast of industry trends. My father served as Secretary of the association for many years, briefly as President, and was until recently an active member.

Other than his dedication to the field of medicine, my father was well cultured. He was convinced that you had to embrace every opportunity of life with curiosity. It is with this openness to life's opportunities that he pursued his hobbies. One of them was photography, which he started as a teenager. We also remember his eclectic taste in music. His playlist featured Simon & Garfunkel, Atif Aslam, Anup Jalota, tabla

player Zakir Hussain, Vaya Con Dios, and Gilbert Bécaud, to name just a few. In his younger days, he was keen about tennis, rarely missing the weekly Wednesday sessions at the Triveni Club. He was also keen about sketching and watercolours (aquarelles), which he encouraged my sisters and me to pursue in our free time.

My father never failed to acknowledge the infallible support of my mother, Sunita Kumari (née Pulton), with whom he shared his life with great affection and complicity. They had married after a long-distance relationship, at a time when letters arrived fortnightly, while my mother studied for her degree in the UK.

Although my father achieved success in his career, his life had not been without its share of hardship. Yet amidst life's tribulations, he had remained steady and content. While not deeply religious, he was gentle and caring to us. He was a good father and a good man. He consistently helped those in need and offered medical advice and support to neighbours, relatives, and friends alike. When he passed, many in the neighbourhood came to pay their respects and related how he had always been there to offer support.

He will be dearly missed — in particular by my mother Sunita, his siblings Seshadur, Pradeep, Nivedita, my two sisters — Sapna and Deepa, and me. For the numerous messages of love and sympathy that we received during and after the funeral, we would like to convey our deepest thanks.

*Farewell, dear Papa.
Reshmi Nundloll*

AAPRAVASI GHAT INDIAN INDENTURED IMMIGRANTS (Girmitya) Arrival Celebration Committee

191th Anniversary Celebrations of Indentured Immigrants
(Girmitya) Arrival 2 November 1834 – 2 November 2025

The Aapravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival Celebration Committee is solemnly inviting you to the

ANNUAL YAJ CEREMONY

to pay tribute to the (Girmityas) - Indian Indentured Immigrants

Venue : Aapravasi Ghat

Date : Sunday 2 November 2025

Time : 8.00 to 8.45 am

The programme will comprise of Yaj, prayers, tribute, lighting of lamps and Shradhanjali with offering of flowers. Please bring along garlands and flowers for the Shradhanjali.

Guests and participants are requested to be seated by 7.30 am sharp.

Dr Mrs Sarita Boodhoo
President

Sadhna Ramlallah
Vice President

Rita Ramlallah
Secretary

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INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

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REF NO: RFQ/WK/TSD/VB/SG/24/238

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), a member of AHL Group, invites proposals from eligible bidders for Waterproofing Works at AML Operations & MK Procurement Offices at SSR International Airport.

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

A site visit has been scheduled on **Tuesday 11 Nov 2025 at 10.00 hrs.** The venue shall be AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport Plaine Magnien. Bidders are kindly requested to confirm their presence to the Chairperson Tender Committee by e-mail at tendercommittee@aml.aero at least two days prior to the scheduled date.

Proposal(s) in sealed envelope clearly marked "**Waterproofing Works at AML Operations & MK Procurement Offices at SSR International Airport - RFQ/WK/TSD/VB/SG/24/238 - (26 NOV 25)**" should be addressed to the Chairperson Tender Committee, Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd, and deposited in the Tender Box located at AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien, **on or before Wednesday 26 NOV 2025 at latest by 13:00 hrs.**

Electronic and late bids shall not be accepted.

24 October 2025

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Katina Zammit
Deputy Dean, School of
Education, Western
Sydney University

What's the point of homework?

It isn't easy to measure how effective homework can be. But here's what we do know

Homework hasn't changed much in the past few decades. Most children are still sent home with about an hour's worth of homework each day, mostly practising what they were taught in class.

If we look at internationally, homework is assigned in every country that participated in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Across participating countries, 15-year-old students reported spending almost five hours per week doing homework in 2012. Australian students spent six hours per week on average on homework. Students in Singapore spent seven hours on homework, and in Shanghai, China they did homework for about 14 hours per week on average.

Shanghai and Singapore routinely score higher than Australia in the PISA maths, science and reading tests. But homework could just be one of the factors leading to higher results. In Finland, which also scores higher than Australia, students spent less than three hours on homework per week.

So, what's the purpose of homework and what does the evidence say about whether it fulfils its purpose?

Why do teachers set homework?

Each school in Australia has its own homework policy developed in consultation with teachers and parents or caregivers, under the guiding principles of state or regional education departments.

For instance, according to the New South Wales homework policy "... tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose".

Homework in NSW should also be "purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals", and "built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class". But there is limited, if any, guidance on how often homework should be set.

Research based on teacher interviews shows they set homework for a range of reasons. These include to:

- establish and improve communication between parents and children about learning
- help children be more responsible, confident and disciplined
- practise or review material from class
- determine children's understanding of the lesson and/or skills
- introduce new material to be presented in class
- provide students with opportunities to apply and integrate skills to new situations or interest areas



Pic - archesacademy.com

- get students to use their own skills to create work.

So, does homework achieve what teachers intend it to?

Do we know if it 'works'?

Studies on homework are frequently quite general, and don't consider specific types of homework tasks. So, it isn't easy to measure how effective homework could be, or to compare studies.

But there are several things we can say.

First, it's better if every student gets the kind of homework task that benefits them personally, such as one that helps them answer questions they had, or understand a problem they couldn't quite grasp in class. This promotes students' confidence and control of their own learning.

Giving students repetitive tasks may not have much value. For instance, calculating the answer to 120 similar algorithms, such as adding two different numbers 120 times may make the student think maths is irrelevant and boring. In this case, children are not being encouraged to find solutions but simply applying a formula they learnt in school.

In primary schools, homework that aims to improve children's confidence and learning discipline can be beneficial. For example, children can be asked to practise giving a presentation on a topic of their interest. This could help build their competence in speaking in front of a class.

Homework can also highlight equity issues. It can be particularly burdensome for socioeconomically disadvantaged students who may not have a space, the

resources or as much time due to family and work commitments. Their parents may also not feel capable of supporting them or have their own work commitments.

According to the PISA studies mentioned earlier, socioeconomically disadvantaged 15 year olds spend nearly three hours less on homework each week than their advantaged peers.

What kind of homework is best?

Homework can be engaging and contribute to learning if it is more than just a sheet of maths or list of spelling words not linked to class learning. From summarising various studies' findings, "good" homework should be:

- personalised to each child rather than the same for all students in the class. This is more likely to make a difference to a child's learning and performance
- achievable, so the child can complete it independently, building skills in managing their time and behaviour
- aligned to the learning in the classroom.

If you aren't happy with the homework your child is given, then approach the school. If your child is having difficulty with doing the homework, the teacher needs to know. It shouldn't be burdensome for you or your children.

TENDER NOTICE OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING



INVITATION TO BID

Provision of HR Consultancy Services for Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd and Airport Terminal Operations Ltd

REF NO: RFP/CS/HR/VB/SG/25/002

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), a member of AHL Group, invites proposals from eligible bidders for Provision of HR Consultancy Services for Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd and Airport Terminal Operations Ltd.

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

Proposal(s) shall be submitted in two sealed envelopes Technical and Financial clearly marked "**Provision of HR Consultancy Services for Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd and Airport Terminal Operations Ltd. - RFP/CS/HR/VB/SG/25/002 - (26 NOV 25)**", addressed to the Chairperson Tender Committee, Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd, and deposited in the Tender Box located at AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien, **on or before Wednesday 26 NOV 2025 at latest by 13:00 hrs.**

Electronic and late bids shall not be accepted.

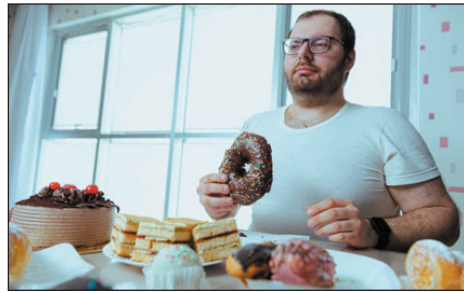
30 October 2025

AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien, MAURITIUS
Tel: (230) 603 6000 • Web: aml.mru.aero

Four Days to Forget: How Junk Food Scrambles Your Memory

The idea that diet affects the brain isn't new, but research from the UNC School of Medicine reveals just how quickly and dramatically high-fat junk food can damage memory circuits. A new study, published in *Neuron*, found that a diet resembling Western-style fast food can disrupt the brain's memory hub -- the hippocampus -- in as little as four days.

The immediate damage is caused by a special group of brain cells, called CCK interneurons, becoming abnormally overactive. This overactivity is triggered by the brain's impaired ability to receive and uti-



lize glucose (sugar) after the short-term exposure to a high-fat diet (HFD). The over-stimulated neurons then scramble the normal processes of the hippocampus,

leading to impaired memory function, well before any weight gain or diabetes symptoms appear.

The Restoration Switch

The discovery highlights the extreme sensitivity of memory circuits to what we eat, underscoring a critical risk factor for obesity-related cognitive decline, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.

However, the researchers also found a path to recovery. Restoring brain glucose levels successfully calmed the overactive neurons and fixed the memory problems in

the mouse models. Even simple interventions like intermittent fasting following the high-fat diet were sufficient to normalize the CCK interneurons and improve memory function.

This work offers a powerful message: the negative effects of a junk food diet on the brain are rapid, but they are also reversible. This knowledge opens the door to early, non-pharmacological interventions that could protect memory and lower the long-term risk of neurodegenerative diseases linked to metabolic disorders. The next step is exploring how these targeted, lifestyle-based strategies can be translated to human health.



What's the difference between ghosts and demons? Books, folklore and history reflect society's supernatural beliefs

Artists often turn to the supernatural to reflect on and speak to the anxieties brought about by social, religious and political upheaval.

Belief in the spirit world is a key part of many faiths and religions. A 2023 survey of 26 countries revealed that about half the respondents believed in the existence of angels, demons, fairies and ghosts. In the United States, a 2020 poll found that about half of Americans believe ghosts and demons are real.

While the subject of demons and ghosts can inspire dread, the concepts themselves can be confusing: Is there a difference between the two?

Historically, communities have understood the supernatural according to their religious and spiritual traditions. For example, the terrifying ghosts of Pu Songling's "Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio" operate differently than those haunting the works of William Shakespeare, even though both writers lived in the 17th century.

Literary representations of ghosts and demons often reflect the anxieties of communities experiencing social, religious or political upheaval. As a scholar of early modern English literature, my research focuses on how everyday people in 16th- and 17th-century Europe used storytelling to navigate major social changes. This era, often called the Renaissance, was punctuated by the establishment of mass media through printing, the global spread of colonization and the emergence of modern science and medicine.

Digging into the literary archive can reveal people's ideas about demons and ghosts -- and what made them different.

Martin Luther and the Reformation

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther, an ex-law student and former monk, boldly published his Ninety-Five Theses. In it, he rejected the Catholic Church's promise that monetary payment to the church could reduce the amount of time one's soul spent in purgatory. What began as a local protest in Wittenberg, Germany, soon swept all the major European powers into a life and death struggle over religious reform. Towns were besieged, landscapes scorched, villages pillaged.

This period, called the Reformation, led

to the establishment of new Christian denominations. Among these Protestant churches' early teachings was the edict that purgatory did not exist and souls could not return to Earth to haunt the living. Protestant reformers insisted that after death, one's soul was immediately judged. The virtuous flew up to God in heaven; the sinful burned in hell with the Devil.

According to Protestants, ghosts were invented by Catholic priests to scare people into obedience. For example, the English translator of Ludwig Lavater's 1572 book "Of Ghostes and Spirites Walking by Night" insists ghosts are the "falsehood of Monkes, or illusions of devils, franticke imaginations, or some other frivolous and vaine perswasions." Should you ever encounter an "apparition," you must call it out for what it truly is: a devil pretending to be a ghost.

Christopher Marlowe's play "Doctor Faustus" comments on these debates. Written in the 1580s for a primarily Protestant audience, the play features a scene in which Dr. Faustus and his devil companion, Mephistopheles, trick the pope by snatching away his meal. A bewildered member of the papal court concludes "it may be some ghost ... come to beg a pardon of your Holiness." The audience knows full well, however, that these pranks are committed by the necromancer and his demon.

Ghostly haunting

In spite of Protestantism's official stance against ghosts, belief in them persisted in the popular imagination.

Archival records show that ordinary people held fast to popular beliefs despite what their religious authorities decreed. For example, the casebook of Richard Napier, an astrological physician, reports several cases of "spirit" hauntings, including that of a young mother named Catherine Wells who had been "vexed ... with a spirit" for three continuous years.

Popular plays provide additional evidence. Shakespeare's "Hamlet" opens with a midnight visitation by the ghost of



Hamlet's father, telling his son he cannot rest in peace until his murderer is brought to justice. Ghostly victims seeking justice appear in other Shakespearean plays, including "Macbeth" and "Richard III."

Cheap print, a form of common media, capitalized on the public's interest in the paranormal. Part entertainment, part journalism, cheap print was read by all sorts of people. A 1662 pamphlet titled "A strange and wonderfull discovery of a horrid and cruel murder [murder]" describes Isabel Binnington's unsettling encounter with the ghost of Robert Eliot. In her testimonial, she claims that Eliot's ghost promised he would never hurt her. What he wanted was simply for her to hear his story: He had been murdered for his coins in the very house she occupied.

A 1730 broadside ballad called "The Suffolk Miracle" -- still performed today -- tells the tale of young lovers parted by an overprotective father. After the daughter is whisked away, her beloved dies of a broken heart. When his ghost later appears to her, she "joy'd to see her heart's delight."

Demonic possession

While reformed Protestant thinkers rejected the existence of ghosts, they enthusiastically accepted the reality of devils.

Reports of demonic possession were popular. Before his ascension to the English throne, King James VI of Scotland published a literary treatise on demonology in 1597. He argues that "assaultes of Sathan are most certainly practized" and "detestable slaves of the Devill" live among

us.

The diaries of English Puritans offer further proof that beliefs about devilish encounters were common. In the 1650s, the Calvinist preacher Thomas Hall insisted that his godliness attracted the attention of Satan like a moth to a candle. From an early age, he complained, he was subjected to "Satanicall buffettings" and terrifying dreams. He believed, however, that surviving demonic temptation demonstrated his unwavering devotion to God.

Distinguishing ghosts from demons

Based on the literature, what can we conclude about how people saw ghosts and demons?

Early modern people often represented ghosts as sad and pitiable. They were depicted as the spiritual remainder of a recently deceased person, haunting their friends and kin -- or, occasionally, a stranger. They retained some of their humanity and were psychically connected to a place, such as their former home, or to a person, such as their most cherished companion.

Demons, by contrast, were almost always malevolent tricksters who served the Devil. Demons lacked knowledge of what it meant to be human. Hell was the demons' lair. Early modern texts describe them visiting the earthly plane to corrupt, possess or tempt humans to commit self-harm or violence against others.

Then and now, stories of ghosts and demons have provoked fear and wonder. Tales of the supernatural have inspired the imagination of kings, theologians, playwrights and everyday people.

Approaching the topic of the otherworldly with intellectual humility can inspire deeper curiosity about cultures across space and time. As Hamlet muses to his friend after meeting the ghost of his father, "There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Penelope Geng
Associate Professor of English,
Macalester College

Laughter is the Best Medicine

The Bet



Two guys were watching an old cowboy movie. At one point, the cowboy, riding his horse at full speed, was headed straight for a cliff.

One guy said, "Hey, I'll bet you \$10 that he rides over the cliff."

The other guy said, "You're on!"

Sure enough, the cowboy and the horse went right over the cliff. The guy who lost the bet paid up.

Later, the winner said, "You know, I feel a little guilty about that bet... I should confess -- I'd already seen this movie before."

The other guy replied, "Well, I had seen it too... I just didn't think he'd do it again!"

Lack-Toes Intolerance

I just couldn't handle it.

When I was in my mid-twenties, I'd been with the same beautiful woman for three years. I thought I could handle anything... then she lost three toes to frostbite after getting her feet wet in sub-freezing temperatures.

Now, I'm no foot fetishist, but I do have a thing for beautiful feet... I left her a month later.

Turns out I'm lack-toes intolerant.

Three Companies After Me

I told my boss I needed a raise because three companies were after me.

He asked which companies. I said, Gas, electric, and water.

He didn't laugh.

I didn't get the raise.

But the next day, he came in with a huge grin and said, I told my wife that joke. She said you deserve a raise for creativity.

Still waiting for both.

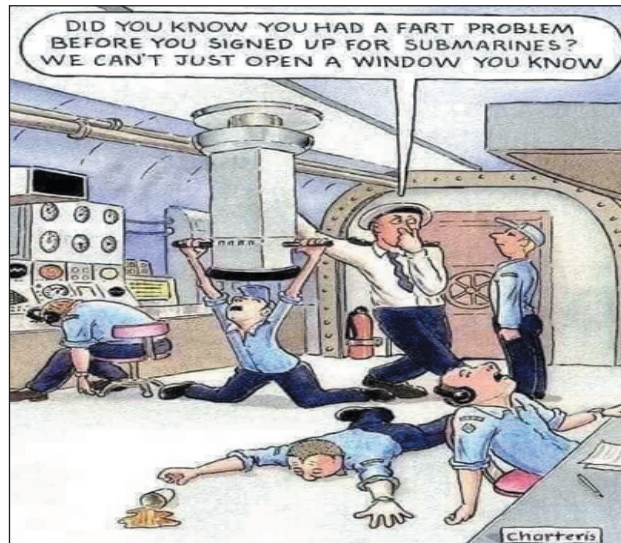
The Farmer's Lantern

In a small village, a farmer's wife went into labour in the middle of the night, and a doctor was called out to help. Since there was no electricity, the doctor handed the father-to-be a lantern and asked him to hold it high so he could see what he was doing.

Soon, a baby boy was delivered.

"Good," said the doctor, "but wait — there's another one coming!"

Sure enough, within minutes he had delivered a baby girl.



"No, no, don't lower the lantern just yet," shouted the doctor. "It seems there's yet another one in there!"

The farmer scratched his head in bewilderment and asked, "Doctor, do you think it's the light that's attracting them?"

The Bearded Brothers

Three Scottish brothers decided that one of them would go to the USA, make a fortune, and return home to share it with the others. The youngest, Ian, was chosen for the task and off he went.

Ian worked hard in America and, after earning a fortune, wired his brothers to say he was coming home. When he reached Scotland, he searched for them but couldn't find anyone familiar. Finally, a group of bearded strangers approached him.

"Hello, Ian! Are you not recognising your own brothers?" asked one of them.

Ian stared in disbelief.

"For heaven's sake, lads, why have you all grown beards?"

"We had to, lad," replied one brother. "You took the razor with you!"

The Drunk in the Confession Box

A drunken man staggered into a Catholic church, sat down in the confession box, and remained silent.

The bewildered priest coughed to attract his attention, but still the man said nothing. Finally, the priest knocked on the wall three times, hoping to prompt a response.

At last, the drunk replied,

"No use knocking, mate — there's no paper in this one either!"

Steve's Big Catch

Steve and his buddies were hanging out, planning an upcoming fishing trip.

Unfortunately, Steve had to break the news: he couldn't go — his wife wouldn't let him.

After a round of teasing and name-calling, Steve headed home, clearly frustrated.

The following week, when the guys arrived at the lake to set up camp, they were stunned to see Steve already there — cold beer in hand, swag rolled out, fishing rod ready, and a campfire glowing.

"Steve! How did you convince your wife to let you come?"

"I didn't have to," Steve replied.

"Yesterday, after work, I got home, slumped in my chair with a beer, sulking because I couldn't come on the trip. Then my wife sneaked up behind me, covered my

eyes, and said, 'Surprise!'"

"When I uncovered my eyes, there she was, standing in a beautiful, see-through negligee. She looked at me and said, 'Carry me into the bedroom, tie me to the bed... and do whatever you want.'"

"So... here I am!"

A Priceless Exchange

A man walks into a pub and asks for a beer.

The barman says, "Sure, that'll be one dollar."

"One dollar?" exclaims the man, surprised.

He looks at the menu and asks, "Could I have the steak and chips?"

"Certainly," says the barman. "That'll be two dollars."

"Two dollars? You're kidding! Where's the guy who owns this place?"

The barman replies, "Upstairs, with my wife."

The man, confused, asks, "What's he doing upstairs with your wife?"

The barman shrugs and says, "The same thing I'm doing to his business."

The Ultimate Test

A new guy in town walks into a bar and sees a sign hanging over the counter:

Free Beer! Free Beer For the Person Who Can Pass The Test!

Curious, he asks the bartender, "What's the test?"

The bartender says,

"Well, first, you have to drink that whole gallon of pepper tequila — all at once, without making a face.

Second, there's a alligator out back with a sore tooth. You've got to pull it out with your bare hands.

Third, there's a woman upstairs who's never had an orgasm. You've got to go up there and make things right for her."



The guy laughs nervously.

"As much as I'd love free beer, that's insane! A gallon of pepper tequila? Then a wild alligator? And... that?? No way."

But as the night goes on and he downs a few drinks, he gets braver and slurs,

"Where's that teeqeelah?"

He grabs the gallon with both hands and downs it in one go — face red, tears streaming, but never flinching.

Then he stumbles out the back door.

Inside, everyone hears terrifying growls, crashing, roaring, and screaming. Then... silence.

Suddenly, the man bursts back into the bar — shirt torn, covered in scratches and dirt, eyes wild.

He shouts,

"Alright! Now where's that woman with the sore tooth?"

How Will You Measure Your Life?

Lessons from Clayton Christensen

In a world obsessed with quantifiable metrics like wealth, status, and quarterly earnings, the late Harvard Business School professor Clayton M. Christensen — alongside co-authors James Allworth and Karen Dillon — offered a radical question: "How Will You Measure Your Life?"

Christensen's central argument is that most people don't fail because of poor intentions; they fail because they apply flawless business logic to flawed personal strategies. If you fail to strategize and allocate resources in your personal life, the outcome will be determined by default, not by design.

1. Define Success for Yourself

The starting point is self-awareness. Just as a company needs a mission statement, individuals must align their life with their values. Defining success must be an internal exercise. If your definition of a successful life is measured by love, impact, and family harmony, but you spend 90% of your energy chasing status, you are executing the wrong strategy.

2. Allocate Resources Wisely

Christensen warns that one of the biggest pitfalls is misallocating personal resources — time, energy, and attention. In business, we pour resources into the most visible, tangible, and immediate needs (like a demanding career project). This often leads to under-investing in intangible, long-term investments like family, health, and relationships. These critical areas, which determine ultimate life happiness, often don't have pressing deadlines but require consistent, daily investment.

3. Avoid Marginal Thinking

Marginal thinking is the fallacy that a little compromise won't hurt. For example, deciding to cut a corner "just this once." Christensen stresses that small compromises accumulate to become life-altering choices. Maintaining integrity isn't about avoiding one big transgression; it's about resisting the thousands of small, rationalized decisions that chip away at your principles.

The book outlines several key strategies for ensuring your career and relationships deliver lasting happiness:

Finding Purpose in Work

Meaningful work is driven by **motivation and fulfillment**, not just money. To truly find purpose, you must engage in tasks that are **meaningful and value-aligned**. Look for the job that offers deep satisfaction, not just the one that pays the most. The goal is to avoid the scenario



Ivan101/Getty Images

where a person feels deeply fulfilled at work but utterly bankrupt at home, or vice versa.

Building Strong Relationships

Relationships are the most crucial — and often most neglected — long-term investment. They require a consistent investment in meaningful connections. These connections must be actively nurtured through time and attention. Christensen emphasizes that at the end of life, the most important metric is the quality of relationships you cultivated.

Embrace a Growth Mindset

The perspective you adopt toward obstacles determines your success. An openness to learning sees challenges as opportunities to grow. This mindset is crucial for personal development, allowing you to adapt your life's strategy just as a great company adapts its business model.

Strategize Your Personal Life

This involves constantly balancing short- and long-term goals. Every choice you make today — from how you spend your free time to how you manage your finances — must be aligned with your core values for the future you want to build.

The Final Metric: Love and Impact

Ultimately, the book challenges the conventional wisdom that success is measured by wealth or status. Instead, it redefines the metric of a life well-lived through three internal measures:

- 1. **Measuring by Love:** The quality of your relationships and the depth of connection you have with your loved ones.
- 2. **Measuring by Work:** The contribution you make to the world and the meaning you derive from it.
- 3. **Measuring by Impact:** The positive effect you have on the lives of others.

To maintain this intentional life, the authors recommend to reflect regularly and beware external validation. Happiness must be grounded internally, not in the fleeting applause or metrics of others. The ongoing process of self-reflection ensures you continually adjust your course to stay true to your deepest purpose.

Life's Lesson

Socrates and the Donkey

One day, Socrates was confronted by a rude, uncivilized man who insulted him and tried to wound him with words. Sadly, such people still exist -- when they cannot explain their ideas, they lash out with aggression.

But how did Socrates respond?

He didn't. He didn't yell back. He didn't fight. He didn't stoop to the man's level.

Later, a student asked him why. Socrates replied:

"If a donkey had kicked me, would I have taken it to court?"

That's the lesson: a wise person never lowers themselves to the level of a fool. Sometimes silence is the most powerful and elegant answer.

Be like Socrates.



Let's celebrate our remaining life

By Robert Drake

Sometimes,
I feel I want to go back in time --
Not to change things, but to feel a couple of things twice.

Sometimes,
I wish I were a baby for a while --
Not to be walked in the pram, but to see my mother's smile.

Sometimes,
I wish I could go back to school --
Not to become a child, but to spend more time with those friends I never met again after school.

Sometimes,
I wish I could be back in college --
Not to be a rebel, but to truly understand what I studied.

Sometimes,
I wish I were a fresher at work --
Not to do less work, but to relive the joy of my first pay cheque.

Sometimes,
I wish my kids were younger --
Not because they grew fast, but to play with them a bit more.

Sometimes,
I wish I still had some more time to live --
Not to have a longer life, but to know what more I could give to others.

Since the times that are gone can never come back,
let's enjoy the moments as we live them now -- to the fullest.

Let's celebrate our remaining life.

Life Lessons & Personal Growth

It's time to know your worth

Throughout life, you will come to realize something important.

There is a rare breed of people in this world, and we give you all.

We often put ourselves last for the ones we care about.

We rarely receive the same compassion and effort in return, yet we continue to give our hearts freely, every day.

We are considered givers because our hearts are larger than the wounds we have

endured in the past.

We travel through life hoping that, one day, our efforts will be returned.

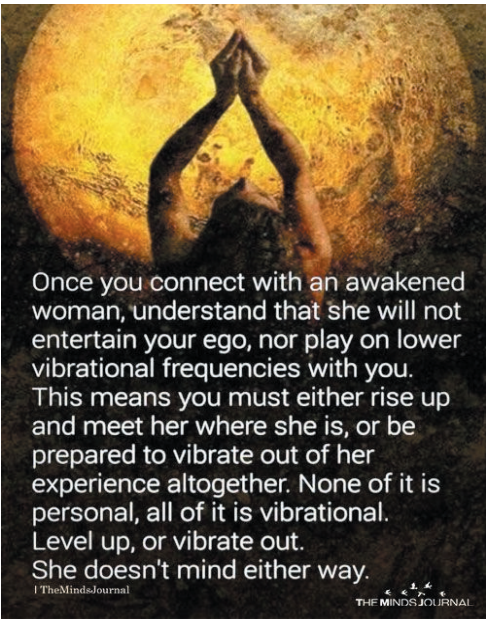
But let me tell you something...

If you are someone who continues to give tenderness to people who don't reciprocate,

It's time to know your worth -- and, most importantly, set limits.

Because takers... they don't have any.

Cody Bret



Once you connect with an awakened woman, understand that she will not entertain your ego, nor play on lower vibrational frequencies with you. This means you must either rise up and meet her where she is, or be prepared to vibrate out of her experience altogether. None of it is personal, all of it is vibrational. Level up, or vibrate out. She doesn't mind either way.

TheMindsJournal

THE MINDS JOURNAL

Relationships

What Truly Wins Hearts?

A kind person is not just a better partner, but a more deeply attractive one

It's easy to assume that in the age of rapid dating apps and polished social media profiles, looks are the only thing that matters in finding a partner. After all, first impressions are formed in a flash, and physical attraction is coveted. But emerging research and dating trends suggest that the qualities that truly win people's hearts are not on the surface -- it's what's inside that counts.

While appearance might secure a second glance, core personality traits like agreeableness, extraversion, and intelligence outscore looks every time, and factors like financial success and material possessions often rank among the least important, writes William Park.

Personality Over Pictures

Even accounting for social-desirability bias (our tendency to give answers that make us look good), people typically say they prefer intelligence and kindness over a pretty face. But do these stated preferences hold up in the real world of dating?

According to Jess Alderson, co-founder of the dating app So Syncd, the answer is a resounding yes. Her app requires users to complete a psychometric test to measure personality traits, and of a sample of over 1,000 users, almost 90% preferred personality over looks when evaluating a potential match.

Psychologists frequently use the Big Five test to



quantify personality, measuring people on five traits: openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. While the test is imperfect, it provides a powerful framework for understanding compatibility.

The Power of Being "Nice"

Of the Big Five traits, agreeableness -- an indicator of interpersonal skills, such as how caring, compassionate, and cooperative someone is -- stands out as crucial.

- It plays a strong role in the initial assessment of a date's desirability.
- It is the strongest predictor of both current and future relationship satisfaction.
- It is the only significant predictor of whether a relationship will dissolve.

As psychologist Greg Webster notes, being a nice person is "indispensable for harmonious long-term relationships." Agreeableness is essentially a necessity; entering a relationship with someone you think is fundamentally

unkind is inherently problematic. Interestingly, agreeable people also tend to see others as kind and friendly, shaping their entire frame of reference.

The Appeal of Familiarity and Complementary Traits

Beyond simple kindness, we are strongly attracted to people who share similar values and characteristics. Sociologists emphasize that qualities related to familiarity -- how similar a partner is to us physically and genetically, their geographic proximity, and approval of their friends -- are foundational to attraction.

Couples reporting high levels of similarity in traits like conscientiousness and openness gain a head start in their ability to problem-solve and manage daily life together.

However, some differences can also create a vital spark. Dating apps like So Syncd, which aim to match couples with complementary traits, find that the best pairings have "just enough similarities to form a strong connection, and then just enough differences to create that spark of excitement." If you're too similar, a relationship can become boring; if you're too different, it can be unsustainable.

Ultimately, personality acts as a filter that elevates other attractive qualities. For example, traits like social, physical, or financial dominance are generally appealing because they imply protection or access to resources. But, according to Webster, this dominance must be mediated by agreeableness. People want a powerful partner who is willing to share those resources and focus their strength inward toward the relationship, not against it.

In the quest for the right match, agreeableness accentuates the benefits of every other trait. It really does pay to be kind -- a kind person is not just a better partner, but a more deeply attractive one.

Ayurveda for a Sparkling Smile: Ancient Secrets for Modern Oral Health

When we think about health, physical fitness and mental well-being often come first. But oral health -- essential for overall wellness -- is just as important. It's not just about a bright smile; it's a critical gateway to the rest of the body.

While modern dentistry focuses on mechanical steps like brushing, flossing, and regular check-ups, Ayurveda takes a more holistic, centuries-old approach. This ancient Indian system of medicine leverages the power of herbs and natural remedies to keep teeth strong, gums healthy, and the entire mouth in balance.

Ayurvedic texts detail several powerful ingredients renowned for their specific oral health benefits. These aren't just folklore; they're backed by tradition and often by modern science.

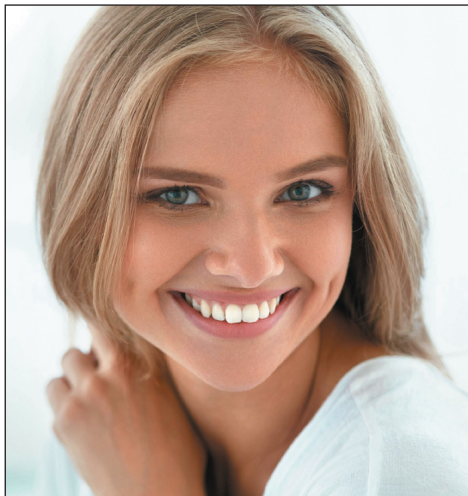
Neem (The Ultimate Protector)

Neem's intense antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory qualities make it a staple in traditional oral care. Known as the "village pharmacy," its twigs were historically chewed in place of modern toothbrushes.

• **Benefits:** It effectively fights cavity-causing bacteria, prevents plaque buildup, and naturally freshens breath by tackling the root cause of odor.

Turmeric (The Golden Healer)

Celebrated across cultures for its potent anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial



powers, turmeric is more than just a spice. When applied topically, it is a fantastic natural remedy.

• **Benefits:** It soothes gum pain, reduces swelling, and combats minor infections. A mild turmeric paste gently applied to the area can bring quick relief to swollen or sensitive gums.

Clove (Nature's Anesthetic)

A household spice with exceptional medicinal value, clove is practically synonymous with toothaches. It offers rapid pain relief and powerful antibacterial protection due to its active compound, eugenol.

• **Benefits:** Clove oil, powder, or even whole cloves are commonly used in

Ayurveda to quickly ease toothaches and prevent the spread of oral infections.

Pippali (Long Pepper - The Rejuvenator)

Also known as **long pepper**, Pippali is valued for more than just its spice. It supports overall gum health with its strong antimicrobial and rejuvenating properties.

• **Benefits:** It stimulates blood circulation in gum tissue, helping to heal and

strengthen the gums, and helps reduce the buildup of toxins (known as ama in Ayurveda) in the mouth.

Incorporating these natural remedies - whether through specialized products or simple home applications like a clove oil rinse -- into your daily routine could be a gentle, effective, and holistic step toward achieving brighter teeth and healthier, resilient gums.

Healthy Ways to Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth

Tired of the sugar rush and crash? Instead of processed sugar, try these healthier, natural alternatives that offer flavor and nutrients without the negative side effects.

Raw Honey: A nutritious swap for sugar, it's rich in antioxidants and vitamins. Use a little less than you would with sugar and enjoy it in tea, yogurt, or granola.

Pure Maple Syrup: More than a pancake topping, this syrup provides minerals and a distinct earthy sweetness. It has a lower glycemic index and is great for baking, marinades, or oatmeal.

Date Syrup/Sugar: Made from whole dates, this sweetener contains fiber, which helps regulate sugar absorption. The syrup is ideal for smoothies, while

date sugar adds a rich, caramel flavor to baked goods.

Coconut Sugar: A less-processed option with a caramel taste and minerals like iron. Use it as a one-for-one substitute for refined sugar in moderation.

Blackstrap Molasses & Jaggery: These are rich in iron and other minerals and offer a bold, complex flavor. Use them sparingly as a flavor accent in recipes like gingerbread.

Monk Fruit: An excellent choice for low-sugar diets, monk fruit extract is 150-300 times sweeter than sugar with zero calories and no effect on blood glucose.

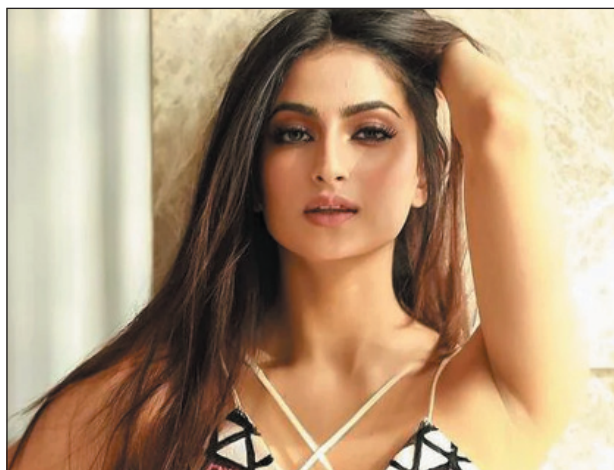
Yacon Syrup & Allulose: Yacon syrup is a prebiotic that supports gut health with half the calories of sugar. Allulose is a "rare sugar" that tastes like sugar but has almost no calories and won't cause an insulin spike.

BollyByte

Palak Tiwari: Forging an Authentic Path Beyond Her Bollywood Legacy

Palak Tiwari is rapidly redefining what it means to be a star in Bollywood, navigating the high-stakes world of cinema with a strategy that balances a familiar legacy with a fiercely independent ambition. The daughter of well-known television actress and actor father, Palak's transition into the mainstream is less about automatic privilege and more about a conscious, self-made breakthrough.

Tiwari first burst into widespread public attention in 2021 with the massive hit music video "Bijlee Bijlee." This debut, opposite a top artist, instantly signaled her unique look, confidence, and potent screen presence, leading directly to her casting in a major 2023 film alongside a leading actor. While the film's commercial



reception was mixed, critics were quick to note her on-screen ease and significant promise, cementing her status as one of the industry's most-watched newcomers.

Crucially, Palak has worked diligently to forge an identity distinct from her family name. Having studied

psychology in college, she made a deliberate choice to build her career through a trifecta of acting, modeling, and brand ventures. This ambition is mirrored in her powerful public image. Her fashion choices — a modern blend of high glamour, designer outfits, and street-style relatability — have positioned her as a trend-setter on social media, where she engages with millions of followers.

Beyond style, Palak is adding substance to her persona by speaking openly about the intense pressures of the industry. Her candid interviews address challenging topics, including beauty standards, celebrity scrutiny, and her own journey of personal growth. This authentic voice reveals a thoughtful young performer, fully aware of her influence and committed to evolving both her craft and her character, setting her apart from many of her contemporaries. Palak Tiwari's story is quickly becoming a blueprint for a new generation: proving that in the digital age, a powerful legacy is best leveraged by an authentic, self-defined voice.

From Endorsing to Equity: The Rise of Bollywood's Star Investor Class



The role of the Bollywood star has fundamentally shifted. Actors are no longer content to simply endorse products; they are increasingly taking seats at the investor's table, turning their immense fame and financial foresight into backing for the next generation of Indian entrepreneurs.

This shift transforms actors into strategic financial players, integrating film sets with boardrooms. Several leading names are charting diverse, yet focused, investment paths:

- **Akshay Kumar** is betting heavily on mentorship and scaling. Beyond his off-screen investments in fitness, tech, and wellness, he co-created "Pitch To Get Rich," India's first fashion entrepreneurship reality show. This venture demonstrates a commitment to providing not just funding, but also invaluable industry expertise and visibility to young fashion brands.

- **Deepika Padukone** stands out as a strategic lifestyle investor, aligning her portfolio with her personal brand and values. Her focus is firmly on wellness and food innovation, with investments spanning Epigamia (Greek yogurt), Blue Tokai Coffee, and Furlenco (furniture rental), highlighting a focus beyond mere profits.

- **Alia Bhatt** is successfully building brands with a sustainability mandate. After launching her successful kidswear and maternity brand, Ed-a-Mamma (later acquired by Reliance Retail), she has invested in Phool.co, which recycles temple flowers into eco-products. Her strategy is a smart blend of purpose, design, and financial growth.

- **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** is leading the charge as a global venture capitalist. Leveraging her Hollywood reach and Indian roots, her portfolio acts as an international bridge for Indian startups. Her investments are diverse, including Bumble (India), Perfect Moment (luxury sportswear), and various tech-driven wellness brands.

- **Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli** form a formidable Power Couple, Power Portfolio. Their joint strategic investments emphasize health and sustainability, backing ventures like Blue Tribe Foods (plant-based protein), Chisel Fitness, and their fine-dining venture, Nueva.

These stars are proving that the transition from celebrated actor to savvy entrepreneur is not just a trend, but a new, strategic financial reality in Bollywood.

Raveena Tandon's Bold Condition for Marriage

Veteran actress Raveena Tandon, known for her career highs in the 90s, set a progressive example long before her marriage. At the young age of 21, she adopted two daughters, Pooja and Chaya, embracing motherhood as a single woman.

Years later, before marrying businessman Anil Thadani in 2004, Raveena made a single, heartfelt demand: Thadani had to love and accept her two daughters just as he would any other part of her family. Anil



Thadani, whose father was a noted filmmaker, respected her honesty, and their mutual understanding became the bedrock of their marriage. Today, the couple share a happy family with four children: Pooja and Chaya, and their biological children, Rasha and Ranbir.

Arshad Warsi's Heartbreaking Memory

Actor Arshad Warsi opened up about the profound trauma of losing both his parents by age 14, sharing one specific memory that still haunts him. Speaking on Raj Shamani's podcast, Warsi recalled his mother, who was battling kidney failure and on dialysis, repeatedly asking for water — a substance doctors had strictly forbidden.

"I kept saying no, and the night before she passed away, she called for me and again started asking for water," Warsi shared. Though he knows he followed medical advice, the memory "killed" him,



leaving him with an adult regret: "Now I think that I should have given her the water... we take decisions based on our guilt." The actor's childhood was instantly curtailed by the loss, forcing him to grow up quickly and deal with financial struggles, emotional scars he still carries today.

Soha Ali Khan's Fitness Mantra

Actress Soha Ali Khan gave fans a peek into her intense gym routine, focusing on a heavy leg day. Soha emphasized that mobility training is her "secret weapon." She stressed that light

movement and stretching, which often look like a skip-able warm-up, are actually "the crucial first set" and are essential "insurance against injuries," prepping the body to "load up without locking up."

You can hear Arshad Warsi discuss his difficult childhood and the heartbreaking memory of his mother on the Raj Shamani's podcast snippet.



Vendredi 31 octobre - 20.15



Samedi 1 Novembre - 20.15



Dimanche 2 Novembre -20.35



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 31 octobre

MBC 1

05.14 Serial: Seref Meselesi
08.20 Tele: L'Heritiere
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.35 Film: The Mustang
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: Oblivion
21.58 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Doc: BRGRS

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
13.35 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
15.54 Local: Education
18.30 Local: Sérapré Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Local: Sur Prise
19.57 Local: Animalia
20.30 Local: Fashion FX & Lifestyle
21.30 Local: La Sosiete
22.00 Local: En Toute Intimite
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: En Forme
32.34 Mon Jardin Ma Maison

MBC 3

06.59 Mag: Fit India Healthy India
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.05 Local: Ramayan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Chakkar
Starring: Arjun Jadugar, Kanika Goba
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
19.54 Serial: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.22 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.07 Serial: Mere Sai
22.56 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.18 Local: Mati Ke Mol
00.40 Khel Khiladi
01.06 Local: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

06.25 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
07.49 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
08.43 Doc: The Lithium Ion
10.12 Doc: Twin Sisters
11.10 Mag: Eco India
11.41 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
12.40 Mag: Tomorrow Today
14.40 Mag: Healthy Living
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.06 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.37 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
15.48 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
16.04 D.Anime: Miraculous
16.47 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
16.58 D.Anime: The Avengers
17.21 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
17.44 Mag: Rev Special
18.26 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan
Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana , Bhumi Pednekar
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: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan
Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana , Bhumi Pednekar

samedi 1 novembre

03.37 Serial: Heartland
04.55 Tele: Seref Meselesi
06.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
06.03 Serial: Columbo
07.35 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
08.34 Serial: Elementary
09.14 Serial: Heartland
09.57 Serial: Hawaii
10.44 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: Oblivion
17.32 Doc: Not About Music
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: The Mountain Between Us
22.03 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
22.53 Serial: Terra Nostra

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
06.41 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
08.00 Local: Sur Prise
09.00 Local: En Toute Intimite
09.30 En Direct De La Paroisse De Saint Pierre
11.04 Local: Fashion FX & Lifestyle
12.00 Local: Memwar Dan Ros
13.32 Local: Sur Prise
14.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.33 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.30 Local: Glwar Dantan
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
00.27 Local: Metie

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.26 Mati Ke Mol
14.06 Aaj Ki Charcha
14.36 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Zameer
Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Saira Banu, Amitabh Bachchan
18.10 Live: Samachar
18.37 Puranya Pakwan
21.00 Film: Marjaawan
Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Tara Sutaria
23.08 Puranya Pakwan
23.49 Udaan Ki Kahani
00.32 Deso Beats
01.27 Film: Marjaawan

06.00 D.Anime: Rockabye Island
08.05 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
08.22 Film: L'Odyssée D'Albert
08.57 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
09.07 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
10.12 Mag: Recipes For Kids
13.30 Film: Le Prince D'Egypte
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.03 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.33 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
16.04 D.Anime: Miraculous
16.19 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
17.18 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
19.00 Mag: Business Africa
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.53 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
21.40 Tele: Laura Una Vida Extraordinaria
22.27 Film: Trial By Fire

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: Ek Se Badhkar Ek
With: Suniel Shetty, Raveena Tandon, Shekhar Suman...

21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.22 Crime Patrol
22.13 Porus

dimanche 2 novembre

03.27 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
04.22 Tele: The Lazarus Project
05.03 Tele: Seref Meselesi
06.30 Film: The Mountain Between Us
08.21 Serial: Hawaii
09.05 Film: In Full Bloom
10.38 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Serial: L'Heritiere
12.34 Film: Jungle
14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.23 Film: The Mountain Between Us
17.25 Doc: Submerged Universe
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.35 Film: Le Mans 66
23.01 Serial: Chucky
00.18 Tele: Terra Nostra

08.50 Moments Forts De L'Histoire
09.05 Local: Les Petits Genies
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.30 Nous Later Nou Lamer...
16.15 Local: Nos Aines
16.35 Local: Tous Egaux
17.13 Local: Les Petits Genies
17.39 Local: Glwar Dantan
18.10 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.40 Local: En Toute Intimite
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.00 Local: Upclose & Personal...
22.40 Local: Clin D'Oeil
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.23 Local: Coin Jardin
23.33 Local: Arsiv MBC
00.03 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif

06.59 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.26 Udaan Ki Kahani
09.10 Live From Aapravasi Ghat
11.10 Puranya Pakwan
12.00 Film: Drishyam 2
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Puranya Pakwan
16.31 Desi Beats
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
18.57 MBC Production
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.22 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.04 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
23.08 Humni Ke Sitare
04.56 Film Drishyam 2
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Akshaye Khanna, Tabu

06.00 D.Anime: Rockabye Island
07.11 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
08.23 Film: La Legende De Manolo
09.55 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
10.13 Mag: Recipes For Kids
11.01 Film: Aliens Ate My Homework
13.02 Mag: Shift
13.30 Film: Mechant Menteur 2
15.05 Film: Garfield 2
15.04 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.36 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
15.41 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
16.03 D.Anime: Miraculous
17.00 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
18.13 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
18.30 Doc: Galapagos
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.50 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
21.43 Film: Warrior

00.28 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.37 Udaariyaan
04.32 Anupamaa
06.52 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: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan
Cast: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati
21.00 Mahabharat
21.50 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
22.40 Dhruv Tara

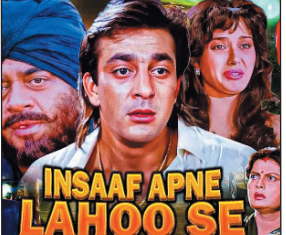
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04.04 Tele: L'Heritiere
04.52 Tele: Seref Meselesi
05.35 Tele: Passion And Power
07.31 Serial: The Lazarus Project
08.19 Serial: L'Heritiere
08.14 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.06 Film: Le Mans 66
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.44 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.35 Serial: Columbo
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Live: Grand Titre
20.10 Serial: Quantico
21.00 Serial: Elementary
21.47 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

09.09 Local: En Toute Intimite
10.05 Local: Mos Aines
10.43 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
19.36 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.26 Local: Tous Egaux
20.40 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.09 Local: 19 Minutes
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Metie
23.36 Rodrig: Kot Nou
23.45 Local: En Toute Intimite

05.00 Mag: Aastha
07.00 Mag: Fitness Plus
08.04 Local: Tohar Rashi
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Hira Aur Patthar
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
19.30 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.06 Local: Charcha
21.00 Film: Andaz
Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini
23.46 Mere Sai
00.35 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.57 Local Ved Ki Shikshahein

06.25 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
07.26 Doc: Arts Unveiled
07.52 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
08.47 Doc: The Golden Fiber
10.17 Doc: Deep Sea Greed
11.09 Doc: Project Enlightment
12.16 Doc: Galapagos
13.58 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.03 D.Anime: Fireman Sam
15.23 D.Anime: Spacepop
15.34 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
15.48 D.Anime: Miraculous...
16.32 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.54 Serial: The Avengers
17.16 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.00 Others: Student Support...
20.51 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
21.00 Film: 47 Metres Down

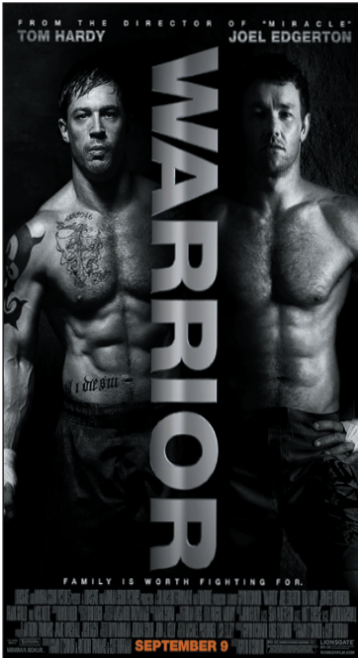
14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
15.30 Film: Insaaf Apne Lahoo Se

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



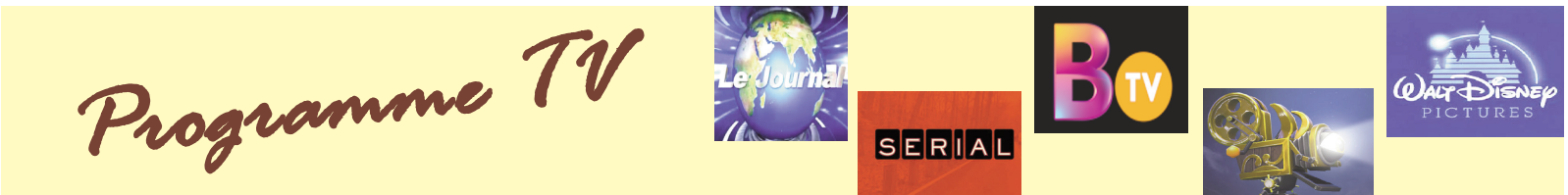
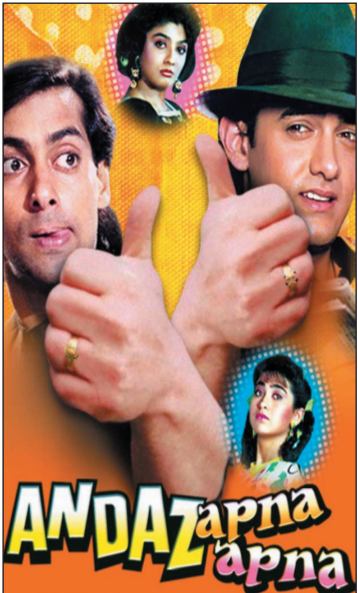
Mardi 4 Novembre - 20.10



Mercredi 5 Novembre - 21.40



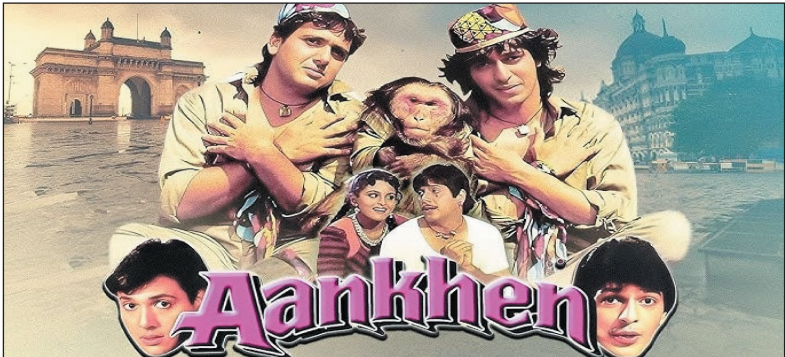
Mercredi 5 Novembre - 15.00



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 4 novembre	04.26 Tele: L'Heritiere 06.01 Serial: Passion And Power 08.36 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.30 Film: What Dreams May Come 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 13.40 Tele: La Desalmada 14.10 Tele: Quantico 15.30 Film: 47 Metres Down 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: Terminator: Dark Fate... 22.15 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 22.59 Tele: Lying Heart 23.30 Le Journal	09.35 Local: Tous Egaux 09.50 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.48 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.40 Local: 19 Minutes 12.19 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.26 Local: Rencontre 15.04 Local: Point Culture 16.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.31 Local: Le Mag 22.14 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir... 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.19 Local: Point Culture 23.30 Local: Music Tour 2025	06.59 Mag: Arogya Yoga 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.26 Hindi Sahitya Dob 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Anuraag Cast: Vinod Mehra, Moushumi Chatterjee 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.23 Local: Abhyas Yog 21.00 Film: Shree 420 Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis, Nadira 23.47 Serial: Mere Sai	07.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites 08.51 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.11 Doc: The Imported Caregiver 11.31 Mag: Eco Africa 12.12 Doc: Top Dive Sites 12.39 Mag: In Good Shape 13.25 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 13.34 Doc: The Business Of DNA 14.49 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.04 D.Anime: Fireman Sam 15.05 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.34 D.Anime: Meteo Heores 15.48 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.32 D.Anime: Dragonero 16.55 Serial: The Avatars 17.18 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 18.00 Mag: REV 18.45 Mag: Transforming Business 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.50 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.25 Film: Raiszaada Starring: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Lawaaris Starring: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff
mercredi 5 novembre	07.06 Serial: Columbo 08.15 Tele: L'Heritiere 08.39 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.30 Film: Terminator: Dark Fate 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 14.01 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: The Rare Breed 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.35 Serial: Chucky 22.21 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 23.04 Tele: Lying Heart	09.40 Local: Le Mag 10.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 10.44 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 12.01 Local: Couleur Marine 12.31 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.05 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2025 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.45 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.30 Local: Les Klips 22.33 Local: Grand Titre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur	06.59 Mag: Himmat Aur Qawsley 08.26 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Anurodh 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Sayings Radha Krishna 15.21 Radha Mohan 16.04 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha 16.35 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yatra 21.00 Film: Parivaar Cast: Dinesh Lal Yadav, Pakhi Hedge, Pravesh Lal Yadav 23.50 Serial: Mere Sai 00.39Wagle Ki Duniya	08.48 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 09.45 Mag: Initiative Africa 10.37 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor... 12.04 Mag: Made In Germany 12.34 Mag: Global US 13.55 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.52 Japan Video Topics 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.03 D.Anime: Fireman Sam 15.32 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 15.47 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.53 Serial: The Avatars 17.16 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 17.41 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: Choices 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 21.00 Film: Warroir Cast: Tom Hardy, Nick Nolte...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Andaz Apna Apna Starring: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Mahabharat 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.58 Film: Andaz Apna Apna Starring: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla
jeudi 6 novembre	06.01 Tele: Passion And Power 07.57 Serial: L'Heritiere 08.19 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.11 Film: Warroir 11.33 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.11 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 13.39 Tele: La Desalmada 14.10 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées 15.25 Film: La Vie Revee De Walter.. 17.18 Tele: Lyng Heart 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Highway Stars: Alia Bhatt, Randeep Hooda, Durgesh Kumar 22.20 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 23.01 Tele: Lying Heart	09.10 Local: Metie 09.25 Fashion FX & Lifestyle 10.54 Local: Les Klips 11.46 Local: Grand Titre 12.06 Local: Passerelles 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Toc Toc Toc 15.29 Local: Saveurs Plus 16.01 Fashion FX & Lifestyle 17.02 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Rodrig: Komanter 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.00 Local: Le Mag 23.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.28 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.46 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises	07.00 Mag: A Legacy Of Survival... 08.00 Local: Yatra 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Ek Phool Do Mali Cast: Sanjay Khan, Sadhna 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 21.21 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.42 Serial: Mere Sai 22.31 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.53 Local: Amrit Vani 23.05 Bhajan Sandhya 23.23 Dhvani Sitar Recital By Pandit Sugato Nag From Kolkata, India	07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.35 Mag: Close Up 09.31 Doc: Farming In America 11.06 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.04 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.22 Doc: Ageless Gardens 12.49 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 13.36 Mag: Close Up 14.32 Doc: Nomads Of Benin 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.05 D.Anime: Fireman Sam 15.35 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 15.49 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.20 Film: Go! Go! Cory Carson 16.33 D.Anime: Dragonero 17.17 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Rev Special 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.55 Serial: Columbo	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.31 Film: Aankhen Stars: Govinda; Chunky Pandey; Raj Babbar 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 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Aankhen Stars: Govinda; Chunky Pandey; Raj Babbar

Jeudi 6 Novembre - 15.30Stars: Govinda; Chunky Pandey; Raj Babbar

Jeudi 6 Novembre - 20.10Stars: Alia Bhatt, Randeep Hooda, Durgesh Kumar





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

From Aapravasi Ghat to the Future: The Will to Maintain Legacy

It has been over 191 years since the first indentured labourers sailed from India and landed at the Aapravasi Ghat in Port-Louis. During what is relatively a short time in history, relations between people of Indian origin in Mauritius and the land of their forefathers have been marked by unbroken ties of friendship and kinship that help to boost cooperation in several areas. Notwithstanding the dire situation India faced under the yoke of colonisation and the challenges following its Independence in 1947, robust ties were continuously maintained with Mauritius both before and after the island's political emancipation in 1968.

Two crucial points to ensure that the bonds between the two countries follow the desired course to benefit the younger and future generations in Mauritius are: First, enhancing knowledge of India's history, local history of early indentured workers in Mauritius, and the shared spiritual and cultural fundamentals. Second, raising awareness on the importance of a wider use of inherited languages, mainly Bhojpuri, Hindi, and Tamil.

From the early decades of indentured labour from India in the second half of the 19th century and well through the first 50 years of the 20th century, India was referred to as Desh or Bharat in conversations and speeches in Hindi and Bhojpuri. Gradually, as Kreol gained ground across the island, the Kreol word "Linde" was more widely used. Folks here were familiar with the major historical events in India, and All India Radio brought the Indian national anthem VandeMataram to every Indo-Mauritian household. It was listened to with deep fervour, and apparently, that was also the case wherever Indian workers migrated to: Kenya, Tanzania, Trinidad, Fiji, Suriname, and British Guyana.

A Sense of History and Culture

Today, a brief history of India outlining significant periods is needed to educate college students on the country of their forefathers. A local history of the causes of migration and the lives of the labourers on sugar cane plantations could help youngsters connect the dots. This history should encompass not only Mauritius, but also the shared experiences in the West Indian islands, Guyana, and several African countries, to provide the right knowledge on subsequent economic and social development.

A more comprehensive history book

aimed at adults is likely to foster a broader knowledge and understanding of India. It is worth ensuring that the younger and future generations get to know India better. Indians and people of Indian origin are often said to possess a sense of the past but lack a sense of history. Such a statement deserves to be challenged and corrected.

Beyond festivals and the performance of rites all year round, there is a need for a clear understanding of the philosophy and ethics conveyed through the epics — not only for personal growth and spiritual development, but also to equip everyone with a sound knowledge of their scriptures. This might enable them to explain and respond to people from different cultures and faiths when needed. We have all experienced awkward situations where people from other cultures, mainly from the West, confront us with clichés about the caste system, sacred cows, or multiple deities, asking us to explain things on which they already have preconceived ideas. As the concept of "other faiths" is non-existent in millennia-old scriptures, we are often ill-equipped to respond to what can sometimes feel like an attack rather than a genuine quest to understand Dharmic culture.

Given that a sense of self-righteousness often seeps through the tendency to view others through blinkers of ignorance, the aim is often to emphasize flaws and disqualify the civilization you may represent from a seat at the table of the "anointed ones." In the worst scenario, you may be expected to apologize for not eating beef or pork, for the caste system that creates untouchables, for the presence of too many gods, for chaotic traffic, and for the overall "too much, too many" factor that characterizes India. Make no mistake: wherever we travel — in Africa, North Africa, Europe, Eastern Europe, the West Indies, or the US — we are immediately associated with India. So we had better ensure we know how to respond to our interlocutors in an interconnected world amplified by social media platforms.

In the past, books like 'Bhagavad Gita for Students', penned by Swami Venkatesananda, did a tremendous job of shedding light on the profound philosophy of karma, thought, conscience, intelligence, truth, a sense of duty, and detachment. It would be wise to make such works accessible to younger and future generations. The ethics transmitted by the Ramayana, centred on good governance, the ruler's duty, loyalty, selfless service, solidarity, the defeat of evil, and the



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triumph of truth, need to find their proper place in shaping mindsets and conduct. Unfortunately, the plan to promote yoga teaching in schools has been abandoned. Courses in dance and music are still rare in rural areas. The road to ensuring the continuation of this legacy remains paved with obstacles — and, in some cases, indifference.

Languages

Several Indian languages made their way into the minds and hearts of indentured workers who arrived in Mauritius from 1834 onwards. Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, and Telugu found their proper place in the educational system. The use of Bhojpuri, more commonly referred to as "Calcuttea," was initially shared widely among Hindus and Muslims in everyday conversation. Tamils communicated amply in their own language. Over time, the use of Bhojpuri cut across all ethnic groups, including Marathis, Tamils, and Telugus. The teaching of Hindi nationwide has been amplified over decades, reaching out to all students who wish to study it. The Indian film industry helped keep it alive through popular songs hummed by Hindus and Muslims alike.

Undeniably, the promotion of Kreol from the 1980s onwards by leftist intellectuals and private media gradually relegated Indian languages to the private sphere. Though fluent conversations in Bhojpuri are still common among families and colleagues, Kreol has become the lingua franca in interactions with strangers and in offices. At best, you may hear a security guard say a few words in Bhojpuri, but once you reach the counter, it's a different story. Many have internalized the idea that Kreol should be used to

address members of the public from their own social group in offices. This must change — and it is no use waiting for the authorities to make it happen.

It should instead be an organic movement driven by people themselves to raise awareness of the importance of keeping the language of their shared culture alive. Illustrated books in Bhojpuri for children would greatly help to promote it. The same applies to Hindi, a language many loves for its rhythm, sound, and intonation. Urdu, closely related to Hindi for historical and cultural reasons, holds similar appeal. While Tamils and Muslims have no issue greeting members of their group in their own language, it is disheartening to see young Hindus adopting the adulterated form of the French greeting "Bonzour" promoted by private radios all day long. They are often unaware that abandoning the elegant "Namasté" slowly erodes the cultural fabric. Creating awareness and setting new trends is not a Herculean task. It simply requires goodwill, common sense, and a healthy degree of self-respect.

What is known as the communicative approach to language teaching rests upon active dialogues between pupils in classrooms, rather than passive note-taking from blackboards. The onus is on parents, teachers, and community leaders to raise awareness and keep the languages of their culture alive and vibrant. Language is the backbone of culture; without it, culture staggers, loses vitality, and becomes prone to undesirable external influences. Responsible leaders of cultural associations, together with the public, must certainly recognize the right path to follow if they genuinely seek to preserve their cultural legacy.