

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles, but today it means getting along with people. — Mahatma Gandhi

## Qs & As



Lex P5

### Appointment of Senior Counsels and Senior Attorneys

**"Transparency in all high-level appointments is essential to guard against nepotism or the perception of it"**

## Editorial

### Political Financing in Mauritius

Lessons from Abroad and the Urgent Need for Reform



Pic - Habtoor Research

P2

## Socratic Dialogue

### The Dance of Salary Compensation, PRB Ghosts, and Moody's Oracles

Plutonix P9

## Interview: David Snoxell, Coordinator of the All-Party Parliamentary Group

### "The British government does not agree with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination report..."

...CERD does not speak on behalf of the UN, or of UN Member states'



P6

• 'Sovereignty is a touchstone for those who want to hang on to every last rock of the British Empire'

• 'It may be that in time the US will agree to resettlement in Diego Garcia. It was shown by the KPMG study in 2015 to be feasible'

## Breakfast with Bwana



Anil Madan P3

### Is Australia's Social Media Ban For Children

sensible regulation or government overreach?

## London Letter

### Who Trusts the West?

Trust does not flow downward from former empires. It is mutual, earned, and sustained only when all sides accept the legitimacy of each other's interests.



Shyam Bhatia P8



Pic - timeofindia.indiatimes.com



# Political Financing in Mauritius

## Lessons from Abroad and the Urgent Need for Reform

The recent revelations in Parliament concerning alleged breaches of election expense limits during the 2024 National Assembly elections have reignited a debate that has long been overdue in Mauritius: the regulation and transparency of political financing. On 9 December 2025, a Private Notice Question tabled by the Leader of the Opposition, Joe Lesjongard, sought to clarify the status of complaints against elected and non-elected candidates who may have exceeded the statutory spending limits set out in the Representation of the People's Act. The Prime Minister's detailed reply laid bare the complexity of enforcing these rules in the modern political and economic context.

Under the Act, each candidate's election agent is required to submit a sworn return within six weeks of the election results, detailing all expenditures incurred and contributions received. The law sets a maximum spending ceiling of Rs 150,000 for party-affiliated candidates and Rs 250,000 for independents. Yet, the 2024 elections revealed that several candidates, both returned and unreturned, had exceeded these limits, prompting multiple complaints across police stations nationwide. From Piton to Port Mathurin, Mahebourg to Curepipe, the official record lists complainants and candidates whose returns are under scrutiny. In response, the Electoral Commissioner has received no direct complaints, but the Central CID has been investigating alleged breaches since May 2025. Several candidates have even filed revised affidavits, claiming that some expenditures were unrelated to their campaigns.

The episode highlights a structural problem that transcends individual missteps: the statutory spending limits, unchanged since 2001, are widely regarded as unrealistic in the context of modern electoral campaigns. They fail to reflect the cost of advertising, constituency outreach, digital campaigns, and other essential elements of political communication. In effect, these outdated rules create a grey zone that not only encourages overspending but also fosters selective enforcement, eroding public confidence in the democratic process.

Past attempts to legislate on political financing, such as the 2019 proposal, failed to address these underlying issues. That legislation was criticized for disproportionately favouring established parties and for allowing donations to Trusts, which effectively provided an avenue for the wealthy and corporate entities to exert influence behind the scenes. By exempting such contributions from disclosure, the law would have reinforced inequalities between parties, and more troublingly, legitimized corporate influence over policy-making.

It is an open secret that in Mauritius, private sector financing plays a decisive role in electoral campaigns. Evidence abounds: government endorsements for major projects, tax exemptions granted to selected

firms in specific economic activities, and the strategic allocation of public contracts have consistently correlated with political donations. These practices undermine the principle of governance in the national interest and perpetuate the perception of a political system beholden to corporate power rather than accountable to citizens.

The dangers of unchecked political financing are not theoretical. As noted by constitutional scholar Albie Sachs in his 2001-2002 report on electoral reform, corporate contributions often come with expectations. "They never give something for nothing," he observed, warning that the influence of private wealth can skew public policy and compromise democratic integrity. Countries that have recognized this threat have adopted strict measures: Canada, for instance, bans corporate and union donations entirely, while France imposes rigorous caps on individual contributions and enforces full disclosure requirements. Even the United States, with its infamous Citizens United ruling, illustrates the risk of unregulated private money, where unlimited contributions through political action committees can fundamentally alter the balance of electoral competition.

Mauritius has yet to enact such comprehensive legislation. The consequences are visible in the 2024 elections: lavish campaign spending, murky funding sources, and complaints filed long after the electoral process concluded. The current legal framework benefits incumbents and party leaders who control the flow of funds, while the public remains largely in the dark regarding the true cost of influencing political outcomes. Without reform, elections risk becoming competitions of financial firepower rather than contests of ideas, vision, and public service.

Several practical solutions have been proposed internationally. One approach is the introduction of state-funded campaigns, where public resources are allocated to parties and candidates according to transparent formulas. This method, used in countries like Germany and Sweden, reduces dependency on private donors and ensures a more level playing field. Another approach is strict caps on private donations, combined with mandatory disclosure of all contributions above a minimal threshold. Enforcement mechanisms are crucial: independent electoral commissions must have the authority to audit, investigate, and sanction



Pic - CEPR

breaches promptly. Failure to do so invites cynicism and may render laws symbolic rather than functional.

Mauritius has an opportunity to learn from these experiences. The Labour Party-MMM-ND-ReA alliance, which campaigned on a platform of "rupture" with entrenched practices, has signalled its intention to review the statutory spending limits and introduce legislation on political party funding. This is a promising step, but the devil is in the detail. Effective reform must address several challenges simultaneously: it must limit excessive private influence, ensure transparent reporting of all contributions, enforce expenditure caps realistically, and empower independent institutions to monitor compliance. Without this, the cycle of complaints, delayed investigations, and selective accountability is likely to continue.

Moreover, reform must consider the broader implications for democratic governance. Political financing is not just about fairness in elections; it touches on the very integrity of policy-making. In Mauritius, questions persist regarding the allocation of Smart City development permits, environmental approvals for high-value tourism projects, and the privatisation of public utilities. When political parties rely heavily on private contributions, there is an inherent risk that policy decisions will reflect donor interests rather than the public good. By legislating clear rules and enforcing transparency, Mauritius can help restore public confidence in its institutions and ensure that democracy serves citizens, not corporations.

Yet, reform faces obstacles. Established parties and financial stakeholders may resist measures that reduce their influence, and the public may be impatient for results, especially given the slow pace of investigations into past overspending. In this context, political courage is required. Legislators must balance the legitimate costs of campaigning with the imperative of accountability. Limits should be realistic, reporting requirements clear, and enforcement mechanisms robust. Civil society, media, and citizens must also

play a watchdog role, holding both politicians and regulators accountable.

Ultimately, political financing is more than a technical matter; it is a reflection of democratic health. Mauritius stands at a crossroads. The revelations from the 2024 elections underscore the risks of outdated laws and weak enforcement. They also present an opportunity: by studying international best practices, introducing modern spending limits, requiring full disclosure, and considering partial or

full public funding of campaigns, the country can create a system that promotes fair competition, curbs undue private influence, and strengthens trust in democratic institutions.

The road ahead will not be easy. Reforming political financing is politically sensitive and technically complex. But the alternative — continuing a system that favours the wealthy, undermines transparency, and diminishes public trust — is unacceptable. Mauritius has the legal framework, the civil society capacity, and the political mandate to act. What remains is the political will to implement meaningful reform. The upcoming legislative proposals on party funding, if drafted and enforced properly, could mark a turning point for the nation's democracy, ensuring that elections are won on ideas and public support, not on financial clout.

In the end, political financing is not merely about money; it is about integrity, accountability, and the future of governance. Mauritius has watched other democracies struggle with, and sometimes succumb to, the corrosive influence of private contributions. It can choose a different path: one where the rules are clear, the limits enforced, and the voices of citizens — not corporations — shape public policy. If Mauritius acts decisively, it can lead by example in the region, demonstrating that a small island nation can indeed uphold the highest standards of political integrity.

### Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor:

Beekrumsing Ramlallah

Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah

Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This paper has been produced with the assistance of

K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kummally & 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





Anil Madan

# Is Australia's Social Media Ban For Children

## sensible regulation or government overreach?

If you take the time to search for a catalog of the ills of social media, the resulting list is long. Aside from loss of face-to-face interactions with one's peers and fragmentation of social relationships, mental and emotional health risks include depression, anxiety, addiction, isolation and loneliness, and cyberbullying. Physical health risks come from replacing physical activity with screen time and potential sleep disruption. And, of course, there are the dangers of identity theft, fraud, scams, online predators, and invasion of privacy.

For young adults in schools and colleges, there are issues of decreased concentration and academic struggles.

But when it comes to children during their teenage years and as they approach adulthood, these concerns are heightened because there is the sense that children are especially vulnerable and parents are, for the most part, helpless to control their children's access to social media and even more helpless to control their adverse interactions. The negative impacts of social media in this context transcend issues of mental health, concentration, social interaction, and academics, but affect development and childhood itself.

Australia has passed a social media ban, a law requiring social media companies to prevent children under 16 from accessing their platforms. Any company that fails to comply, can be fined up to 50 million Australian dollars (approximately US\$3.3 million). As might be expected, social media companies complain that the rules will be extremely difficult to implement.

### The ills of social media

Australia is not the first country to approach the ills of

social media for children with a ban. Other countries have tried variations on a theme to restrict access by children.

France passed a law in 2023 requiring social media platforms to verify the age of each user to ensure that parental consent was obtained for children under 15. The aim of the bill was not only to reduce screen time, but to protect children from online predators, criminals, and from cyberbullying. Violations can carry stiff fines up to 1% of a social media company's global revenue. When a 14-year-old student stabbed a school employee this past summer, President Macron announced that if the EU did not implement a ban, France would pass a law banning social media access for children under 15, and as well a law to ban sales of knives to minors. Other countries in the EU, such as Greece and Spain also want to see an EU-wide social media ban for those under 15. Similar efforts have been made in Norway and Italy.

France had already enacted requirements that porn sites verify the ages of users and deny access to those underage. In the US, the Supreme Court upheld a Texas law requiring porn sites to verify the age of users and block access to under 18.

Although a ban on children buying guns, or even knives, may not be upheld in the US due to the Second Amendment to the Constitution, some of the language in the Texas case was instructive. Justice Elena Kagan, one of the liberal justices on the court, dissented and protested that the law violated the free speech rights of adults because it impedes adults' to view the sites' content which is protected speech. The law imposes a burden based on the content of the speech and is unconstitutional.

**“Australia is not the first country to approach the ills of social media for children with a ban.**

**Other countries have tried variations on a theme to restrict access by children. France passed a law in 2023 requiring social media platforms to verify the age of each user to ensure that parental consent was obtained for children under 15. The aim of the bill was not only to reduce screen time, but to protect children from online predators, criminals, and from cyberbullying. Violations can carry stiff fines up to 1% of a social media company's global revenue... Other countries in the EU, such as Greece and Spain also want to see an EU-wide social media ban for those under 15. Similar efforts have been made in Norway and Italy...”**

Justice Thomas, writing for the majority, saw the Texas law as an exercise of the state's “traditional power to prevent minors from accessing speech that is obscene.” Although requiring proof of age to access materials that are obscene for minors may make it harder for adults to access those materials, the law does not actually directly regulate adults' speech, Thomas wrote. He went on to explain that adults “have no First Amendment right to avoid age verification, and the statute can readily be understood as an effort to restrict minors' access. Any burden experienced by adults is therefore only incidental to the statute's regulation of activity that is not protected by the First Amendment.”

The same argument should apply to fighting off challenges to the Australian law and potential bans in the EU and elsewhere. As the Justice further explained, the law can be seen as advancing important governmental interests unrelated to the suppression of free speech and does not burden substantially more speech than necessary to further those interests. The state's interest in protecting children from sexual materials is, he said, important, even compelling.

He saw the age-verification requirements like this one to enforce age restrictions as “plainly legitimate because they allow adults full access to the content in question after the modest burden of providing proof of age.”

South Korea has enacted a ban effective in 2026 that prevents the use of mobile phones and digital devices in classrooms. The law is aimed at curbing addiction to smartphones and reversing the negative impacts on academic performance and social development. The law will allow the use of such devices as assistive aides by students with disabilities.

Denmark also has a proposed social media ban for children under 15 but parents can under certain circumstances grant access to their 13- and 14-year-olds after an assessment of need.

### Children are a special case

Where is all this headed?

☞ Cont. on page 4



**“Aside from loss of face-to-face interactions with one's peers and fragmentation of social relationships, mental and emotional health risks include depression, anxiety, addiction, isolation and loneliness, and cyberbullying. Physical health risks come from replacing physical activity with screen time and potential sleep disruption. And, of course, there are the dangers of identity theft, fraud, scams, online predators, and invasion of privacy. For young adults in schools and colleges, there are issues of decreased concentration and academic struggles...”**

# Is Australia's Social Media Ban For Children

## sensible regulation or government overreach?

Cont. from page 3

Clearly, there seems to be a worldwide recognition that children are a special case. It is not a great leap to say that every nation or state has an interest in protecting the health

- 8% had experienced image-based abuse.

Online harms occurred across various digital platforms. While social media was the most common category of platform where children reported recently encountering

most online harms, many children also experienced harm on communication and gaming platforms.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



Pic - munsifdaily.com

and social well-being of its children and in preventing the negative impacts of social media, cyberbullying, fraud and cybercrime. On the other hand, we have powerful technology companies that make hundreds of millions, even billions of dollars, off such platforms. Don't expect them to go quietly into the night. We will likely see much lobbying, and vast sums spent on advertising and persuasion to convince the world that it is not the social media platform that is the problem, but that kids need more supervision at home and more education about responsible use of their digital devices. Or worse, that this is government overreach.

But the social media platforms will have difficulty overcoming the findings of Australia's eSafety Commissioner. A Digital use and risk study report by the commission draws on data from a nationally representative survey of 3,454 children aged 10 to 17 years living in Australia between December 2024 and February 2025. A subset of this data, comprising responses from 2,629 children aged 10 to 15 years, was examined to explore their use of online platforms, their experiences of online harms and where these harms occurred.

Key findings include that 96% of children aged 10 to 15 had used social media and a majority had used a communication platform to chat, message, call or video call others (94%), while 86% had played online video games.

The commission found that exposure to online harms was common. More specifically:

- 71% had encountered content associated with harm
- 57% had seen online hate
- 52% had been cyberbullied
- 25% had personally experienced online hate
- 24% had experienced online sexual harassment
- 23% had experienced non-consensual tracking, monitoring or harassment
- 14% had experienced online grooming-type behaviour



WE'RE HIRING

JOIN OUR.

Team

www.edbmauritius.org

## DIRECTOR | MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

### THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (EDB)

The Economic Development Board (EDB) is the Government of Mauritius' apex institution responsible for:

- Strategic economic planning for enhanced national competitiveness.
- Investment promotion, export promotion, and business facilitation.
- Positioning Mauritius as an international financial centre and business hub.
- Supporting structural reforms that improve the business environment.

### POSITION OVERVIEW

The Director Marketing & Communications provides strategic leadership to position Mauritius and EDB as a trusted, competitive and forward-looking destination for investment, trade, innovation and talent.

The role drives integrated marketing and communication strategies, enhances global visibility, strengthens stakeholder trust, and supports investor attraction.

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- **Option A:** Master's degree in related field & At least 12 years' experience; 6 years in management.
- **Option B:** Bachelor's degree in related field & At least 15 years' experience; 8 years in management.
- Experience in government, IPA, IFC, MNCs, multilaterals Track record in large-scale campaigns would be an advantage.

### MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates are invited:

- ☞ To download the requirements and responsibilities for the above-mentioned position by accessing the following link: <https://www.edbmauritius.org/vacancy>
- ☞ To submit their applications by **23 December 2025**, at latest. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Only the best qualified candidates will be convened for interview.

EDB reserves the right not to make any appointment following this advertisement.

10 DECEMBER 2025

Ground Floor, 7 Exchange Square, Wall Street, Ebene, 72201, Republic of Mauritius | Tel: +230 203 3800 | [www.edbmauritius.org](http://www.edbmauritius.org)



## Appointment of Senior Counsels and Senior Attorneys

# “Transparency in all high-level appointments is essential to guard against nepotism or the perception of it”

**T**he appointment of 31 new Senior Counsels and Senior Attorneys on Monday 8 December 2025 — an event that should have been an unambiguous celebration of professional merit — has instead unfolded against an unusually turbulent backdrop. The special sitting of the Supreme Court, presided over by Chief Justice Bibi Rehana Mungly-Gulbul, took place amid legal challenges, institutional tensions, and pointed criticism from senior members of the profession.

While the newly enacted Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney Act 2025 has since clarified the nomination process and introduced a more structured, transparent framework, the controversies surrounding this year’s exercise continue to raise important questions about governance, meritocracy, and the evolving balance of responsibilities among the Judiciary, the Bar and the Executive. In this Qs & As, Lex explores the key issues that emerged before, during and after the ceremony: the legal contestation, the role of the new law, the criticisms voiced by the Attorney General, and the broader implications for the profession.

### LEX

**\* Do you believe the new Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney Act 2025 adequately resolves the long-standing concerns about transparency and discretion in the nomination process, or are there still grey areas that may lead to future legal challenges?**

The new procedure for judicial appointments will be more transparent and will now involve not only judges but also members of the legal profession. Previously, recommendations were the sole prerogative of the Chief Justice, and the criteria considered were never clearly specified.

**\* The new law introduces a multi-member recommendation panel rather than leaving nominations solely to the Chief Justice. From a constitutional perspective, does this shift enhance institutional balance, or does it risk creating new tensions within the judiciary and the legal profession?**

The new procedure is expected to enhance equity and transparency in the recommendations produced. However, whether serenity will prevail ultimately depends on the conduct and attitude of the panel members. The true measure of success—the acid test—will occur when the panel completes its first selection.

**\* Since the President still issues the Letters Patent on the recommendation of the panel, do you consider the Executive’s continued involvement in the final stage of the process appropriate, or should nominations be entirely insulated from executive influence?**

Critics believe that the President’s direct involvement creates the appearance of Executive interference. Crucially, the model we have adopted is a direct copy of the UK system, where final decisions rest with the Lord Chancellor. Up to this point, the system has operated successfully in both jurisdictions.

However, the recent controversy stems from the President’s apparent removal of two names from the latest list of recommendations without providing any stated reasons. Had justification been offered, the ensuing controversy might have been averted.

**\* Do you think the judiciary should continue to play such a central role in conferring professional titles within the legal community, or should professional bodies like the Bar Council and the Law Society have greater authority in the process?**

The judiciary is widely perceived as a strong, independent body.

Judges typically sit on the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC), where they are tasked with making recommendations for the appointment of judges and other high-



“Mauritius has unfortunately become a country where high-profile appointments in Mauritius are habitually mired in controversy. This makes the establishment of clear, objective criteria even more crucial to safeguard the integrity of high-level positions...”

ranking legal officials.

The participation of sitting judges in this process is vital as it confers greater credibility to the selections made by the panel.

**\* The new Act introduces defined criteria such as competence, integrity, contribution to jurisprudence, and 15 years of practice. In your view, how should these criteria be applied in practice to ensure genuine merit-based selection rather than perceived favouritism?**

Transparency in all high-level appointments is essential to guard against nepotism or the perception of it.

The concern about the criteria for appointing Senior Counsel and Senior Attorney is a topic that has led to legal reform in various jurisdictions, aiming to move away from opaque systems toward clearly defined, merit-based processes.

In fact, the initial lack of clear statutory criteria for these prestigious honorary titles in many places led to significant concerns about opacity.

**\* Given that there was a court challenge filed just before the nominations, what legal lessons should be drawn from the fact that the challenge against the previous nomination process was effectively overtaken by new legislation? Does this create a precedent for legislating in the middle of litigation?**

It was within the rights of the complainants to challenge the fact that they were omitted from the appointment process. The pertinent legal question was whether they possessed locus standi—that is, a sufficient legal basis for the challenge.

The conferment of the title of Senior Counsel or Senior Attorney is not a right; it is an honorary privilege. Consequently, the decision by the challengers to file a legal action may have been ill-advised.

It was entirely proper for the legislature to enact new legislation to formally establish criteria and procedures, thereby resolving the existing deadlock.

**\* The DPP highlighted that the last round of appointments occurred in 2016. What factors, in your view, contributed to such a long gap, and could the absence of regular nominations undermine the development of the profession?**

While the Chief Justice certainly held significant influence in the past, the system’s reliance on a single individual could be a point of concern.

Perhaps there was a genuine assessment that no members of the profession were sufficiently deserving of the honour at that specific time, or perhaps the appointments were deliberately avoided to pre-empt or mitigate controversy.

Mauritius has unfortunately become a country where high-profile appointments in Mauritius are habitually mired in controversy. This makes the establishment of clear, objective criteria even more crucial to safeguard the integrity of high-level positions.

**\* Several senior figures, including the Attorney General, publicly criticised the manner in which the ceremony was conducted. Legally or institutionally speaking, what does such a public disagreement signal about the current state of relations between the Bench, the Bar, and the Executive?**

They are absolutely correct. But once differences and disagreements have been thoroughly addressed and resolved, the system should indeed continue to operate in serenity and according to both established legal rules and well-established tradition.

The resolution of such disputes aims to facilitate the ability of the institution — the judiciary in this instance — to execute its critical functions effectively. Adherence to both the letter of the law and honoured procedural traditions is vital for maintaining public confidence.

**\* Do you think the new, clearer law will reduce future challenges to SC/SA appointments, or has this year’s controversy made further legal scrutiny more likely?**

Complete satisfaction is an unrealistic expectation as long as the distinction of “Senior” remains a privilege conferred upon a select portion of the legal profession.

The realistic approach is to now closely observe how the newly instituted system operates in practice, and to gauge the reaction and level of confidence it generates among the legal fraternity and the public. The success of the reform will be measured by its sustained ability to demonstrate transparency and meritocracy.

**\* How damaging do you think this episode has been to public confidence in the legal profession, and what steps should the judiciary and legal bodies take to restore a sense of unity and credibility?**

There is little doubt that the way the ceremony unfolded, together with the concerns voiced by some members of the profession, has had an impact on the overall atmosphere and public perception surrounding both the judiciary and the legal profession. It is possible that the situation might have been eased had established practice been followed more closely.

As things stand, certain decisions have given rise to discussion about the considerations that shaped the process. The priority now is to reinforce unity within the profession and maintain confidence in the independence and integrity of the judicial institution.



David Snoxell, Coordinator of the All-Party Parliamentary Group

# “The British government does not agree with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination report...

... CERD does not speak on behalf of the UN, or of UN Member states’

**I**n this week’s interview, David Snoxell, former British High Commissioner to Mauritius and Coordinator of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Chagos Islands, speaks with *Mauritius Times* on the final, tumultuous stages of the Mauritius-UK Chagos Treaty and the accompanying Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Bill. David Snoxell addresses the persistent — and often heated — opposition from a section of the UK political class, including the Conservative Opposition, as the deal moves through Parliament. He provides insights into the complex and protracted nature of UK parliamentary procedure and why it has slowed the Bill’s passage; the motives behind the Conservative “rearguard action,” dismissing it as a strategic, party-political attack rather than a genuine security concern; the international consensus supporting the treaty, contrasting it with the “last rock of the British Empire” rhetoric used by opponents... Finally, D. Snoxell discusses the future of the Chagos Archipelago, its significance in international law following the ICJ opinion, and how the ratified treaty will normalize the UK’s global position while safeguarding the vital US/UK military base on Diego Garcia.

**Mauritius Times:** To outsiders, the parliamentary process in Britain for approving significant legislation — such as the Mauritius-UK Chagos treaty — often appears long-winded and tedious. Why does it have to be so complex?

**David Snoxell:** The passage of legislation through Parliament has evolved down the centuries. There is certainly a case for making it faster and less cumbersome. That would be a major constitutional reform and take several years to achieve agreement between members and parties. The size of Parliament (650 in the Commons, 820 in the Lords) is also a major concern which Governments continue to address.



## ‘Sovereignty is a touchstone for those who want to hang on to every last rock of the British Empire’

\* The significant opposition within the House of Commons and the House of Lords to the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Treaty and Bill, coupled with outspoken criticism from figures like Priti Patel, indicates what many commentators are calling a rearguard action from a section of the political class in the UK. Is all this a genuine attempt to reverse the policy, or is it a strategic move to establish a clear ideological dividing line for future political gain?

The Bill could by now have been enacted and the treaty ratified had the previous Conservative Government, which started negotiations with Mauritius in November 2022 that were originally due to conclude in February 2023, not taken so long about it. An election in the UK also delayed the negotiations towards the end of 11 rounds, but when Labour came into office in July 2024, it immediately resumed negotiations. Elections in the US and Mauritius further delayed signing of the treaty until 22 May this year. The process of ratification and a Bill to implement the treaty in domestic legislation was introduced in July and is now with the House of Lords.

Although there are still Conservative parliamentarians who support the treaty, the new Conservative Opposition appears to have abandoned the policy of their predecessors

and has been attempting to stop the treaty being ratified and delay the Bill. ‘Rearguard action’ is not the right word. It is more concerted action for party political purposes. Attacking the government in power is seen as the duty of the Loyal Opposition!

\* That opposition group appears to believe strongly that the current policy is damaging and that any concession to Mauritian sovereignty poses a grave threat to security and Western interests in the Indo-Pacific. Is this assessment justified?

Since the election, these are typical argu-

“It is difficult to gauge public opinion which is largely moulded by what it is told by the media. Many news outlets have waged a campaign, often driven by party political considerations, against a settlement with Mauritius. I think it fair to say that most British people still do not know where BIOT/Chagos is and even if they could locate it on the map would know little about its complex history, heritage and people...”

ments deployed by those opposed to the treaty; however, they are not the views of President Trump and his Administration, nearly all UN Member States, the Commonwealth, the EU, the African Union, or the British Government.

Sovereignty is a touchstone for those who want to hang on to every last rock of the British Empire that is still controlled by the UK. Terms like ‘surrender’, ‘betrayal’, and ‘China threat’ are deployed to keep the flag flying over the British Indian Ocean Territory. This territory is only 60 years old and, since 1968, has not been British except by name. Clearly, some politicians see Chagos as a means of attacking the government and its commitment to international law.

\* A hardline stance on protecting the military base and what is considered “UK sovereignty” would appeal directly to a core, traditional segment of voters. But do such issues resonate with the British public at large, or are most people more concerned with everyday bread and butter matters?

It is difficult to gauge public opinion which is largely moulded by what it is told by the media. Many news outlets have waged a campaign, often driven by party political considerations, against a settlement with Mauritius.

I think it fair to say that most British people still do not know where BIOT/Chagos is and even if they could locate it on the map would know little about its complex history, heritage and people.

Obviously, voters are more concerned

with domestic and economic issues than international affairs. Foreign affairs are mostly ignored in election campaigns.

\* With the British government firmly behind the treaty, and with international support and diplomatic pressure, it appears unlikely that Conservative resistance particularly regarding the cost — the £3.4 billion vs £35 billion debate — and the perceived security risks linked to Mauritius’s relationship with China or the unfounded allegations by the Opposition against Mauritius over the House of Lords survey of Chagossian views, could derail the Mauritius-UK deal through parliamentary mechanisms. But is this confidence justified, or premature?

The way of delaying a Bill is to keep tabling amendments. Over 80 have so far been tabled to the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill, which is not that many when compared with the Assisted Dying Bill with over 1100 amendments.

Another way is allegations. The latest, from Priti Patel (Conservative Shadow Foreign Secretary) is that Mauritius interfered with the Survey of Chagossian views, commissioned recently by the House of Lords and being conducted by its International Relations and Defence Committee (IRDC).

☞ Cont. on page 7



# 'It may be that in time the US will agree to resettlement in Diego Garcia. It was shown by the KPMG study in 2015 to be feasible'

☞ Cont. from page 6

A response from Olivier Bancoult on behalf of the Chagos Refugees Group condemned the allegation as "unfounded" and set the record straight. The Foreign Minister of Mauritius also responded. In the UK Parliament a Foreign Office Minister has stated that "We have no evidence of Mauritian interference".

**“The way of delaying a Bill is to keep tabling amendments... Another way is allegations. The latest, from Priti Patel (Conservative Shadow Foreign Secretary) is that Mauritius interfered with the Survey of Chagossian views, commissioned recently by the House of Lords and being conducted by its International Relations and Defence Committee. A response from Olivier Bancoult on behalf of the Chagos Refugees Group condemned the allegation as “unfounded” and set the record straight...”**

The Survey, which must be concluded by 18 December, has unintentionally provided ammunition to those who are looking for evidence to denigrate Mauritius. I doubt its conclusions will be affected by such irresponsible allegations against an ally and friendly member of the Commonwealth or that those peers who support the treaty and the bill will be deterred. It is disappointing to see the good name of Mauritius besmirched in this way.

**\* What is the status of the resettlement programme and the UK-backed trust fund? Some Chagossians and their representatives have rejected the deal outright, arguing that without a guaranteed right of return — especially to Diego Garcia — and without firm commitments on resettlement or reparations, the agreement merely reaffirms their displacement. How likely is it that these concerns will influence the implementation of the agreement?**

On 2 December, in answer to a Question, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Minister told the Lords that a statement would be made ahead of ratification on eligibility for resettlement and the modalities of the Chagossian Trust Fund and that: "We continue to discuss the details of the Trust Fund with Mauritius."

She also noted that: "The first meeting of the Chagossian Contact Group took place on 2 September. The Contact Group will continue to meet quarterly as part of wider

engagement between the UK Government and Chagossian representatives, and we will continue to discuss ways that engagement may be enhanced. Currently, the Group is made up of two representatives from each of the following groups: Chagossian Voices, UK Chagos Refugees Group, Chagos Islanders Movement, Chagos Refugees Group (Mauritius), Association Chagossiens de France, and Seychellois Chagossians Committee."

It is too soon to talk about a resettlement programme. Under the treaty, Mauritius alone has responsibility for resettlement and there is therefore no need for a UK Bill to include reference to this. Nonetheless, resettlement will no doubt remain under discussion by the UK Government with Mauritius and the Chagossians for a long time to come. But we should also be realistic. Most Chagossians will prefer to remain where they have made new lives in Mauritius, Seychelles, UK, France, Canada, even Switzerland but they will all want their right to return to their islands restored and to visit whenever they choose.

It may be that in time the US will agree to resettlement in Diego Garcia. It was shown by the KPMG study in 2015 to be feasible, but it needs to be handled sensitively, first with organised visits which the UK has agreed to, and later when there has been a successful resettlement on the Outer Islands. Not everything can be decided immediately. But I have every confidence that the interests of the Chagossians will be safeguarded.

**\* At the end of the day, what factors**

**“Although there are still Conservative parliamentarians who support the treaty, the new Conservative Opposition appears to have abandoned the policy of their predecessors and has been attempting to stop the treaty being ratified and delay the Bill. ‘Rearguard action’ is not the right word. It is more concerted action for party political purposes. Attacking the government in power is seen as the duty of the Loyal Opposition...”**



**will ultimately determine if the deal goes through, and what is the current assessment of its chances?**

We shall know the answer to that question if the Bill goes through unamended next month and becomes law. There are discussions going on between peers of the three parties as to outstanding amendments. It is possible that there will be an agreed amendment incorporated into the Bill. It will then become law on 7 January, receive Royal Assent and the treaty ratified. My money is on the Bill going through.

**\* Assuming that the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Bill goes through and the treaty is ratified early next year, what happens next?**

From the moment that the treaty is ratified by both governments, the UK formally recognises that Mauritius is sovereign over the Chagos Islands. The detailed arrangements to 'transfer' the territory can then begin. Unwinding 60 years of British control will be administratively complicated. It will take time.

Diego Garcia and the base will carry on in

the same way it always has done under the 99-year lease to be granted by Mauritius. There will be ongoing consultations and meetings to smooth the transition and planning the way forward.

The Chagos Archipelago Marine Protected Area (CAMP) will become the future basis for conservation of the living resources and the UK has undertaken to support it and provide scientific advice. Chagossians are already represented by Olivier Bancoult on the CAMP committee.

**\* How might the final form of the treaty and legislation be interpreted in international law, particularly in relation to the 2019 ICJ advisory opinion and the UN General Assembly resolution calling for the UK to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago? Will ratification expose the UK to renewed legal scrutiny or help regularise its position?**

The ratified treaty will be registered with the UN Treaty Section in New York and become part of international treaty law. I would expect the UK and Mauritius to sponsor a joint resolution at the UN General Assembly in September next year commending the treaty, with no doubt many speeches hailing it as a triumph of diplomacy and international law that at last meets the requirements of UNGA resolutions going back to 1965, and more recently 2019.

**“The British government does not agree with the CERD report. CERD is an independent body of experts that does not speak on behalf of the UN, or of UN Member states. The UN Secretary General and the African Union chairs have both welcomed the Agreement with Mauritius. I do not see any likelihood of either party being prepared to go back to the drawing board to renegotiate the treaty...”**

Besides the treaty and its attachments, there will be exchanges of letters and notes with Mauritius on technical issues for the foreseeable future just as there have been between the UK and US since their 1966 Agreement.

**\* The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has just called on the UK not to ratify the Treaty. What do you make of that?**

The British government does not agree with the CERD report. CERD is an independent body of experts that does not speak on behalf of the UN, or of UN Member states. The UN Secretary General and the African Union chairs have both welcomed the Agreement with Mauritius.

I do not see any likelihood of either party being prepared to go back to the drawing board to renegotiate the treaty. Negotiations on the treaty were between the UK and Mauritius with the priority being to secure the operation of the joint UK/US base on Diego Garcia, which is vital to UK national security.





Shyam Bhatia

# Who Trusts the West?

*Trust does not flow downward from former empires. It is mutual, earned, and sustained only when all sides accept the legitimacy of each other's interests.*

**W**estern criticism of India's continuing links with Moscow is once again growing louder. In parts of the Indian Ocean, this criticism is drawing uncomfortable comparisons with an older era when London felt entitled to decide the geopolitical fate of subject nations.

The tone of recent British commentary, sparked by Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi, recalls a colonial mindset in which imperial capitals presumed the authority to instruct others on whom to trade with, whom to support, and which wars to oppose.

To many in Mauritius, this is not just geopolitics; it is a reminder of a past in which London's decisions routinely reshaped the lives and borders of distant communities without consultation or consent.

Mauritians know this history intimately. The island's modern society was forged in the crucibles of slavery and indenture, both systems administered under imperial rule. For generations of enslaved Africans, freedom was denied; for the hundreds of thousands of Indian indentured labourers who arrived as from 1834, hardship and coercion were wrapped in the language of "contract" and "civilisation".

**A**nd long after indenture ended, another act of imperial prerogative took place: the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago in the 1960s, carried out in secret to serve Anglo-American military interests, while the Chagossian people were forcibly removed from their homes. This is not ancient history. It is living memory, carried across families, courts, and collective identity.

India carries its own scars from that same era. The brutal massacre ordered by General Reginald Dyer at Amritsar in 1919 stands as one of the most notorious examples of the violence used to enforce imperial authority. It remains etched in Indian consciousness as a moment when moral superiority was loudly proclaimed by those who practised none of it. When modern Western commentators question whether India can be "trusted", the echoes are difficult to miss. Both India and Mauritius know too well the consequences of a world in which imperial powers dictated the terms of loyalty.

These histories shape how the region interprets today's debates. When British newspapers imply that India's refusal to break with Moscow is a breach of trust, island nations hear an older argument resurfacing: that non-Western countries are expected to align automatically with the preferences of the former metropole, while Western states themselves reserve the right to follow their own interests wherever they lead.

The reality on the ground tells a different story. European nations still import Russian LNG; the United States remains a major purchaser of Russian uranium; several G7 economies maintain exemptions to ensure certain Russian commodities continue flowing. Yet India alone is singled out for criticism, even though it must secure affordable energy for more than a billion people.

Against this backdrop, India's rise in the Western Indian Ocean looks very different from how it is portrayed in London. Mauritius sees a partner rooted not in conquest but in shared historical experience — through migration, religion, language, commerce and the complex legacy of indenture. It is a relationship shaped from below as much as above.

**T**he cultural footprint that binds the two countries did not come through imperial edicts or forced displacement but through the resilience of people who crossed the ocean under harsh conditions and built new lives on this island. This gives India's presence in the region a character distinct from that of former colonial powers.

Today, India is among the most active contributors to the region's stability. It has become a first responder in cyclones and medical emergencies, a partner in maritime surveillance, a trainer of coast guards, a founder of digital infrastructure and blue-economy projects, and a supporter of food and pharmaceutical supply chains. It works closely with Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar on security cooperation, coordinates extensively with France, and expands economic ties with East African nations. It is also engaged in deepening cooperation with Gulf states whose influence in the region is rising rapidly.

This is not the behaviour of a country caught in Moscow's orbit. It is the behaviour of a state determined to preserve strategic autonomy, the same autonomy that Mauritius itself has always sought.

This is why headlines such as "Can the West trust India?" ring hollow in Port Louis. The real question for the region is not whether India is reliable but whether Western governments have adapted to a world in which former colonies make independent decisions.

The expectation of automatic alignment belongs to another century, the same century that witnessed forced labour on sugar estates, massacres justified as "discipline", and the carving up of island territories for military bases. If anyone in this region has reason to question trust, it is the states that had their destinies shaped far away, often without transparency or accountability.

**Y**et the British debate continues to revolve around India's supposed



**“Mauritius's modern society was forged in the crucibles of slavery and indenture, both systems administered under imperial rule. For generations of enslaved Africans, freedom was denied; for the hundreds of thousands of Indian indentured labourers who arrived as from 1834, hardship and coercion were wrapped in the language of “contract” and “civilisation”. And long after indenture ended, another act of imperial prerogative took place: the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago in the 1960s, carried out in secret to serve Anglo-American military interests, while the Chagossian people were forcibly removed from their homes. This is not ancient history. It is living memory, carried across families, courts, and collective identity...”**

unpredictability. What it rarely acknowledges is Britain's own shifting approach to the Indian Ocean, where strategic interests have frequently overridden the rhetoric of partnership.

Even today, the United Kingdom maintains the military base at Diego Garcia under arrangements that Mauritius has long disputed, an issue that symbolises the lingering imbalance between former imperial powers and the sovereign states that succeeded them. The West expects India to shed its historical ties with Moscow overnight yet has not shown equivalent urgency in addressing the unfinished business of decolonisation within its own sphere.

**M**auritius, shaped by the scars and strengths of its past, instinctively understands India's strategic posture. In a region where multiple powers — China, France, the United States, the Gulf states — are competing for influence, no single alignment is sufficient.

Multipolarity is not a theory; it is the daily reality of maritime security, trade routes, fishing rights, climate resilience and cultural diplomacy. In this environment, what London labels “hedging” is recognised across the Indian Ocean as prudent statecraft grounded in lived experience.

So when British commentators ask whether the West can trust India, they may

be asking the wrong question. For nations shaped by colonial decision-making and still navigating its consequences, the more relevant inquiry is whether the West is prepared to treat India — and its regional partners — as equal actors whose choices cannot be subordinated to someone else's strategic comfort.

Trust does not flow downward from former empires. It is mutual, earned, and sustained only when all sides accept the legitimacy of each other's interests.

London, December 9, 2025

## Publish Your Notices in

Mauritius Times Digital Editions

- Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- General Assembly
- Applications for Building and Land Use Permits
- Corporate - Company Notices

Send Your Notices + Proof of ID by Email  
or WhatsApp No - 5 2929301

Payment: Bank Transfer or by Juice No. 5782 9861

Contact us: Tel: 212 1313 -- 5 2929301  
Email: mtimes@intnet.mu



# The Dance of Salary Compensation, PRB Ghosts, and Moody's Oracles

**I**n Mauritius, the annual ritual of salary compensation sparks debates louder than the waves on Flic-en-Flac beach. Trade unions march, employers groan, and government officials attempt the delicate art of arithmetic without triggering a Moody's downgrade. In this Socratic Dialogue, we join Socrates and Cephalus under a filao tree, watching sunbathers while probing the philosophical — and fiscal — tensions behind the salary compensation, the elusive PRB report, and the ever-watchful eyes of rating agencies.

By Plutonix

**Setting:** Socrates and Cephalus sit on a Mauritian beach under a filao tree, debating economics while occasionally glancing at pretty sunbathers in skimpy beach attire.

**Socrates** — Eternal philosopher; knows nothing, asks everything.

**Cephalus** — Wealthy Athenian businessman mysteriously visiting Mauritius; believes he knows everything, fears everything.

**Chorus of Tourists** (occasionally commenting) — Represents public opinion.

**Socrates:** My dear Cephalus, I see you sitting by the sea, frowning at a coconut. It cannot be the coconut that troubles you. Pray, what is weighing down your brow?

**Cephalus:** Socrates, I am reading the Mauritian newspapers. It is compensation season again. Trade unions are marching, employers are groaning, and the government looks as though it wishes it could declare an early general election just to escape the calculations.

**Socrates:** Compensation season? I was unaware there was such a season in Mauritius. Does it fall between mango season and cyclone season?

**Cephalus:** It is more like cyclone season, Socrates. Every year, the winds begin to howl around November. Workers demand full compensation for inflation — sometimes even more, in case next year's inflation might feel jealous. Employers insist they cannot pay a cent more without collapsing dramatically. And government must pretend that both sides are reasonable while Moody's peers over its shoulder like a strict schoolmaster.

**Socrates:** Ah, Moody's, the oracle of the modern era. Instead of reading the entrails of goats, they read the entrails of government accounts — and both methods inspire equal fear.

**Cephalus:** Exactly! And this year the proposed compensation is Rs 610. But unions say it is not enough. Employers say it is too much. Government says it is just right. It is like the Goldilocks of public finance: not too high (to upset employers/businesses), not too low (to upset workers/unions), but "just right" for public finance!

**Socrates:** Let us begin at the beginning. Tell me, Cephalus: what is the purpose of this compensation?

**Cephalus:** To protect purchasing power, Socrates. Inflation was harsh. Prices rose.

wages rise only by 3%, is the worker not poorer?

**Cephalus:** Absolutely.

**Socrates:** Then why do employers insist on paying less?

**Cephalus:** Because they argue that productivity has not risen. They say: "How can we raise wages when output per worker is stagnant?" Workers reply that you cannot raise productivity when salaries can barely pay the bus fare to get to work.

**Socrates:** So one side waits for productivity to rise before raising wages, and the other waits for wages to rise before raising productivity. It reminds me of two donkeys waiting for the other to move first so they can reach the hay.

**Socrates:** And tell me, Cephalus, I hear that the government provides subsidies to help employers pay this Rs 610 compensation or whatever is decided at the end of the day. What manner of economic creature is this?

**Cephalus:** Ah yes — the MRA's Financial Assistance Scheme. The government pays a portion of the compensation to SMEs, Export Oriented Enterprises, BPO companies, and others. This allows employers to claim they cannot afford wages while accepting government funds to afford them.

**Socrates:** So, the state gives money to employers so they can give money to workers, so workers can buy goods whose prices rose because employers raised them?

**Cephalus:** When you say it like that, it sounds suspiciously circular.

**Socrates:** It is a perfect circle, my friend — like a donut, except with no sweetness inside.

**Socrates:** And what is this I hear of a mysterious document called the PRB report? It seems to haunt the island like a ghost.

**Cephalus:** A very expensive ghost, Socrates. It determines salary structures for public servants. Its release has been postponed several times — much like those Greek tragedies where the hero keeps delaying his fate until the chorus becomes impatient.

**Socrates:** And what are workers asking?

**Cephalus:** Unions are demanding its immediate release. They believe government has kept it in a locked drawer because the recommendations will increase public sector wages significantly.

**Socrates:** And why would that be a problem?

**Cephalus:** Because it would blow up public finances. The economy is already in the red. Moody's is watching. If public

salaries rise sharply, the private sector will be pressured to follow, leading to more cries of "We cannot pay!" and more subsidies the government cannot afford.

**Socrates:** So, releasing the PRB report could trigger higher wages, leading to higher costs, leading to higher prices, leading to higher compensation next year?

**Cephalus:** Exactly!

**Socrates:** Another donut.

**Socrates:** Let us seek wisdom. Tell me, Cephalus: what is a fair compensation?

**Cephalus:** One that keeps both unions and employers equally unhappy.

**Socrates:** That is not fairness but diplomacy. I ask again: what is a **just** compensation?

**Cephalus:** To be just, it must protect the weakest from losing purchasing power.

**Socrates:** And must justice not also protect the viability of enterprises, so the weakest may remain employed?

**Cephalus:** That too, yes.

**Socrates:** And must justice not prevent the government from sinking into debt so deep that Moody's sends it handwritten letters of concern?

**Cephalus:** Quite so.

**Socrates:** So just compensation must protect workers' purchasing power, keep businesses afloat, and not bankrupt the state?

**Cephalus:** Yes, but that is impossible!

**Socrates:** Impossible or simply difficult?

**Cephalus:** Difficult in the way that swimming from Mauritius to Madagascar is difficult.

**Socrates:** My friend, I conclude that the annual debate persists because no one wishes to acknowledge the simplest truth.

**Cephalus:** And what truth is that?

**Socrates:** That wages, prices, productivity, and public spending must rise together in harmony — like dancers in a sega — or else everyone's toes will get stepped on.

**Cephalus:** Then how shall we restore this harmony?

**Socrates:** Mauritius must choose: either to raise productivity through training, technology, and innovation, or to accept that each year's compensation is merely a band-aid on a wound no one wishes to treat.

**Cephalus:** And until then?

**Socrates:** Until then, there will be annual shouting, marching, warnings of economic collapse, promises of improvement, and Moody's issuing cryptic statements about "structural vulnerabilities."

**Cephalus:** So, nothing will change?

**Socrates:** On the contrary, everything will change — only very loudly, and very slowly.

*And so, as the sun sets over the Mauritian horizon, Socrates and Cephalus rise, still wiser, still confused, and slightly sunburned. They leave behind a landscape of marching unions, groaning employers, and government accountants balancing spreadsheets like tightrope walkers. Meanwhile, the tourists clap their hands for the sega dancers, oblivious to the economic ballet unfolding under their feet. And Socrates, peering at the horizon, sighs: "In Mauritius, my friend, the only certainty is that next year, we shall debate all over again... and the coconut will frown once more."*



Workers suffered. So the National Wages Council recommends an increase that the government usually approves. Except that unions ask: "Which worker? Which inflation? Which basket of goods?" They argue that the inflation experienced by the poor is not the one calculated by economists who buy quinoa and almond milk for breakfast.

**Socrates:** So, the worker says the compensation is too low, because official inflation ignores the suffering of actual humans?

**Cephalus:** Precisely.

**Socrates:** And the employer?

**Cephalus:** Claims the compensation is devastating, because their balance sheet trembles like a leaf in a Mauritian breeze. They warn of layoffs, closures, bankruptcies, and the end of civilisation if compensation exceeds the price of two dholl-puris per day.

**Socrates:** And do these things occur?

**Cephalus:** Usually not. But employers will say they might, theoretically, someday, if Jupiter aligns with Mars and wage bills continue rising.

**Socrates:** And the government? What role does it play in this annual theatre?

**Cephalus:** It tries to look wise while performing complicated arithmetic behind the scenes. It must appease unions without upsetting employers. It must protect workers without frightening investors. And above all, it must avoid a downgrade from Moody's, whose analysts watch budget deficits the way hawks watch field mice.

**Socrates:** I see. And this Rs 610 — does it satisfy anyone?

**Cephalus:** Only the coconut I was frowning at. It seems to be at peace with all things.

**Socrates:** Let us investigate. If the compensation is meant to neutralise inflation, should it not always match inflation?

**Cephalus:** In theory, yes.

**Socrates:** And if inflation is 7% but





Nandini Bhautoo

A Soft-Touch Biopic in a Hard-Edged Narrative Age

# 'Main Atal Hoon' and the Rewiring of Postcolonial Memory

*Main Atal Hoon* is not merely a biography of Vajpayee, but a study of the evolving Indian imagination

Last Wednesday, a screening of the film *Main Atal Hoon* was held at the newly opened Institute of Public Service and Innovation in Ebene. This event commemorated the 101st anniversary of the venerable political figure who gave his name to the Institute: Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The film comes at a moment when political and cultural narratives across the postcolonial world are undergoing a seismic reassessment. The heavy hand of colonisation did not merely redraw borders, it imposed interpretive frameworks, moral hierarchies, and "ready-made truths" that were internalised by local elites and broadcast as universal.

India, with its civilisational antiquity and scale, has always experienced this conflict more dramatically than most. The clash between Western-imposed narratives and the subterranean rumblings of a people reclaiming their own voice has taken decades to surface. The past ten years have, in many ways, marked a rupture.

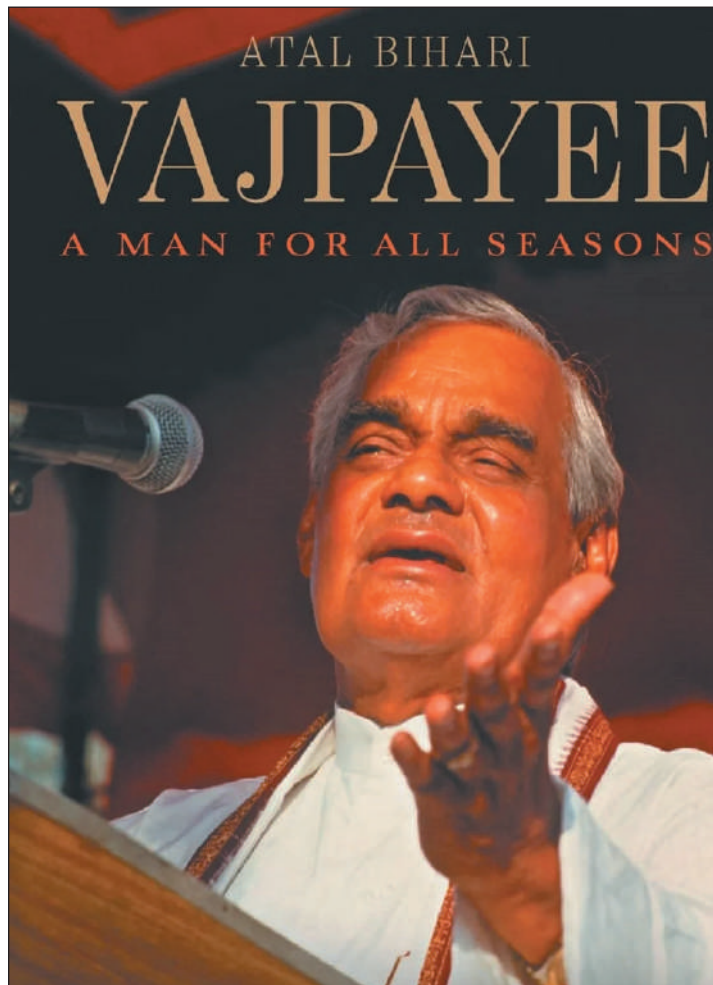
Biopics of Nehru, Gandhi, and Indira Gandhi have long dominated cinematic storytelling, each reinforcing a single vision of moral authority — a triumvirate of liberal innocence, wisdom, and benevolent paternalism. Opponents of this narrative were rendered "right-wing", "reactionary", or worse, by a cosmopolitan class that monopolised cultural production. Yet, over time, archives have loosened, suppressed events have resurfaced, and public memory has begun to ask questions. Nehru's mishandling of the Jammu & Kashmir question, the controversial nature of Gandhi's public stance during the Moplah violence, the tragic violence and police firing during the 1966 Gau Raksha Andolan demonstration in New Delhi, the Emergency — these events no longer exist at the margins of historical consciousness. They have returned to the centre.

This shift has been accelerated by the rise of a political establishment that insists on placing India's people, their aspirations, and their lived realities at the heart of policy. The "elite" who proclaimed themselves protectors of secularism now appear, in hindsight, to have protected their own privileges — monopolising foreign policy narratives, academic discourse, and international representation, while remaining emotionally and materially distant from the majority of Indians. The poor became statistics; the elite became spokespeople for "India"; the West applauded them for confirming its stereotypes.

In this context, *Main Atal Hoon* marks a distinctive moment — not merely in cinema, but in national self-narration. Screened at the new Atal Bihari Vajpayee College of Civil Service, which was inaugurated in March 2025, the film's significance lies not only in its subject matter but in its timing, its tone, and its quiet counter-narrative.

## The Soft-Touch Biopic: Aesthetic Strategy in a Noisy Age

Unlike many political films that turn into loud polemics, *Main Atal Hoon* adopts a soft-touch approach. It does not sermonise, litigate, or editorialise, instead, it suggests. It invites the viewer into the life of a sensitive young man from a small North Indian town — a poet, son of schoolteachers,



**“One of the film’s subtle achievements is its depiction of Vajpayee as inside the movement (emotionally, historically, culturally), yet outside it (intellectually, temperamentally, philosophically). He supported the Ayodhya movement’s cultural aspiration but remained deeply uncomfortable with the political excesses of later years. He understood coalition dharma, social sensitivity, and the need for restraint. His political journey thus mirrors the contradictions of India’s own postcolonial condition - aspiring toward unity while burdened by inherited fractures...” -- Pic BookMyShow**

and dreamer — whose early idealism gradually evolves into a mature statesmanship that would leave a lasting impact on India. The film does not indulge in hagiography, nor does it engage in the predictable tropes of the familiar Nehru — Gandhi biopic model. Instead of seeking to defeat a rival narrative, it proposes an alternative one — quietly, confidently, and with a surprising tenderness.

**What the Film suggests, without Overstating:** The film does not analyse ABV's poetry. Instead, it allows it to

hover around him like a gentle aura, punctuating moments of doubt, solitude, or political fatigue. This poetic consciousness — subtle, hesitant, humane — is the emotional backbone of the film.

Addressing the subject of Vajpayee's long-standing relationship with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the film avoids the loud polarities typical of the genre, refraining from depicting the organisation as either heroic or monstrous. *Main Atal Hoon* avoids both extremes.

It depicts Vajpayee as rooted in its ethos, yet critical when he felt it necessary; emotionally connected, yet ideologically independent. This restrained representation is both honest and courageous. Vajpayee's gift lay in bridging ideological divides. The film captures this not through speeches or dramatic confrontations, but through *listening*, *silence*, and *temperament*. His greatest political strength — his capacity to make opponents feel heard — is conveyed, not explained.

**Foreign Policy Without Chest Thumping:** Pokhran-II, Lahore, Kargil — events that could easily be turned into nationalist spectacle — are handled with a cool sobriety. The film acknowledges the geopolitical stakes without sensationalism. It gestures toward his diplomatic genius, rather than turning him into an action hero.

## The Larger Narrative Conflict: A Postcolonial Correction

The film enters a cultural ecosystem still heavily influenced by Western lenses, where: "nationalism" is coded as dangerous, "secularism" is coded as virtuous and any articulation of indigenous pride is viewed with suspicion. This binary, inherited from colonial anthropology and sustained by postcolonial elites, has shaped Indian storytelling for 75 years. The irony, of course, is that Western "right wing/left wing" categories arose from industrial-era class struggles, not civilisations shaped by dharma, community ethics, or decentralised social structures. To apply these categories wholesale to India constitutes a fundamental category error.

The film implicitly challenges this. It shows the RSS not as an abstract ideology but as a social movement emerging during a period when the newly independent nation's social fabric was frayed. Christophe Jaffrelot's own research, which has helped shape the international academic discourse about the RSS, acknowledges the organisation's grassroots efforts in rebuilding communities, organizing relief work, and offering young people a sense of structure and belonging in the absence of a functional welfare state.

However, Jaffrelot (and many Western scholars) often brand these rebuilding efforts, arising from a nation awakening from decades of cultural, political, and social destruction, as problematic right-wing nationalism. Despite the obvious context, they effectively reverse the logic:

*What arises from resilience is branded reactionary; what arises from elite control is branded progressive.*

The film quietly rejects this interpretive inversion.

☞ Cont. on page 11



A Soft-Touch Biopic in a Hard-Edged Narrative Age

‘Main Atal Hoon’ and the Rewiring of Postcolonial Memory

Main Atal Hoon is not merely a biography of Vajpayee, but a study of the evolving Indian imagination

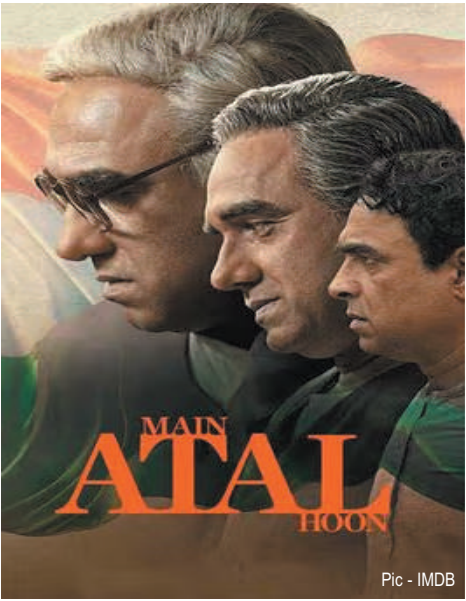
Cont. from page 10  
From Suppressed Agency to People’s Agency

The film charts Vajpayee’s journey as one strand of a much larger arc -- the long, slow reclamation of people’s agency from the hands of the postcolonial elite who inherited the apparatus of the colonial state. For decades, India’s international image was sculpted by those who lived abroad half the time, confirmed Western stereotypes, distanced themselves from “backward India”, benefited from access to institutions built by and for the British Raj. These were the “acceptable Indians” for the global liberal order. Vajpayee was not part of this class. He was of the soil -- soft-spoken, self-effacing, modest, culturally rooted, and emotionally connected to ordinary people. The film captures this aspect beautifully.

The Internal Complexity: Not Just India v/s the West - The film also hints at India’s internal fractures, including: ideologi-

cal rivalries with Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China; the cultivation of internal opposition through curriculum and media; the deep dissonance between elite and popular cultural worlds; and the persistent demonisation of the BJP-RSS ecosystem as inherently illegitimate. Through brief scenes, the film acknowledges that Vajpayee operated within a political environment where asserting the agency of the majority population was itself portrayed as extremist — a framing inherited from colonial anthropology and deeply entrenched in Western media, as discussed above.

The Atal Paradox: Inside Yet Outside - One of the film’s subtle achievements is its depiction of Vajpayee as inside the movement (emotionally, historically, culturally), yet outside it (intellectually, temperamentally, philosophically). He supported the Ayodhya movement’s cultural aspiration but remained deeply uncomfortable with the political excesses of later years. He unders-



tood coalition dharma, social sensitivity, and the need for restraint. His political journey thus mirrors the contradictions of India’s own postcolonial condition - aspiring toward unity

while burdened by inherited fractures.  
The Film’s Structural Weakness: Ambition v/s Space - If the film has a flaw, it is structural. The desire to be exhaustive - covering seven decades, numerous political arcs, domestic and foreign crises - forces the narrative to jump across time with little breathing room. Those familiar with Vajpayee’s life will understand the ellipses. New audiences may struggle. Yet, given the enormity of Vajpayee’s life, any two-hour treatment will feel rushed. The choice to use soft-touch minimalism rather than didactic exposition makes the pace more noticeable.

A New Kind of Political Cinema  
Ultimately, Main Atal Hoon represents a quiet revolution. Its achievement lies in its refusal to imitate either the hyper-heroic nationalist biopic or the liberal-elite ideological morality play. Instead, it offers a reflective, humane portrait of a man whose life bridged two Indias: the India patronised by Westernised elites, and the India that built, dreamed, suffered, and created from below. In doing so, the film participates in a broader cultural realignment — one that seeks to reclaim historical memory from inherited colonial frameworks and re-anchor it in the experiences, aspirations, and cultural sensibilities of the Indian people themselves.

This is not merely a film about Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is a film about the contours of a new Indian imagination.

Nandini Bhautoo

Mauritius Times

Even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a reader-funded newspaper, the Mauritius Times relies on the support of those who are in a position to help. We know that you are fully conscious of the important role of an independent media, so even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups, your support in the form of a subscription or patronage will allow us to pursue our mission and protect our editorial independence. That is why we would kindly request you to consider becoming a regular subscriber by sending us your contribution.

Our Annual Subs Rate amounts to Rs 1500.  
Your support, however much you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

Payment Options - Any one of the following

- 1. By cheque drawn to the order of The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation. Kindly post the cheque to our postal address as above.
- 2. Via MCB Juice to the following Phone No 5 782 9861.
- 3. Bank transfer, paid to The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation, to any one of the following bank accounts:

Bank	Account No	Swift Code	IBAN
MCB	000448214277	MCBLMUMU	MU71MCBL0901000448214277000MUR
SBM	50300000703075	STCBMUMU	MU17STCB1101000000703075000MUR
SBI	156000504401	INILMUMU	MU47INIL0801156000504401000MUR

Please send us your personal details - Name, Postal Address, Email and Telephone / Mobile number by email or WhatsApps for immediate processing of your subscription.

Another option is to subscribe by going to our Google Form by clicking on the link below:

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Please know that we are at your disposal for any clarification and assistance that you may require. You may please contact us on:

Tel - 5 2929 301 - 5 782 9861 - 212 1313 -- Email: mtimes@intnet.mu  
28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street) -- Port Louis

Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY

HEAD OFFICE

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Authorised under Section 24(2) of the Public Procurement Act 2006

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Renting of Office Space with amenities – Head Office

Procurement Reference: ECCEA/EOI/13/2025-2026

The Early Childhood Care and Education Authority hereby invite proprietors of buildings between 1000 m<sup>2</sup> and 1200 m<sup>2</sup> in the region of Trianon, Curepipe, Moka and Vacoas - Phoenix who are willing to lease their building to the ECCEA for an initial period of three years, renewable every year by mutual consent of both parties. More details of the Requirements and Conditions are contained in the EOI Document which may be downloaded from the website of the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority [www.eccea.mu](http://www.eccea.mu)

Interested individuals/companies should deposit their proposals in the bid box located at the Early Childhood Care and Education 2nd Floor, Le Windsor, Royal Road Beau Bassin in a sealed envelope bearing Procurement Ref No - ECCEA/EOI/13/2025-2026, addressed to The Ag. Director - 2nd Floor, Le Windsor, Royal Road Beau Bassin not later than 17th December 2025 at 13.00 hours.

The ECCEA reserves the right to accept or reject either in whole or in part, any interest expressed and to annul the whole EOI without thereby incurring any liability.

Early Childhood Care and Education Authority  
2nd Floor, Le Windsor  
Royal Road, Beau Bassin

Date 17th November 2025





**PROMO**  
my.t serye

JUSQU'AU  
**12**  
JAN  
2026

# GO-ALL IN ONE!

~~Rs 1,500~~

## Rs 999\*

**SUR TOUT LE FOOT  
PENDANT 24 MOIS**

**Top  
net!**



Ça c'est une offre de fin d'année ! Rien que pour Rs 999/mois seulement, my.t vous permet de vivre tout le foot à travers DStv Stream Compact Plus !

Déjà abonné à DStv Stream Compact ? Encore mieux !  
Il vous suffit que d'un supplément de Rs 199/mois !

Attention : l'offre étant valable jusqu'au 12 janvier 2026, rendez-vous sur myt.mu ou appelez le 8902.

myt.mu

\*conditions applicables



## CDC issues travel warning over outbreak of chikungunya



Untreatable tropical virus prompts CDC alerts for Americans heading abroad. Pic- New York Post

US health officials have issued travel advisories for Americans planning trips to several tropical countries and regions amid ongoing outbreaks of an untreatable, mosquito-borne disease: chikungunya.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced last Friday that it has assigned Level 2 travel advisories for four specific areas, advising Americans to “practice enhanced precautions” when visiting them. The areas facing this warning are Cuba, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Guangdong Province in southern China.

### Untreatable, but vaccine-preventable

Chikungunya is a virus transmitted by infected mosquitoes. According to health officials, there are currently no treatments available to cure the disease once contracted. However, the disease is vaccine-preventable, and the CDC recommends vaccination for travelers heading to affected areas.

The most common symptoms of the virus include fever and severe joint pain. Patients may also experience a headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or a rash. Symptoms typically appear three to seven days after a bite from an infected mosquito, and most people recover within a week.

While most cases are mild, the disease can be severe. The World Health

Organization (WHO) warns that some patients may experience severe joint pain lasting months or even years. In rare, severe cases, others “may require hospitalization because of the risk of organ damage and death.”

### Global outbreak data

According to a WHO notice dated October 3, 2025, there have been a staggering 445,000 suspected and confirmed cases of chikungunya and 155 deaths worldwide between January and September 2025.

Local outbreaks contributing to the global total include:

- \* **China:** As of late September, Guangdong Province had confirmed a total of 16,000 locally transmitted cases, marking the largest documented outbreak of the disease in the country to date.
- \* **Bangladesh:** WHO cited the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research in reporting 700 suspected chikungunya cases in the capital, Dhaka, between January and September 2025.
- \* **Sri Lanka:** A total of 150 confirmed cases were reported between January 1 and the second week of March 2025, with cases reportedly peaking in June.
- \* **Cuba:** Between January and late September, 34 confirmed cases of chikungunya were reported, prompting public health interventions to contain the spread.

The CDC also cautioned that Americans travelling to a broader list of countries — including Brazil, Colombia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand — may face an increased risk of chikungunya infection, even if no official outbreak is currently reported in those locations.

## Bangladesh sets February 12 date for next national elections

Bangladesh will hold its next national elections on February 12, eighteen months after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced from power during a mass uprising marked by weeks of deadly violence, the country's chief election commissioner announced on Thursday.

In a televised address, AMM Nasir Uddin confirmed the election date, setting in motion preparations for a historic vote following one of the most turbulent periods in Bangladesh's recent history.

### A Government Overthrown

The last general elections, held in January 2024, saw Hasina secure a fourth consecutive term. But the vote was marred

by controversy, with major opposition parties boycotting the polls and accusing her administration of widespread rigging, according to AP.

Public anger boiled over last summer. Massive protests shook the country, eventually leading to clashes that left hundreds dead and thousands injured. Facing mounting pressure, Hasina fled to India on August 5 and has been in exile since.

### A Pivotal Vote

The February elections will be the 13th national polls since Bangladesh won independence from Pakistan in 1971 after a bloody liberation war. They are widely seen as a critical test for the country's commitment to democratic renewal following years of political polarization.

Whether the election will deliver a fresh mandate for stability — and whether the political environment will allow for a broadly accepted outcome — remains to be seen.

## Across the Globe

## China's expanding military might

China appeared to be growing its military footprint across land, air, and sea in multiple geographies. The country's armed forces have built or upgraded several high-altitude airfields in its western regions, ostensibly part of efforts to project military power across the Himalayas — where it has a contested border with India — and in its own frontier provinces, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. According to Reuters, Beijing's navy has ramped up its deployment of naval forces across East Asian waters, including in disputed maritime territory, in an apparent show of force amid heightened tensions with Taiwan and Japan.



Filipino soldiers prepare on April 14, 2023, for shelling during a combined field artillery live fire exercise as part of the annual Balikatan military exercises involving the United States and the Philippines. Pic - Getty

“There's a big outing,” one source told the outlet.

## Rats and roaches on the rise

Rats and cockroaches are on the rise in much of the West thanks to urbanization, pesticide resistance, and climate change. Research found that 11 out of 16 cities examined had seen rat numbers grow, the BBC reported, with those that have warmed the most seeing the biggest increases: Cold winters are often deadly to rats.

Roaches have seen similar increases in

several countries, notably Spain, where hotter-than-average temperatures have lengthened breeding seasons, leading to a 33% increase in infestations in 2024 compared to 2023. Both pests thrive in warm, sheltered environments with lots of discarded food, so growing cities are a boon for them. Market analysis projects the demand for cockroach pesticide to grow rapidly, although overuse has seen resistance develop.

## The new space race



Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos: The Silicon Valley space race. Pic - BBC

The next frontier of data centre development is out of this world. Billionaires Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, who each have

their own rival rocket companies, are now racing to build AI facilities in space, while a Nvidia-backed startup announced it trained an AI model from space for the first time.

Such systems at scale could theoretically alleviate the energy constraints that set back their earthbound peers, though sceptics believe Musk and Bezos' ambitions overlook the technical challenges: One Google executive working on building an orbital

data center told *The Wall Street Journal* it would take 10,000 satellites to match the capacity of a one-gigawatt facility.

## Major climate change study retracted

An influential 2024 study that found that climate change would devastate the world's economy has been retracted. The paper, published by *Nature*, said that in the most extreme climate scenarios, the world's economy would be 62% smaller by 2100 than in a counterfactual with no climate change; under more realistic scenarios, it would be around 20% smaller.

The findings influenced central banks' risk management. But reanalysis found major anomalies in its data, without which the study's predictions were statistically indistinguishable from earlier research. One



A car drives through a flooded street in Rosemead, California, on Oct. 14. AFP via Getty Images

of the study's authors said the “general qualitative messages are very much the same,” and plans to resubmit the paper with revisions.

\* See more on page 14



## Platinum Card: What's inside Trump's '\$5 million' shortcut to US residency



President Trump unveils a \$5 million 'gold card' visa.  
Pic – Dallas Morning News

Amid Trump administration's increasing curbs on immigration and job visas, the US government's 'Gold Card' is being branded as an alternative for foreign workers willing to spare \$1 million for "US residency in record time".

The recently introduced 'Gold Card' has emerged as a new immigration pathway for white-collar professionals, a newer and little-known residency card is also in the pipeline, offering even better features.

Further, the Trump administration has planned to introduce a 'Platinum Card' for \$5 million, which would allow a foreign workers to stay in US for nine months a year with tax exemptions, reports Hindustan Times.

The premium residency programmes,

first announced in September, comes months after Trump hiked the H-1B visa fee from up to \$5,000 to \$100,000 in October. The two visa programmes are part of Trump's plan to encourage the wealthy to emigrate to the US for a hefty price tag, along with curbing the local jobs being offered to foreign workers.

### What does Trump's Gold Card offer?

The 'Gold Card' is for foreign applicants applying for citizenship, while the corporate Gold Card is for those seeking to enter the program as an employee with a corporate sponsor.

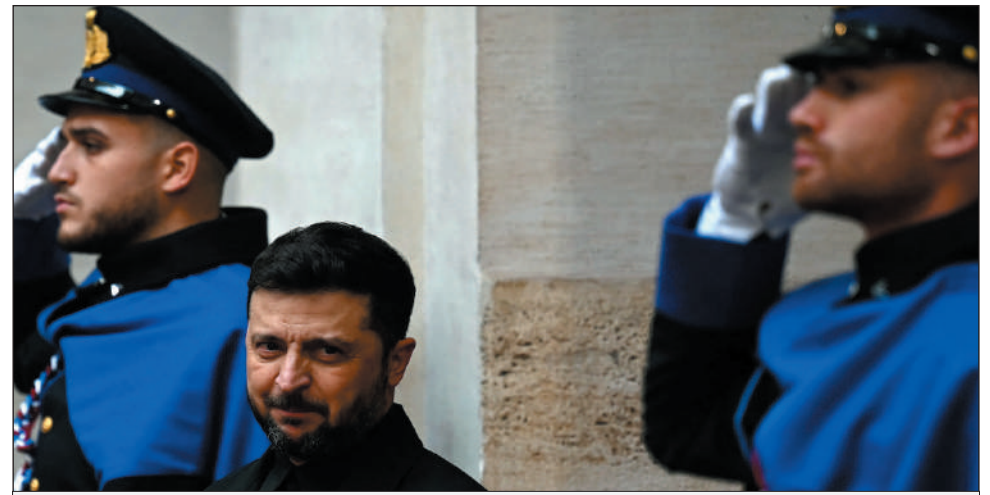
According to the Trump Card website, an applicant can apply for a 'Gold Card' for a \$15,000 DHS processing fee, which would be followed by a background approval and an interview.

"For a \$15,000 DHS processing fee and, after background approval, a contribution of \$1 million, receive U.S. residency in record time with the Trump Gold Card," the official website states.

### What does 'Platinum Card' offer?

Trump's 'Platinum Card' allows individual applicants to reside in the US for up to 270 days a year without being subject to tax on non-US income.

With the 'Platinum Card', which comes at a cost of \$5 million, there is no requirement of travel visas.



Volodymyr Zelensky declared on Tuesday that he is ready to hold elections in Ukraine. Pic – The Washington Post

## Why Ukraine still hasn't held elections after Zelensky's term expired

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says he is ready to hold elections — but only if security can be guaranteed against on-going Russian attacks. His remarks follow pressure from US President Donald Trump, who argued that Ukrainians "should have that choice" despite the war.

Zelensky's term expired in May 2024, yet elections have not been held for one key reason: Ukraine's Constitution forbids elections during martial law.

Martial law, imposed after Russia's 2022 invasion, has been extended repeatedly. Under Article 83, the parliament's mandate continues automatically until martial law ends and a new parliament is elected. Article 157 also prohibits any constitutional amendments during wartime, meaning election

rules cannot be changed until martial law is lifted.

Beyond the legal barriers, holding elections now would be dangerous and impractical. Russian missile and drone attacks continue across the country, millions of Ukrainians are displaced, and soldiers on the front line cannot safely vote.

Zelensky said this week he is willing to organise elections within three months if parliament agrees and international partners — especially the US and Europe — provide security support.

For now, Ukraine's wartime constitution and ongoing Russian aggression make a national vote legally impossible and practically unsafe.

## Across the Globe

### Societies face post-literate 'calamity'

The world is entering a "post-literate" age, with huge implications for societies' politics and structure, a leading British writer argued. The dawn of the printing press unleashed a widespread democratization of knowledge, but the smartphone's emphasis on photos and videos has driven a decline in reading, a consequence of which is that a growing number of people are unable to grapple with complex ideas and nuanced arguments, James Marriott wrote.

"This increasingly trivial and mindless culture is a calamity for our politics," he said. "We may be about to find out that it is not possible to run the most advanced civilization in the history of the planet with the intellectual apparatus of a pre-literate society."

\*\*\*

### Robots lack 'embodied intelligence'

China's robotics industry is rapidly growing but faces major challenges in advancing its products. The sector's revenue grew 29.5% year-on-year in the first three quarters of 2025, official data showed. The country has produced 595,000 industrial and 13.5 million service robots this year, more in both cases than last year's totals. But most industrial robots remain relatively dumb, single-use tools. Generative AI leapt ahead by training on vast amounts of data gleaned from the internet, but real-world data necessary to create "embodied intelligence" that can power robots is harder to generate, meaning robots lack the sophisticated understanding of physics required for meaningful autonomy. "The industry is still at the starting line of a marathon," one



Pic – mech-mind.com

roboticist told Caixin.

\*\*\*

### AI's threat to internet ads

The rise of AI could destroy the internet's business model, the creator of the World Wide Web warned. Internet advertising has made Google and Meta into multi-trillion dollar businesses. But Tim Berners-Lee told the *Financial Times* that if large language models read the internet on users' behalf and provide a summary, "the whole ad-based business model of the web starts to fall apart." As yet, it does not seem to be happening — Alphabet, Google's parent company, posted a record \$100 billion quarterly revenue last week, and Meta also saw revenues shoot up. Another possibility is that AI allows increasingly personalized and thus lucrative advertising, like how Netflix and Spotify tailor their

recommendations based on consumers' history, a Harvard expert wrote.

\*\*\*

### EU seeks to unlock frozen Russian assets

The European Union plans to immobilize nearly \$250 billion in frozen Russian assets to loan funds to Ukraine, a lifeline as US support wanes. European Council President António Costa said a solution is near, but opposition persists: Hungary and Belgium have resisted, citing risks of retaliation and political differences.

\*\*\*

### France's pension reform delayed

French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu won approval for a social security budget, delaying the unpopular pension reform to 2027. President Macron's proposal to raise the retirement age to 64 faces opposition amid France's large deficit. Lecornu's fragile minority government must still secure upper chamber approval.

\*\*\*

### Mars travel essential to study aliens

A US-backed report prioritizes human missions to Mars to study extraterrestrial life. Despite high costs and decades-long timelines, astronauts provide the best opportunity to detect biosigns. Proposed missions include an initial 30-day expedition followed by a 300-day one. NASA's incoming administrator, Jared Isaacman, supports human exploration as groundwork for future missions.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah



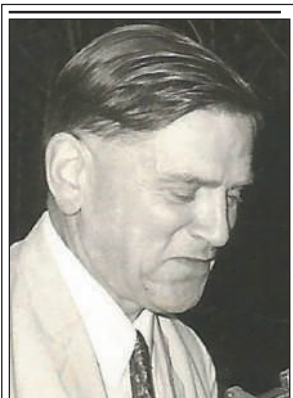
From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 324

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 11 November, 1960

• The small sees nothing but his own shell and thinks it the grandest place in the world. — Proverb



Peter Ibbotson

# A New Industry

*A fully developed fishing industry is vital to the economy: it supplies affordable food, reduces import costs, and generates foreign currency through exports*

**T**he development of the fishing industry is clearly something which should best be left to private enterprise, with assistance from the Government towards such development.

At present the industry provides only a small part of the country's national income, and although it is doubtful whether it will ever become a substantial revenue earner, considerable development is most certainly possible and practicable.

The current situation in Mauritius is that about 2,000 tons of fresh fish are available each year—2,100 tons in 1958 and 2,200 tons in 1957. Salt fish is imported from the dependencies (Rodrigues and St Brandon), while canned fish comes from Morocco, Portugal, Japan, Canada, South Africa, and the Netherlands. Additional salt fish imports come from the UK, Hong Kong, India, Seychelles, South Africa, and China. Apart from the canned salmon and sardines, and the prawns and Bombay Duck (Bombil) from India, there is little or no reason why this imported fish should not be largely replaced by local catches. The 2,100 tons of fish available locally in 1958 were supplemented by 601 tons imported from the dependencies, and 1,553 tons (salted and canned) imported from foreign sources. It is this last figure, only one-third of which accounted for by prawns, Bombay Duck, salmon and sardines, which ought to be drastically reduced. After all, the fish imported from the UK, Holland and South Africa is fish caught and prepared at European wage rates; as such, it is clearly more expensive than the same fish caught and prepared at Mauritian wage rates. As I have said in earlier articles, it should be a cardinal aim of the development of Mauritius to replace the imported article by locally-produced articles, provided that the locally-produced article costs no more than the imported. (There is also a case for paying more for the locally-produced goods if their excess cost, over and above the imported price, is lower than the unemployment benefit that would otherwise have to be paid).

Most of the fishing is at present undertaken in the lagoon area around the coast. Some 95 square miles of lagoon area are available, but 25 square miles are reserves where fishing is permitted only two or three times a year; so that the effective fishing area is 70 square miles of lagoon. At present we can add the shallow water to the north (Round Island and Flat Island Bank) and — to a much more limited extent — south-west; some additional 325 square miles of water which are regularly fished, although with far smaller catches than are obtained from the lagoons. It is estimated that the annual production from the whole fishing area (75 square miles of lagoons and 325 square miles of coastal shelf, or 400 square miles in all) is only one-third of what could be locally absorbed, were the additional fish available.

Since, however, the lagoon fishing is already exploited to its fullest extent, any extension of fishing would have to be in the form of deep-sea fishing. Some years ago, the big catches of Unicorn fish at Round Island aroused interest in deep sea fishing, and many motorised and sail pinnaces operated in the area until, of course, overfishing set in and catches decreased as the Unicorn fish population fell. Only a few pinnaces now undertake deep sea fishing, and the small number actually engaged are operating at a profit.



If there were boats which operated at a greater distance from Mauritius than Round Island, it is very probable that larger catches would be made. The whole conception of fishing would, of course, have to undergo a radical alteration. What is needed, in all probability, is a small fleet of decked vessels, about 40 or so feet in length, diesel-powered, with ice boxes or refrigerating plants to enable them to keep their catches fresh for some time. There is little reason why such vessels should not be built locally, under the joint guidance of someone experienced in their commercial use, and local experts. The design of such vessels should be tested in use, and their commercial operation (which involves fishing techniques and equipment) should also be tested by the same joint effort.

**I**t would seem desirable for the Government to engage on contract a fisheries development officer who has had practical experience in the design, construction and commercial operation of such vessels. Such an officer would design and supervise the construction of such a vessel and then test both design and method of operation by fishing on a basis as nearly commercial as possible. This work would lead to the development of the most suitable design of vessel for commercial deep-sea fishing and to the evolution of fishing techniques by the fisheries development officer and the local fishermen working with him. Once the most suitable design had been evolved and facilities for training navigators had been established (practical training for fishermen, both in a technical school and at sea, with a view to

ensuring a trained supply of masters and mates, is an essential concomitant of any development of deep sea fishing), the vessels could be built by the Government and chartered to private operators; the vessel could be crewed either by privately - employed masters, mates and men; or the crews could be Government employees fulltime.

**T**he provision of such deep-sea vessels would call also for fairly extensive cold storage facilities ashore. These cold storage facilities would be needed for a number of reasons. First, to store bait, so that fishermen did not have to catch their bait before starting their day's fishing. Second, to store fish for short periods; this would help to even out sales, avoid fluctuations in prices and avert low-priced gluts and high-priced scarcities, and hold fish fillets in deep freeze for sale to visiting ships needing victualling. Third, to supply ice to fishermen who have equipped their boats with ice boxes (instead of refrigerators) to preserve their catches.

The principal reason for developing the fishing industry is the domestic market which could, as I have said, absorb three times as much fish as it at present does. Provisioning vessels calling at Port Louis would provide a steady and not insignificant trade in fresh fish fillets; but it is from the point of view of home consumption that fishing development assumes the utmost importance. Fish is a rich source of protein, in which too many Mauritian's diets are deficient. It is cheaper than meat and is therefore the source of protein most easily available to the poorest section of the population. And if the tourist industry is to be developed to any extent, as we hope it is, then the hotels will need regular and plentiful supplies of fish. Since the offshore lagoon fishing grounds are already exploited to their fullest extent, it is clear that any significant line of development must necessarily be in deep-sea fishing; along the lines I have suggested, using larger vessels more adequately equipped.

Nonetheless, the possibility of developing an export trade in fish must not be overlooked. Seychelles already has a significant export trade of dried fish to Ceylon and dried shark to East Africa; and could expand her exports of dried fish, to the East African market, if additional supplies were available. There is no reason why the Mauritian fishing industry could not be likewise developed, in order to tap the ready export market of East Africa. Nor is it altogether outside the realm of possibility that a fish cannery be set up (probably foreign expertise and CDC capital would be necessary).

Fiscal measures would be helpful in developing this aspect of the industry: for example, tax holidays for firms exporting salt fish to foreign markets, and possibly protection for a local fish cannery. Loans to fishermen to develop their own operations could be made at low rates of interest, possibly even free of interest. Certainly, the individual fishermen must be rescued from the rapacious maws of the middlemen. A fully developed fishing industry has a vital role to play in the economy, in three main ways: it provides a cheap and abundant source of food; it saves foreign currency by reducing dependence on imports; and it earns foreign currency through exports. The first step would seem to be the appointment of a technical fisheries expert (on loan from the Colonial Office perhaps): who might perhaps get someone with authority to pay some attention to the Ommanney Report, which refers to a 1953 report on fisheries in the Indian Ocean.



## YOUR STARS

**Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)**

A strong week for progress. Delays clear, and you regain confidence in plans that recently felt stuck. Work brings good momentum, especially mid-week, when a conversation or opportunity pushes you forward.

Relationships stabilise as honesty smooths tension. Finances improve slightly, but avoid unnecessary risk.

**Lucky numbers:** 5, 9, 16, 24, 30, 33

**Capricorn (22 Dec – 20 Jan)**

You take charge of responsibilities and see steady results. Money matters require careful organisation, but long-term plans strengthen. Relationships need patience—balance duty with affection. By the weekend you feel more grounded and ready for a new routine.

**Lucky numbers:** 4, 10, 18, 25, 29, 36

**Aquarius (21 Jan – 19 Feb)**

It's a good week for digital projects, problem-solving, and innovative thinking. Communication speeds up—just avoid being too detached emotionally. Romance softens, bringing pleasant interactions. A social event lifts your spirits near the weekend.

**Lucky numbers:** 3, 11, 14, 22, 27, 38

**Pisces (20 Feb – 20 Mar)**

Career matters become more demanding but also more rewarding if you apply discipline. Creativity flows strongly, helping you resolve issues that seemed complicated before. Finances stabilise with a small improvement possible. Emotional balance returns as you focus on rest and spiritual grounding.

**Lucky numbers:** 2, 8, 15, 21, 28, 34

**Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)**

You push ahead with enthusiasm. A major task or proposal gets approval or moves closer to completion. Romance grows warmer, especially for those reconnecting with someone. Health strengthens through routine adjustments.

**Lucky numbers:** 1, 7, 19, 23, 31, 37

**Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)**

Financial progress is steady. Savings, budgeting, or negotiations work in your favour. Family or home matters require tact but move toward resolution. You may feel the need to slow down and prioritise comfort. Relationships grow through gentle communication, and health benefits from consistent habits.

**Lucky numbers:** 6, 12, 17, 20, 26, 32

**Gemini (22 May – 21 Jun)**

A fast-paced week filled with communication, tasks, and decisions. An agreement or partnership starts to form. Focus on clarity—avoid taking on too many things at once. Relationships require thoughtful listening. A short trip or meeting brings useful information.

**Lucky numbers:** 9, 13, 18, 24, 30, 35

**Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)**

Home, family, or property matters take priority but lead to positive outcomes if handled calmly. Finances improve through a small adjustment or practical solution. Emotional connections deepen, helping you feel supported. Good week for health resets, organising your environment, and refocusing on wellbeing.

**Lucky numbers:** 5, 14, 19, 22, 28, 33

**Leo (23 Jul – 23 Aug)**

You attract attention and recognition. Work opportunities arise, especially in areas requiring creativity or public presence. Romance brightens, offering warmth and clarity. A project that felt slow suddenly gains speed. Keep spending under control despite the temptation to indulge.

**Lucky numbers:** 2, 11, 16, 25, 29, 39

**Virgo (24 Aug – 23 Sep)**

You refine your plans and make practical improvements. A work issue resolves through careful effort. Family interactions become smoother as misunderstandings fade. This is a productive week for setting routines, clearing clutter, and organising finances.

**Lucky numbers:** 4, 8, 15, 23, 31, 36

**Libra (24 Sep – 23 Oct)**

Connections strengthen in both personal and professional settings. Excellent week for agreements, diplomacy, and rebuilding harmony. Romance is smooth and supportive. A short trip or event brings a pleasant surprise. Balance your time well to avoid feeling scattered.

**Lucky numbers:** 3, 10, 18, 21, 27, 40

**Scorpio (24 Oct – 21 Nov)**

A powerful week for career and finances. Strategic moves bring rewards—focus on long-term gains rather than quick fixes. Emotional intensity rises in relationships; stay open but avoid controlling patterns. Excellent for research, investigation, or solving difficult issues.

**Lucky numbers:** 6, 12, 20, 26, 32, 38



# UTILITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY, MAURITIUS

## VACANCY: POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) is an independent body set up to regulate the utility services, namely electricity, water and wastewater. Its objects are to ensure the sustainability and viability of utility services; protect the interests of consumers; promote efficiency in both operations and investments in respect of utility services; and promote fair competition in the utility services industry.

The URA now seeks to recruit a suitably qualified and experienced Deputy Director of Finance and Administration in a **substantive capacity** (permanent position after a period of probation).

### JOB PURPOSE

The Deputy Director of Finance and Administration is responsible for managing financial and administrative functions including budgeting, financial reporting in line with international standards, human resources, procurement, assets and record management to support the operations of the URA. He will set up and manage funds as specified in regulations and as appropriate to the operations of the Authority. He will ensure the efficient and effective use of financial resources, adherence to regulatory requirements, and accurate financial reporting to support decision-making and accountability. He will ensure the efficient and effective functioning and documentation of all finance and administrative systems. He will also assist in the setting up of sound internal control systems and procedures.

### MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ⇒ To be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Finance and Administrative functions including the supervision and training of staff.
- ⇒ To formulate and maintain adequate financial and administrative policies and procedures throughout the Authority and to advise the Director/CEO and the Board on all financial and administrative matters and policies.
- ⇒ Lead the preparation of the Authority's annual recurrent and capital budgets, financial plans, and forecasts, human resource plan and provide guidance to management and the Board on resource allocation, financial performance and administrative processes and procedures.
- ⇒ Ensure that Final Accounts from licensees are submitted in accordance with the Act, and prepare analytical reports to support regulatory review and decision-making.
- ⇒ Supervise payroll processing and preparation.
- ⇒ Manage the Authority's assets, properties, and financial transactions to ensure operational efficiency and prudent stewardship of resources.
- ⇒ Analyse costs and variances to identify cost-saving opportunities.
- ⇒ Oversee the preparation of accurate and timely financial statements and reports and ensure compliance with accounting standards and statutory requirements.
- ⇒ Coordinate on audit queries and implementation of audit recommendations.
- ⇒ Identify financial risks, assess their potential impact, and implement mitigation measures to preserve the Authority's financial stability.
- ⇒ Report to the Board Committees on risk management as well as procedures to support transparency and accountability.
- ⇒ Advise the Board on finance and administrative matters and assist the Director in strategic planning and implementation.
- ⇒ Oversee the collection and validation of licence fees, security deposits, and all revenues owed to the Authority,

and develop strategies to optimise and safeguard the Authority's revenue streams.

- ⇒ Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders, including government agencies, financial institutions, and auditors, to enhance the Authority's financial performance and governance.
- ⇒ Maintain a strong internal control framework to safeguard assets, prevent fraud, and ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial information.
- ⇒ Perform such cognate duties as may be assigned by the Board and the Director.

### REQUIRED SKILLS

- ⇒ Proficient in accounting software packages and ability to use ICT in the performance of his duties and presentation of reports
- ⇒ Effective Communicator with high analytical and evaluating skills
- ⇒ High interpersonal, negotiation and communication skills
- ⇒ High integrity, ethical standards, confidentiality and proven leadership abilities
- ⇒ Strong attention to detail and problem-solving capabilities

### QUALIFICATIONS

- ACCA/CIMA qualified and Member of a professional body for qualified accountants
- Master's Degree in Finance or Accounting or Management will be an advantage
- At least 7 years of post-qualification experience with 4 years at managerial level in a reputable Organization.

### MODALITIES OF APPLICATION

Candidates applying for the post should submit: their detailed curriculum vitae; a letter of motivation; Certified true copies of all qualifications with proof of professional experiences and two letters of reference with full contact details of the referees. A recommendation letter from the most recent Employer confirming integrity, honesty and trustworthiness qualities of applicant is also desirable.

All applications should be addressed to the Secretary of the URA Board and submitted in the URA letter box at the below address, in an envelope clearly labelled 'Application for the post of Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, or sent by email to [vacancyfinance@uramauritius.mu](mailto:vacancyfinance@uramauritius.mu) latest by 06 January 2026 at noon which shall be the closing date for all applications.

### Notes:

- Only the best candidates will be called for interview.
- The package will include a travel grant in addition to the salary.
- The Authority reserves the right not to proceed with any appointment following this advertisement and not to assign any reason whatsoever for its decision.
- Incomplete application will be rejected.

### SALARY:

Will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

The Secretary to the Board, Utility Regulatory Authority  
**ADDRESS:** Level 8, Tower A, 1 Exchange Square, Wall Street Ebene, Mauritius  
**Tel:** (230) 454 8070 / 454 8079 **Fax:** (230) 489 2796  
**Email:** [vacancyfinance@uramauritius.mu](mailto:vacancyfinance@uramauritius.mu)  
**Website:** [www.uramauritius.mu](http://www.uramauritius.mu)

07 December 2025



# How do coconuts get their water? The science of nature's supermarket

Coconut trees are iconic tropical plants, rightly dubbed the "tree of life" in many cultures because nearly every part is utilized. While the leaves thatch homes and the roots offer medicinal uses, the most prized component is the refreshing liquid found inside a young, green coconut. Unlike most fruits that store water within individual cells or pulp, coconuts are unique for having a large, internal cavity filled with water.

For Gaston Adoyo, Lecturer and Researcher, a food scientist who has researched the properties of coconuts, the core question remains: How is this reservoir of water created?

## The Anatomy of a Drupe

To understand how the water is formed, we must look at the coconut's structure. The coconut fruit is technically classified as a drupe, composed of three layers:

- **Exocarp:** The smooth, green outer layer.
- **Mesocarp:** The fibrous husk beneath the exocarp.
- **Endocarp:** The hard, woody inner shell.

Within the endocarp is the internal cavity, which holds the white flesh (endosperm) and the clear coconut water. This water is a nutritive fluid naturally formed during the fruit's development to nourish the developing seed.

## The Coconut's Plumbing System

The clear liquid is neither stored rainwater nor seawater.



It is filtered sap that the tree draws up from the ground.

The coconut tree's extensive root system, which can reach 1 to 5 metres deep, absorbs groundwater and dissolved nutrients from the soil. This absorbed water is then transported upwards through the tree's vascular system, specifically the xylem tissue, through the trunk and branches, and finally into the developing fruit.

The coconut fruit retains this water in its cavity. The accumulated, nutrient-rich liquid provides food to the developing endosperm. As the coconut matures (at

around 12 months), the developing white flesh (endosperm) absorbs the water, which is why a fully ripe brown coconut has less liquid than an immature, green coconut (six to eight months), which can hold between 300 millilitres and 1 litre.

## Factors Influencing Water Quality and Volume

About 95% of coconut water is simply water, making it an excellent hydrating fluid. The rest consists of useful components, including minerals (sodium, potassium, calcium), proteins, and sugars (fructose and glucose) responsible for its light sweetness.

Several factors influence the volume and quality of the water:

- **Rainfall:** High rainfall encourages greater water accumulation; drought reduces it.
- **Soil Health:** Healthy, mineral-packed soils lead to high-quality, nutrient-rich water. Poor or salty soils yield low-quality water.
- **Tree Health:** Unhealthy or diseased trees produce smaller coconuts with less water.

Conserving the trees and their environment is crucial for tropical economies. Sustainable practices, like soil testing and organic composting, and protecting freshwater aquifers from saltwater intrusion are essential for maintaining the proper nutrient profile that results in high-quality, ample coconut water.



# Why can't I wiggle my toes one at a time, like my fingers?

*What muscles feet have, how your brain controls them, and how humans evolved all play a part in why people can't easily move individual toes.*

One of my favorite activities is going to the zoo where I live in Knoxville when it first opens and the animals are most active. On one recent weekend, I headed to the chimpanzees first.

Their breakfast was still scattered around their enclosure for them to find. Ripley, one of the male chimpanzees, quickly gathered up some fruits and vegetables, sometimes using his feet almost like hands. After he ate, he used his feet to grab the fire hoses hanging around the enclosure and even held pieces of straw and other toys in his toes.

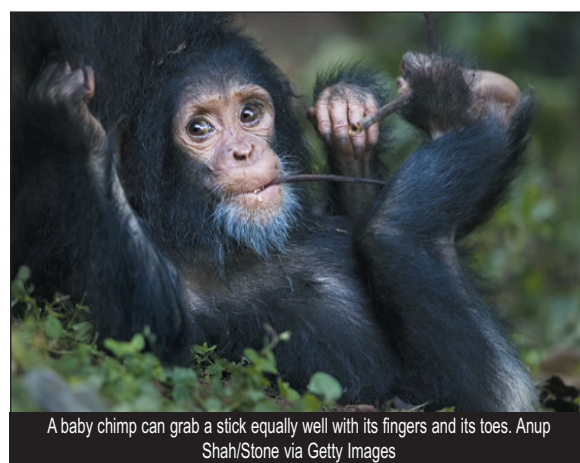
I found myself feeling a bit envious. Why can't people use our feet like this, quickly and easily grasping things with our toes just as easily as we do with our fingers?

I'm a biological anthropologist who studies the biomechanics of the modern human foot and ankle, using mechanical principles of movement to understand how forces affect the shape of our bodies and how humans have changed over time. Your muscles, brain and how human feet evolved all play a part in why you can't wiggle individual toes one by one.

## Comparing humans to a close relative

Humans are primates, which means we belong to the same group of animals that includes apes like Riley the chimp. In fact, chimpanzees are our closest genetic relatives, sharing almost 98.8% of our DNA.

Evolution is part of the answer to why chimpanzees have such dexterous toes



A baby chimp can grab a stick equally well with its fingers and its toes. Anup Shah/Stone via Getty Images

while ours seem much more clumsy.

Our very ancient ancestors probably moved around the way chimpanzees do, using both their arms and legs. But over time our lineage started walking on two legs. Human feet needed to change to help us stay balanced and to support our bodies as we walk upright. It became less important for our toes to move individually than to keep us from toppling over as we moved through the world in this new way.

Human hands became more important for things such as using tools, one of the hallmark skills of human beings. Over time, our fingers became better at moving on their own. People use their hands to do lots of things, such as drawing, texting or playing a musical instrument. Even typing this article is possible only because my fingers can make small, careful and controlled movements.

People's feet and hands evolved for

different purposes.

## Muscles that move your fingers or toes

Evolution brought these differences about by physically adapting our muscles, bones and tendons to better support walking and balance. Hands and feet have similar anatomy; both have five fingers or toes that are moved by muscles and tendons. The human foot contains 29 muscles that all work to help you walk and stay balanced when you stand. In comparison, a hand has 34 muscles.

Most of the muscles of your foot let you point your toes down, like when you stand on tiptoes, or lift them up, like when you walk on your heels. These muscles also help feet roll slightly inward or outward, which lets you keep your balance on uneven ground. All these movements work together to help you walk and run safely.

The big toe on each foot is special because it helps push your body forward when you walk and has extra muscles just for its movement. The other four toes don't have their own separate muscles. A few main muscles in the bottom of your foot and in your calf move all four toes at once. Because they share muscles, those toes can wiggle, but not very independently like your fingers can. The calf muscles also have long tendons that reach into the foot; they're better at keeping you steady and helping you walk than at making tiny,

precise movements.

In contrast, six main muscle groups help move each finger. The fingers share these muscles, which sit mostly in the forearm and connect to the fingers by tendons. The thumb and pinky have extra muscles that let you grip and hold objects more easily. All of these muscles are specialized to allow careful, controlled movements, such as writing.

So, yes, I have more muscles dedicated to moving my fingers, but that is not the only reason I can't wiggle my toes one by one.

## Divvying up brain power

You also need to look inside your brain to understand why toes and fingers work differently. Part of your brain called the motor cortex tells your body how to move. It's made of cells called neurons that act like tiny messengers, sending signals to the rest of your body.

Your motor cortex devotes many more neurons to controlling your fingers than your toes, so it can send much more detailed instructions to your fingers. Because of the way your motor cortex is organized, it takes more "brain power," meaning more signals and more activity, to move your fingers than your toes.

Even though you can't grab things with your feet like Ripley the chimp can, you can understand why.

**Steven Lautzenheiser**

Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology,  
University of Tennessee



*Laughter is the  
Best Medicine*



## Mind Your Own Business & Trouble

**M**r and Mrs Brown had two sons: Mind Your Own Business and Trouble.

One day, they played hide and seek. Trouble hid, and Mind Your Own Business counted to 100.

While searching, a policeman asked: "What are you doing?"

"Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?"

"Mind Your Own Business."

Furious, the officer asked: "Are you looking for Trouble?!"

"Why, yes," said the boy.

\*\*\*

### Bugs in Soup

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?"

Father: "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner."

After dinner, the father asks, "Now, what did you want to ask me?"

Boy: "Oh, nothing... there was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

\*\*\*

### Ugly Baby on the Bus

A woman gets on a bus with her baby.

Bus driver: "That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen. Ugh!"

Fuming, she sits at the back.

Man next to her: "Go tell him off, I'll hold your monkey for you."

\*\*\*

### Leopard Hide & Seek

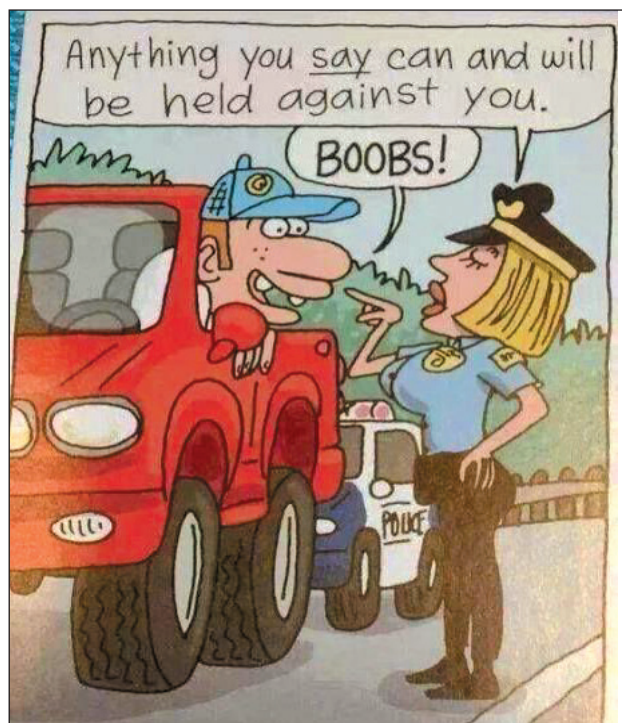
Q: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?

A: Because he was always spotted.

\*\*\*

Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it?

A: Envelope.



### Elderly Couple in Church

An elderly couple are in church. The wife leans over and whispers to her husband, "I just let out a long, silent fart. What should I do?"

The husband replies, "First off, replace the batteries in your hearing aid!"

\*\*\*

### Curious 3-Year-Old

A 3-year-old boy sits near a pregnant woman.

Boy: "Why do you look so fat?"

Pregnant woman: "I have a baby inside me."

Boy: "Is it a good baby?"

Pregnant woman: "Yes, it's a very good baby."

Boy: "Then why did you eat it?!"

\*\*\*

### Forgetful Elderly Couple

An elderly couple noticed they were getting forgetful, so they went to the doctor.

Doctor: "Start writing things down so you don't forget."

At home, the old lady asks her husband for a bowl of ice cream.

Husband: "I can remember that."

She adds whipped cream: "Write it down."

Husband: "No, I got it."

She adds a cherry on top: "Write it down."

Husband: "No, I got it."

He spends over 30 minutes in the kitchen and comes out with a plate of eggs and bacon.

Wife: "Where's the toast?"

\*\*\*

### Dreamed Jewellery

Wife: "In my dream, I saw you in a jewellery store buying me a diamond ring."

Husband: "I had the same dream, and I saw your dad paying the bill."

\*\*\*

### Monkey Hair

A girl realized she had grown hair between her legs and asked her mom about it.

Mom: "That part where the hair has grown is called your monkey. Be proud that your monkey has grown hair."

At dinner, the girl told her sister: "My monkey has grown hair."

Sister: "That's nothing; mine is already eating bananas."

\*\*\*

### One-liners

- Did you hear they arrested the devil? Yeah, they got him on possession.
- What did one DNA say to the other DNA? "Do these genes make me look fat?"
- What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted.
- Our child has a great deal of willpower — and even more won't power.
- I spent a lot of time, money and effort childproofing my house ... but the kids still get in.
- My mother was so surprised when I told her I was born again. She said she didn't feel a thing!
- What did one cannibal say to the other while they were eating a clown? "Does this taste funny to you?"



- What do you call a mobster who's buried in cement? A hardened criminal.
- If you take \$2 out of an ATM that has a \$2.50 fee, do you owe the machine money?
- Did you hear the one about the cat who ate a ball of yarn? She had mittens.
- Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

### A Scientific Excuse for a Night Out

Wife calls her Scientist Husband:

"Honey! It's Saturday night and you're late..."

**Scientist Husband:**

"I'm busy with my team on an experiment."

**Wife:**

"What experiment?"

**Scientist Husband:**

"We've just added a derivative of  $C_2H_5OH$  with ambient-temperature  $H_2O$  and aqueous  $CO_2$ . To cool this mixture, we added some super low-temperature solidified  $H_2O$ .

Now, while waiting for some protein, we are fumigating the lab with vapours of nicotine.

It's the 4th or 5th round of the experiment, so I'll be late."

**Wife:**

"Oh dear, I won't disturb you. Take your time."

**Clarifications:**

- $C_2H_5OH$ : Whisky
- $H_2O$ : Water
- $CO_2$ : Soda
- Solidified  $H_2O$ : Ice
- Protein: Paneer Tikka
- Fumigating: Smoking

*That's the real International Men's Day.*





Life's Stories

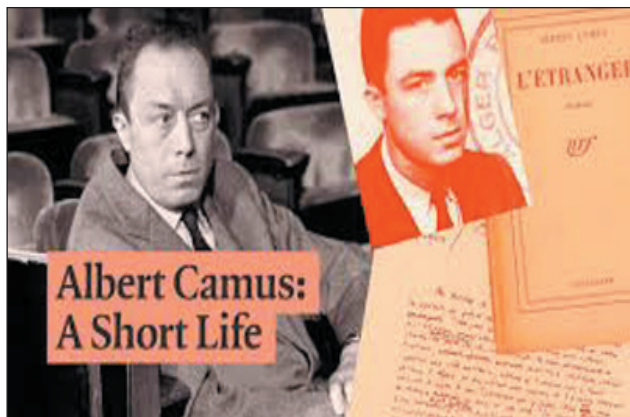
## The Absurd Life and Sudden Death of Albert Camus

**A**lbert Camus, the philosopher who wrote that life is meaningless, won the Nobel Prize and died three years later, in 1960, with an unused train ticket in his pocket. On January 4th, Camus accepted a ride in his publisher's Facel Vega sports car instead of taking the train back to Paris. The car hit a tree, killing the 46-year-old instantly. The unused ticket became a tragic symbol of the absurdity he championed: the universe's complete indifference to human plans.

### The Absurd: Collision of Need and Silence

Camus's life proved his philosophy: we must create meaning through how we choose to live. Born into poverty in Algeria in 1913, his father died in WWI a year later. Raised by his illiterate mother, Camus battled tuberculosis while studying philosophy in Algiers, reading Nietzsche and Dostoevsky.

His philosophy of the Absurd was drawn from lived experience — poverty, illness, and war. The absurd is the collision between humanity's innate need for ultimate meaning and the universe's silent refusal to provide it. Camus rejected both suicide and comforting lies (religion,



ideology). He proposed a third option: embrace the absurd, and live anyway. Live fully, passionately, and rebelliously, choosing to make life matter because the cosmos won't.

### Resistance and Rebellion

In 1942, he published *The Stranger*, featuring Meursault, a detached man condemned by society for his failure to perform expected emotions. During the Nazi occupation, Camus was separated from his family and joined the French Resistance, serving as an editor for the underground paper, *Combat*. He believed that even in an absurd universe, Fascism was a betrayal of human dignity that demanded action.

After liberation, Camus became a leading intellectual,

initially befriending fellow existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre. However, they had a famous intellectual breakup when Camus published *The Rebel* (1951), arguing that revolutionary violence inevitably betrays its noble goals, generating more killing. Sartre, aligned with Soviet communism, denounced Camus for his opposition to violence, ending their friendship.

The Algerian War presented Camus with an agonizing choice. Opposing colonialism but unwilling to support the killing of civilians, he famously stated: "I believe in justice, but I will defend my mother before justice." He accepted that moral purity is often impossible when loved ones are at stake.

### Lasting Legacy

In 1957, Camus became one of the youngest Nobel laureates. Uncomfortable with the honour, his final years were clouded by poor health and the Algerian crisis.

His unfinished, posthumously published novel, *The First Man* (1994), revealed a personal tenderness. Camus's daughter noted that he was happiest swimming and playing with his children. He found meaning in small, ordinary moments.

Camus embodied the paradox: life is meaningless, yet that is exactly why love, beauty, and justice matter. Because the universe doesn't care, we must. He lived deliberately — fighting for dignity and truth — until his sudden, arbitrary death. That chosen life, according to his philosophy, was the whole point.

Life's Lesson

## Being a Teacher

**A**n old man was approached by a young man who asked, "Do you remember me?"

The old man looked at him for a moment and replied, "No, I'm sorry, I don't."

"I was your student," the young man said.

"Oh really? What do you do now?" the teacher asked.

"I became a teacher," the young man replied.

"A teacher? How wonderful -- just like me?"

"Yes. In fact, I became a teacher because you inspired me."

The old man's eyes lit up with curiosity, and asked: "And when did you decide to become a teacher?"

The young man smiled and told him this story:

"One day, a friend of mine came to school with a beautiful new watch. I wanted it, so I stole it from his pocket. Shortly afterward, he realized it was missing and immediately complained to you.

You addressed the class and said, 'A student's watch was stolen today during class. Whoever took it, please return it.'

I didn't return it -- I was too ashamed.

So you locked the door and asked all of us to stand in a circle.

You said you were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found -- but we should all close our eyes while you did it.



We closed our eyes.

You went from pocket to pocket, and when you reached mine, you found the watch. But you kept searching everyone else's pockets too. When you finished, you said, 'Everyone can open their eyes. The watch has been found.'

You never said who took it. You never looked at me differently. You never mentioned it again -- not to the class, not to me.

That day, you saved my dignity. It was the most shameful moment of my life -- but also the turning point. That day, I decided never to be a thief, never to be dishonest again.

You didn't scold me, lecture me, or humiliate me. You simply showed me what it meant to be an educator. And I understood your message -- clearer than any words."

The old man listened in silence, his eyes misty.

Finally, he said: "I remember the situation with the stolen watch. But I didn't remember you -- because I also closed my eyes while searching."

**This is the essence of teaching:**

*If correcting someone requires humiliation, then you have not truly taught.*

## Stray Thoughts Gratitude in Love

-- Chris Matheka

**T**hank you for being the most wonderful, annoying, and inspiring surprise of my life.

Thank you for seeing past my demons and loving me with hope and happiness I couldn't find within myself.

Thank you for the meals, laughter, tears, and movies. Thank you for letting me grow and feel enough in your arms.

Thank you for honesty, encouragement, and nurturing -- crossing paths with you has been my greatest privilege.

Most of all, thank you for being my best friend, the love of my life, and for believing in us.

**The Beginning of Love --  
Thomas Merton**

"The beginning of love is to let those we love to be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise, we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them."

## Inspiration Crossing the Rubicon

**T**here comes a point in life when you can no longer remain the same. The weight of the old self becomes too heavy, and the call of change impossible to ignore.

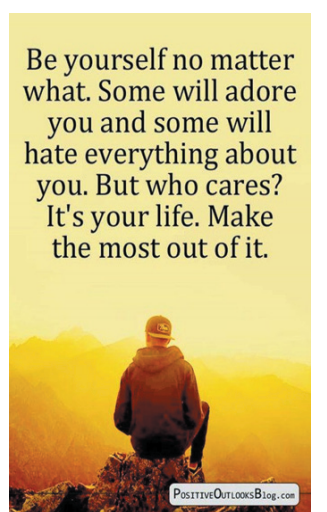
Crossing the Rubicon means shedding who you were and stepping into who you are becoming. Once you cross, there is no turning back. The old path dissolves behind you. What lies ahead is uncharted, but it is yours alone to claim.

Do not fear this crossing. It is not your ending -- it is your awakening. Beyond that river waits a brighter horizon, a life reborn, and the truest version of you.

-- Chamod Senevirathne



**"People think a soulmate is your perfect fit, and that's what everyone wants. But a true soulmate is a mirror, the person who shows you everything that is holding you back, the person who brings you to your own attention so you can change your life."**  
-- Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat, Pray, Love





## Are you worried that you and your spouse seem to have nothing in common anymore?

The realization that you and your spouse have seemingly drifted apart -- spending more time apart than together, barely interacting, and struggling to find common ground -- is deeply unsettling. This feeling of disconnection is often proof that you still care deeply about the relationship. As author Tiffany Shepherd notes, if you had truly given up, the worry wouldn't be so acute.

The core issue isn't necessarily a lack of similarity, but how you both respond to the distance and difference. Before making any lasting decisions, it's vital to step back, evaluate the change, and intentionally work to bridge the chasm. The fear you feel right now is the motivation to start reconnecting.

Shepherd provides eight crucial steps to help couples move past the feeling of having "nothing in common" and rediscover their bond:

**Consider whether something changed in your relationship to make you feel this way.** A recent shift -- like grown children leaving home a change in work schedules, or simply having more free time together -- can trigger feelings of disconnection. Realize that it might be less about the relationship failing and more about adjusting to a new stage of life. Give your relationship time to adapt before making any rash decisions.

**Ask yourself whether you have always been this way and never realized it.** Perhaps you were always different, a classic case of opposites attracting, but major milestones like falling in love or raising a family distracted you from your differences. Instead of viewing these differences as a threat, see them as an opportunity to reconnect and learn more about the person your spouse has become.



**Remember it's normal to have moments when you feel this way.** Relationships hit points where the excitement of the "firsts" fades, and the focus shifts solely onto each other. It's natural to question your path. Don't confuse the security, trust, and comfort you share with a lack of affection. You may just need to get to know your partner again to find new shared experiences.

**Accept that you can't recreate the past.** You and your partner have both changed. The common interests that initially brought you together may no longer be part of your current lives. The key is not to mourn what you've lost, but to determine if you can still change at the same pace and appreciate the new versions of yourselves. This is an opportunity to explore new possibilities together.

**Embrace your differences.** It is perfectly acceptable to enjoy things without your spouse. You are still an individual with your own needs. You shouldn't sacrifice your independent happiness for the sake of forced

common interests. If you have different outlets, it gives you new things to talk about and celebrate, allowing you to learn about each other's passions without having to participate in them.

**Try giving something new a go.** You may not share interests, but you can share time and effort. Show a willingness to see life from your spouse's perspective by joining in on something they enjoy, even if it feels odd. This act of interest demonstrates commitment and helps you gain a greater appreciation and understanding of what makes your partner tick.

**Communicate with your spouse.** A lack of honest, active communication is often at the heart of drifting apart. Avoiding difficult subjects only builds a chasm. Start a gentle conversation: "I feel like we need to spend some more quality time with each other." If dialogue is a struggle, consider asking for help from a professional relationship counselor. Working on communication as a team is essential for overcoming obstacles.

**Be more tactile.** Physical touch is a vital way to convey love and rebuild intimacy. Simple gestures like holding hands, hugging, or a reassuring touch can recapture the physical closeness and chemistry you feel you've lost. You don't have to change who you are; you just need to start giving each other attention again.

**A Final Thought.** Feeling disconnected is serious, but it doesn't mean the end. Shepherd reminds us that if the emotional connection is still present -- if you can honestly answer "yes" to the question, "Am I still in love with my partner?" -- then there is hope. Rebuilding closeness requires time and effort, but even if love is the only thing you still have in common, it is the most important foundation on which to rebuild your relationship.

## Being Mom & Dad

### How to Change Your Kids' Bad Behaviour in One Week

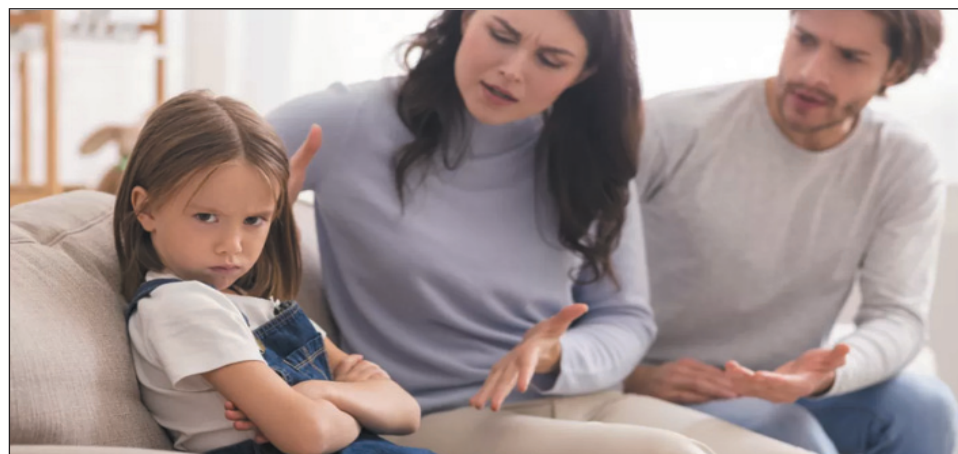
Kids misbehave -- it's a fact of life. But when constant bickering and tantrums start to overwhelm the household, it's time for a change. Single mom Jacqueline Burt realized that to change her children's annoying tendencies, she first had to change her own reactions. She sought advice from top parenting experts and tested their discipline methods for one week with her 9-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. The following strategies, as explained by Jessica Mattern, proved to be the most effective in quickly shifting her kids' behavior.

#### 1. Don't Express a Reaction

The moment a child misbehaves, the natural tendency is to react -- but this often backfires. According to clinical child psychologist Ed Christophersen, Ph.D., the mistake most parents make is responding to the misbehaviour, as negative attention is better than none at all for a child seeking attention.

Jacqueline tested this when her son had an outburst during an errand. By refusing to engage or react, her son quickly realized he wasn't going to get the attention he was seeking and calmed down within minutes. Ignoring the negative behaviour is a powerful tool to remove its reinforcement.

#### 2. Be Optimistic and Set a Positive Expectation



How you expect your kids to act is often what's bound to happen -- it's a form of self-fulfilling prophecy. Family coach and author Robin H-C advises parents to label their children positively so they have something good to live up to.

Instead of snapping when her son complained about a problem, Jacqueline encouraged him to fix it, assuring him with a positive tone that he was capable. Immediately, her daughter stepped up to help her brother, and peace was restored. By projecting optimism, you empower your children to act competently.

#### 3. Set the Tone and Be an Example

If your children are irritable and complaining, you must be the one to model the right way to act, says paediatric psycholo-

gist Jayne Bellando, Ph.D.

When her kids were running late for school, Jacqueline made a conscious choice to calmly remind them they needed to leave soon, rather than resorting to her typical nagging. She then pointed out her own change in attitude. Her daughter noticed the difference and the family arrived at school on time. Changing your reaction first creates a calm environment the children will often mirror.

#### 4. Acknowledge Your Child's Feelings First

Children often lash out for a reason, and understanding that reason is key to constructive discipline. Gary M. Unruh, author of *Unleashing the Power of Parental Love*, states that when you

explain that you understand the feeling that caused the misbehaviour, your child is more likely to feel heard and respond positively to the consequence.

When Jacqueline's daughter hit her brother after he broke her bracelet, the mom first explained that she could see why she was mad, acknowledging her feeling of anger. She then proceeded to give her a time out. Because the daughter felt that her emotion was validated, she didn't complain about the punishment.

#### 5. Be Consistent with the Rules and Consequences

Children thrive when expectations are clear and followed through consistently. Bertie Bregman, M.D., emphasizes the need to be consistent, make expectations clear, and avoid your own outbursts.

Jacqueline adopted a specific motto she would repeat every time her son misbehaved. Though he was annoyed by the tactic, the consistency allowed him to recognize his bad attitude and eventually change it. Consistency removes ambiguity and helps children learn to regulate their own behaviour quickly.

By consistently applying these expert-backed methods for one week, Jacqueline successfully reduced the chaos and brought much-needed peace back to her home.



From Shraddha Kapoor–Rahul Mody to Ahaan Panday–Aneet Padda:

## Bollywood's Most Talked-About Rumoured Couples of 2025

**B**-Town's young brigade is buzzing with fresh romances, whispered link-ups, and relationships that are "not official — but almost obvious." As the year 2025 draws to a close, social media timelines and gossip columns have been dominated by several duos who continue to keep fans guessing. From star kids making their debut to established actors, here's a look at Bollywood's most talked-about rumoured couples who lit up the headlines this year.

### Shraddha Kapoor and Rahul Mody



The relationship between actress Shraddha Kapoor and writer Rahul Mody was arguably one of the cutest on the rumour list. The speculation reached a fever pitch after a viral clip showed Shraddha sweetly feeding Rahul a mochi, setting social media alight. The couple has since been spotted making several low-key joint appearances, whether on vacations or at industry events, keeping the status of their romance a constant fixture in headlines.

### Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya

Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya quickly emerged as the hottest rumoured pair of 2025. Their link-up became undeniable after a viral moment at the prestigious Indian Couture Week, where

Tara smiled and openly blew a flying kiss toward Veer, who was seated in the audience. This gesture was widely reported by leading outlets. Adding more fuel to the fire, the duo was later spotted arriving at the Mumbai airport in seemingly coordinated, matching outfits.

### Kriti Sanon and Kabir Bahia

**A**nother pairing that surfaced on multiple "rumoured couples" lists this year was Kriti Sanon and businessman Kabir Bahia. While both have maintained silence, their joint outings have been frequently captured by the paparazzi, including candid frames from high-profile cricket matches and various events, prompting continuous speculation about a possible romantic connection.

### Triptii Dimri and Sam Merchant

Triptii Dimri, who continued her upward trajectory in Bollywood, has been linked to model-turned-entrepreneur Sam Merchant throughout 2024 and into 2025. Their names repeatedly featured in media lists of possible couples. Although their public appearances remain rare, their occasional posts and documented outings are just enough to keep the rumour wheel turning among their dedicated fanbase.

### Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya

**J**anhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya have been a consistent source of couple speculation this year, courtesy of their frequent, high-profile joint appearances. The duo has been photographed together on exotic vacations, at public events, and even sharing frames at the coveted Wimbledon 2025. While the constant buzz sparked marriage rumours, Janhvi recently addressed the chatter, stating that she is currently focused

on work — a statement that notably did not deny the relationship itself.



### Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina

The Archies co-stars, Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina, have been linked since their big debut and continue to appear on every dating-rumour rundown. The intensity of the chatter increased when Vedang recently described their bond as "easygoing and genuine," a statement that only further fueled the public's belief that their on-screen chemistry had translated into real-life romance.

### Suhana Khan and Agastya Nanda

**A**lso stemming from *The Archies*, Suhana Khan and Agastya Nanda have been a consistent rumoured pair. They have made multiple joint appearances throughout the year, with one interesting incident at a New York event: their separate photos with singer Teshar ironically sparked joint buzz. Their close bond has ensured they remain a fixture in the gossip columns since their film debut.

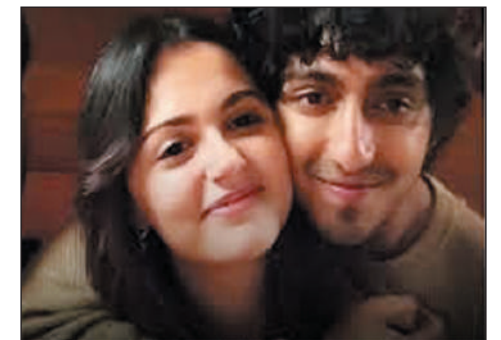
### Ananya Panday and Walker Blanco

Following her widely reported breakup

with actor Aditya Roy Kapur, Ananya Panday has been most frequently linked to former model Walker Blanco since mid-2024. Neither Ananya nor Walker has officially confirmed the nature of their relationship. However, their interactions and sightings together suggest there may be more than just friendship brewing between them, maintaining a high level of public curiosity.

### Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda

**A**haan Panday and Aneet Padda became overnight sensations thanks to their loving on-screen chemistry in their blockbuster debut, *Saiyaara*. The public's hope for a real-life romance has been immense. While Ahaan has clarified that Aneet is not his girlfriend and that they simply share a special bond, the powerful connection they portrayed has led fans to continue passionately "shipping" the duo, hoping to see the *Saiyaara* stars become a real-life couple.



From subtle airport sightings and viral social media clips to cryptic comments, 2025 proved to be a year defined by the young guard of Bollywood and their intriguing, unconfirmed romances, ensuring the rumour mills kept spinning all year long.

## Vivek Oberoi talks about the inevitable fade - From Raj Kapoor to SRK

**V**ivek Oberoi has sparked a significant debate about the impermanence of fame, suggesting that the massive star power enjoyed by Bollywood's biggest icons, like Shah Rukh Khan, might not withstand the test of time. Speaking in a recent interview, Oberoi contemplated the possibility of superstars being consigned to history, predicting a day when audiences might ask, "Kaun Shah Rukh Khan?" (Who is Shah Rukh Khan?)

Vivek Oberoi, who is gearing up for the release of his next film, shared his perspective on how fame inevitably fades with each passing generation. He drew a parallel between today's youth and the cinematic legends of the past, arguing that even the greatest stars eventually become just a footnote.

"Which film, starring whom from the 1960s, do you ask anyone about today — nobody cares. You will inevitably be relegated to history. In 2050, people might say, 'Kaun Shah Rukh Khan?'" the actor stated in a conversation with *Pinkvilla*.

**H**e elaborated on his point by referencing the iconic Kapoor dynasty. "Just as people today might ask, 'Who is Raj Kapoor?' You and I may call him the god of cinema, but if you ask any youngster who is a fan of Ranbir Kapoor, they might not even know who Raj Kapoor was. So perhaps



history eventually relegates us all to nothingness."

**O**beroi's provocative comments come at a time when Shah Rukh Khan's global influence remains immense, with the actor delivering some of the biggest blockbusters of his career in recent years, including *Pathaan*, *Jawan*, and *Dunki*.

### When Vivek Oberoi opened up about early struggles

In the same candid discussion, Vivek Oberoi also reflected on his own journey in the film industry, highlighting the struggles he faced before his debut in the 2002 crime drama *Company*.

- He revealed he kept his lineage — being the son of veteran actor Suresh Oberoi — a secret during his initial training days.
- "To train, I used to assist Farah (Khan) for a long time," he shared with *Mashable India*.
- His early responsibilities included cleaning rehearsal rooms and serving tea to background dancers, a humble beginning that preceded his successful career. "I never told anyone who my father was. I kept that to myself."





Vendredi 12 decembre - 20.15



Samedi 13 decembre - 20.15



Dimanche 14 decembre -20.15



# Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 12 decembre</b>	05.17 Serial: Seref Meselesi 08.48 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.13 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 09.38 Film: The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.24 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Backtrack 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 20.10 Film: La Planete Des Singes: Suprematie 22.15 Tele: Mademoiselle	09.35 Serial: Le Mag 10.28 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 11.28 Local: Couleur Marine 12.52 Local: Viens Decouvrir 13.07 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 13.42 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 14.06 Rodrig: Manyer Fer 14.33 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 15.15 Local: En Forme 15.30 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séprapré Par L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.25 Local: Sur Prise 19.49 Local: Animalia 20.15 Live From Studio A Echos... 22.08 Local: La Sosite 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.27 Local: En Forme 23.39 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 00.05 Local: Life Under The Sea...	07.00 Local: Amrit Vani 07.11 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 07.30 Local: Hunarbaaz 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.18 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.05 Local: Ramayan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Aan Baan Starring: Rajendra Kumar, Rakhee 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 21.11 Serial: Crime Patrol 21.57 Serial: Mere Sai 23.02 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.23 Local: Mati Ke Mol 00.27 Khel Khiladi	06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 07.48 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 07.58 Film: Miraculous World 09.00 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Likie 09.40 D.Anime: Yétili 10.50 Doc: Madam Chutney And... 11.16 Mag: Eco India 13.45 Film: Rufus Et Le Royaume... 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.27 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.58 D.Anime: Metro Heroes 16.12 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.33 D.Anime: Les Petits Carnets 17.03 Serial: Dance Academy 17.21 Serial: The Athena 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 18.30 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 19.00 Mag: Eco Africa 19.30 Mag: Euromaxx 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Teri Meri Kahani Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 20.55 Anupamaa 21.30 Pyar Ka Phela Adhyaya 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Teri Meri Kahani Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra
<b>samedi 13 decembre</b>	03.38 Serial: Heartland 05.02 Tele: Seref Meselesi 06.11 Tele: Columbo 07.21 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 08.19 Serial: Blue Lights 09.17 Serial: Heartland 09.57 Serial: Hawaii 10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.56 Doc: BRGRS 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: All The Flowers 14.53 Doc: Quotes By Famous... 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: La Planete Des Singes... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: For The Love Of The Game Cast: Kevin Costner, Kelly Preston, John C. Reilly 22.32 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani	06.25 Local: Tous Egaux 06.47 Rodrig: 15 Minit Natir Rodrig 08.00 Local: Sur Prise 08.53 Local: Glwar Dantan 09.19 Local: La Sosite 09.45 Local: Evasion 10.18 Local: J'ai Faim 12.24 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.00 Les Grandes Lignes 13.59 Local: Glwar Dantan 14.35 Local: Life Under The Sea... 14.59 Local: J'ai Faim 18.10 Tele: Entre Justice Et... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.15 Live: Mo Sega Sa 22.25 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux 23.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel 00.00 Local: Passerelles 00.30 Local: Tous Egaux	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.26 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 13.29 Mati Ke Mol 14.00 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha 14.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Shatranj Cast: Jackie Shroff, Juhi Chawla 18.14 Live: Samachar 18.37 Puranya Pakwan 18.57 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.12 Sanskriti Ki Baatein 21.00 Film: Aarakshan 23.42 Puranya Pakwan 00.08 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 00.23 Sanskriti Ki Baatein Dob 02.04 Film: Aarakshan	06.00 D.Anime: H2O Aquateam 07.33 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 07.46 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 09.02 Film: Le Noel Parfait De Caillou 09.44 D.Anime: Yetili 10.00 Serial: The Avatars 10.55 Doc: Coral Reefs Survivors 13.43 Doc: The World's Biggest... 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.27 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.37 D.Anime: Caillou 15.59 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 16.14 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.35 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 16.57 Serial: Dance Academy 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Country Dreams 19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Doc: Odd Neighbours	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: De Dana Dan With: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty
<b>samedi 14 decembre</b>	03.41 Local: The Lazarus Project 04.33 Tele: Seref Meselesi 05.34 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 06.00 Film: For The Love Of The Game 08.20 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 09.05 Film: Backtrack 10.39 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 12.34 Film: Skyscraper 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Tootsie 17.26 Doc: Visionary Gardens 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: Speed 22.01 Serial: S.W.A.T. 22.41 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.33 Le Journal	06.31 Local: Coin Jardin 08.32 Local: Science Quest 2025 10.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.22 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 11.48 Emotion En Avant Plan 12.18 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.33 Rodrig: Coin Zen 16.00 Local: Mo Sega Sa 17.15 Local: Les Petits Genies 18.10 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.35 Local: En Toute Intimite 20.00 Local: Les Klips 21.00 MBC Production 22.36 Local: Clin D'Oeil 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.16 Local: Coin Jardin 23.33 Local: Inspiration 23.58 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 00.37 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin	06.59 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.26 Puranya Pakwan 09.10 Sanskriti Ki Baatein 10.41 Mahabharat 11.00 Excerpts From Ganga Aartee 12.00 Film: Aao Pyar Karein 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Puranya Pakwan 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.42 Udaan Ki Kahani 20.07 Local: Sangeet Sitare 21.30 Serial: Porus 21.51 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.12 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.37Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 00.48 Local: Udaan Ki Kahani 04.58 Film: Aao Pyar Karein	06.00 D.Anime: H2O Aquateam 07.33 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 07.44 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 09.57 Serial: The Avatars 10.20 Mag: N*Gen 10.55 Doc: Country Dreams 12.28 Doc: Chile: The Land Of All... 13.57 Doc: By Train Through... 15.05 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.29 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.51 D.Anime: Metro Heroes 16.13 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.55 Serial: Dance Academy 18.00 Mag: Let's Make It Tasty 18.30 Doc: Ocean Predators 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Doc: Odd Neighbours 21.45 Film: American Dreamer Cast: Peter Dinklage, Shirley MacLaine	00.28 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 02.43 Udaariyaan 04.29 Anupamaa 07.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 08.20 Dhruv Tara 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.10 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 14.00 Doree 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.30 Film: RA.ONE Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Armaan Verma, Shahana Goswami, 21.00 Mahabharat 22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs 22.48 Dhruv Tara
<b>dimanche 14 decembre</b>	04.05 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 05.01 Tele: Seref Meselesi 06.00 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.30 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois... 08.19 Serial: Un Amour Sauvage 08.41 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.35 Film: Last Knights 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.44 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.08 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Serial: Columbo 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Live: Grand Titre 20.10 Serial: Quantico 20.51 Serial: Berlin Station	06:00 Radio Maurice 09:10 Metie – Robin Chummun 09:22 Anou Kombat Ladrog 09:40 En Toute Intimite - Joly 10:10 Clin D'Oeil – Métier de Toliair 11:00 Les Klips 12:00 Nu Rasinn 13:05 Excerpts From Special Christmas Concert 14:00 Rodrig – Zenn Aktif 14:51 Upclose and Personal 17:00 Morisien Konn Ou La Santé 17:30 Couleur Marine 18:00 L'Amour Invincible 18:29 Séparé Par L'Amour 19:00 Zournal Kreol 19:30 Feminin Pluriel – La Foire 20:00 Encounter 20:30 En Quête de Réponses 21:00 Masterclass 21:45 19 Minutes – Médicaments 22:05 À l'Approche de Noël	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 07.00 Local: Bhojpuri Hungama 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Local: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Kabzaa 15.00 Samachar 15.21 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna 19.25 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.06 Local: Charcha 21.00 Film: Suraksha Cast: Ranjeeta Kaur, Mithun Chakraborty 23.15 Mere Sai 23.59 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.21 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein	07.24 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 07.46 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 08.10 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 10.09 Serial: N*Gen 11.05 Film: Le Prince D'Egypte 12.32 Doc: Ocean Predators 13.30 Film: Polly Pocket 14.35 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.21 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.30 D.Anime: Caillou 15.52 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.27 Les Petits Carnets Des... 16.56 Serial: Home Sweet Rome 17.16 Serial: The Athena 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.51 Tele: Asintado 21.40 Film: The Maze Runner	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  15.30 Film: Love Cast: Salman Khan; Revathi 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.30 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
<b>lundi 15 decembre</b>					





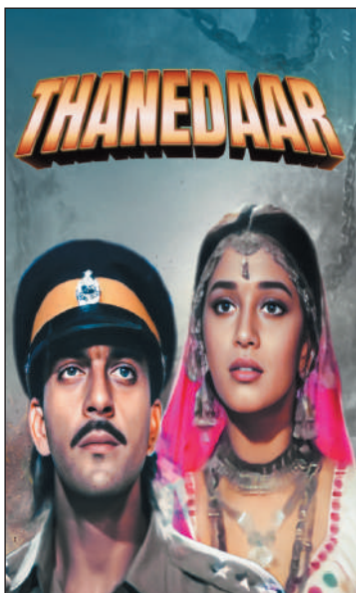
Mardi 16 Decembre - 20.10



Mercredi 17 Decembre - 21.41



Mercredi 17 Decembre - 15.30



# Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 16 decembre</b> 04.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.33 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.38 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins 11.32 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Cirque Du Freak 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: Black Butterfly 22.20 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.39 Tele: Lying Heart 23.30 Le Journal	<b>mardi 16 decembre</b> 06.00 Radio Maurice 09.10 Metie 09.22 Anou Kombad Ladrog 09.40 En Toute Intimité 10.10 Clin d'Oeil 11.00 Les Klips 12.00 Nu Rasinn 13.05 Special Christmas Concert 14.00 Rodrig 14.51 Upclose and Personal 17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Santé 17.30 Couleur Marine 18.00 L'Amour Invincible 18.29 Séparé par L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Encounter 20.30 En Quête de Réponses 21.00 Masterclass 21.45 19 Minutes 22:05 À l'Approche de Noël	<b>mardi 16 decembre</b> 06.59 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.28 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Teri Baahon Mein Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Mohnish Behl 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sajjanwa Baire Ho Galle... 15.40 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 16.55 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 19.27 Local: Abhyas Yog 20.00 Local: Prakriti 21.00 Film: Nadiya Ke Paar Cast: Sachin Pilgaonkar, Sadhana Singh	<b>mardi 16 decembre</b> 07.00 Words And Sounds With Akili 07.23 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.03 Les Enquetes De Maelys 11.48 Film: Charlotte Aux Fraises 12.30 Mag: Eco Africa 13.39 Film: Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.17 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.22 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.31 D.Anime: Caillou 15.52 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.02 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.29 Les Petits Carnets Des... 16.58 Serial: Dance Academy 17.15 Serial: The Athena 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado	<b>mardi 16 decembre</b> 14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.25 Film: Pyare Mohan Vivek Oberoi, Fardeen Khan 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 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Pyare Mohan
<b>mercredi 17 decembre</b> 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.33 Serial: Under Pressure 08.06 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.39 Film: Black Butterfly 11.35 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.27 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.17 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.47 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Easy Rider 17.34 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Magazine 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.14 Serial: Nello Tue Mani 21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T. 21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.43 Tele: Lying Heart	<b>mercredi 17 decembre</b> 06.00 La Matinale 09.10 Les Petits Chefs de Noël 09.34 Le Mag 10:26 Plat du Chef 10.38 Une Table pour les Fêtes 11.01 Le Challenge 11.30 Les Petits Génies 12.00 Couleur Marine 12.31 Itinerer Rodrig 13.00 Regard du Seigneur 13:05 Drug Awareness 13:37 Priorité Santé 14:04 Les Petits Chefs de Noël 14:28 Evasion 14:44 Clin d'Oeil 15:00 Echos du Passe 16:30 Glwar Dantan 17:07 Music Tour 2025 18:00 L'Amour Invincible 18:28 Séparé par L'Amour 19:00 Zournal Kreol 20:00 Saver Kiltirel 20:26 Toc Toc 20:40 Metie 20:53 Les Klips 21:45 Concert Harpa Dei	<b>mercredi 17 decembre</b> 06.59 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.23 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Yeh Raat Phir Na Aayedigi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Radha Mohan 16.27 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha 17.07 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kala 21.00 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho Gaya Cast: Ritesh Pandey 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai 23.55 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.16 Local: Kala 00.42 Local: Sangeet Sitare	<b>mercredi 17 decembre</b> 08.38 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.33 D.Anime: Yétili 10.43 Mag: Shift 11.00 Film: Garfield 12.46 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 13.30 Film: Super Wings 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.11 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.21 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.31 D.Anime: Caillou 15.52 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.28 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 17.15 Serial: The Athena 17.47 Mag: Choices 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: The Dip 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.41 Film: American Dreamer Cast: Peter Dinklage, Shirley MacLaine	<b>mercredi 17 decembre</b> 14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Thanedar Sanjay Dutt, Madhru Dixit 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 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Thanedar
<b>jeudi 18 decembre</b> 06.08 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.14 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.37 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.34 Film: Spider In The 11.32 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.12 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: American Dreamer 17.15 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: Dus Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan 22.34 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.30 Le Journal	<b>jeudi 18 decembre</b> 09.10 Metie 09.22 Concert - Groupe Harpa Dei 10:35 Lavi Zoli An XXL 12:40 Glwar Dantan 13:06 Regard du Seigneur 13:11 Rodrig Spor 13:37 Saver Kiltirel 14:03 Toc Toc Doc 14:18 Metie 14:31 Upclose and Personal 15:10 Metie 15:30 Son Ladan Mem 15:43 Concert - Groupe Harpa Dei 16:56 Regard du Seigneur 17:01 Special Christmas Concert 18:00 L'Amour Invincible 18:30 Séparé par L'Amour 19:00 Zournal Kreol 19:30 Rodrig Prog 20:00 Saver Kiltirel 20:26 Toc Toc 20:40 Metie 20:53 Les Klips 21:45 Concert Harpa Dei 22:05 À l'Approche de Noël	<b>jeudi 18 decembre</b> 07.00 Local: Sangeet Sitare 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Kangan Cast: Mala Sinha, Sanjeev Kumar, Ashok Kumar 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Sajjanwa Baire Ho Galle... 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.07 Celebrating The Day Of Inscription Of Geet Gawa In UNESCO 21.21 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.43 Serial: Mere Sai 22.27 Wagle Ki Duniya	<b>jeudi 18 decembre</b> 06.50 Japan Video Topics 07.23 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.16 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas 11.00 Film: M. Popper Et Ses Pingouins 12.34 Mag: Afrimaxx 13.33 Film: Nutcracker And The Magic Flute 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.27 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.37 D.Anime: Caillou 15.59 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.08 D.Anime: Jurassic Would 16.36 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 16.51 Serial: Dance Academy 17.15 Serial: The Athena 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: REV Special 19.00 Doc: Water Scarcity 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado	<b>jeudi 18 decembre</b> 14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.31 Film: Ek Hi Raasta 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 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Ek Hi Raasta



Jeudi 18 Decembre - 15.30

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Raveena Tandon, Raza Murad, Saeed Jaffrey



Jeudi 18 Decembre - 20.10

Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan





# Social media is harming children's attention

*A study of 8,000 children suggests social media, not screens in general, may be fuelling a rise in inattention*



Pic - rtnews.com

**T**he digital revolution has become a vast, unplanned experiment – and children are its most exposed participants. As ADHD diagnoses rise around the world, a key question has emerged: could the growing use of digital devices be playing a role?

To explore this, we studied more than 8,000 children, from when they were around ten until they were 14 years of age. We asked them about their digital habits and grouped them into three categories: gaming, TV/video (YouTube, say) and social media.

The latter included apps such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, X, Messenger and Facebook. We then analysed whether usage was associated with long-term change in the two core symptoms of ADHD: inattentiveness and hyperactivity.

Our main finding was that social media use was associated with a gradual increase in inattentiveness. Gaming or watching videos was not. These patterns remained the same even after accounting for children's genetic risk for ADHD and their families' income.

We also tested whether inattentiveness might cause children to use more social media instead. It didn't. The direction ran one way: social media use predicted later inattentiveness.

The mechanisms of how digital media affects attention are unknown. But the lack of negative effect of other screen activities means we can rule out any general, negative effect of screens as well as the popular notion that all digital media produces "dopamine hits", which then mess with children's attention.

As cognitive neuroscientists, we could make an educated guess about the mechanisms. Social media introduces constant distractions, preventing sustained attention to any task.

If it is not the messages themselves that distract, the mere thought of whether a message has arrived can act as a men-

tal distraction. These distractions impair focus in the moment, and when they persist for months or years, they may also have long-term effects.

Gaming, on the other hand, takes place during limited sessions, not throughout the day, and involves a constant focus on one task at a time.

The effect of social media, using statistical measures, was not large. It was not enough to push a person with normal attention into ADHD territory. But if the entire population becomes more inattentive, many will cross the diagnostic border.

Theoretically, an increase of one hour of social media use in the entire population would increase the diagnoses by about 30%. This is admittedly a simplification, since diagnoses depend on many factors, but it illustrates how even an effect that is small at the individual level can have a significant effect when it affects an entire population.

**A** lot of data suggests that we have seen at least one hour more per day of social media during the last decade or two. Twenty years ago, social media barely existed. Now, teenagers are online for about five hours per day, mostly with social media.

The percentage of teenagers who claim to be "constantly online" has increased from 24% in 2015 to 46% 2023. Given that social media use has risen from essentially zero to around five hours per day, it may explain a substantial part of the increase in ADHD diagnoses during the past 15 years.

## The attention gap

Some argue that the rise in the number of ADHD diagnoses reflects greater awareness and reduced stigma. That may be part of the story, but it doesn't rule out a genuine increase in inattention.

Also, some studies that claim that the symptoms of inattention have not increased have often studied children who were probably too young to own a smart-

phone, or a period of years that mostly predates the avalanche in scrolling.

Social media probably increases inattention, and social media use has rocketed. What now? The US requires children to be at least 13 to create an account on most social platforms, but these restrictions are easy to outsmart.

**A**ustralia is currently going the furthest. From December 10 2025, media companies will be required to ensure that users are 16 years or above, with high

penalties for the companies that do not adhere. Let's see what effect that legislation will have. Perhaps the rest of the world should follow the Australians.

*By Torkel Klingberg, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience & Samson Nivins, Postdoctoral Researcher, Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet*



Wastewater Management Authority

## WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

### Invitation for Bids

#### Authorised under Section 17 of the Public Procurement Act 2006

#### Procurement for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 22 kV Switchgear and Associated Works at St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant

**Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/575W**  
**E-Procurement Reference: WMA/IFB/2025/1747**

1. The Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) is inviting bids from eligible bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius, through the Government eProcurement System for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 22 kV Switchgear and Associated Works at St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant, as more fully described in the bidding document.
2. Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2025/1747**
3. Bids must be submitted online on the eProcurement System at latest by **Wednesday 21 January 2026 up to 13.29 hrs (Local Time)**.
4. Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt and re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 21 January 2026 from 14.31 hrs till Thursday 23 January 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Local Time)**.
5. Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Thursday 23 January 2026 as from 14.01 hrs (Local Time)**  
**Wastewater Management Authority,  
Head Office  
Conference Room, 3rd Floor  
Jerningham Street,  
Curepipe**
6. The Wastewater Management Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

08 December 2025