

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Leadership cannot just go along to get along. Leadership must meet the moral challenge of the day." — Jesse Jackson

Interview: Sameer Sharma, Economist & Financial Risk Manager

"Most Mauritians are less concerned with political drama than with the economic reality they face every day"

'The priority should not be electoral reform -- which has been debated for decades and can wait -- but deep economic reforms'

- 'You cannot simply raise the retirement age from 60 to 65 overnight -- reform must be phased in over 5-10 years and built on consultation'



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'As long as no one is prohibited from standing as a candidate regardless of race, no human rights issue arises'

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Electoral Reform vs. Economic Stability: Priorities for Mauritius' Future

Mauritius stands at a pivotal juncture. The government, led by the Alliance du Changement (ADC), has inherited a deeply fragile economy and an intricate political system. Amidst economic turmoil, there is a growing call for electoral reform, spearheaded by MMM leader Paul Berenger, who has once again raised the issue of proportional representation (PR) as a means to secure his party's future in an increasingly complex political landscape. However, the question remains: should electoral reform be a priority for the ADC government at this time, or should their focus be squarely on stabilizing the economy and addressing the structural weaknesses that threaten the nation's long-term prosperity?

The Push for Electoral Reform

Electoral reform is a complex and contentious issue in Mauritius, and recent calls for change have brought it back to the national conversation. Paul Berenger has used the current political context as a platform to push for reforms that would secure his party's position in a future PR electoral system. The call for such reform is rooted in the belief that the current system, which includes a mix of First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) and the controversial Best Loser System (BLS), does not adequately reflect parties' electoral performance.

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam has, so far, remained silent on Paul Berenger's direct remarks, offering only a vague promise of introducing "a dose of PR" aimed at ensuring better gender representation in Parliament. While gender representation is undoubtedly an important issue, this response fails to address the broader complexities and deeper concerns regarding the electoral system, as articulated by the MMM leader and current ally of Navin Ramgoolam in government. Is that calculated on the part of the Labour Party leader?

The electoral reform debate has been ongoing for more than two decades, with numerous commissions set up to investigate and propose changes. Despite all this effort, a viable and universally acceptable solution has yet to materialize. The current system, in which the BLS allocates seats based on community representation, remains controversial and widely regarded as a relic of an outdated political framework. The idea of abolishing the BLS will undoubtedly raise a host of legal and constitutional questions that must be carefully considered before any meaningful reform can take place.

The questions are numerous and complex: Can Parliament remove provisions of the Constitution considered fundamental, such as the principle of minority representation? Could such changes be legally challenged by the judiciary or minority groups in international courts? Should the state risk



abandoning the BLS without a proper substitute to ensure minority representation? These are the thorny issues that need resolution before any electoral reform can proceed.

Economic Crisis: A Nation on the Brink

While the issue of electoral reform grabs attention, the Mauritian economy remains a significant concern. The ADC government inherited an economy crippled by systemic weaknesses that include an unsustainable pension system, a highly indebted model dependent on consumption, and high inflation. A "ticking time bomb" of financial instability looms over the nation, with low returns and unsustainable promises threatening the future of the pension system. Meanwhile, questions surrounding the true valuation of assets held by the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) raise concerns about potential financial mismanagement and inflated national accounts.

Despite a landslide electoral victory, the government's response to these economic challenges has been mixed. While some initial progress was made in restoring democratic freedoms and upholding the rule of law, much-needed structural reforms have been sidelined in favour of politically safer, short-term actions. Measures such as price stabilization and managing credit ratings may have offered temporary relief, but they fail to address the root causes of Mauritius' economic problems. This inaction reflects a failure to break free from the cycle of institutional decay that has plagued the country for decades.

The economy's underlying vulnerabilities—particularly the structural weaknesses in key sectors—have been further exacerbated by the persistence of patronage politics. Appointments to State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) remain politically motivated, stifling competition and preventing the development of a more dynamic, competitive market. This, in turn, has kept economic growth well below its potential, and the powerful oligopolies that dominate the private sector continue to impede real progress.

Shifting Focus: Three Fundamental Priorities for the ADC Government

In this week's interview, economist and financial risk manager Sameer Sharma is of the view that, at this critical moment, the government must shift its focus from the distractions of electoral reform to three fundamental priorities that will determine the nation's future.

The challenges facing the ADC government are clear: a failing economy, an unsustainable pension system, institutional decay, and a political system that is increasingly disconnected from the reality of the people it is meant to serve.

1. Fiscal and Pension Sustainability:

The first priority for the government should be achieving fiscal and pension sustainability. Mauritius faces a significant long-term challenge in managing its pension system, which is currently a ticking time bomb. Low returns and unsustainable promises are pushing the system to the brink of collapse, threatening the economic security of future generations.

The government must implement phased pension reform over the next decade, establishing a professionally managed, funded Retirement Fund based on a Liability Driven Investment (LDI) framework, says S. Sharma. Such a reform would provide a sustainable financial future for retirees while relieving pressure on the national budget. The introduction of a funded pension system would also have the added benefit of improving investor confidence, reducing the burden on public finances, and ensuring the nation's long-term financial stability.

2. Structural Reengineering and Privatization:

The second priority should be structural reengineering of the economy, particularly through the privatisation or restructuring of dysfunctional SOEs. State-Owned Enterprises have long been a source of political patronage and inefficiency, often serving the interests of the political elite rather than the public. The government must break this link by implementing merit-based recruitment and performance-linked accountability across the public sector.

In addition to restructuring SOEs, the

government must also tackle the issue of market concentration. Powerful oligopolies in sectors such as telecommunications, utilities, and retail continue to stifle competition and keep prices artificially high. By breaking up these monopolies and promoting competition, the government can create a more dynamic and inclusive economy that benefits all Mauritians, not just a select few.

3. Restoring Institutional Credibility:

The third priority should be the restoration of institutional credibility. The lack of independence within key institutions undermines their ability to make objective, evidence-based decisions. If the ADC government is to address Mauritius' deep economic challenges, it must restore the credibility of its strategic public institutions by granting them full independence and ensuring that they operate free from political interference.

In addition to institutional reforms, the government must prioritize transparency and accountability in public service appointments. Merit-based recruitment and performance-linked accountability should become the standard across all government departments and SOEs. Only by doing so can the ADC government hope to overcome the legacy of patronage politics and build a more effective and responsive state.

A Nation at a Crossroads

Electoral reform is an important issue, but it is not the most pressing one facing the nation. The ADC government must prioritize the economy, focusing on fiscal sustainability, pension reform, structural reengineering, and restoring institutional credibility. Only by addressing these core issues can Mauritius hope to build a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future.

If the government can deal with these challenges with decisiveness and integrity, it will not only secure the nation's economic future but also create the conditions for a more stable and accountable political system. Electoral reform, while important, should not be allowed to distract from the urgent task of securing the nation's future.

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K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally

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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



Prakash Neerohoo

Combat contre les crimes financiers

Les Deux Poids, Deux Mesures de la Justice: Cliniques Privées et Suspects Financiers

La semaine dernière la *Financial Crimes Commission* (FCC) a-t-il épinglé une grosse peinture de la finance à son tableau de chasse? Il s'agit du directeur démissionnaire de Grant Thornton, Sattar Hajee Abdoula (SHA), arrêté par la FCC le 19 novembre sous une charge provisoire de blanchiment de Rs 3,6 millions. Grant Thornton Mauritius, un cabinet-conseil en audit et fiscalité, a annoncé sur son site Web qu'il collaborait avec les autorités concernées à l'enquête sur SHA dans l'intérêt de la transparence et selon les normes professionnelles. Il n'est sans doute pas agréable pour une firme de renom international de voir sa filiale locale au centre d'une controverse par personne interposée.

SHA n'est pas un quidam. Expert-comptable, il était une tête d'affiche de l'ancien gouvernement, et l'un de ceux qui furent appelés à s'occuper de grands dossiers financiers du pays. Il était peut-être plus important que certains ministres élus pour l'exécution de projets ou plans du gouvernement. Il était l'élément incontournable et omniprésent au service du gouvernement de l'époque avec un cahier des charges dans certaines entreprises publiques (Air Mauritius, SBM Ltd). En effet, depuis quelque temps, on se demandait pourquoi, de toutes les personnes proches de l'ancien régime, SHA n'avait pas été convoqué pour donner des explications sur certaines affaires financières qui avaient défrayé la chronique pendant longtemps.

La charge de blanchiment d'argent logée par la FCC sous la *Financial*

Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA) a trait à un paiement de Rs 3,6 millions que Grant Thornton a reçu de la compagnie Air Mauritius pour des services apparemment non honorés entre 2020 et 2024. Comment ce contrat de service-conseil fut-il alloué alors que le patron de Grant Thornton (SHA) pilotait l'administration judiciaire de la compagnie aérienne durant cette période?

A ce stade, SHA bénéficie de la présomption d'innocence en attendant son inculpation formelle. Toutefois, on parle d'allégations de malversations financières et la FCC aura du pain sur la planche pour éprouver tous les dossiers concernés, vérifier les paiements versés à Grant Thornton pour services rendus à certaines entreprises publiques (Air Mauritius, SBM, MauBank), examiner la procédure d'allocation de contrats publics, et scruter tout conflit d'intérêts entre la firme d'audit et les sociétés-clientes.

Les dossiers dans lesquels SHA aurait été impliqué revêtent une importance capitale pour le pays dans la perspective d'une gouvernance fondée sur la transparence et l'éthique des affaires.

Démantèlement de la BAI

Son rôle dans le démantèlement du conglomérat BAI, intervenu à la suite d'une décision gouvernementale en 2016, demeure une source de controverse majeure. Mandaté par le Premier ministre d'alors, il a voulu convaincre l'ex-président du conseil d'administration de la BAI de vendre son conglomérat à Rs 1 à l'État pour éviter des

ennuis. Il était l'administrateur chargé de restructurer les sociétés du conglomérat BAI après son démantèlement. S'en est suivi le démembrement du groupe avec la vente des avoirs de ses sociétés à vil prix à des tierces parties. Dans la foulée, bien des personnes qui avaient investi leur argent dans des polices d'assurance ou des produits financiers de la BAI ont tout perdu.

Le comble, c'est que SHA était l'un des assesseurs de la commission d'enquête présidée par l'ex-juge Domah pour enquêter sur l'affaire Britam, une société de la BAI qui fut vendue au Kenya à un prix inférieur à la valeur de marché de ses actions. N'y avait-il pas un conflit d'intérêts entre son rôle d'administrateur chargé de restructurer les sociétés du conglomérat BAI après son démantèlement et celui d'assesseur d'une commission d'enquête sur une filiale du groupe?

Administration judiciaire d'AML

Un autre dossier où SHA a joué un rôle crucial est celui de l'administration judiciaire de la compagnie Air Mauritius Ltd (AML) durant la période du 23 avril 2020 au 30 novembre 2021 (soit 19 mois). Quatre avions d'Air Mauritius furent vendus durant la pandémie de la Covid-19 à des prix très bas (Rs 273 millions au total), causant une perte énorme de Rs 3,4 milliards à la compagnie (voir le tableau 1). Ces chiffres proviennent du rapport des deux administrateurs volontaires déposé le 28 septembre 2021 sous la *Insolvency Act 2009*.

Pourquoi ces avions furent-ils vendus à rabais? Encourir une perte sur la vente des avoirs n'est pas anormal dans les affaires en raison de leur vétusté ou leur obsolescence, mais encourir une perte de 92,72% de leur valeur comptable nette (Net Book Value - NBV) est démesurément anormal. En cas de liquidation d'une société, certains avoirs peuvent être vendus à des prix inférieurs à la valeur comptable nette afin d'obtenir une valeur récupérable minimale aux fins de distribution aux actionnaires. Mais dans le cas d'une société sous administration judiciaire avec pour but d'assurer la continuité de l'exploitation de l'entreprise, vendre des avoirs à des prix très bas relève d'un acte désespéré, à moins qu'il y ait un autre mobile.

Pour leur travail, les deux administrateurs volontaires (SHA et Arvind Gokhool) ont touché Rs 141 millions alors que des employés furent licenciés ou mis sous retraite volontaire. Est-ce que cette somme

Table 1: Sale of aircraft by Air Mauritius Ltd

Aircraft	Net Book Value	Sale price	Loss	Loss as % of NBV
	Rs	Rs	Rs	
A319 - 2 units	1,356,000,000	258,000,000	1,098,000,000	80.97%
A240 - 2 units	2,392,000,000	15,000,000	2,377,000,000	99.37%
Total	3,748,000,000	273,000,000	3,475,000,000	92.72%

était raisonnable compte tenu des services rendus par les administrateurs et du plan de redressement proposé?

Rs 287 millions d'honoraires

Au Parlement, le 6 mai 2025, en réponse à une question parlementaire, le Premier ministre a révélé que SHA, comme directeur général de Grant Thornton, a perçu environ Rs 287,2 millions de la part d'entités publiques entre 2015 et novembre 2024, directement ou via des sociétés où il détient un intérêt. Cette somme se répartit comme suit:

- Rs 37,3 millions en honoraires comme président du conseil d'administration de SBM Holdings de 2020 à 2024;
- Rs 21 millions pour des services d'insolvabilité fournis à MauBank, une banque d'État, pour 13 compagnies;
- Rs 141 millions pour l'administration judiciaire d'Air Mauritius et Rs 5 millions pour Airmate Ltd;
- Rs 2,2 millions d'honoraires pour sa participation à la commission d'enquête sur Britam;
- Rs 79,6 millions versées à Grant Thornton par des organismes publics, dont Rs 28 millions par SBM Ltd.

Présidence de la SBM

SHA a été président de SBM Holdings Ltd et de plusieurs de ses filiales entre 2021 et 2024. Au cours des années, cette banque a radié des prêts irrécouvrables parce qu'ils avaient été accordés à des capitalistes de proximité sans garantie suffisante. Avant 2020, la SBM avait encouru des pertes de Rs 7,6 milliards en trois ans à la suite de la radiation des prêts irrécouvrables. La SBM est comptable de ses actions envers son actionnaire majoritaire, l'État, et il est primordial qu'elle opère dans un cadre de gestion des risques qui soit pointu et performant.

Silver Bank

Le 13 février 2024, la Banque de Maurice (BOM) plaçait la Silver Bank, une banque commerciale, sous tutelle (*conservatorship*) et choisissait Arvind Gokhool comme conservateur agissant au nom de Grant Thornton.

● Suite en page 4



Pic - newsmoris.com

“Le 13 février 2024, la Banque de Maurice (BOM) plaçait la Silver Bank, une banque commerciale, sous tutelle (*conservatorship*) et choisissait Arvind Gokhool comme conservateur agissant au nom de Grant Thornton. Depuis, la Silver Bank a payé Rs 54 millions au conservateur, dont Rs 40,6 millions à Grant Thornton. Le conservateur a reçu Rs 3,5 millions par mois en 2024. Depuis avril 2025, il touche Rs 300 000 par mois grâce à une décision prise par l'ancien deuxième gouverneur adjoint de la BOM, Gerard Sanspeur, qui avait réduit le montant d'honoraires afin d'économiser Rs 3 millions par mois...”



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● Suite de la page 3

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La Silver Bank a accordé des prêts toxiques de Rs 7 milliards à des sociétés étrangères et locales alors que l’État a perdu des centaines de millions de roupies en dépôts à travers ses organismes (ministères et corps paraétatiques) qui y avaient investi leur argent. La Banque centrale a permis à cette banque d’opérer dans des conditions troublantes. La direction de la BOM de novembre 2024 à septembre 2025 a tenté de démêler l’écheveau, avec peu de



Pic - newsmoris.com

“Un nombre important de professionnels de la santé semble être disponible pour prendre en charge ces individus. Leur rôle est d’assurer les soins nécessaires et, par la suite, de délivrer des certificats médicaux attestant de l’incapacité du patient à passer la nuit en détention. Il est évident que ce serait là un luxe qui n’est pas à la portée des toute personne arrêtée pour des infractions de droit commun, ce qui transmet - sans aucun doute - l’impression d’une justice à deux vitesses dans le pays...”

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résultats à ce jour.

Cliniques privées

Récemment, une tendance récurrente a été observée concernant des individus suspectés de délits divers. Ces personnes déclarent un malaise ou une affection médicale le jour même où elles sont convoquées pour un interrogatoire par la FCC.

Ce signalement d’un état de santé précaire mène souvent à un transfert vers une clinique privée, ce qui, dans les faits, leur permet d’éviter une période de détention provisoire en cellule.

Des informations non confirmées suggèrent que, dans certains cas, ces suspects auraient pris des dispositions pour réserver une chambre au sein d’une clinique, et ce,

avant même de se présenter à l’interrogatoire.

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Prakash Neerhoo



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'Communal representation is not a human right'

'As long as no one is prohibited from standing as a candidate regardless of race, no human rights issue arises'

Discussions regarding the reform of the electoral system invariably includes the controversial plan to do away with the Best Loser System (BLS). The BLS was originally implemented as a constitutional measure to guarantee better representation for all ethnic groups, with a focus on the Muslims and the General Population minority groups. While the system has historically worked well, it faces continuing criticism that it institutionalizes communalism in Mauritian politics. In its place, some have argued for the adoption of a Proportional Representation (PR) system.

One alternative proposed was a PR model that would effectively subsume the BLS while simultaneously ensuring that all parties that have crossed a specified national threshold of total votes are also represented in Parliament. Another recent proposal was to have both PR added to the electoral system whilst maintaining the BLS. The debate over abolishing the BLS is one of the most significant constitutional and legal challenges in Mauritius. Beyond the immediate question of the required three-quarters majority, the matter raises several profound issues.

LEX

*** Even with a three-quarters majority, does Parliament have the legal power to remove a provision considered by many to be part of the Constitution's fundamental, unchangeable structure?**

First, it must be established whether the provision forms part of the Constitution's fundamental structure, such as the right to life or the prohibition against inhuman treatment or torture. When the 1982 MMM government amended the Constitution to make the postponement of general elections almost impossible, this was accepted because elections are part of the Constitution's fundamental, unchangeable structure. Can it be said that communal representation in a multi-ethnic society is so fundamental to democracy that it cannot be amended or abolished?

*** Could the judiciary be asked to rule if the principle of a multi-ethnic, pluralistic democracy — which relies on minority representation — is so essential that Parliament cannot legally remove it, even with a supermajority (three-quarters) vote?**

Parliament may amend the section on multi-ethnic representation if it secures the required weighted majority. The Supreme Court may always be solicited to challenge the abolition of multi-ethnic representation. But on what grounds

could such a challenge be made?

Would the argument be that abolition is undemocratic? Would it be that each community has an undeniable right to a specific number of parliamentary seats? Would it be argued that a member of a minority community is elected primarily to serve that community rather than the constituency or the nation?



“It is a fact, with few exceptions, that political leaders consider ethnic factors when selecting candidates, and it is common to see mixed-ethnicity candidate slates in some constituencies. This reflects the demographic profile of constituencies, as politicians believe they stand a better chance of election where a majority of voters share their ethnicity. All political parties have used this approach to maximise electoral success. So far, nothing illegal has been found in the system...”

*** Even if the required votes are secured, can someone still take the government to court to argue that abolishing the BLS is wrong or unfair to minority groups?**

If and when a proper substitute is found to replace the BLS, it will be difficult to challenge its abolition. Proportional representation may be used by party leaders to correct any communal imbalance.

*** The BLS uses community numbers from way back in 1972. Is it constitutional to keep using data that is over 50 years old to decide how seats are given out today?**

Justice Sachs explains this clearly in his report:

“By being based fairly and squarely on community and religious identification, the BLS finds itself isolated and stranded as an uncomfortable relic of an earlier era. The degree of reassurance it provides is more of a symbolic and emotional nature than a practical one. Such comfort as it offers comes at the price of it appearing as odd and anachronistic to the very security it was designed to offer. It carries with it the real danger of mar-

ginalising from the rest of society those identified with it, so that what started off as intended to be a protection could end up becoming an impediment.”

*** Is the current BLS system itself illegal or discriminatory because it forces people to declare their ethnic group for political reasons?**

It is a fact, with few exceptions, that political leaders consider ethnic factors when selecting candidates, and it is common to see mixed-ethnicity candidate slates in some constituencies. This reflects the demographic profile of constituencies, as politicians believe they stand a better chance of election where a majority of voters share their ethnicity. All political parties have used this approach to maximise electoral success. So far, nothing illegal has been found in the system.

*** Any reform must satisfy international human rights conventions, particularly the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). Abolishing the BLS without a proper substitute could be seen as a retreat from the obligation to ensure effective representation for minority groups, isn't it?**

Communal representation is not a human right. The Constitution and international conventions prohibit discrimination against individuals on the grounds of race or religion. As long as no one is prohibited from standing as a candidate regardless of race, no human rights issue arises.

*** If the BLS is abolished, could the State face a challenge from minority groups at an international forum, arguing that the new system (e.g., pure Proportional Representation) fails to provide the special measures necessary to ensure their effective representation?**

Except in a few constituencies, can a candidate seriously claim that he can only be elected through votes exclusively from his own ethnic group or caste? Historical examples show otherwise:

- In 1959, Mr Foondun, a Muslim standing for the IFB, defeated Robin Ghurburrun, a Hindu, standing for Labour.
- In 1963, Mr Ajum Dahal, a Muslim candidate for Labour, defeated Dharma Rajan, a Hindu, of the IFB.
- In 1982, Azize Asgarally defeated Sir Satcam Boolell in the predominantly Hindu constituency of Montagne Blanche.

These facts speak for themselves.

Historical electoral results indeed show that candidates often win outside their community, and electoral success is not determined solely by ethnic alignment.

‘Whether we like it or not, proportional representation will still be shaped by party leaders’ communal and caste considerations’

☞ Cont. from page 5

* If a mixed system (FPTP + PR) is adopted, what specific constitutional safeguards must be embedded within the PR component to ensure it demonstrably achieves the “adequate representation” that the BLS was designed to guarantee?

Since a dose of proportional representation is being proposed, this method would undoubtedly be used to correct communal imbalances arising from general election results. This is precisely what the BLS sought to do.

But how can such imbalances be assessed if candidates do not state their ethnicity — or are prohibited from doing so — on Nomination Papers? That is the real difficulty.

Whether we like it or not, proportional representation will still be shaped by party leaders’ communal and caste considerations to ensure that each segment of the



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“Since a dose of proportional representation is being proposed, this method would undoubtedly be used to correct communal imbalances arising from general election results. This is precisely what the BLS sought to do. But how can such imbalances be assessed if candidates do not state their ethnicity — or are prohibited from doing so — on Nomination Papers?”

population is fairly represented if under-represented in the FPTP results.

PR will likely be used to correct under-representation arising from FPTP. However, without community declarations on nomination papers, calculating imbalances becomes extremely complex. In practice, party leaders will continue balancing their lists along communal lines.

* What is the legal risk associated with introducing a national threshold for PR seats? Could a threshold that is too high be challenged as being unfair or discriminatory to smaller political parties representing specific demographic interests?

This depends on the percentage proposed. A threshold that is too high may be held unconstitutional if it prevents smaller parties from obtaining any representation in Parliament.

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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 m² and 1200 m² 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

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

Sameer Sharma, Economist & Financial Risk Manager

“Most Mauritians are less concerned with political drama than with the economic reality they face every day”

‘The priority should not be electoral reform — which has been debated for decades and can wait — but deep economic reforms’

One year after the 2024 general elections, Mauritius finds itself at a crossroads. The Alliance du Changement swept into power on promises of renewal and structural reform, armed with a supermajority that, in theory, should have enabled bold, decisive action. Yet the realities of governing a fragile economy, dealing with entrenched interests, and rebuilding weakened institutions have proven far more complex. In this interview, with the Mauritius Times, Sameer Sharma, economist, investment analyst and financial risk manager cuts through political narratives to examine whether the government has truly begun the rupture it promised — or whether Mauritius risks another cycle of incrementalism.

Mauritius Times: The new government, led by the Alliance du Changement (ADC), secured a supermajority in the 2024 general elections. One year down the line, how effectively would you say the government is leveraging this significant parliamentary majority to implement its ambitious electoral manifesto and advance key reforms?

Sameer Sharma: The Alliance du Changement entered office with a commanding parliamentary majority, which in theory should have given it the political capital to push through difficult but necessary reforms. Yet, one year later, the record is mixed at best.

When the government first came in, it commissioned a “State of the Economy” report. The findings were sobering, though not surprising to most observers. The report highlighted:

- Institutional decay across key governance structures.
- Distorted national accounts, with figures that had been massaged to present a rosier picture than reality.
- A debt-driven consumer economy, heavily reliant on borrowing to finance imported goods rather than productivity gains.
- A fragilized central bank, whose independence and credibility had been eroded.
- Overvalued and illiquid Mauritius Investment Corporation assets with major potential losses in the tens of billions should these assets ever be marked to market.
- Dysfunctional state-owned enterprises, burdened with weak balance sheets and chronic inefficiencies.
- A currency under pressure, with the rupee showing structural weakness against the US dollar and other major currencies.

In short, the report spoke of the obvious: Mauritius was facing systemic weaknesses that had been accumulating for years. Fast forward a year, however, and the government’s ability to leverage its majority has been underwhelming. Beyond some unpopular pension reforms and an almost obsessive focus on credit ratings from Moody’s — ratings that matter less in a country that does not issue Eurobonds and instead relies mainly on concessional financing from multilateral institutions (though a handful of banks’ Global Business Company (GBC) deposits would still be impacted) — progress has been limited.

Yes, the government has tried to stabilize prices of essential commodities, and it has introduced public pension adjustments. But the deeper structural challenges remain



Pic - lemauricien.com

untouched:

The pension system — both public and private — is a ticking time bomb, with low investment returns and unsustainable promises. Local markets are underdeveloped, strategic asset allocation frameworks are primitive, and contributions are too low to compensate for the funding gaps. The central bank remains constrained, lacking credibility. Its image remains tarnished by recent scandals. Core inflation and producer price inflation are still high. The rupee-dollar exchange market is broken, illiquid and the official spot rate operates below equilibrium with offshore rates trading well above the official spot price and given large supply demand mismatches at the official price. There is no such thing as FX stability without liquidity. Furthermore, there has been a lot of pressure from obvious quarters to avoid any independent forensic audit of MIC assets and nor have we so far revalued

these assets properly.

Many in Statistics Mauritius and in the Ministry of Finance who helped to cook the books are still there. Incidentally there are still some obvious statistical discrepancies in our national accounts.

There has been no serious move toward privatization of loss-making state-owned companies. Politicians still believe that they know how to run companies and play patronage politics despite more than three decades of poor results.

The private sector remains very concentrated, and their lobby groups continue to have significant influence over policy making, with entrenched oligopolies stifling competition and innovation. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are struggling while large conglomerates continue to benefit from the windfall of a weaker currency and badly structured bailouts.

In essence, the government has not used its supermajority to push through the bold reforms Mauritius desperately needs. Instead, it has focused on short-term optics — price stabilization, ratings agency appeasement — while leaving the structural rot largely intact. The gap between the ambitious electoral manifesto and the actual policy delivery is stark, and one year in, the window of opportunity is already narrowing.

*** The restoration of democratic freedoms stands out as a major, undeniable positive development, even if its impact has been tempered by significant negatives, including controversial strategic appointments and the slow pace of implementing major manifesto reforms. To what extent do you think these have eroded the government’s initial political capital, and how might this impact their ability to pass challenging, but necessary, non-reform legislation in the coming years?**

The restoration of democratic freedoms is undeniably a positive achievement.

“A year ago, Mauritius operated under what many described as a “monarch-and-advisors” model, where a small circle of decision-makers claimed near-divine authority in selecting technocrats. One year later, the setup sadly remains largely unchanged. The absence of proper due diligence and recruitment frameworks has led to questionable appointments, including the nomination of individuals with no prior management experience or promotion history to lead major institutions. This undermines credibility and signals that appointments are still driven by patronage...”

'You cannot simply raise the retirement age from 60 to 65 overnight — reform must be phased

in over 5–10 years and built on consultation'

● Cont. from page 7

It has rebalanced the political space and given citizens greater confidence in their ability to voice dissent and hold leaders accountable. But this gain has been offset by the persistence of old habits in governance — particularly in the way strategic appointments are made.

A year ago, Mauritius operated under what many described as a “monarch-and-advisors” model, where a small circle of decision-makers claimed near-divine authority in selecting technocrats. One year later, the setup sadly remains largely unchanged. The absence of proper due diligence and recruitment frameworks has led to questionable appointments, including the nomination of individuals with no prior management experience or promotion history to lead major institutions. This undermines credibility and signals that appointments are still driven by patronage, lobbying, and the preferences of a narrow elite rather than merit and institutional needs.

This dynamic erodes political capital in two ways: it diminishes public trust as citizens see little difference between the old and new regimes when it comes to governance culture, diluting the promise of change by the continuation of patronage politics; and it harms institutional credibility, as key institutions risk being weakened further when leadership is based on loyalty rather than competence, which makes reform implementation slower and less effective.

“As long as the State continues to manage a large portfolio of dysfunctional companies that should have been privatized, the patronage game will persist. These enterprises become vehicles for political reward rather than engines of growth. The result is a mediocre growth trajectory — hovering below potential — when Mauritius could realistically achieve 4% to 4.5% growth if bold structural reforms were pursued...”

The broader economic consequence is equally concerning. As long as the State continues to manage a large portfolio of dysfunctional companies that should have been privatized, the patronage game will persist. These enterprises become vehicles for political reward rather than engines of growth. The result is a mediocre growth trajectory — hovering below potential — when Mauritius could realistically achieve 4% to 4.5% growth if bold structural reforms were pursued.

Looking ahead, this erosion of political capital will constrain the government's ability to pass challenging but necessary legislation. Pension reform, central bank independence, privatization, and market liberalization all require political courage and credibility. Without a break from the current appointment culture and patronage politics, the government risks losing the momentum it gained from its supermajority. The danger is that it becomes trapped in short-term optics and incrementalism, rather than using its mandate to deliver transformative change.

* As regards the controversial pension reform initiative, the government has left it to a specialist committee to work out a more palatable proposal for old-age pen-



Pic - lemauricien.com

sioners, but the decision will ultimately have to be a political one. What do you think could be a more just and politically feasible solution?

You cannot simply raise the retirement age from 60 to 65 overnight — reform must be phased in over 5–10 years and built on consultation. A fairer, more sustainable approach to securing the pension system would combine several key elements.

A necessary step is **shared responsibility**, requiring large firms that benefited from mispriced MIC assets and oligopolistic rents to face **windfall profit taxes**, while the government must concurrently commit to **serious cost-cutting** internally.

Furthermore, **restructuring and privatization** is essential: selling or restructuring dysfunctional state-owned companies would raise necessary funds and is far more just than placing the entire burden on pensioners. This move would also benefit the economy by killing off the system of political patronage and improving overall productivity and innovation.

The transition requires a **funded system transition**, whereby contributions are shifted into a new **Retirement Fund** that absorbs the National Pension Fund (NPF) assets. This new fund must operate with higher contributions and stronger governance. To manage these assets effectively, an investment strategy based on **liability driven investing (LDI)** is needed, involving more international diversification for pension funds and the launching of a modern LDI frame-

“Pension reform, central bank independence, privatization, and market liberalization all require political courage and credibility. Without a break from the current appointment culture and patronage politics, the government risks losing the momentum it gained from its supermajority. The danger is that it becomes trapped in short-term optics and incrementalism, rather than using its mandate to deliver transformative change...”

work that combines Strategic Asset Allocation and Tactical Asset Allocation, all under professional oversight. Mauritius urgently needs an **independent manager of all public assets**, as the current amateurism is costing billions, contributing to the negative funding gap of the NPF. Finally, this must be supported by **capital market deepening**: strengthening local markets, modernizing the way investments are managed, diversifying into alternatives, and modernizing asset allocation to effectively capture liquidity premia.

In short, pension reform must be phased, fair, and anchored in structural reforms and professional asset management — not simply “screwing pensioners” while leaving state inefficiencies untouched.

* On the other hand, to what extent does it seem that key institutions — such as the Bank of Mauritius (BoM), the anti-corruption bodies (like the FCC), or the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) — have demonstrated political independence post-transition?

Institutional independence remains work in progress. The Bank of Mauritius is the clearest example. One year after transition and firings along the way, it has still not commissioned a proper forensic audit of MIC assets by a reputable international firm. Instead, we had references to the World Bank or IFC doing “quick audits” — but these are not forensic auditors with expertise in valuing illiquid frontier-market assets. The fact that the former MIC Board has not been held accountable for missteps only reinforces the perception of a clueless FCC.

The deeper issue is structural: politicians and private sector lobby groups continue to exert influence over key policy decisions. Asset valuations on the BoM balance sheet remain inflated, even though everyone knows actual disposal prices would be far lower. Without transparency and external validation, credibility is eroded.

More broadly, weak governance practices undermine independence:

- recruitment processes are opaque, with nominees consistently tied to political patrons.
- the use of three-year contracts ensures that appointees remain beholden to politicians, and
- the absence of performance-linked Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) means that accountability is absent.

This pattern extends beyond BoM, FCC, and IBA — even the judicial system remains slow and inefficient, further weakening institutional trust. Until Mauritius embraces merit-based recruitment and performance-linked accountability, independence will remain more rhetoric than reality.

● Cont. on page 9

'Without a break from the current appointment culture and patronage politics, the government risks losing the momentum it gained from its supermajority'

● Cont. from page 8

* A first — or rather a repeat of 1982-83 — is the publicly aired disagreement voiced by DPM Paul Bérenger over what he calls controversial appointments, the slow pace of reform, and above all the delay in electoral reform. Electoral reform has been debated for decades, and its politicisation has become yet another point of tension within the ADC. If internal disagreements within the ADC crystallize, that can hardly be good news for the governing alliance, can it?

Frankly, most Mauritians are less concerned with political drama than with the economic reality they face every day.

While the government and BoM highlight headline inflation at 4.1%, core inflation and producer prices have been running above 6% for most of the year — a clear sign of persistent cost-push pressures. At the same time, real growth is tepid at 3.2%, leaving households squeezed and businesses cautious. In that context, the priority should not be electoral reform — which has been debated for decades and can wait — but deep economic reforms that restore confidence, unlock growth, and generate optimism.

Without structural reforms to pensions, state-owned enterprises, capital markets, and a crucial revamping of the competitive landscape and governance, which are far more urgent, Mauritius will continue to stagnate, regardless of how electoral reform debates play out inside the ADC. One could argue that political financing reform is the only exception here, deeming it equally important as economic reforms. This is because the practice of political financing by businesses and powerful lobby groups is widely recognized as a significant driver of corruption. Consequently, implementing such reforms would greatly erode the influence of these powerful lobby groups.

“If we want to reduce corruption, we must stop giving politicians control over state-owned companies, licenses, and discretionary approvals. Instead, the state should focus on creating a competitive, fair environment where the private sector can thrive, which effectively reduces the importance of politicians in everyday economic life. The more “toys” politicians have to play with — whether companies, boards, or licences — the more corruption will remain entrenched...”

* Public trust has been eroded by recurring corruption allegations, especially in relation to questionable practices during the previous government's tenure. There are now innuendoes about new players in the game. What is your view on the effectiveness of the current legal and institutional framework (like the proposed new crime agency) in tackling high-level corruption and ensuring impunity is addressed?

Mauritius has become adept at writing laws with loopholes that look good on paper but fail in practice. We then create costly new institutions at taxpayers' expense, which mainly serve as vehicles for politicians to nominate more people and extend patronage networks. This cycle does little to reduce corruption.

When these loophole-ridden laws are combined with a

“One year after transition and firings along the way, the Bank of Mauritius has still not commissioned a proper forensic audit of MIC assets by a reputable international firm. Instead, we had references to the World Bank or IFC doing “quick audits” — but these are not forensic auditors with expertise in valuing illiquid frontier-market assets. The fact that the former MIC Board has not been held accountable for missteps only reinforces the perception of a clueless FCC...”

slow, overly procedural judiciary, the result is predictable: impunity persists. The proposed crime agency risks becoming yet another layer of bureaucracy unless the fundamentals change.

The real solution is not more agencies, but less political intrusion. If we want to reduce corruption, we must stop giving politicians control over state-owned companies, licenses, and discretionary approvals. Instead, the state should focus on creating a competitive, fair environment where the private sector can thrive, which effectively reduces the importance of politicians in everyday economic life.

The more “toys” politicians have to play with — whether companies, boards, or licences — the more corruption will remain entrenched. What Mauritius needs is a dynamic private sector, more economic freedom, and fewer opportunities to bribe for advantage. Only then will public trust begin to recover.

* What do the latest statistics tell us about the state of the economy - both locally and globally - and the direction in which we are heading? Are there areas where the current government has fallen short — missed opportunities that could have helped bolster economic performance?

Globally, the situation can be summarized as follows:

Growth recession, not crash: I expect a near-term “growth recession” globally — below-potential growth with sticky core inflation — followed by a rebound led by technology and capex led by the US, rather than a hard landing or bubble burst.

AI and capex tailwinds: The expected recovery is supported by sustained AI-related investment and responsive policy adjustments to market conditions.

2026 reacceleration risk-balanced: We are likely going to see a reacceleration into 2026, but there are concentration risks, and we should expect a K-shaped outcome across consumers and equity markets.

As pertains to Mauritius, an analysis of the current economic data and projected future direction suggests that: **Growth is subdued:** Official projections point to roughly 3.1–3.2% real GDP growth for 2025, with modest momentum into 2026 — driven mainly by tourism and services while construction and manufacturing remain weak. **Inflation optics vs reality:** CPI eased to 4.1% YoY in October 2025, but core inflation remains elevated at 6.6%,



consistent with ongoing cost push pressures; the policy rate is on hold at 4.50% and will not change for a while given that the transmission mechanism itself is broken and given cost push vs demand pull factors.

External balances strained: Trade deficits remain large; current account deficits have not narrowed enough and persisted through mid-2025, underscoring external vulnerabilities and the

need for FX market rebalancing.

Labour market soft spots: Unemployment may appear low, but job creation is tepid and concentrated, aligning with concerns about weak public sector spending and constrained competition.

Tourism resilient but narrow: Arrivals and earnings have held up, yet over-reliance on tourism and services limits diversification and productivity gains.

Two-Tiered Private Sector: Conglomerates and large banks are doing well but SMEs are struggling with debt and mounting cost pressures.

* Beyond the immediate responsibility of overseeing the affairs of the state, what three to five critical long-term strategic areas should the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance prioritize to align with his party's “rupture” agenda — focusing not on day-to-day governance?

To truly deliver on a rupture agenda and move beyond short-term fixes, the government must focus on comprehensive structural transformation. The most urgent priorities should be centred on five key areas.

The first priority is ensuring **pension and fiscal sustainability**. This necessitates a phased reform of the pension system, including the creation of a funded Retirement Fund, managed through professional asset management. Concurrently, major steps must be taken toward **privatisation, restructuring, and free market reforms**. This means reducing the state's footprint in inefficient State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), restructuring them and raising funds via listings, which will, in turn, cut patronage politics. This must be complemented by a thorough revamping of the competitive landscape of Mauritius to promote free and fair competition.

Next, the focus should shift to **capital market deepening** by modernizing both fixed income and equity markets and further developing alternative forms of financing to increase economic resilience. This effort must be supported by an initiative for **skilled immigration openness** to attract essential talent, offset demographic decline, boost innovation, and strengthen competitiveness. Critically, this immigration strategy should happen in parallel with major education reforms aimed at dramatically improving the human capital base.

Finally, the government must restore **institutional credibility**. This requires implementing merit-based recruitment, instituting performance-linked accountability, and guaranteeing stronger independence for key bodies like the Bank of Mauritius (BoM), the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), and Statistics Mauritius. Significant judicial reforms focused on efficiency are also essential so that justice delayed is no longer viewed as justice denied.



Nandini Bhautoo

Critical Pedagogy in the Digital Age

Reflection on AI in Education — The Blind Spots

A country may distribute devices, tablets, or AI platforms widely, but unless it cultivates critical thinking, cultural grounding, and ethical judgment, the technology becomes an accelerator of confusion rather than understanding

There is a famous short story by E.M. Forster, “The Machine Stops” (1909), that speaks uncannily to our present moment. In Forster’s imagined world, humans live underground, isolated in individual cells. All learning, entertainment, and human interaction are mediated by the Machine, which acts as government, religion, and collective brain. It offers comfort and convenience but gradually erodes human capacity.

The story becomes a myth for our age because, although it appears to be about a future technology, it is really about how infrastructure shapes consciousness. In Forster’s world, people communicate only through screens, instant lectures, and automated feeds. Everything is effortless, and yet that very ease becomes a form of confinement. Our relationship with Artificial Intelligence (AI) today mirrors this dynamic. We celebrate the promise of unlimited information and instant answers, but we rarely notice that ease can harden into habit, and habit into dependence. Architecture becomes destiny.

Forster traces a progression in his characters’ relationship to the Machine: they first use it, then consult it, then depend on it, then worship it, and finally forget that life ever existed without it. It is a sequence that feels increasingly familiar. When knowledge becomes fully mediated, critical thought atrophies. Students in the story “think ideas” without ever leaving their rooms. Culture becomes commentary on commentary. Physical reality is dismissed as irrelevant. The radical act becomes stepping outside. Predictably, the humanities die first, because they depend on lived experience, moral imagination, and embodied uncertainty. When the Machine eventually collapses, society collapses with it — not because of malice, but because humans have surrendered the habits of mind that would have allowed them to live without it. You can survive a machine breaking down; you cannot survive forgetting how to think.

This Forsterian anxiety increasingly shadows our own moment, especially when one examines current policy papers introducing AI into education — whether the government’s recent MyGPT initiative for schools or the Higher Education Commission’s proposals for AI in universities. The intent of these policies is good. They aim to normalise AI use, democratise access, reduce digital divides, and offer equal technological footing. But the core weakness is consistent across documents: they focus on tools rather than cognition. Most treat AI as if it were a library or a calculator — a neutral resource waiting to be used.

But AI is not inert. It is a thinking partner that shapes reasoning, narrative structure, intellectual style, and even the boundaries of what students consider acceptable thought. Current policy foregrounds infrastructure, access, and training in usage, but rarely discernment. Almost nowhere is there serious consideration of how AI may flatten originality, weaken epistemic stamina, reorganise academic inquiry, or subtly reshape the experience of thinking itself. The phenomenology of AI — the way it enters and restructures consciousness — remains largely unexamined.

This oversight carries significant risks. Higher education, if it proceeds along this path, may soon produce a generation of students who can gather information yet cannot interpret, synthesise, or generate an original idea from it. AI dependence is especially dangerous because it is invisible: AI makes everything feel correct, even when it is not. By focus-



AI — The key is to keep it helpful (and harmless) in education.
Pic - Australian Council for Educational Research

“Technology itself never transforms society; human intention does. When students use AI, the outcomes depend on their purpose, humility, values, and prior intellectual habits. AI is like fire: if the inner structure is stable, it illuminates; if unstable, it destroys. This idea is ancient — echoed in the Upani hads — and equally affirmed by modern cognitive science: tools alter cognition only through the mental frameworks already present. This has direct implications for policy...”

ing on technological access while ignoring cognitive formation, current policy overlooks how AI can accelerate shallow thinking, mask gaps in understanding, generate plausible but unfounded claims, and remove productive struggle — a core component of genuine learning. Students and teachers alike require training not only in how to use AI, but in how to critique it: recognising bias, interrogating sources, testing claims, and designing tasks that require reasoning beyond what a model can supply. These dimensions are missing from nearly every document.

The deeper blind spot, however, concerns the human mind itself. Educational philosophy has long understood that tools do not produce intelligence; they amplify whatever intelligence — or confusion — is already present. Yet most policy statements ignore intention, attention, epistemic humility, and the gradual formation of judgment. This same oversight appears in the government’s MyGPT initiative in primary education. The focus is on access, not on developing critical thinking, research habits, media literacy, or the ability to recognise bias and uneven data quality. Providing children with AI — generated content without teaching them to interrogate it — against existing narratives, academic standards, or local knowledge — risks cultivating superficial learners. If young students come to treat AI as the origin of thought, the consequences for epistemology are severe. Instead of supplementing learning, AI may eclipse deeper intellectual engagement and local intellectual traditions.

AI feels deceptively simple, like a pen or calculator. But unlike a pen, it is not neutral. It structures the very act of inquiry: what questions we think to ask, how we frame them, what counts as a satisfactory answer, which sources appear, and what tonal norms emerge. In this sense, the tool is not merely used; it co — authors the cognitive experience. AI does not create wisdom. It magnifies whatever habits exist. A thoughtful student becomes more thoughtful; a superficial student becomes more superficial. A student lacking foundations receives an avalanche of content but no orientation. This is the paradox of every cognitive technology. Writing expanded memory but weakened mnemonic discipline. The

printing press democratized knowledge but eroded oral traditions. Google made facts immediately available but hollowed out long — form reading. AI now accelerates thought but risks making reflection optional. Without grounding, the user becomes passively intelligent — knowledgeable through outsourcing rather than internal effort.

Technology itself never transforms society; human intention does. When students use AI, the outcomes depend on their purpose, humility, values, and prior intellectual habits. AI is like fire: if the inner structure is stable, it illuminates; if unstable, it destroys. This idea is ancient — echoed in the Upanishads — and equally affirmed by modern cognitive science: tools alter cognition only through the mental frameworks already present.

This has direct implications for policy. A country may distribute devices, tablets, or AI platforms widely, but unless it cultivates critical thinking, research discipline, epistemic humility, cultural grounding, and ethical judgment, the technology becomes an accelerator of confusion rather than understanding. It multiplies misinformation, substitutes automation for reflection, and becomes a hegemonic filter rather than an opening for inquiry. If the mind is untrained, AI will think on its behalf. If the mind is trained, AI becomes a powerful extension of thought.

What is missing from current frameworks is a recognition that AI literacy is not merely technical literacy. Students must learn how to think with AI, not simply how to operate it. Teachers must become mentors in discernment — in why we ask questions and how we interpret answers. And technology must be anchored within cultural depth, standing beside rather than above our intellectual traditions. Mauritius has rich epistemologies that AI should complement, not overshadow.

The most striking absence in current AI policy documents is the neglect of the arts and humanities. These fields are not optional add-ons; they are the intellectual disciplines that prevent technology from becoming unmoored. Humanities determine not just how we think, but what and why we think. Without philosophy, AI amplifies confusion; without ethics, harm; without history, amnesia; without literature, literalism; without art, sterility. The capacities AI cannot replicate — interpretive judgment, ethical imagination, emotional intelligence, symbolic reasoning — are precisely those cultivated by the humanities. Students need inner depth before they can handle outer abundance. And true AI literacy requires meta — literacy: an understanding of how knowledge is constructed, how authority is formed, how bias operates, and what qualifies as evidence.

Importantly, AI threatens the humanities precisely because the humanities threaten AI. They question assumptions, expose biases, protect human subjectivity, and preserve ambiguity — all inconvenient to a society increasingly obsessed with efficiency. Without them, AI education risks collapsing into mere workforce training, shrinking public discourse and weakening citizenship. The strongest international AI strategies already integrate ethics, philosophy, media literacy, and cultural competence, not as soft skills but as structural safeguards.

We should be able to do the following: embed humanities at the centre of AI integration, build a culturally grounded AI literacy model, avoid the pitfalls of purely techno — economic adoption. This is the essential corrective we must bear in mind when discussing AI in Education.

Celebrating Men on International Men's Day

The Decent Man vs The Digital Scoundrel

By Plutonix

Characters:

Socrates: *The philosopher, eternally in pursuit of definitions.*

Cephalus: *An ageing, wealthy gentleman, who values tradition and simple goodness.*

Setting: *A quiet veranda in Athens, shortly after the observance of International Men's Day.*

Socrates: My dear Cephalus, you seem uncommonly cheerful today. Did your recent business venture yield more than you anticipated, or did some divine messenger whisper a good jest into your ear?

Cephalus: Neither, Socrates, neither. But I have been reflecting upon the recent observance of International Men's Day. A truly fine idea, don't you think? To set aside a day to honour the contributions of men to the *polis* — the everyday, honest men who live decent lives, contribute to the family, and serve as role models. It warms the heart of an old man, it truly does.

Socrates: Ah, the celebration of the "Decent Man." A noble pursuit. Yet, the question gnaws at my soul, Cephalus: What, precisely, is a "Decent Man"? And how does one confirm his decency, especially when the news itself seems to hold a contradictory ledger?

Cephalus: Contradictory ledger? What nonsense is this, Socrates? We speak of men of *good* character. Men who embody the "Six Pillars" of this fine day: positive role models, contributors to the community, promoters of health. It is quite straightforward.

Socrates: Straightforward, you say? Let us examine the Pillar concerning the "positive contributions of men to society, community, family, and marriage." A weighty and beautiful pillar indeed. But tell me, Cephalus, if a man is said to be a contributor to his *family*, does that contribution not cease when he is, shall we say, the author of its tragedy?

Cephalus: Of course it does! No decent man harms his family. That is self-evident.

Socrates: Self-evident, perhaps, to you and me, but the universal truth seems less solid. I recently read a report that spoke of a chilling, global arithmetic: it is estimated that some 80,000 women and girls were intentionally killed in a single year, and roughly 60% of those killings were at the hands of an intimate partner or family member.

Cephalus: Sixty per cent? By the very men they share a roof with? By fathers, brothers, husbands? Gods above! That is a grievous stain on the concept of *contribution*.

Socrates: Indeed. If we say a man contributes positively to the **family** by being a loving partner, but 60% of these most heinous crimes are committed by men against their families, does that not suggest that for every man we celebrate under that Pillar, there is another man actively dismantling the foundation of that very Pillar? Is the celebration, then, merely a recognition of the potential for decency, rather than the reality of universal good conduct?

Cephalus: You are making my head spin, Socrates. You wish to hold all men accountable for the vile acts of a few rogues?

Socrates: Not accountable, Cephalus, but confused! We celebrate "positive role models" while reports simultaneously remind us that "every ten minutes, a woman is killed in the world." Now, if a role model demonstrates that his *contribution* involves a fatal act against his partner, what lesson does that convey to the young men we are striving to nurture? Does the Decent Man simply exist *outside* this bloody statistic?

Cephalus: He must, Socrates. The Decent Man is defined by his non-participation in such horrors.

Socrates: So, to be a Decent Man, one must merely refrain from murder? That seems a rather low bar for a celebratory pillar, does it not? We do not celebrate a donkey for failing to assault a citizen; we expect it.

Cephalus: (Sighing) Then we must celebrate men for their **active** good. For protecting their communities, for showing kindness, for their courage.

Socrates: A wonderful thought. But let us turn our gaze from the hearth to the new, ethereal *agora* — the world of digital communication. This modern sphere offers new pathways for our active good, surely?

Cephalus: The digital world is too fast for me, Socrates, but I assume good men use it for good purpose: sharing wisdom, trading ideas, perhaps sending charming images of kittens.

Socrates: I have learned of a new practice, Cephalus, called **sextorsion**, where men — or boys, or others, though the complaints often target men — extort and abuse women and girls by threatening to expose intimate images. The reports from Mauritius alone mention 565 such cases being recorded since the beginning of this year, and over 1,100 cases of online



presses dominance?

Cephalus: (Rubbing his temples) I... I believe I see your point. The same societal pressure that creates the silent sufferer on Men's Day may also create the violent aggressor in the home. One is a victim of a flawed definition of masculinity, and the other is an active agent of it. Both stem from a culture that struggles to define the good man.

Socrates: Precisely, Cephalus. We are celebrating the "Good Man" before we have defined him. We are to promote gender equality, yet the reports tell us of **femicide being elevated to a distinct crime** in some lands, recognizing the systemic nature of violence *against*

women. How can we meaningfully promote equality when the scale of inequality is measured in thousands of lives extinguished by partners and family members?

Cephalus: The Day must be a *commitment* to change, then, Socrates. It cannot be merely a celebration. It must be a commitment from all men to live up to the highest potential of the first Pillar: to be a Positive Role Model, actively resisting the cruelty, control, and dominance that underpin violence.

Socrates: A commitment, yes. And a difficult one. The challenge for International Men's Day, my old friend, seems to be this: How does one celebrate the quiet strength and decency of a man who supports his family, when that celebration occurs against a backdrop where, statistically, the man most likely to kill a woman is her own partner?

Cephalus: (Looking out over the city) You have turned my cheerfulness into a sober realization, Socrates. We cannot simply raise a glass to the Decent Man and assume his virtue is infectious. We must define the Decent Man not by what he *is* not, but by what he *actively* fights against, both in himself and in the world.

Socrates: Well said, Cephalus. And until we have successfully defined this **Active Goodness**, this International Men's Day, for all its noble intention, remains a celebration of an ideal that is in perpetual conflict with the evidence. Come, let us go inside. My thirst for a good drink now rivals my thirst for a good definition, and in both cases, I seem to be coming up short.

The two men rise, leaving the uncomfortable silence of the unsolved problem hanging in the Athenian air.

harassment.

Cephalus: Five hundred and sixty-five? Sextorsion? What manner of monstrous behaviour is this? Where is the courage or kindness in using a private trust to inflict public humiliation?

Socrates: This brings us to another Pillar, Cephalus: "To promote a positive conversation about men, manhood, and masculinity." When we see that a digital handshake of trust can become a digital shackle of sextorsion, and that online violence is so rampant it leads to organised public campaigns with names like "*Fam kone to drwa online*" (Woman, know your rights online), what is the "positive conversation" we are meant to be having about the nature of the modern man?

Cephalus: The conversation must be about *restraint* and *respect*, Socrates!

Socrates: Ah, *Restraint*. Is *Restraint* the essence of Manhood, then? If a man is defined as "one who could do evil but chooses not to," is that not merely a definition of **every decent citizen**, regardless of gender? If International Men's Day simply means "People who don't break the law," then why not call it International Non-Felon Day? It lacks a certain lyrical quality, I admit.

Cephalus: You are being intentionally difficult, Socrates! The Day is a complement to International Women's Day! It is meant to address the *unique* struggles of men — mental health, suicide rates, societal pressure to be stoic...

Socrates: And I commend the Pillar "To Focus on Men's Health and Well-being." It is vital that we address the silent suffering that afflicts so many men. But I ask you: Does the pressure to be stoic — the pressure to conceal emotion — not also feed the very violence we observe? Does the man who cannot express vulnerability not become the man who ex-

'We shouldn't be silenced': Australian teens ask court to block social media ban

A constitutional challenge against Australia's social media ban on children younger than 16 has been filed in the nation's highest court, two weeks before the world-first law is set to take effect.

A campaign group called the Digital Freedom Project said on Wednesday it launched proceedings in the High Court of Australia in a bid to block the law, with two 15-year-olds, Noah Jones and Macy Neyland, as plaintiffs in the case.

More than one million accounts held by teenagers under 16 are set to be deactivated in Australia when the ban on platforms including YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat and Meta's Facebook and Instagram starts on December 10.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Digital Freedom Project said the ban "robs" young Australians of their freedom of political communication, an implied right in the constitution. Australia does not have an express right to free speech, reports Reuters.

"The legislation is grossly excessive," the statement said.

Neyland said the law would ban young people from expressing their views online.

"Young people like me are the voters of tomorrow ... we shouldn't be silenced. It's like Orwell's book 1984, and that scares me," she said.

The Digital Freedom Project's president is John Ruddick, a member of the Libertarian Party in the New South Wales state Parliament.

After news of the legal challenge broke, Communications Minister Anika Wells told Parliament the centre-left government, led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, would not be intimidated by



Australian teenagers ask high court to block social media ban. Pic - NBC News

threats and legal challenges.

"Despite the fact that we are receiving threats and legal challenges by people with ulterior motives, the Albanese Labor government remains steadfastly on the side of parents, and not of platforms," Wells said.

Australian media has reported that YouTube also threatened to launch a High Court challenge on the grounds the ban burdened political communication.

Governments and tech firms around the world are closely watching Australia's effort to implement the ban, one of the most comprehensive efforts to police minors' social media access.

The ban was passed into law in November 2024 and is supported by the majority of Australians, according to opinion polling.

The government said research showed the over-use of social media was harming young teens, including causing misinformation, enabling bullying and harmful depictions of body image.

Companies that fail to comply with the ban could face penalties of up to A\$49.5 million (\$32.22 million).

vulnerable populations out of the economy. The city's buskers noticed the trend, and for years now passengers on the Tube have been able to tap to donate rather than throwing a pound coin in the hat.

UK laser weapon destroys drones

A laser weapon to shoot down drones will be installed on British ships in 2027. Cheap drones are a problem for air defences: Patriot missiles and other anti-air ordnance can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per unit, whereas the drones they destroy could cost a few hundred. The problem is especially urgent in the face of suspected Russian drone disruption of European airspace.

The UK's DragonFire laser system costs \$13 a shot, and in trials shot down drones traveling at 400 mph, as well as mortar shells; it can also hit targets the size of a coin more than half a mile away. The US Army recently received two anti-drone laser weapon prototypes to protect land forces.



Smart payment technology is making life much easier for business owners. Pic -Surfpay

Tap-to-pay makes life harder

The tap-to-pay economy has made life harder for people — particularly those who are homeless — who rely on cash. The US is increasingly cashless: the percentage of people who don't handle cash nearly doubled between 2015 and 2022. New York panhandlers told *The New York Times* that the shift has resulted in fewer handouts from passersby.

Activist groups say something similar is happening in London, which has reduced cash use even more than New York. Fewer people carry cash, and many shops don't accept it, partially shutting

Across the Globe

Israeli strike in Beirut tests truce

Israel's assassination of Hezbollah's second-in-command in Beirut threatens to reignite regional tensions, underscoring the fragility of ceasefires in the Middle East, analysts said. Israel has carried out dozens of strikes in Lebanon since its truce with Hezbollah a year ago; Sunday's attack is the second one in the capital.

Lebanon exists "in a gray zone between war and peace" as Israel pushes for Hezbollah's disarmament, *The New York Times* wrote, predicting a similar fate for Gaza, where Israeli strikes continue despite a shaky ceasefire with Hamas. Amid the volatility, Pope Leo XIV travels to Lebanon on Sunday on his first official foreign trip. "Arabs and Israelis will weigh every comma of his speeches," a Vatican watcher said.



Israel bombs Beirut in first strike since November ceasefire. Pic - The Independent

Maduro rallies his supporters

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is projecting defiance in the face of escalating US pressure. "Failure is not an option at this crucial juncture," a sword-brandishing Maduro said in a fiery address to supporters in Caracas on Tuesday, vowing to defend Venezuela from "imperial threat."

Washington has pursued increasingly aggressive maneuvers against Maduro — designating him as a terrorist and deploying warships in the Southern Caribbean — in what is suspected to be a campaign to overthrow him. But Maduro is unlikely to leave peacefully, *The Wall Street Journal* wrote, partly because he likely believes the US threats are a bluff. His political opponent, Maria Corina Machado, has aligned herself with Washington, and is facing accusations of amplifying false claims about Maduro.

Robotaxis go global

Robotaxis are on the verge of entering the global mainstream. In the Gulf, a Chinese autonomous car company recently began operations in Abu Dhabi; Dubai wants a quarter of all trips to be driverless by 2030; and three different firms are running trials in Riyadh. Alphabet-owned Waymo, meanwhile, is bringing ride-hailing robotaxis to London and Tokyo, while also expanding across the US. (Flagship's J.D. just took his first Waymo ride in Atlanta, and found it equally amusing, unsettling, and extraordinary.)

As adoption accelerates, though, the economics of the industry appear shaky. Despite the absence of a human driver, it costs more to operate a robotaxi because of the expensive technology and management of the car itself, *The Economist* noted.

Study finds AI is not conscious, yet

Researchers attempted to see whether AI is conscious, and determined — cautiously — that current models probably aren't, but future ones could be. The study sought to understand whether AIs can think about what they're thinking, in the hope that that tells us whether they have real inner life.

The research does not solve the millennia-old hard problem of consciousness, the AI-and-philosophy-obsessed writer Scott Alexander noted, but makes useful progress. AI's rise has, Alexander said, forced researchers into doing "philosophy with a deadline." If AIs have conscious experience, we may have moral obligations to them, and questions bandied around by philosophers since Plato have real-world implications. Alexander also noted that people already often treat AI as though it were conscious.

* Contd on page 13



Robotaxis go mainstream - The global race for dominance begins. Pic - Cryptopolitan

Across the Globe



The United States' proposed tariffs on South Africa. Pic – Daily Investor

S. Africa, US tensions spike

South Africa reportedly expects Washington to exclude it from next year's G20 summit when the US hosts the meeting. South African officials also told *Bloomberg* the White House could push for their country's removal from the G20 altogether; Washington boycotted this month's G20 gathering in Johannesburg — the first held in Africa — in a move that largely eclipsed the outcomes of the meeting.

US President Donald Trump has turned sharply against Pretoria over what he alleges is the persecution of white South Africans. Experts have rejected this assessment. However, Trump has stayed the course, imposing tariffs that could cost South Africa hundreds of thousands of jobs at a time of soaring unemployment.

UK to unveil 'historic' budget

Britain's finance minister Rachel Reeves is set to unveil plans to plug a \$40 billion budget shortfall, but faces a growing political backlash and a raft of economic obstacles. The annual budget is expected to include a series of tax increases to appease bond investors worried by the country's hefty debt burden and languid economic growth, as well as measures to address cost-of-living

concerns.

The myriad issues Reeves must resolve point to the scale of the challenge facing Britain's Labour Party, whose progressive lawmakers want the government to enact left-wing policies, but which is also lagging in the polls to the upstart, hard-right Reform UK party. "This will be a historic budget," Deutsche Bank's Chief UK economist told CNBC.

US and China share 'fragile stability'

Tensions between Washington and Beijing will probably ease in the short term, but deeper frictions suggest the superpowers' relationship is unlikely to permanently improve, China-based experts said.

Speaking at a forum in Beijing this month, a summary of which was translated by the Pekingology newsletter, a group of analysts said recent talks between the two countries' leaders and officials had resulted in tangible concessions by both sides.

Still, their ties would, as one of the experts put it, remain in a state of "fragile stability" — another characterized their rivalry as "managed competition" — because of differences over trade, international competition, and political ideology. "A pattern of 'alternating confrontation and negotiation' has become the new normal," one of the experts said.

Taiwan boosts defense spending

Taiwan's leader pledged \$40 billion in additional defence spending in an effort to deter Beijing, ramping up tensions with China as the superpower is locked in a row with regional rival Japan. Writing in *The Washington Post*, Lai Ching-te argued that "Beijing's willingness to alter the status quo by force has become increasingly evident," necessitating what he called "the largest sustained military investment in Taiwan's modern history."

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province, and recent remarks by Japan's leader that Tokyo could intervene militarily if Beijing sought to invade have drastically ramped up tensions between the East Asian countries, with China increasingly using the crisis to showcase its willingness to punish countries that publicly side with Taiwan.



Italian parliament unanimously votes to make femicide a crime. Pic - BBC

Italy recognizes femicide

Italy's parliament passed a law adding femicide to its criminal code after earlier changing the legal definition of rape to include all non-consensual sex. Both laws won bipartisan support — though the centre-left opposition said that more should be done to address cultural and economic drivers of such violence — and came in response to a string of killings and other attacks on women.

French lawmakers also recently passed a bill enshrining consent in their country's definition of rape. Experts say the prior requirement of coercion dissuaded victims from coming forward. The issue has gained urgency in France in the wake of the trial involving Gisèle Pelicot, who was raped by 51 men over several years while drugged.

Canada projects 7% decrease in permits issued to foreign students next year

Toronto: The Canadian government has projected a seven per cent decrease in the total number of international students issued permits next year.

A release from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) noted that the total number of study permits to be issued in 2026 will be capped at 408,000. This will include the 155,000 visas issued to newly arriving international students plus 253,000 extensions for current and returning students.

"This number is 7% lower than the 2025 issuance target of 437,000 and 16% lower than the 2024 issuance target of 485,000," IRCC said.

IRCC said that the cap that was first introduced in 2024 "has been an effective tool in slowing the growth of Canada's temporary population" as the number of study permit holders has fallen from over a million in January 2024 to about 725,000 by September 2025, reports *Hindustan Times*.

"While this progress is significant, further reductions are needed to meet our commitment of reducing the share of Canada's temporary population to below



Canada needs new international students approach. Pic – Toronto Star

5% of the total population by the end of 2027," it added.

The immigration levels plan introduced in Parliament earlier this month had Canada sharply reducing its intake of temporary residents, including workers and international students, by nearly 43%.

In its previous levels plan, the government had looked at admitting 305,000 new international students each year. However, the latest plan showed the tar-

get at 155,000, reducing further to 150,000 in 2027 and 2028.

The projections for workers and students in 2026 is 385,000, going down to 370,000 over the next two years. The number of new work permits to be issued under the Temporary Foreign Worker Programme (TFWP), International Mobility Program (IMP), including those issued under humanitarian public policies, will total 230,000 next year, and drop to

220,000 in 2027 and 2028.

The 2025 target for temporary residents admitted to the country was 673,650, including 367,750 foreign workers and 305,900 students. The projected figures in the 2024 levels plan were at 516,600 in 2026 and 543,600 in 2027.

Indians form the largest cohorts in the impacted categories, comprising 39,790 or 20.8% of the TFWP source country, and 209,505 or 29.2% under the International Mobility Plan in 2024. Indians also accounted for 188,465 or 36.5% of the study permits issued.

"We will balance the number of new arrivals with the planned departure of international students and temporary workers as their status expires in 2025 and 2026. We have committed to reduce temporary resident volumes through departures, program limits, and lower immigration levels to less than 5% of the population by the end of 2027," Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Lena Metlege Diab noted in the introduction to the plan.

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 322

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 28 October 1960

• *Intellect is aristocratic; charity is democratic. — Henri-Frédéric Amiel*

Immigration and Dictatorship

By Daily Chronicle
British Guiana

Before the Mauritius Immigration Mission arrived in British Guiana, there had been a report that the People's Progressive Party (PPP) was considering the suitability of the Rupununi for large-scale settlement from the Communist state of Kerala in South India. The report alleged that Indian immigration had been discussed at a meeting of the Party's Executive held at Freedom House, but the Government had not yet started negotiations with the Indian Government. The report found its way "over the air", and all those who were inclined to dismiss it as of little consequence were startled by the attitude of the Hon Brindley Benn, who was then acting Leader of the Majority Party. Mr Benn became incensed presumably by the leakage of so important a secret, and he used the Government's influence with the Radio Stations to have them broadcast a retraction. After all this typically Communist ceremonial humbug, the Government issued a statement, published in the *Chronicle* on September 2, that Mauritians wanted to settle in British Guiana...

Cheddi Jagan knows that he has lost considerable support between 1957 and 1960, and he sees in immigration the opportunity to bolster his diminishing influence in the farming and agricultural constituencies. The mere fact that immigration is a topic of

discussion among Government Ministers, and an investigating Mission arrived at this time when the roll of underemployed and unemployed is nearing 80,000, shows that Jagan's aim to retain power in perpetuity transcends the welfare of the workers of this country. Indian settlers at this time, then, are indispensable to the triumph of the PPP from now onwards to independence — and after...

Evasive Statement

The economy of Mauritius, like this country's, is based on sugar; and the socio-economic environment is so historically like our own that it offers little difficulty to agitating demagogues to convert historical prejudices (against capital and imperialism) into active political agents. Half-a-million Mauritians scattered in constituencies from the Corentyne to Georgetown and to the Rupununi would enable the People's Progressive Party to sweep the entire country at general elections. As this is the Party's avowed aim, we have no doubt that the initiative for the Mission's investigation came from the Party with a vested interest in consolidating racial support.

We are not against immigration provided the new people do not take the bread out of our people's mouths. But we are against immigration being used as an instrument for keeping one party in power everlastingly. On September 2 we published



Mauritian delegates - Veerasamy Ringadoo and Harold Walter - seen here with the Governor of British Guiana in 1960

a statement by the Government which was evasively and suspiciously worded. The statement excused Government of any complicity in the Mission's investigations — but really it accused Government of complicity. Apart from the Government's statement being laboriously self-absolving, it was contradictory and naive.

The statement said: "The Government of British Guiana is aware that no practical help can be extended to Mauritius without immediately aggravating the already grave problem in British Guiana of rising unemployment, rapidly increasing population, and difficulty in securing adequate finance for accelerating agricultural and industrial development.

"The British Guiana Government is nevertheless in sympathy with the Mauritian people and may be able to extend support to any representations that Government

may make elsewhere for the amelioration of the situation in Mauritius."

If our government knows that "no practical help can be extended to Mauritius without aggravating the already grave problem in British Guiana," why did it not discourage the Mission from coming? Their coming would appear to us to have been a costly and disturbing piece of extravagance, unless there was some understanding that their findings would be implemented later. We have got to watch these embryo dictators closely, always bearing in mind that the People's Progressive Party is determined to remain in office forever, and any sort of immi-

gration that consolidates the Party's strength helps them along the road of one-party rule.

Unemployment

The PPP is unscrupulous enough to pile immigration on unemployment. The figures in the McGale report on employment in British Guiana, which were frightening when they were first released, have now developed appalling proportions. The breakdown in these figures, from 1959 to 1964, was based on the assumption that Government's economic policies would be geared to the provision of employment. As we showed on Sunday, the funds allocated for development have not all been used for the first half of this year; therefore, the McGale hypothesis of a breakdown in the unemployment figures itself has broken down!...

Obituary

Mohabeer Burrenchobay

Mohabeer Burrenchobay, a distinguished figure in Mauritian public life, passed away peacefully at his home on Curepipe Road last Monday. Mauritius mourns the loss of a remarkable son, and the Indo-Mauritian community reflects on the pioneering role he played. His cremation at Bigara cemetery was attended by a large number of friends and colleagues, a fitting tribute to the prominent place he held in Mauritian society.

A Career in Public Service

Mr Burrenchobay embarked on his career in the Civil Service in 1913 as a Second Grade Clerk. He began at the Treasury, where he served under Sir Allan Granham, who would later become Colonial Secretary and repeatedly act as Officer Administering the Government. From the outset, Mr Burrenchobay showed great promise, but his enduring legacy rests on his role as the acknowledged "Father of the Cooperative Movement in Mauritius."

This highly beneficial movement was initially proposed by Mr Campbell, who drew upon his experience with co-operative services in India. Mr Campbell found an excep-

tionally energetic and intelligent colleague in Mr Burrenchobay, who leveraged his full capacity to stimulate and nurture the Cooperative Movement across the island.

Key Role in Labour Reforms

Mr Burrenchobay's influence extended significantly during the 1937 sugar industry disturbances. The strike by sugar workers was rooted in the deep-seated grievances of small planters. Following the events, when the Labour Department was established in 1938, Mr Burrenchobay, alongside Mr Abdul Rajack Osman, became a principal adviser to the Government on necessary reforms. They served as vital pillars of strength and counsel to the authorities during this critical period. Much of the subsequent beneficial reforms and positive changes implemented in the aftermath of the strike are widely credited to Mr Burrenchobay's insight, vision, and leadership.

Leadership in the Cooperative Department

The Cooperative Department, which initially operated as a branch of the Department of Agriculture, achieved independence approximately twelve years ago. Mr Bodkin, who had recently retired as Director of Agriculture, was appointed to lead the new department. Mr Burrenchobay, who had served for many years as the 'de facto' chief of the cooperative section, was formally appointed as his Deputy. Upon Mr Bodkin's retirement, Mr Burrenchobay was

appointed to act as the Registrar of the Cooperative Department, a position from which he retired from Government Service a few years later.

Community and Social Contribution

Beyond his official duties, Mr Burrenchobay will be remembered for his extensive social work. Notably, he was responsible for building the 'Shivala' of Plaine Magnien and contributed significantly over the years to the rejuvenation of Hinduism in Mauritius.

The writer of this obituary respectfully salutes the memory of this pioneer who paved the way for future generations across numerous fields of Mauritian life.

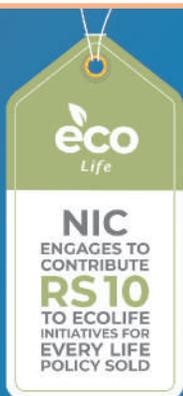
Santosh K. Kissoon

* * *

Extract From 'Colonial Office List'

BURRENCHOBAY, Mohabeer, MBE — born 1891; educated Royal College, Mauritius; appointed monitor, schools department, Mauritius, 1911; writer, treasury, 1913; clerk, treasury, 1915; inspector co-operative credit societies, 1927; assistant-registrar, 1933 joint registrar, 1941; deputy registrar, 1947; author of "A brief Account of the Co-Operative Movement in Mauritius" and "Advantages and Safeguards of Unlimited Liability."

(Published in MT, 4 Nov 1960)



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CONTRIBUTE
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TO ECOLIFE
INITIATIVES FOR
EVERY LIFE
POLICY SOLD



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A PERFECT
START WITH MY
RETIREMENT
PLANNED OUT
ALREADY**

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Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION

(Authorized under Section 9 of the BOT Act and Section 5 of the BOT Manual)

Contract WW 569W: Sewerage Project for the Design, Build, Finance, Operation, Maintenance and Transfer of new Baie du Tombeau Wastewater Treatment Plant and new Roche-Bois Pumping Station

OPEN ADVERTISED BIDDING: OAB/16/2025

1. The Wastewater Management Authority ("WMA") of the Republic of Mauritius ("Mauritius") is inviting local and international private promoters to participate in this "Request for Qualification" for the Sewerage Project for the design, build, finance, operation, maintenance and transfer of new Baie du Tombeau Wastewater Treatment Plant and new Roche-Bois Pumping Station, as more fully described in the bidding document.
2. Interested and eligible private promoters are required to register their companies on the e-procurement platform (project data room) via the following link:
<https://dataroom.ansarada.com/rocheboispumpingstation/sign-up/8DB73034-D3C8-4707-A778-5706EA28744C> effective on Tuesday, 25 November 2025 as from 12:00 Mauritian Time (GMT+4).
3. Registration is mandatory to access Request for Qualification documentation, seek clarification, receive addendums, clarifications, communication and instructions, and submit responses.
4. Interested and eligible prospective bidders are invited to attend a non-compulsory pre-proposal conference that will be held through online video conference on Thursday, 04 December 2025 at 13:00 Mauritian Time (GMT+4).
Link will be provided through an Addendum at least three (3) days prior to scheduled date.
5. Link to Request for Qualification documentation will be provided to registered companies, via the e-procurement platform (project data room) as from Thursday, 27 November 2025.
6. Responses must be submitted online on the project e-procurement platform (project data room) as per the instructions of the RFQ Document no later than Friday, 27 February 2026 before 13:30 Mauritian Time (GMT+4).
7. One hard copy response, as a control copy, must be submitted to:

**The Tender Box
Wastewater Management Authority
1st Floor, Jerningham Street, Curepipe
Republic of Mauritius**

no later than Friday, 27 February 2026 before 13:30 Mauritian Time (GMT+4).

The envelope shall be sealed and marked 'Contract WW 569W: Sewerage Project for the Design, Build, Finance, Operation, Maintenance and Transfer of new Baie du Tombeau Wastewater Treatment Plant and new Roche-Bois Pumping Station as per the Instructions of the RFQ Document.

8. Responses will be opened on 27 February 2026 at 16:00 Mauritian Time (GMT+4) at the following address:

**The Conference Room, Wastewater Management Authority
3rd Floor, Jerningham Street
Curepipe
Republic of Mauritius**

9. The WMA reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to annul the procurement process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

**The General Manager
Wastewater Management Authority
Jerningham Street
Curepipe**

Date: 21 November 2025

Tree of Knowledge

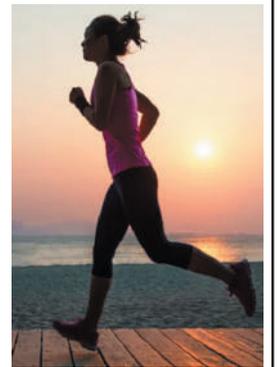


A Self-Esteem Exercise

Having low self-esteem is a common issue — with some introspection, you can start to loosen the grip of this negative thought pattern.

Our primary relationship in life is with ourselves. No one else goes through every experience in life with us. We are our one permanent companion, yet we are often our worst critic. To remind ourselves of our magnificence, we can do this exercise: "Five Things I Like About Myself."

Begin by writing down at least five things that you like about yourself. This is not the time to be modest. If you are having trouble coming up with the five items, you know that this exercise can really benefit you.



Be sure to include more than your physical attributes on your list since our bodies are only part of who we are. If you are still struggling with what to include on your list, think of what you like about your favourite people. These are traits and qualities that you probably possess too. Another way to complete your list is to consider five things you don't like about yourself and find something about these traits that you can turn into a positive.

Continue this process for a week, thinking of five new things you like about yourself each day. At the end of the week, read the list aloud to yourself while standing in front of a mirror. Instead of looking for flaws to fix, allow the mirror to reflect your magnificence. You may feel silly standing in front of a mirror and reading aloud a list of your admirable attributes, but it might just bring a smile to your face and change the way you see yourself.

Remember, it is when you feel the most resistant that this exercise can benefit you the most. Because we are constantly looking at the world instead of looking at ourselves, we don't often see what's magnificent about ourselves. When we take the time to experience ourselves the way we would experience someone we love and admire, we become our best companion and supporter on life's journey.

Daily Om



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

COMMUNIQUÉ

NON PAIEMENT DES FACTURES D'ÉLECTRICITÉ

Le **Central Electricity Board (CEB)** tient à rappeler à ses abonnés qu'une facture non réglée dans le délai de la date limite de paiement peut entraîner une interruption de la fourniture d'électricité à tout moment.

Après l'interruption, les abonnés concernés devront régler toutes les factures impayées, ainsi que les frais de reconnexion, avant que le service ne soit rétabli.

Le CEB se voit contraint de procéder régulièrement à des débranchements en cas de non-paiement des factures. Les abonnés sont priés de respecter les délais de paiement afin d'éviter ces désagréments.

La Direction

Fruit: The Unexpected Shield Against Air Pollution

New research suggests a surprisingly simple defence against one of the world's most widespread health threats: air pollution. A study presented at the European Respiratory Society Congress found that consuming a diet high in fruit may significantly reduce the harmful effects of air pollution on lung function, particularly in women.

Using data from nearly 200,000 participants in the UK Biobank, researchers compared dietary habits and lung function -- measured by FEV1 (the amount of air exhaled in one second) -- against individual exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

The Antioxidant Mitigation

The findings confirmed that a healthy diet, regardless of air pollution levels, is generally linked to better lung



function. However, the protective effect of fruit was especially pronounced. For women who consumed four or

more portions of fruit per day, the reduction in lung function associated with higher PM2.5 exposure was noticeably smaller compared to those with low fruit intake.

Researchers believe this protective effect is due to the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds naturally present in fruit. These compounds help to mitigate the oxidative stress and inflammation caused by fine particles from vehicle exhausts and industrial processes, effectively offsetting some of the damage to the lungs. The effect was more observable in women in this study, which may be explained by the fact that they generally reported higher baseline fruit consumption than men.

While experts caution that this finding should not distract from the urgent need for governments to continue reducing air pollution, it highlights a practical, dietary strategy that individuals can adopt. Promoting a healthy, plant-rich diet, rich in fresh fruit, could offer a crucial layer of defense against both chronic disease and environmental exposure.



If evolution is real, then why isn't it happening now? An anthropologist explains that humans actually are still evolving

We are indeed still evolving, though it can be hard to tell because it happens over generations and often involves things you can't see, such as what foods different people are able to digest.

Many people believe that we humans have conquered nature through the wonders of civilization and technology. Some also believe that because we are different from other creatures, we have complete control over our destiny and have no need to evolve. Even though lots of people believe this, it's not true.

Like other living creatures, humans have been shaped by evolution. Over time, we have developed – and continue to develop – the traits that help us survive and flourish in the environments where we live.

I'm an anthropologist. I study how humans adapt to different environments. Adaptation is an important part of evolution. Adaptations are traits that give someone an advantage in their environment. People with those traits are more likely to survive and pass those traits on to their children. Over many generations, those traits become widespread in the population.

The role of culture

We humans have two hands that help us skillfully use tools and other objects. We are able to walk and run on two legs, which frees our hands for these skilled tasks. And we have large brains that let us reason, create ideas and live successfully with other people in social groups.

All of these traits have helped humans develop culture. Culture includes all of our ideas and beliefs and our abilities to plan and think about the present and the future. It also includes our ability to change our environment, for example by making tools and growing food.

Although we humans have changed our environment in many ways during the past few thousand years, we are still changed by evolution. We have not stopped evolving, but we are evolving right now in different ways than our



Inuit people such as these Greenlanders have evolved to be able to eat fatty foods with a low risk of getting heart disease. Olivier Morin/AFP via Getty Images

ancient ancestors. Our environments are often changed by our culture.

We usually think of an environment as the weather, plants and animals in a place. But environments include the foods we eat and the infectious diseases we are exposed to.

A very important part of the environment is the climate and what kinds of conditions we can live in. Our culture helps us change our exposure to the climate. For example, we build houses and put furnaces and air conditioners in them. But culture doesn't fully protect us from extremes of heat, cold and the sun's rays.

Here are some examples of how humans have evolved over the past 10,000 years and how we are continuing to evolve today.

The power of the sun's rays

While the sun's rays are important for life on our planet, ultraviolet rays can damage human skin. Those of us with pale skin are in danger of serious sunburn and equally dangerous kinds of skin cancer. In contrast, those of us with a lot of skin pigment, called melanin, have some protection against damaging

ultraviolet rays from sunshine.

People in the tropics with dark skin are more likely to thrive under frequent bright sunlight. Yet, when ancient humans moved to cloudy, cooler places, the dark skin was not needed. Dark skin in cloudy places blocked the production of vitamin D in the skin, which is necessary for normal bone growth in children and adults.

The amount of melanin pigment in our skin is controlled by our genes. So in this way, human evolution is driven by the environment – sunny or cloudy – in different parts of the world.

The food that we eat

Ten thousand years ago, our human ancestors began to tame or domesticate animals such as cattle and goats to eat their meat. Then about 2,000 years later, they learned how to milk cows and goats for this rich food. Unfortunately, like most other mammals at that time, human adults back then could not digest milk without feeling ill. Yet a few people were able to digest milk because they had genes that let them do so.

Milk was such an important source of food in these societies that the people who could digest milk were better able to survive and have many children. So the genes that allowed them to digest milk increased in the population until nearly everyone could drink milk as adults.

This process, which occurred and spread thousands of years ago, is an example of what is called cultural and biological co-evolution. It was the cultural

practice of milking animals that led to these genetic or biological changes.

Other people, such as the Inuit in Greenland, have genes that enable them to digest fats without suffering from heart diseases. The Turkana people herd livestock in Kenya in a very dry part of Africa. They have a gene that allows them to go for long periods without drinking much water. This practice would cause kidney damage in other people because the kidney regulates water in your body.

These examples show how the remarkable diversity of foods that people eat around the world can affect evolution.

Diseases that threaten us

Like all living creatures, humans have been exposed to many infectious diseases. During the 14th century a deadly disease called the bubonic plague struck and spread rapidly throughout Europe and Asia. It killed about one-third of the population in Europe. Many of those who survived had a specific gene that gave them resistance against the disease. Those people and their descendants were better able to survive epidemics that followed for several centuries.

Some diseases have struck quite recently. COVID-19, for instance, swept the globe in 2020. Vaccinations saved many lives. Some people have a natural resistance to the virus based on their genes. It may be that evolution increases this resistance in the population and helps humans fight future virus epidemics.

As human beings, we are exposed to a variety of changing environments. And so evolution in many human populations continues across generations, including right now.

Michael A. Little

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology,
Binghamton University,
State University of New York



Laughter is the Best Medicine

The Line Was Perfect...

A veteran actor had difficulty remembering his lines. After many years, he finally found a theatre willing to recruit him.

The director told him: "This is a crucial part, and it has only one line. You walk onto the stage at the beginning, carrying a rose. You hold the rose to your nose with one finger and thumb, sniff it deeply, and then say: 'Ah, the sweet aroma of my mistress.'"

The actor was thrilled. He spent the entire day practising the line over and over again.

Finally, his moment arrived. The curtain rose, the actor walked onto the stage, and with great passion delivered the line:

"Ah, the sweet aroma of my mistress."

The theatre erupted. The audience was screaming with laughter and the director was steaming.

"You bloody fool! You have ruined my play!"

The actor was confused. "What happened? Did I miss something in the line?"

"No!" the director shouted. "You forgot the rose!"

* * *

Heaven's Job Interview

Three blokes shuffled up to the Pearly Gates, fresh out of their mortal coil, where the very organized St. Peter was waiting with his clipboard and a look that suggested he really needed a bigger budget for halos.

"Right, lads, standard Heaven intake interview. Let's talk Earthly earnings," St. Peter announced, adjusting his spectacles.

He turned to the first man, who was wearing a rather smug expression. "How much did you make annually?"

The man puffed out his chest. "One million pounds, give or take. You know, high-stakes finance, global synergy, that sort of thing."

St. Peter barely glanced at his chart. "Excellent. Head through the golden arch, take the first left, and join the Surgeons and Lawyers. They keep the eternal property values high."

Next was the second man, looking distinctly less smug but still respectable. "And you, my son? Your annual take?"

"About £400,000," he replied quickly. "Mostly tax consulting and risk management."

"Splendid," said St. Peter. "Head straight down the cloud path, third right. You'll be with the Accountants. Try not to make the books here too complex."

Finally, St. Peter turned to the third man, who was



nervously twisting his cheap cotton robe. "And you, sir? Your annual earnings?"

The man swallowed hard and whispered, almost apologetically:

"About... £10,000."

St. Peter stopped writing. He slowly put down his clipboard, leaned in close, and scrutinized the man from his cheap sandals to his bewildered face.

He paused for a long, dramatic beat, then asked, genuinely baffled:

"£10,000? And would I have seen you in anything? Perhaps a major motion picture?"

* * *

Alive and Practicing Law

Attorney: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for blood pressure?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for breathing?

Witness: No...

Attorney: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No.

Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Attorney: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

Witness: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

* * *

A Career Opportunity Lost in Translation

A man went for a job interview for a once-in-a-lifetime career opportunity, but he had a 4-year gap in his employment history.

Interviewer: "You've interviewed extremely well and you're absolutely qualified for this position, but I notice a 4-year gap on your résumé. Can you explain that?"

Guy: "Well, I was in Yale for those 4 years."

Interviewer: "Wow, excellent! We'll be in touch with you as soon as we make our decision."

Guy: "Please... I really need this job."

* * *

A Breakfast Lesson They Won't Forget

Two brothers were lying in bed before lights out. The older brother said to the younger, "Tomorrow, I'm gonna swear."

The little brother immediately begged, "I want to swear too! Come on, please! Please let me cuss too!"

The older brother shushed him and whispered, "Okay, okay. You can swear too."

The little one squealed with excitement. The older brother continued, "Alright, you say ass, and I'm going to say shit."

The little brother agreed and rolled over, practising quietly to himself: "Ass... ass... ass..."

The next morning, the two brothers ran downstairs and sat at the table. Mom was cooking Dad's breakfast at the stove. Without turning around she asked the older boy what he would like for breakfast.

He replied, "Aww shit, Ma... I'll just take a bowl of Cheerios."

Mom spun around and slapped him so hard he fell off his chair. Then she turned to the younger brother and asked sternly, "And what will you be having for breakfast?"

The little boy looked at his brother on the floor, then back at his mom, and said:

"I don't know... but you can bet your ass it's not going to be a bowl of Cheerios."

stand each other."

* * *

The Math Professor Turned Plumber

A math professor noticed his kitchen sink was leaking.

He called a plumber. The next day, the plumber arrived, tightened a couple of nuts, and the sink worked perfectly again. The professor was delighted. But when the plumber handed him the bill, he was shocked: "This is a third of my monthly salary!"

The plumber shrugged. "I get it... Why don't you come to work for our company as a plumber? You'll make three times more than as a professor. Just tell them you only finished seventh grade -- they don't like hiring educated people."

The professor took the advice, became a plumber, and life got much easier. All he had to do was tighten a few nuts here and there -- and his salary was higher than ever.

One day, the company decided all plumbers had to attend evening classes to finish eighth grade. The professor had no choice but to go. By chance, the first class was math.

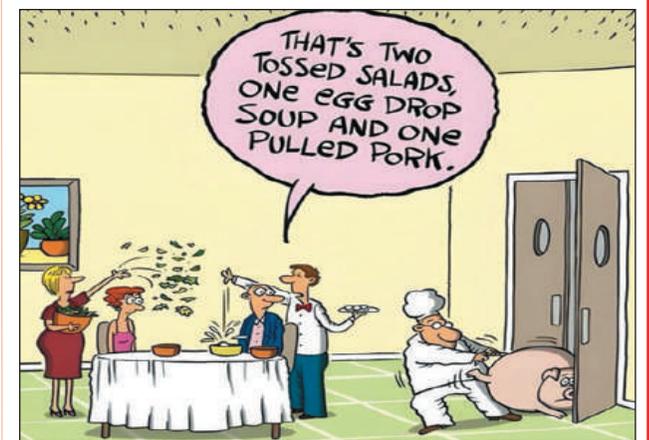
The teacher asked, "What's the formula for the area of a circle?"

The professor went to the board -- and realized he'd forgotten it. Panicking, he started deriving it from scratch with integrals, differentials, and fancy formulas. Finally, he arrived at:

$$S = -\pi r^2$$

Still unhappy with the minus sign, he tried again. And again. No matter what, it kept coming out negative.

The class of plumbers whispered among themselves: "Swap the limits of integration!"



Reflections on relationships and life**The Love That Lasts Over Time**

By Massimo Bisotti

When you spend years with the same person, you come to realize that love isn't a straight line.

It's a path with curves, climbs, descents -- and sometimes even steps backward.

But if you keep walking side by side, with respect, patience, and the desire to choose each other again, the journey becomes beautiful -- even through the hardest moments.

Don't worry if you don't always feel the "butterflies."

The spark at the beginning is only an introduction.

Real love grows through choices, attention, and small gestures repeated every single day.

Learn to forgive without wounding. To speak without breaking. To disagree without drifting apart. Differences aren't the enemy -- the real danger lies in silence replacing words, pride crushing tenderness, and indifference quietly taking over.

And don't fear time. Don't be afraid of growing old together.

We, too, once feared getting bored, losing each other,



or becoming strangers over the years. But when the bond is protected, when you keep choosing each other, love doesn't disappear -- it transforms.

There will be heavy days -- days when exhaustion takes over, when there's nothing to say,

when love feels quiet or distant. That's normal.

Love isn't measured by perfection. It's measured by the decision to stay, even when everything feels uncertain.

And if one day you feel far apart, don't stand still -- take the first step. Hold each other close. Look into each other's eyes as you did at the beginning. Remember why you found one another.

Then begin again. Again and again. As many times as it takes.

It's not magic. It's intention.

It's tenderness. It's two people choosing -- every day -- to build a life and a love that lasts.

Life's Lessons**Japan's Toll of Integrity**

When Japan's electronic toll collection system failed for 38 hours, toll gates were opened for free passage. In most countries, this might have caused financial loss. Not in Japan.

After the issue was fixed, more than 24,000 drivers voluntarily paid their tolls online, even though they could have avoided it.

This act of nationwide honesty reflects Japan's deep-rooted values of honour (*meiyo*) and trust (*shinrai*) -- showing that integrity is not about being watched, but about doing what's right, even when no one is looking.

"But love, I've come to understand, is more than three words mumbled before bedtime. Love is sustained by action, a pattern of devotion in the things we do for each other every day."

— Nicholas Sparks

Wisdom from Africa

If the shepherd slaughters his sheep, he must eat bones. Meaning: Destroying your resources harms you in the end.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Meaning: Collaboration sustains success.

He who is being carried does not realize how far the journey is. Meaning: Those shielded from hardship often fail to understand struggle.

A woman is a flower in a garden; her husband is the fence around it. Meaning: Protection and support make beauty flourish.

Do not call a dog with a whip in your hand. Meaning: Your actions may contradict your words.

If you damage the character of others, yours will also be ruined. Meaning:

Slander harms both the speaker and the victim.

What an elder sees sitting, a youth cannot see standing. Meaning: Experience gives greater perspective than youthful energy.

No matter how hot your anger, it cannot cook yam. Meaning: Anger alone changes nothing.

A man who swallows a coconut must trust in his anus. Meaning: If you take a big risk, be ready for the consequences.

When the drumbeat changes, the dance must also change. Meaning: Situations change, and we must adapt accordingly.

A person who sells eggs should not start a fight in the market. Meaning: Be mindful of your vulnerabilities before provoking conflict.

My theory on life is that life is beautiful. Life doesn't change. You have a day, and a night, and a month, and a year. We people change - we can be miserable or we can be happy. It's what you make of your life.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

BrainyQuote

Stray Thoughts
On Loving in Silence

— Rumi

"I choose to love you in silence... For in silence I find no rejection.

I choose to love you in loneliness...

For in loneliness no one owns you but me.

I choose to adore you from a distance... For distance will shield me from pain.

I choose to kiss you in the wind... For the wind is gentler than my lips.

I choose to hold you in my dreams... For in my dreams you have no end."

Inspiration**Take a Deep Breath**

Brothers and sisters, take a deep breath. Everything will be fine. Even if the road feels heavy, know this: we are stronger than the storms we face. The light has not gone anywhere; it is still

shining, even if the clouds try to hide it.

All is good. Struggles carry meaning. Setbacks carry lessons. Silence carries peace. We are not alone. Together, we rise. Together, we heal.

So hold steady. Keep your heart open. Better days are not just coming -- they are already here, one step at a time.

Thomas A. Edison



The greatest discoveries will be along spiritual lines. This is the field where miracles are going to happen. Spiritual power is the greatest underdeveloped power and has the greatest future.

AZ QUOTES



He & She

7 ways to be happy in an unhappy marriage

When a marriage hits a rough patch, the immediate question often becomes: Why stay?

Relationships are about much more than constant positivity. Love's true depth and strength shine through when times are "ugly." Choosing to stand by your partner during troubled waters is a testament to commitment. It's an unwise decision to give up on a marriage simply because it's unhappy right now, especially if both partners are invested in seeing it through. The key, author Jack Nollan suggests, is to fuel your personal happiness by focusing on fulfilling activities that are important to you and are not detrimental to the relationship.

Self-improvement and personal well-being are not

acts of avoidance; they are acts of preservation that ultimately strengthen your resolve to tackle marital issues.

Finding Peace Through Personal Focus

Nollan outlines seven powerful ways to cultivate personal happiness while navigating an unhappy marriage:

Engage in solo activities that you find enjoyable. This is an excellent time to dive into solo hobbies you've always wanted to try. These breaks offer a crucial reprieve from stress, allowing you to learn something new and maintain a happier mental space.

Time away from the marriage's conflict is not a retreat from commitment, but a necessary self-care measure.

Engage in self-improvement and exercise. Building your self-esteem is a direct path to personal happiness. Implement a regular exercise routine, practice guided meditation, and work on personal problems that hinder your well-being. Focusing on aspects your partner can't participate in helps you grow and elevates your individual readiness for life's challenges.

Practise gratitude for what you have in your life. The "eternal treadmill" of wanting more constantly saps happiness. Gratitude is a powerful counter-force. Consciously interrupt negative, problem-focused thoughts with thanks for what you do have -- a career, children, health, or a roof over your head. Crucially, find aspects of your partner to be grateful for, too. They must have positive qualities since you chose them.

Stop fighting about the same things. Circular,

unproductive arguments are a massive drain on emotional energy and happiness. At some point, you must identify when a battle is simply not worth fighting. Learning to distinguish between productive and futile arguments allows you to preserve emotional energy for more significant issues that require resolution.

Get out of the house more often. A little distance can ease the stress of a conflict-ridden home life. Go for walks, volunteer, or even get a part-time job. Dwelling on conflict indoors builds resentment and anger, leading to more unnecessary arguments. Create external sources of pride and positive energy.

Develop your social life. Your partner is not a substitute for a full social life. Pruning social activities is a mistake many people in long-term relationships make. Loneliness is an insidious affliction, and it is possible to feel lonely even within a marriage. Nurturing friendships satisfies the fundamental human need for connection outside the partnership.

Maintain reasonable expectations for your happiness. While self-care and personal preservation are vital, Nollan emphasizes a critical balance: "The problems won't get resolved by just ignoring them." While you can maintain peace of mind, it's essential to avoid avoidance. This self-focus is great in moderation, but it must eventually lead to the "unpleasant work of actually working through the issues" that the marriage is experiencing.

Jack Nollan, a mental health writer with 10 years of experience, offers grounded perspectives on the wide range of struggles people face, driven by a passion for helping others find a better path.

As we age, it's common to anticipate a decline in physical senses — eyesight gets blurrier, hearing dulls, and joints ache. While many people also expect their minds to slow down, this doesn't have to be the case. Dementia isn't a normal or inevitable part of the aging process. In fact, certain forms of cognitive decline can be mitigated or even reversed through proactive lifestyle choices, particularly physical activity.

How working out works the mind

A significant body of research highlights a strong link between a lack of physical activity and an increased likelihood of developing Alzheimer's disease. In addition, physical inactivity is associated with three major health conditions — diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity — that further raise the risk of dementia.

The good news is that incorporating regular exercise into your routine can help lower these chances.

How does exercise help?

Exercise benefits the brain through several key biological mechanisms:

- **Lowering Tau Protein Levels:** A protein called tau helps maintain the structural stability of your brain cells. However, elevated levels of tau are strongly linked to the development of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Studies, such as one conducted at Wake Forest University, have demonstrated that aerobic exercise — activity that elevates your heart rate

Better Health

Dementia isn't a normal or inevitable part of the aging process



and increases your breathing — can effectively lower these tau levels.

- **Boosting Blood Flow and Cognition:** Exercise increases blood flow to specific areas of the brain that are crucial for memory and complex cognitive processing. This improved circulation can enhance executive functions like planning, organizing, and focus.

How to get started

You don't need to commit to running marathons or becoming a triathlete to see cognitive benefits. Simply moving a little more than you currently do is an excellent starting point for both your body and your brain.

The Best Brain-Boosting Activities

The best exercise is the one you enjoy and will stick with. You can start with:

Aerobic Exercise: This is essential for raising the heart rate, which is key to reducing tau levels and boosting blood flow. Try: Walking. Jogging. Biking. Swimming

Mind-Body Connection: These activities help relax the mind while working the body, which can be beneficial for managing stress, a factor in cognitive health.: Yoga and Tai Chi.

Toning and Flexibility: As you age, maintaining strength and flexibility is critical for physical health, which supports overall brain health. Try simple, scalable movements: Squats (start with chair squats if needed). Pilates. Modified Push-ups (using knees on the ground).

The key is to start with small, easy movements and gradually increase the intensity and duration as your body adapts. By integrating physical activity into your daily life, you take a powerful step toward maintaining a sharp, healthy mind for years to come.

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Remembering Dharmendra: The Eternal 'He-Man' Who Died with His Boots On

Bollywood has bid farewell to one of its true legends. Dharmendra Deol, affectionately known as "Garam Dharam" ("Hot Dharam") and the industry's original "He-Man," passed away in Mumbai on Monday, aged 89. His death marks the close of a remarkable six-decade career that saw him star in over 250 films, leaving an indelible mark on Indian popular culture.

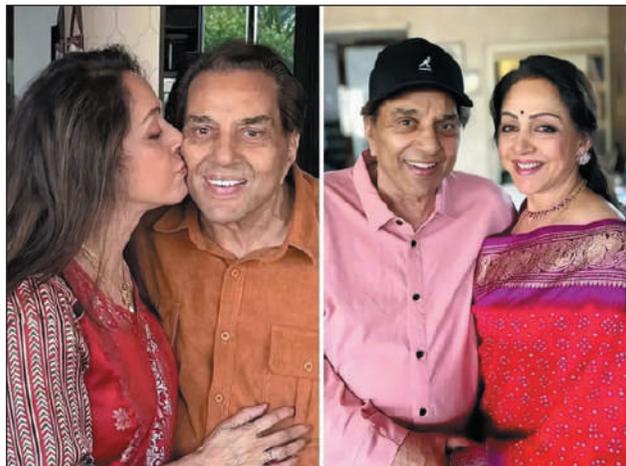
A Legacy of Charm and Versatility

Born Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol in Punjab in 1935, the farmer's son moved to Mumbai in the late 1950s after winning a talent contest. His career, launched in 1960, spanned an astounding range of genres, from soft romances and arthouse films to goofy comedies and the high-octane action blockbusters that earned him the "He-Man" moniker in the 1980s.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted in a tribute that Dharmendra was "a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played."

His most iconic portrayal, however, remains the lovable rogue Veeru in the 1975 classic "Sholay" ("Embers"). That film achieved legendary status, and Dharmendra's dialogue from it continues to influence cinema and has become a popular modern meme.

True to his word — from an old 1983 interview where he stated, "As an actor, I believe in dying with my boots



on" — Dharmendra's work will continue even after his passing. His final film, Sriram Raghavan's "Ikkis" ("Twenty-one"), is set for release next month, co-starring Amitabh Bachchan's grandson, Agastya Nanda.

Personal Life and Enduring Popularity

Dharmendra's personal life often attracted significant media attention. He married his first wife, Prakash Kaur, before achieving fame. He later married his frequent co-star, Bollywood's "dream girl" Hema Malini, in 1980 without divorcing Prakash. While the inter-religious

wedding caused some controversy, it did little to diminish his massive popularity, and fans continued to cheer for "Garam Dharam" across the nation.

The father of six also dabbled in production, often featuring his sons, Sunny and Bobby Deol, and served a term as a lawmaker in the Indian Parliament from 2004 to 2009.

Hema Malini's Emotional Tribute

Following his death, his second wife, actor-politician Hema Malini, paid an emotional tribute on her social media account (X).

She described her loss as "indescribable" and called the vacuum created "something that will last through the rest of my life." Malini fondly remembered Dharmendra as her:

- "Loving Husband"
- "Adoring Father" to their daughters, Esha and Ahana
- "Friend, Philosopher, Guide, Poet," and her 'go to' person in all times of need.

She praised his talent, his humility despite his fame, and his universal appeal, concluding that his enduring achievements will "last forever."

BollyBytes

Beyond Makeup: How Bollywood Divas Use Rest and Routine for Ageless Glow

The signature camera-ready glow of Bollywood's most enduring stars is not a matter of luck or complex cosmetic procedures; it's the result of deeply ingrained routines centered on sleep, simple skincare, and unwavering consistency. Meanwhile, one of the industry's fittest men, Akshay Kumar, maintains his status through an equally rigid discipline centred on early hours and clean living.

For divas like Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone, and Anushka Sharma, the foundation of beauty is a quiet ritual of rest, where they prioritize sleep and avoid the latest complex beauty trends.

Alia Bhatt is an early bird, consistently sleeping 7–8 hours, typically from 10 pm to 6 am. Her simple skincare routine involves a gentle cleanser, serum, moisturizer, and sunscreen, reflecting her philosophy to let the skin breathe and let sleep do the work.

Deepika Padukone strictly adheres to an 8-hour sleep rule, regardless of her hectic schedule, and focuses on skin hydration through double cleansing, hyaluronic acid, Vitamin C, and rich moisturisers, prioritizing discipline, balance, and restful nights.

Kareena Kapoor embraces simplicity by following the early-to-bed rule and utilizing homemade skincare like Malia face pack alongside light hydration and sunscreen, proving that glowing skin requires a healthy sleep cycle, exercise, yoga, and natural care over layers of product.



Kiara Advani's secret is consistency, maintaining a steady sleep cycle and using a gentle cleanser, Vitamin C, and ceramide-rich moisturizers, augmented by her unique ritual of ice dips every morning to naturally depuff and brighten her skin.

Anushka Sharma achieves her glow through mindfulness, prioritizing early nights and meditation, and employs a gentle skincare approach using Ayurvedic herbs instead of alcohol-based or harsh products. For these stars, glowing skin is a lifestyle choice. From Alia's discipline to Anushka's reliance on ayurveda, the common thread is prioritizing rest and consistency over product complexity.

Yami Gautam's quiet power shines in HAQ, solidifying her as a powerhouse performer

Yami Gautam has cemented her position as one of Hindi Cinema's strongest performers with her latest film, HAQ. Critics and audiences are unanimously praising her performance, calling it the defining moment that finally showcases the full extent of her capability.

The conversation surrounding her work in HAQ is less about a sudden breakthrough and more about the culmination of a decade of measured, powerful performances.

A masterclass in quiet intensity

In HAQ, Gautam is noted for an acting style that is both "honest, unhurried, and deeply felt." The performance is marked by a "quiet intensity" that effortlessly commands the viewer's attention.

"In HAQ, Yami inhabits the character. Every look, every pause feels earned. She doesn't demand your attention, she effortlessly holds it," the report notes.

Many are suggesting that this performance is deserving of a National Award, highlighting the rare quality of her conviction — a reminder that a true artist does not need to "shout to be heard."

A steady and organic evolution

Gautam's current success is seen as an organic evolution rather than an overnight sensation. Her career trajectory is marked by a series of roles that have steadily built her credibility and craft: Vicky Donor; Badlapur; Uri: The Surgical Strike; Bala; A Thursday; Article 370.

With HAQ, Yami Gautam is praised for closing the year on a "lasting" high, delivering the kind of performance that lingers with the audience long after the film concludes. She represents a rare blend of growth achieved in public while her artistic evolution was nurtured in private.





Vendredi 28 Novembre - 20.15



Samedi 29 Novembre - 20.15



Dimanche 30 Novembre - 20.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 28 novembre

MBC 1

- 05.17 Serial: Seref Meselesi
- 08.43 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 09.08 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
- 09.38 Film: The Rare Breed
- 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Telenovela
- 13.24 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 14.08 Doc: BRGRS
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins
- 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
- 22.40 Tele: Lying Heart
- 23.30 Le Journal

MBC 2

- 09.35 Serial: Le Mag
- 10.28 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi
- 11.40 Local: En Forme
- 12.44 Moments Forts De L'Histoire
- 13.45 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.52 Rodrig: Manyer Fer
- 14.20 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 14.46 Local: Emotion En Avant...
- 15.00 Local: En Forme
- 15.14 Rodrig Prog: A Nou Kwi
- 16.31 Local: Paroles Agricoles
- 18.26 Local: Séprapré Par L'Amour
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.20 Local: Sur Prise
- 19.57 Local: Animalia
- 20.27 Live From Studio A Echos...
- 21.57 Local: La Sosiete
- 22.23 Festival International Kreol
- 23.27 Zournal Kreol
- 23.23 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.47 Local: Mots & Ecrits

MBC 3

- 07.00 Local: Amrit Vani
- 07.11 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
- 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.05 Local: Ramayan
- 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 12.00 Film: Hoon Diwano Tara Prem No
- Starring: Jeet Upendra, Nishant Pandya
- 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
- 21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 22.16 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.02 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.23 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 00.45 Khel Khiladi

Cine 12

- 06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 07.48 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 08.12 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
- 09.26 Momolu Et Ses Amis
- 09.48 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
- 10.40 Mag: Eco Africa
- 11.19 Mag: REV
- 13.30 Film: Strange Magic
- 15.00 Brewster The Rooster
- 15.19 D.Anime: Word Party
- 15.35 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland
- 15.58 D.Anime: Metro Heroes
- 16.17 D.Anime: Madagascar
- 16.40 D.Anime: Les Petits Carnets
- 17.03 Serial: So Awkward
- 17.29 Mag: Animal DNA
- 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 18.30 Doc: Water Scarcity
- 19.00 Mag: Eco Africa
- 19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 15.30 Film: Jajantaram Mamantaram
- Cast: Javed Jaffrey, Gulshan Grover, Joy Fernandes, Amarjeet Amle, Nishith Dadhich, Dilip Joglekar, Manav Kaul...
- 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 Mere Sai
- 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
- 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
- 23.23 Film: Jajantaram Mamantaram

samedi 29 novembre

- 03.22 Serial: Heartland
- 04.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi
- 06.02 Tele: Columbo
- 07.17 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: Mortal Engines
- Cast: Hera Hilmar, Robert Sheehan, Hugo Weaving
- 22.13 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
- 23.15 Tele: Terra Nostra

- 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
- 06.37 Lir-Ekrir Kreol Morisien
- 08.00 Local: Sur Prise
- 08.53 MBC Production
- 09.19 Local: La Sosiete
- 09.45 Local: Evasion
- 10.18 Local: J'ai Faim
- 12.28 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.00 Festival International Kreol
- 13.59 Local: Sur Prise
- 15.18 Lir-Ekrir Kreol Morisien
- 18.16 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.30 Live From Studio A: Mo Seg
- 22.25 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 23.19 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
- 23.42 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 00.15 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 00.20 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
- 00.40 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
- 12.22 Mati Ke Mol
- 12.48 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 14.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Barsaat Ki Ek Raat
- Cast: Amitabh Bachhan, Raakhee
- 18.10 Live: Samachar
- 18.37 Puranya Pakwan
- 18.57 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 19.57 Local: Desi Beats
- 21.00 Film: Rudraksh
- 23.23 Puranya Pakwan
- 23.49 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 00.04 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara
- 00.49 Local: Desi Beats

- 06.00 D.Anime: Rockabye Island
- 07.33 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 07.43 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 09.27 Momolu Et Ses Amis
- 09.49 D.Anime: Yetili
- 10.12 Serial: N*gen
- 10.45 Doc: 700 Requins
- 13.30 Film: Ploey: You Never Fly...
- 14.53 Brewster The Rooster
- 15.05 D.Anime: Word Party
- 15.19 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 15.28 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland
- 15.50 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
- 16.05 D.Anime: Madagascar
- 16.28 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles
- 16.50 Serial: Home Sweet Rome!
- 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
- 19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.50 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
- 22.25 Film: Alien, La Resurrection

- 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: Munna Michael
- With: Tiger Shroff, Nidhi Agerwal, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Crime Patrol
- 22.15 Porus



dimanche 30 novembre

- 04.12 Tele: The Lazarus Project
- 05.00 Tele: Seref Meselesi
- 05.48 Telenovela
- 06.10 Film: Mortal Engines
- 08.13 Serial: Hawaii
- 08.55 Film: The Quake
- 10.43 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 11.30 Telenovela
- 12.34 Film: Alien, La Resurrection
- 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Mortal Engines
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 18.36 Serial
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.15 Local: Ce Soir Avec Vince
- 20.40 Film: Speed
- 22.31 Serial: Chucky
- 23.13 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 23.39 Le Journal

- 06.31 Local: Coin Jardin
- 08.57 Moments Forts De L'Histoire
- 11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 12.33 Emotion En Avant Plan
- 13.08 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.05 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 16.24 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
- 17.02 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.12 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 17.43 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 18.13 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
- 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.16 Local: Coin Jardin
- 23.33 Local: Inspirasion
- 23.58 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif

- 06.59 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.26 Puranya Pakwan
- 09.10 Desi Beats
- 10.30 Mahabharat
- 12.00 Film: Dream Girl 2
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara
- 17.02 Local: Desi Beats
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 18.57 Tohar Rashi
- 20.07 Local: Sangeet Sitare
- 21.30 Serial: Porus
- 22.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 22.22 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 23.00 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 00.27 Tohar Rashi
- 00.47 Udhaan Ki Kahani
- 04.58 Film: Dream Girl 2

- 06.00 D.Anime: Rockabye Island
- 07.33 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 07.44 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 09.51 Serial: The Avatars
- 10.40 Film: Mandie And The Forgotten
- 12.35 Doc: In Good Shape
- 13.30 Film: Happily Never After
- 15.05 Brewster The Rooster
- 15.19 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 15.29 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland
- 15.51 D.Anime: Metro Heroes
- 16.09 D.Anime: Madagascar
- 16.55 Serial: Home Sweet Rome!
- 18.00 Mag: Let's Make It Tasty
- 18.35 Les Merveilles De La Nature
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.50 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
- 21.45 Film: Hollow In The Land
- Cast: Dianna Agron, Shawn Ashmore

- 00.28 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 02.43 Udaariyaan
- 04.37 Anupamaa
- 06.52 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 08.00 Dhruv Tara
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.10 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
- 14.00 Doree
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.30 Film: Golmaal 3
- Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
- 22.48 Dhruv Tara

lundi 1 decembre

- 04.23 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 05.11 Tele: Seref Meselesi
- 06.01 Tele: Passion And Power
- 07.30 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...
- 08.19 Serial: Un Amour Sauvage
- 08.41 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 09.35 Film: Guess Who's Coming...
- 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle
- 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 13.44 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 14.08 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Violence A Jericho
- 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

- 09.24 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog
- 10.07 Local: Clin D'Oeil
- 10.22 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
- 11.03 Local: Les Klips
- 12.06 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 15.41 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
- 17.14 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 17.34 Local: Couleur Marine
- 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.36 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.45 Local: Tous Egaux
- 21.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 21.29 Local: 19 Minutes
- 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Zournal Kreol
- 23.20 Local: Metie
- 23.36 Rodrig: Kot Nou

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 07.00 Local: Udaan Ki Kahani
- 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 12.00 Film: Dhund
- 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: Shikshaa
- Cast: Raj Kiran, Sushma Verma, Beena Banerjee
- 23.23 Mere Sai
- 00.07 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.29 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein

- 06.30 Doc: Living With Cancer
- 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
- 11.13 Le Merveilles De La Nature
- 12.32 Legacy Of Ancestors
- 13.30 Doc: Butterfly Blue Prints
- 15.00 Brewster The Rooster
- 15.29 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 15.38 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland
- 15.58 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
- 16.34 Les Petits Carnets Des...
- 16.56 Serial: Home Sweet Rome
- 17.24 Mag: Animal DNA
- 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 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
- 21.15 Film: King Kong

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 15.30 Film: Superstar
- Cast: Kunal Khemu, Aushima Sawhney
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
- 21.00 Anupamaa





Mardi 2 Decembre - 20.10



Mercredi 3 Decembre - 21.00



Mercredi 3 Decembre - 15.30



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 2 decembre	04.23 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 06.01 Serial: Passion And Power 08.37 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.38 Film: Backtrack 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: Quantico 15.30 Film: Mortal Engines 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: Les Faussaires De Manhattan 22.20 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.39 Tele: Lying Heart 23.30 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Tous Egaux 09.50 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.47 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.22 Local: 19 Minutes 12.02 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.49 Local: Tous Egaux 15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.08 Local: Ce Soir On Slam 22.00 Local: Le Mag 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.41 Local: Arsiv 229 23.54 Local: Music Tour 2025	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: Janwar Cast: Rajshree, Shammi Kapoor 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.10 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara 19.36 Local: Abhyas Yog 20.00 Local: Prakriti 21.00 Film: Awaara Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis Dutt	07.00 Words And Sounds With Akili 07.23 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.03 D.Anime: Les Quiquoui 12.00 Mag: In Good Shape 12.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 13.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.17 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.30 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.39 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland 16.01 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 16.13 D.Anime: Madagascar 16.35 Les Petits Carnets Des... 16.58 Serial: Home Sweet Rome! 17.26 Mag: Animal DNA 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 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.25 Film: Wedding Pullav Starring: Digant, Anushka Ranjan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Wedding Pullav Starring: Digant, Anushka Ranjan
mercredi 3 decembre	07.09 Serial: Columbo 08.19 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.44 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.39 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins 11.35 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.06 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Les Faussaires De Manhattan 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.00 Serial: Chucky 21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.40 Tele: Lying Heart	09.35 Local: Le Mag 10.27 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 10.40 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 12.01 Local: Couleur Marine 12.26 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 12.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.18 Local: En Forme 15.59 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2025 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.31 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.21 Local: Les Kliips 22.19 Local: Grand Titre 23.25 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.50 Local: Clin D'Oeil 00.05 Local: Festival Bouze	06.59 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara 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: Sahib Biwi Aur Ghulam 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 Local: Yatra 21.00 Film: Laawaris Cast: Pawan Singh, Anjana Singh and Gajendra Chauhan 23.27 Serial: Mere Sai 00.14 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.35 Local: Yatra 01.03 Local: Sangeet Sitare	08.38 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.33 D.Anime: Yétilli 11.06 Mag: REV 11.59 Mag: Made In Germany 12.56 Doc: Going Beyond 13.50 Mag: Business Africa 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.21 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.37 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland 15.52 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 16.36 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 17.23 Mag: Animal DNA 17.47 Mag: REV Special 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 21.17 Film: The Night House Cast: Rebecca Hall, Sarah Goldberg...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Bumm Bumm Bole Starring: Darshel Safari,Atul Kulkarni 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: Bumm Bumm Bole Starring: Darshel Safari,Atul Kulkarni
jeudi 4 decembre	06.08 Tele: Passion And Power 08.03 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.26 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.18 Film: First Man 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 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées 15.30 Film: Christina Noble 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: Sanam Teri Kasam Stars: Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane 22.39 Tele: Mademoiselle 00.05 Tele: Lying Heart	09.10 Local: Festival Bouze 10.18 Local: Saveurs Plus 10.48 Local: Les Kliips 11.52 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Local: Passerelles 13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Toc Toc Toc 15.23 Local: Saveurs Plus 16.01 Local: Festival Bouze 17.02 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Rodrig: Manyer Fer 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.00 Local: Mo Segs Sa 22.10 Le Mag 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.24 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 00.16 La Journee Sous Le Regard	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: Maa Beti Cast: Shashi Kapoor, Meenakshi Sheshadri,Sharmila Tagore 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 21.21 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.43 Serial: Mere Sai 22.31 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.53 Local: Amrit Vani 23.04 Bhajan Sandhya	07.00 Words And Sounds With Akili 07.23 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.19 Moololu Et Ses Amis 10.40 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens 12.30 From North Korea With Love 13.39 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.48 Japan Video Topics 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.27 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.37 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland 15.59 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes 16.13 D.Anime: Madagascar 16.36 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 17.00 Serial: Home Sweet Rome! 17.23 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Rev Special 19.00 Doc: Organ Donation 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.31 Film: Tanu Weds Manu Returns Stars: Kangana Ranaut, Madhavan, Jimmy Sheirgill, Deepak Dobriyal 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: Tanu Weds Manu Returns Stars: Kangana Ranaut, Madhavan, Jimmy Sheirgill...



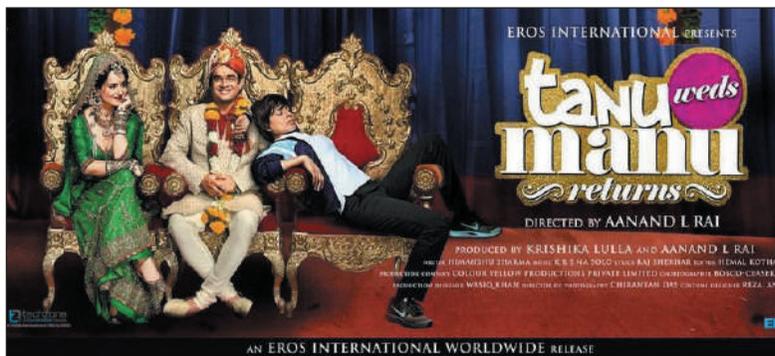
Jeudi 4 Decembre - 15.30

Stars: Kangana Ranaut, Madhavan, Jimmy Sheirgill, Deepak Dobriyal



Jeudi 4 Decembre - 20.10

Stars: Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Language Policy in Mauritius: A Case for Pragmatic Pluralism

Mauritius has recently drawn attention in Africa, Europe and the West Indian islands during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron. In his address, he highlighted the factors that helped Mauritius earn respect on the international stage and expressed gratitude to post-Independence leaders for maintaining the French language in the country. Beyond the renewable-energy investment announcement, however, very little was achieved that required a presidential visit. The triangular cooperation between India, France and Mauritius in defence training has existed for a decade and is hardly new. Still, Macron's decision to respond to his Mauritian counterpart's invitation offered positive international visibility for the island.

In India, Macron already enjoys favourable public opinion because of his rapport with Prime Minister Modi, and he is often playfully praised on social media for his appearance — an affectionate cultural quirk. Yet, in a tense global climate, efficiency cannot be measured by charm. Macron continues to face criticism at home, where opponents accuse him of benefiting from an overly sympathetic media landscape. Nonetheless, his youthful presence brought a certain freshness to the public scene.

French Language in Post-Independence Mauritius

More than 15 years ago, I met the daughter of an early post-Independence Mauritian political figure known for defending the place of French in the country's education system. The language faced renewed attacks in the 1970s when a rising political movement sought to ban French in schools. Although the party grew popular among young people, its call to remove French never truly resonated beyond its core supporters.

At the time, some far-left groups framed languages through a Marxist lens — oppressor versus oppressed — casting French as a colonial relic and Kreol as the language of the proletariat needing ideological "protection." But many Mauritians recognised the risks of this reasoning and dismissed the appeal to ban French. Meanwhile, Kreol's promotion often followed a top-down, sporadically activist approach, shaped by political motives rather than organic development.

The political figure's daughter spoke passionately about what could have been lost. Without French, Mauritians would have faced limited access to French universities and fewer opportunities to migrate or work abroad at a time when the local economy offered limited prospects. Moreover, France played a key role in securing EU funding for



Pic - Le Mauricien

“A mother tongue is inherently tied to ancestral culture, which differs from a widely shared national language. This distinction is often overlooked in Mauritius. Past political figures defended the teaching of French with clear arguments, yet it is striking that few others advocated as forcefully for the promotion of oriental languages. Much remains to be done to reduce confusion, foster understanding and cultivate positive attitudes toward the country's diverse linguistic heritage...”

Mauritius.

The Mauritian Example

Revisiting these old debates reminds us of the importance of sound policymaking grounded in pragmatism and long-term thinking. Mauritius did not yield to ideological fervour or youth-driven pressure. By contrast, Madagascar and Seychelles banned French in the mid-1970s, driven by resentment and revolutionary rhetoric. Both later spent more than four decades reversing the damage and reintegrating French into their educational systems to regain access to global opportunities.

Mauritius avoided this fate because its leadership upheld principles of pluralism, inclusiveness and long-term national interest. They resisted narratives fuelled by prejudice or attempts to weaponize language and ethnicity. Without this steadiness, Mauritius might have followed the troubled paths of Madagascar, Communist-era Seychelles, Haiti, Barbados and similarly affected island nations.

Young Mauritians today should be aware of these ideological shifts in the country's political past. Understanding this history helps them resist sensationalism, hollow slogans and manipulation by media outlets with unclear agendas.

Language, Identity and Pragmatism

French remains a sensitive topic in Mauritius due to its early association with the press and certain social groups who used it — sometimes condescendingly — to distin-

guish themselves. Yet over the past two decades, French no longer dominates intellectual debate, as English increasingly asserts itself as an inclusive and universally recognised medium.

A final point worth exploring: Why do France's DOM-TOM territories, many of which identify as Creole societies, not use Kreol in regional assemblies or educational institutions? Kreol appears mainly in advertising and informal media, often as a gesture of cultural balance rather than a shift in official practice. Past attempts to introduce Kreol as a school subject gained little traction because parents did not see practical benefits.

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SUGAR INSURANCE FUND BOARD

COMMUNIQUE TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS
OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

ACTUARIAL REVIEW 2025/26

The Sugar Insurance Fund Board wishes to inform all sugarcane planters, métayers, sugar estates, milling companies and other stakeholders of the Sugar Industry that the Board will be commissioning an Actuarial Review of the Fund.

The appointed Actuarial Consulting firm will be required to, inter-alia, review the position of the Fund and its terms of insurance. Please consult our website www.sifb.mu for more information on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Actuarial Review 2025/26.

All insureds and stakeholders are invited to submit any written memorandum for consideration by the Consulting Actuaries. The submissions should preferably be in English.

The memorandum submissions should be clearly marked “Actuarial Review 2025/26” on the envelope and be forwarded to The Officer-in-Charge, SIFB, 18 SSR Street, PORT-LOUIS by **30 January 2026** latest.

Sugar Insurance Fund Board

24 November 2025

18, SSR Street, Port Louis – Tel 260-4700 E-mail: sifb@sifbmu.org Website: www.sifb.mu