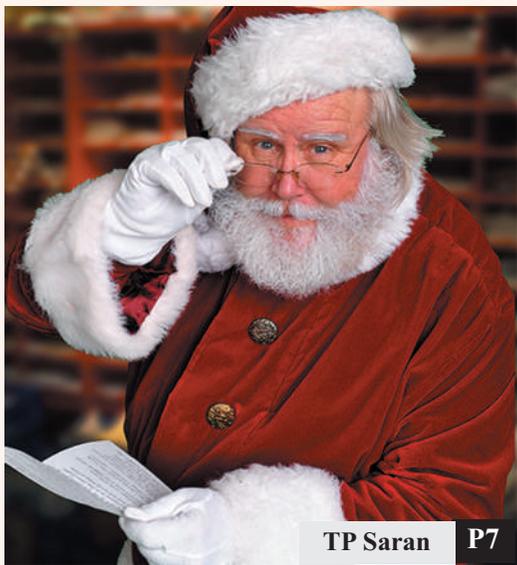


MAURITIUS TIMES

• I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. -- Charles Dickens

A Conversation With Santa Claus

“Real leadership isn't about magic wands; it's about having a spine”



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Alliance du Changement: Rupture and Reality

As 2025 draws to a close, Mauritius finds itself at a moment of transition that few would have anticipated just a year earlier. The year has been marked by a change of government, with the end of the decade-long MSM administration and the arrival of the Alliance du Changement (ADC), whose tenure has combined ambition with inevitable challenges. It remains too early to judge whether 2025 represents a decisive break with the past or a period of gradual adjustment, but the dismantling of surveillance measures associated with the previous regime has altered the political climate. As the festive season approaches, this shift is accompanied by a mix of cautious relief, ongoing legal developments, and rising public concern over the cost of living and proposed pension reforms.

The primary mandate of the ADC was the “de-autocratisation” of Mauritius. For many, the hallmark of 2025 will be the dismantling of the tools of repression. The dissolution of the Police Headquarters Special Striking Team (SST) was not merely an administrative decision; it was the surgical removal of what many perceived as a “political hit squad.” The sight of former high-ranking police officials and SST leaders being summoned for interrogation over allegations of “planted” evidence and questionable “reward money” has offered a sense of poetic justice to those who felt silenced for years.

The legislative rollout has been equally assertive. The revocation of mandatory biometric SIM registration — through the Information and Communication Technologies (Registration of SIM) (Revocation) Regulations 2024, which came into force on January 6, 2025, following public concern and a legal challenge that had placed the re-registration exercise on hold — along with the restoration of the Director of Public Prosecutions’ (DPP) prosecution powers, has helped re-anchor the ship of state in the safer and more predictable waters of the rule of law. In 2025, the “fear factor” has largely dissipated, replaced by a vibrant, if sometimes chaotic, democratic discourse that had long been missing.

The Chagos Triumph: On the international front, 2025 marked an important year for the Chagos Archipelago. The treaty signed on May 22 helped break a long-standing stalemate. Under its terms, Mauritius secured the return of sovereignty over the archipelago, while Diego Garcia will continue to be leased to the UK and the US for 99 years. The agreement provides for an annual payment of £101 million and the creation of a £40 million Chagossian Trust Fund. Beyond its financial provisions, the treaty carries strong symbolic weight, reflecting international recognition of Mauritian sovereignty over the territory.

The “Big Sharks” and the FCC’s Heavy Lift

However, progress on domestic reforms has proven more complex. The former anti-corruption agency, ICAC — long criticized for its perceived alignment with the previous regime — has given way to the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), raising public expectations in the fight against corruption. While the arrest of former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth in February, along with that of other senior figures from the previous regime, attracted significant attention, the pace of subsequent legal proceedings has tested public patience.

The President’s call to pursue high-level corruption remains a point of reference, but developments in 2025 have underscored that accountability in a democracy depends on due process. The arrest of the FCC’s own for-



mer Commissioner — who is presumed innocent — served as a stark reminder that corruption is not confined to any one political camp, but is a systemic challenge requiring sustained vigilance.

Ultimately, the FCC will be judged not by the number of arrests it makes, but by whether its cases lead to convictions robust enough to withstand judicial scrutiny.

The Pension Paradox: A Bridge Too Far?

If Chagos was the ADC’s greatest triumph, pension reform has been its greatest trial. The decision to raise the eligibility age for the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) from 60 to 65 — beginning with a shift to 61 this year — has struck at the heart of the Mauritian social contract.

The logic of “intergenerational equity” and fiscal sustainability is compelling on paper: a debt-to-GDP ratio approaching 90% and a looming demographic time bomb are existential threats. Yet the reform’s rollout was widely perceived as a “democratic betrayal.” The backlash has been fierce, spilling from the streets into the Supreme Court. For the lower-middle class — the “squeezed” citizens who earn too much to qualify for the Rs 10,000 Income Support but too little to absorb the loss of the BRP — the reform feels less like a bridge to the future and more like a ladder being pulled up behind them. Trade unions remain justifiably concerned for manual workers in fields and factories, for whom 65 represents exhaustion rather than retirement.

The Drug War: From Repression to Reason

Across towns and villages, the fight against the “zombie” scourge of synthetic drugs continues. The ADC’s pivot toward a public health approach and its openness to the possible decriminalization of cannabis represent a bold gamble. The logic is straightforward: divert users away from lethal synthetics while allowing police to focus on traffickers. Whether this rationalisation will genuinely save the youth or simply open a new Pandora’s box remains an open ques-

tion as the country moves into 2026.

The Health of the Alliance

Since its landslide victory in November 2024, the Alliance du Changement has moved from a political honeymoon into a phase of visible internal friction. By late 2025, the unity that defined the campaign seems to have given way to a simmering cold war between its two central figures: Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and Deputy PM Paul Bérenger.

The Ramgoolam — Bérenger relationship is best described as a precarious truce. Holding no ministerial portfolio, Bérenger has assumed the role of internal critic. He has publicly objected to key nominations — most notably those of the Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner of Prisons — appointments made by the Prime Minister under his prerogative. He has also repeatedly criticised the “slowness” of decision-making at the Treasury, particularly regarding Air Mauritius and the strategic partnership decision, and the energy sector.

Electoral reform remains Bérenger’s red line. He views a dose of proportional representation as essential to the MMM’s survival, while Ramgoolam appears reluctant to dilute Labour’s dominance or scrap the Best Loser System. In other words, if electoral reform (particularly proportional representation) is not delivered in a form he finds acceptable, Bérenger may withdraw support, or even leave it altogether. Though Ramgoolam could govern without the MMM, the alliance’s future may hinge on whether electoral reform meets Bérenger’s expectations by mid-2026.

Looking Ahead

As this momentous year draws to a close, the Alliance du Changement stands on a precarious peak. It has restored a democratic climate in the country. It has set its sights on halving the budget deficit, maintaining tourism as an economic powerhouse, and it is laying the foundations for new growth pillars.

Ultimately, success will be measured at the kitchen table. Can the government ease the soaring cost of living? Can it convince the public that high-profile arrests were about justice rather than vendetta? And, most importantly, can it reconcile fiscal medicine — such as pension reform — with the social compassion promised in its manifesto?

In 2025, Mauritius presents a study in contrasts: a nation that has reclaimed its democratic spirit and sovereign pride, yet continues to grapple with the weight of its economic and social challenges. As the year draws to a close, both the government and the people are learning that while laws can be repealed overnight, the structural reforms required to achieve the envisioned “rupture” advance at a much slower and more arduous pace.

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Anil Madan

Smoke and Fire – A Review of Significant Events In 2025

The new year was barely a week old when smoke rose and fire engulfed the Malibu, Pacific Palisades and Altadena areas of Greater Los Angeles. The destructive wildfires burned some 37,000 acres of the densely populated city and destroyed more than 16,000 structures. From thousands of homes lost, businesses burned, neighbourhoods and communities destroyed, the insured losses were estimated at \$40 billion with total losses approaching \$100 billion when the full financial impact of lost jobs and businesses is tallied in years to come.

Somewhat into the year, but still in the first half, black smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel was followed by white smoke as Pope Leo was elected to succeed Pope Francis.

In January, the inauguration of Donald Trump who came back to win a second non-consecutive term as US President, was greeted as a white smoke event by his acolytes. For many Democrats in the US, it was a black-smoke debacle auguring dark days.

From March and into May, South Korea too saw devastating wildfires that displaced some 37,000 people and burned over 200,000 acres. Smoke and fire of a different kind also engulfed South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol who was arrested and eventually impeached for an attempted coup.

2025 was a year of new leaders and old by election or otherwise. This list is long but not exhaustive: Lebanon, Croatia, Ireland, Belarus, Syria (Ahmed al-Sharra), Greece, Poland, Canada, Germany (Merz), South Korea, Japan (Sanae Takaichi), Argentina, Chile.

In addition to the impeachment of South Korea's President, Jair Bolsanaro, the former Brazilian President was convicted of attempting a coup, the President of Peru was impeached, the Prime Minister of Nepal resigned, and the Prime Minister of Thailand was ousted.

In March, a major power outage shut down London's Heathrow Airport and thousands of flights were affected around the world. But that aviation disaster was minor in comparison to the mid-air collision of a US Army Black Hawk helicopter and a regional jet in Washington, D.C., resulting in 67 deaths. That, in turn, paled in comparison to the smoke and fire from the crash, seconds after liftoff, of an Air India Boeing 787 at Ahmedabad airport in India. More smoke and fire came in the crash of a UPS Airlines flight at the Louisville Muhammad Ali field in Kentucky.

Natural disasters and Wars

Major earthquakes struck Tibet and Myanmar early in the year. In September an earthquake struck the island of Cebu,

Philippines. Afghanistan suffered major earthquakes in August and November.

Natural disasters came in all forms across the world. Storm Éowyn, an extratropical cyclone hit Ireland, the UK and Norway. Over a million homes were left without power. The European Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that 2024 was the hottest year on record and the first to pass the Paris Climate Accords threshold of 1.5°C of warming. In October, Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica as the most powerful hurricane ever to strike the island, with sustained wind speeds of up to 185 mph.

Speaking of homes left without power, Russia's war against Ukraine continued with targeting of Ukraine's power grid. Meanwhile, in Gaza, devastated by Israel's relentless air campaign, a ceasefire agreement went into effect in January and lasted until an Israeli attack in mid-March. Meanwhile, President Trump announced that the US would oversee the reconstruction of the Gaza strip in a deal with Israel.

And who can forget the way that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was dressed down by President Trump and Vice President Vance at the White House? Or indeed, the embrace by Trump of Putin in Alaska? President Trump's actions then, and his administration's National Security Strategy suggest that the new Trump doctrine will cast Europe aside as it divides the world into a tri-polar structure with China, Russia and the US controlling their spheres of influence.

Back in April the Ukraine-United States Mineral Resources Agreement had suggested a transactional deal with Ukraine for the US to continue to support Ukraine's defence and eventual reconstruction while getting rights to develop its energy and mineral resources. Perhaps that deal has been replaced with one calling for access to Russia's energy and mineral resources, but none of this is clear through the smoke. European nations approved a \$105 billion loan for Ukraine but failed to agree on using seized Russian assets for that purpose.

Killing went on in other war-ravaged areas of the world, from Sudan to Congo, to Thailand and Cambodia, to mention a few. And there were mass shootings, not just in the US where they have become a way of life, but all the way to Australia at Bondi



“Who can forget the way that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was dressed down by President Trump and Vice President Vance at the White House? Or indeed, the embrace by Trump of Putin in Alaska? President Trump's actions then, and his administration's National Security Strategy suggest that the new Trump doctrine will cast Europe aside as it divides the world into a tri-polar structure with China, Russia and the US controlling their spheres of influence...”

Beach and Örebro, Sweden. An attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir in India, killed 26 and injuring at least 20. India blamed Pakistan. In the ensuing hostilities, each country claimed to have wreaked devastating strikes on the other. Meanwhile, as noted, Israel launched widespread airstrikes in Gaza. The ceasefire agreement ended.

The Nobel Peace Prize

Eventually, there was a ceasefire between India and Pakistan for which President Trump took credit. India denied that he had played a role. In October, when Israel and Hamas agreed to the first phase of a Gaza peace deal, paving the way for a ceasefire, and the return of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, Pakistan's President and Army Chief once again declared their support for Trump to win the Nobel Peace Prize, an honour he covets.

Lost in all this was the fact that the US President had ordered B-2 bomber airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear sites in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. President Trump claimed that the sites had been obliterated, but there are murmurings that Iran is rebuilding its nuclear facilities. And President Trump has threatened to “take back” oil he alleges Venezuela took from American companies following earlier nationalisations.

A naval blockade of Venezuela is now in place. The boats of alleged drug smugglers have been blown out of the water and oil tankers seized. Greenland too remains

under threat to be annexed. On the other hand, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a peace deal to end four decades of conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Maria Corina Machado, for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela. In a dramatic escape from Venezuela, she made it a day late to the site of award ceremony.

In September, the UK, Canada, and Australia, and France formally recognized Palestine as a sovereign state.

In January, thieves broke into the Drents Museum in Assen, in the Netherlands, and stole the Helmet of Coțofenești. But that museum heist was eclipsed by the far more brazen daylight theft of the French Crown Jewels in Paris.

China demonstrated its technological prowess as DeepSeek, a competitor to OpenAI's ChatGPT was released. Nvidia's shares dropped almost \$600 billion in one day.

The Trump presidency ushered in a modern era of tariff wars, as the American president-imposed tariffs on a wide range of trading partners. Other countries, most notably China, retaliated.

In the fallout of the scandal related to Jeffrey Epstein's trafficking and abuse of underage girls, Britain's Andrew Mountbatten Windsor saw his title of

“Prince” go up in smoke. Not that it made any difference to anyone.

In June, the “No Kings” protests took place in numerous cities across the US, as well as in Canada, Europe, Japan, and Mexico.

The year of smoke and fire continued as fire engulfed a building in Hong Kong, and cyclones and typhoons hit Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand. Flooding and landslides caused by Cyclone Ditwah left more than 600 dead and hundreds missing in Sri Lanka and South India.

Meanwhile, a conference about the need to curb the smoke and burning caused by our dependence on fossil fuels, seemed to die in its embers. This was the COP30 summit in Belem, Brazil — a COP that had no robbers present.

The United Nations reported that Jakarta has surpassed Tokyo as world's most populous city with 42 million inhabitants.

Tolerance was not entirely lost as Lichtenstein and Thailand legalized same-sex marriage.

Finally, the saying that “where there is smoke, there is fire” proved not to hold entirely true. The US Department of Justice released more Epstein files but managed to redact what might have been incendiary, leaving only wisps of smoke.

Public Sector Pay, Protocol, and Constitutional Principles

“In Mauritius, a PRB report can create a legitimate expectation that its recommendations will be implemented promptly and predictably”

LEX

* Unlike statutory bodies which are created by a specific Act of Parliament, the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) was established as a department under the aegis of the PMO in 1977. Is it correct to say that its reports are technically recommendations to the Government, which can accept, reject, or vary the recommendations, or even stagger its implementation as seen with the 2026 report?

The PRB is responsible for the continuous review of pay and grading structures and conditions of service in the public sector (the Civil Service, parastatal and other statutory bodies, local authorities, and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly), as well as in private secondary schools. Once the Bureau submits its report, the Government examines the recommendations and, upon approval — typically by Cabinet — proceeds with their implementation, at which point they take effect across the public sector.

* Given that the PRB 2026 report was officially tabled and approved by Cabinet, does the decision to stagger the payments (50% in 2026 and 100% in 2027) constitute a breach of the ‘legitimate expectation’ of public officers under administrative law?

In the Mauritian public sector context, a PRB report may indeed give rise to a legitimate expectation among public officers that its recommendations will be implemented within a reasonable and predictable timeframe. This expectation is particularly strong in relation to revised pay and grading structures, allowances, and career progression, especially once the report has been officially approved by Cabinet.

* Does the Cabinet’s approval of the 2026 Report convert the PRB’s ‘recommendations’ into a ‘binding debt’ that the State cannot legally stagger without paying interest or arrears?

The Cabinet’s approval of the PRB 2026 Report effectively converts its recommendations into Government policy. However, implementation has been phased, with only 50% payable as from January 2026 and full implementation taking effect in January 2027. As a result, the measures acquire binding force progressively, with retroactive payment occurring in stages rather than crystallising immediately as a single lump-sum debt.

Cabinet accepted the PRB’s findings on pay structures for public sector employees, but due to the challenging fiscal situation,

In this week’s Qs & As, Lex addresses key questions concerning the Pay Research Bureau (PRB), public sector remuneration, and the protocol ranking of high offices in Mauritius. The discussion examines the legal and administrative framework governing PRB recommendations, their implementation, and the potential implications for public officers’ legitimate expectations. It also explores the constitutional and statutory dimensions of the Table of Precedence, including the balance between the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary, the scope for judicial review, and measures to protect State Protocol from political manipulation. The analysis seeks to clarify how administrative practice, constitutional principles, and statutory mechanisms interact to safeguard both the dignity of officeholders and the effective functioning of government institutions.



“In the Mauritian public sector context, a PRB report may indeed give rise to a legitimate expectation among public officers that its recommendations will be implemented within a reasonable and predictable timeframe. This expectation is particularly strong in relation to revised pay and grading structures, allowances, and career progression, especially once the report has been officially approved by Cabinet...”

their implementation is being phased, creating a binding commitment to future payments rather than an immediate debt obligation.

* The Report reduced the General Worker to Permanent Secretary ratio from 1:6.2 to 1:5.4. Is there a legal threshold where ‘pay compression’ becomes a ‘de-facto’ demotion for high-ranking officials?

There is no specific or universal legal threshold (such as a fixed percentage of pay reduction) at which pay compression automatically amounts to a *de facto* demotion. Whether it is legally characterised as a demotion — or gives rise to a related claim such as constructive dismissal — depends on the particular circumstances, including

the terms of the employment contract, the nature and impact of the changes, and the applicable employment laws.

* For offices like the DPP, the Electoral Commissioner or the Commissioner of Police, whose independence is constitutionally protected, can a PRB recommendation that compresses their salary ratio relative to the General Worker (1:6.7) be viewed as an indirect attempt to diminish the status and independence of their office?

Yes, the salaries of judges and the Director of Public Prosecutions in Mauritius, like other government pay scales, may be subject to compression.

However, it should be noted that holders of many constitutional offices receive subs-

tantial allowances and enjoy a high degree of job security, which tends to offset concerns about pay compression — concerns that more commonly arise in the context of recruiting and retaining highly skilled professionals.

* On the other hand, the remuneration of high-ranking government officials — such as the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, Ministers, and Ambassadors — directly affects the status and dignity of the offices they hold. Under which specific Act of Parliament is the current Table of Precedence (Protocol List) established? Is it solely a prerogative of the Prime Minister/Cabinet, or is it governed by clear statutory provisions?

The protocol establishing the order of precedence of high officials in Mauritius is a formal, largely ceremonial hierarchy used for state occasions and official functions. The President ranks first as Head of State, followed by the Prime Minister as Head of Government.

The order generally reflects constitutional hierarchy and established custom. It includes offices such as the Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, Chief Justice, Speaker of the National Assembly, former Presidents and Prime Ministers, Ministers, and the Leader of the Opposition.

* How should protocol reflect the balance between the Judiciary, the Executive, and the Legislature? Does ranking a Senior Minister above the Chief Justice or the Speaker of the House create a constitutional imbalance or undermine the principle of Separation of Powers?

The ranking of a Senior Minister above the Chief Justice or the Speaker in an Order of Precedence is generally a matter of protocol and political hierarchy and does not, in itself, create a constitutional imbalance or undermine the principle of separation of powers.

* At present, the Table of Precedence in Mauritius functions largely as an executive instrument. If an official is downgraded in the protocol list by an incoming government, could this be challenged through judicial review on grounds of irrationality or “détournement de pouvoir”?

Yes, a decision by an incoming government to downgrade an official in the protocol list constitutes an administrative act by a public authority and may be challenged by way of judicial review.

☞ Cont. on page 6



Sada Reddi

The Government of l'Alliance du Changement – One Year Later

Governing After the Landslide: The Weight of Expectations

One year after the landslide victory of the new government in November 2024, the governing alliance is facing growing unpopularity. This is hardly unusual: since 1967, every government has encountered similar difficulties within its first year in office. Some pundits may nostalgically invoke the supposed halcyon days of past administrations during their initial months, but these largely never existed.

Suffice it to recall that the first austerity budget of 1968 proved a major disappointment to the electorate. Although it made initial reference to the establishment of an Export Processing Zone (EPZ), the EPZ Act was only passed in

Team and its close collaborators, along with the removal of officers who had not only curtailed civil liberties but also allegedly misappropriated public funds, has come as a profound relief to the population.

Steps have also been taken to restore the independence of key institutions, notably the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. On the diplomatic front, relations with SADC and the African Union have been consolidated. The Prime Minister's recent visit to India has yielded tangible outcomes in terms of financial assistance for several development projects, and the government remains engaged in ongoing negotiations over Diego Garcia.

around Rs 25 billion in the current economic context. Meanwhile, the recent salary compensation and the recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) can only exacerbate pressures on both civil servants and public finances, even though the PRB recommendations will not be applied retroactively.

“While the electorate’s frustration is entirely legitimate, the government must now set clear priorities and move decisively into action if it hopes to shift the economy from a growth rate of 3.2% to 5%. Artificial intelligence has been earmarked as a future pillar of growth, but, as has been noted elsewhere, without the necessary infrastructure and a resolution of the energy question, progress will remain limited...”



Pic - 5-Plus Dimanche



“What appears particularly outrageous to the electorate, however, is the pension reform introduced by a party that has historically been closely associated with the welfare state throughout its existence. Pension reform came as both unexpected and shocking to many would-be pensioners and ignited significant opposition from various quarters. Yet, viewed from another angle, it was a bold attempt to reform a pension system whose sustainability had become a pressing necessity...”

1970, and industrialisation truly took off only in the mid-1970s. Likewise, following the historic 60-0 victory of 1982, the population had to contend with the continuation of austerity measures, the abolition of subsidies on basic foodstuffs, the closure of private colleges, and the introduction of sales tax.

The present government is facing a similar situation in the wake of the near-bankruptcy inherited from the previous regime and a challenging economic environment, with Moody's hanging like a sword of Damocles over the economy. Even those who argue that Moody's is being instrumentalised to justify harsh economic measures concede that its rating cannot simply be ignored. It is also a well-established political strategy for governments to introduce unpopular measures early in their term, before later implementing corrective policies aimed at winning back the electorate by the mid-term.

A Breath of Fresh Air

Whatever the criticisms levelled against the government, no one can deny that under the new regime the atmosphere has markedly eased, allowing people to breathe more freely. The dismantling of repressive structures such as the Police Headquarters Special Striking

Despite efforts to stabilise the rupee and contain the rising national debt, government action in other areas — whether justifiable or not — has done little to alleviate the hardships faced by significant segments of the population, who continue to bear the full weight of a high cost of living and declining living standards. Admittedly, genuine efforts are being made to bring down the prices of certain basic commodities.

What appears particularly outrageous to the electorate, however, is the pension reform introduced by a party that has historically been closely associated with the welfare state throughout its existence.

Pension reform came as both unexpected and shocking to many would-be pensioners and ignited significant opposition from various quarters. Yet, viewed from another angle, it was a bold attempt to reform a pension system whose sustainability had become a pressing necessity. The reform was introduced in a staggered manner, aimed at attenuating its most harmful effects.

Even the most vocal opponents of pension reform have been unable to propose a viable alternative, beyond suggesting marginal cuts here and there, without explaining how the pension fund could bridge an estimated shortfall of

Frustration is therefore likely to deepen among an electorate that, for nearly half a century, has been taught and conditioned to focus narrowly on monetary gains, without corresponding emphasis on hard work, productivity, and discipline.

The Meritocracy Gap

That said, the government bears a substantial share of responsibility. This has been acknowledged by the Prime Minister himself, who, in an interview on Radio Plus, conceded that there had been a number of false starts and missteps. Some recent nominations — particularly the reappointment of individuals drawn out of retirement — appear clumsy, if not faintly laughable.

These appointments are often justified by the claim that there is a dearth of professionals willing to offer their services, much as employers routinely argue that they cannot recruit Mauritians for many available jobs. The more plausible explanation, however, is that politicians operate within a very limited circle of friends and acquaintances, and tend to make appointments from this narrow pool, regardless of whether those selected are best suited to deliver.

This supposed “dearth” of professionals is, in reality, a self-fulfilling prophecy: if one does not look, or fails to answer the door when expertise knocks, one will never find the right people. There are numerous Mauritian professionals with deep international experience whose willingness to serve is met with a wall of silence — clear evidence that the talent exists and is simply being ignored.

The government should urgently establish a transparent “Talent Register” or an open-door portal to actively recruit experienced experts and young professionals alike, instead of relying on the same tired circles. If it truly wants the best, it must stop waiting for the “right people” to somehow appear and start actively inviting them in.

At the same time, the government has yet to open a formal register allowing young professionals to offer their services, even though Rezistans ek Alternativ took the laudable initiative of inviting applications for posts under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security.

'Recognising State Protocol in the Constitution would safeguard its neutrality and continuity, preventing its manipulation for partisan or political purposes'

Cont. from page 4

The core function of judicial review is to ensure that public bodies act lawfully, rationally, and without abuse of power.

*** What legal principles should govern the alignment of protocol between the National Assembly (Legislature) and the Cabinet (Executive) so that neither branch appears subordinate to the other, domestically or internationally?**

Legal principles such as the separation of powers, robust checks and balances, constitutional clarity of powers, and parliamentary independence ensure that the Legislature and Executive remain distinct yet cooperative. They prevent subordination by defining roles, enabling mutual oversight (e.g., question time, judicial review), and ensuring clear accountability while limiting executive overreach into lawmaking.

Key mechanisms include parliamentary control over executive actions, legislative scrutiny of delegated powers, and the requirement that both branches derive their legitimacy from the people.

*** What remedies are available if an incoming government redesigns protocol arrangements to marginalise or exclude constitutional office-holders such as the Leader of the Opposition**



“Constitutional officeholders who are marginalized or excluded by an incoming government’s redesign of protocol arrangements have several potential remedies, including recourse through domestic courts, political advocacy, and engagement with constitutional review mechanisms. The availability of specific remedies depends largely on the national legal framework, particularly whether the officeholder can demonstrate a concrete legal injury and...”

from official state functions?

Constitutional officeholders who are marginalized or excluded by an incoming government’s redesign of protocol arrangements have several potential remedies, including recourse through domestic courts, political advocacy, and engagement with constitutional review mechanisms. The

availability of specific remedies depends largely on the national legal framework, particularly whether the officeholder can demonstrate a concrete legal injury and whether the government has waived sovereign immunity for such challenges.

*** In the context of the announced Constitutional Review, what are the argu-**

ments for recognising “State Protocol” as a protected constitutional matter, to prevent its use as a political tool?

Recognising State Protocol in the Constitution would safeguard its neutrality and continuity, preventing its manipulation for partisan or political purposes and ensuring the dignity and standing of high offices are respected.

*** From a constitutional standpoint, where is the appropriate balance for protocol regulation? Should the top tier of offices be entrenched in the Constitution (requiring a special majority to amend), with the remainder governed by statute?**

A balanced approach would be to entrench the top-tier offices in the Constitution, requiring a special majority to amend, while allowing the remaining positions to be governed by statute. This provides stability for key offices while maintaining flexibility for practical administrative needs.

*** If the protocol list were placed on a statutory footing, would this legitimately empower the Supreme Court to resolve protocol-related disputes, or would such adjudication be viewed as undue judicial intrusion into the internal affairs of the State?**

If the protocol list were placed on a statutory footing, the Supreme Court could legitimately have authority to resolve disputes. However, the judiciary would need to exercise restraint to avoid intruding into political or ceremonial matters traditionally managed by the Executive.

LEX

The Government of l'Alliance du Changement – One Year Later

Cont. from page 5

The overreliance on retired personnel has produced a predictable outcome: experience — however valuable it may once have been, and however useful for mentoring younger professionals — has become insufficient on its own to deal with a society now confronted with far greater complexity. This approach ultimately deprives the country of the energy, dynamism, and innovative spirit needed to drive meaningful economic and social change.

The Implementation Bottleneck

Responsibility for the government’s poor performance to date must also be shared by the bureaucracy. Since the advent of the new administration, conferences, as well as the launching of blueprints and roadmaps, have rarely been translated into concrete action — perhaps with the partial exception of the Ministry of Health. The websites of several ministries are replete with reports that have never been implemented; their recommendations are repeatedly reworded, relaunched, and reannounced, while implementation remains slow and hesitant. In one parastatal body, no Chief Executive Officer has been appointed since 2015.

Capacity-building has been largely absent in many government departments and parastatals over the past decade, further undermining delivery. This is compounded by the fact that ministers often spend excessive time abroad attending conferences which, in many cases, yield little tangible benefit. While it is understandable that a small, independent country — active in numerous international organisations — receives frequent invitations to annual meetings, the current economic context requires far greater



“The Prime Minister himself... in an interview on Radio Plus conceded that there had been a number of false starts and missteps. Some recent nominations — particularly the reappointment of individuals drawn out of retirement — appear clumsy, if not faintly laughable. These appointments are often justified by the claim that there is a dearth of professionals willing to offer their services, much as employers routinely argue that they cannot recruit Mauritians for many available jobs. The more plausible explanation, however, is that politicians operate within a very limited circle of friends and acquaintances...”

selectivity. Although the overall number of overseas missions has been curtailed, the number of ministers and junior ministers travelling remains excessive, particularly as many such missions have proven unproductive, as re-

flected in their reports to Cabinet.

One does not expect a new pillar of the economy to emerge within a single year. Historically, since the 1970s, each additional economic pillar has taken roughly a decade to materialise. Yet the Blue Economy, officially launched in 2012, has still failed to develop as anticipated. Institutional inertia may well be at the root of this failure.

One recalls that in 2012 the Mauritius Research Council was tasked with organising a conference on the Blue Economy, with the aim of tapping into available expertise and producing a report to guide both government and the private sector. The conference duly took place, yet the report was never released. Similarly, a request to set up an interdisciplinary team to study a village with an unusually high incidence of cancer among women also came to nothing.

While the electorate’s frustration is entirely legitimate, the government must now set clear priorities and move decisively into action if it hopes to shift the economy from a growth rate of 3.2% to 5%. Artificial intelligence has been earmarked as a future pillar of growth, but, as has been noted elsewhere, without the necessary infrastructure and a resolution of the energy question, progress will remain limited.

The country faces challenges on multiple fronts. Meeting them will require sustained effort from the government, the private sector, and the population at large. In the past, Mauritius has risen to most of its challenges, and there is no compelling reason why it should not do so again in the years ahead.

Sada Reddi



A Conversation With Santa Claus

“Real leadership isn’t about magic wands; it’s about having a spine”

As usual we are delighted to welcome once again in our midst Uncle Claus this year for a lively chat – though not by the fireside! – and partake of his wisdom. And also share his concerns and sadness about the widespread demographic shifts in the northern landscape that are adversely impacting the beautiful and enchanting celebrations of Christmas there. Black clouds enwrap areas where bright lights ought to have shone for days together. Luckily for us though, he has some positive messages, and even better, he may be able in future to spend more time among us! Something to look forward to...

TP Saran

foreseeable future. So, to answer your question: Mauritians don’t surprise me; they are still as hospitable and welcoming. At least you guys haven’t replaced me with an “Inclusive Holiday Hologram” yet!

*** Between grand principles and last-minute compromises, would you say Mauritians are naughty, nice... or strategically nice?**

No, they have remained genuinely nice, and I trust that applies among themselves also. After all, I’ve heard the local motto: *‘Charité bien ordonnée commence chez soi.’* Though in Mauritius, that usually means the best meal is kept for the family, and the second-best is shared with the neighbour!

As for grand principles and last-minute compromises? You find that in all democracies. It’s like a pair of one-size-fits-all trousers — the skin is stretched thin to accommodate every political whim and the so-called ‘inclusivity.’ But that’s among the politicians, not the people. The people know how to get on; there’s much niceness especially during this national festive season.

Where a little — but just a little! — innocent naughtiness is welcome for the fun of it. A joke here, a glance there... and perhaps just a tiny ‘one more for the road.’ But beware! Only if you stay in! If you hit the road after that “tiny one,” you’ll find the police deployed in every corner ready to book wayward drivers. My sleigh has a built-in GPS to avoid breathalyzer checkpoints, but you don’t!

*** After all these years of giving, what has being Santa taught you about yourself — and about people who expect miracles overnight?**

As you know, my first love is kids. It breaks my heart — and my magical reindeer-power — to hear about babies being abandoned outside churches. There’s an undercurrent of something deeply wrong that you folks have to look into.

You know very well that the more I give, the better I feel. That is what saddens me about the Northern countries. Huge chunks of people seem to have a problem with light and enjoyment! Christmas is about light, love, good cheer, and music. In the North, they’re arguing about whether a Christmas tree is “offensive.”

About miracles overnight? Well, it’s instantaneous miracles for thousands crowding the shores in the UK. PM Keir Starmer and his team await them with “Goody-Goody Packages” that include posh hotels and guaranteed housing. That indeed is a miracle! Why bother with a toy from Santa when the government gives you a suite with a view? So, they’re not interested in my humble gifts anymore.

*** Does life at the North Pole ever feel like Port Louis**

traffic at peak hour, or is it calmer than a Sunday beach in Mauritius or Rodrigues?

Not quite yet, but the day isn’t far off. Climate change or not, the ice is melting faster than a *glaçon râpé* in the sun. I’m apprehensive. AI is taking everyone’s job, and melting ice might take mine. Though I must clarify, I’m talking about actual frozen water, not the “Trumpian ICE” variety that keeps your cousins in the US awake at night!

I’m worried that soon the North Pole will just be a very large, very cold swimming pool. I’ll have to swap the sleigh for a jet-ski, and Rudolph isn’t a very strong swimmer — he tends to drift toward the nearest buffet.

*** Between elves, reindeer, and global expectations, do you feel more like Santa — or a minister before budget day?**

Ministers, my friend, do not have feelings! Didn’t you know that? They have calculations, and not all are of the numerical kind. Most are of the “How many votes does this bag of rice get me?” kind.

But I’ll always feel like Santa. Even the smallest gift to a little fellow brings such a shine to their face that it makes circumventing the globe worth it. Also, I don’t get tired! My sleigh whizzes through the skies, and unlike the Metro Express, I never have to worry about a car turning right onto my tracks!

“Elves are ethereal beings; I can morph them with my magic wand. No lessons there. But look at your “strong leaders” down here on Earth. They are bending over backwards to create dubious vote-banks or making short shrift of judicial decisions. Look at the Chagos deal — the dilly-dallying is enough to make even a reindeer dizzy. Real leadership isn’t about magic wands; it’s about having a spine, which seems to be a rare gift this year...”

*** What leadership lesson did you learn the hard way: managing elves, or handling reindeer with strong personalities?**

Elves are ethereal beings; I can morph them with my magic wand. No lessons there. But look at your “strong leaders” down here on Earth. They are bending over backwards to create dubious vote-banks or making short shrift of judicial decisions.

“Climate change or not, the ice is melting faster than a *glaçon râpé* in the sun. I’m apprehensive. AI is taking everyone’s job, and melting ice might take mine. Though I must clarify, I’m talking about actual frozen water, not the “Trumpian ICE” variety that keeps your cousins in the US awake at night! I’m worried that soon the North Pole will just be a very large, very cold swimming pool.”

*** Uncle Claus, after centuries of watching people, do Mauritians surprise you more — or are we just creative in our own special way?**

Santa: Oh thank, thank you for yet another annual chat! I must say, over the years I actually look forward to these more and more. In fact, I’m thinking of applying for a long-stay premium visa. If the authorities can find a way to classify a sleigh as a ‘zero-emission light vehicle,’ I might just stay on a little longer. If that’s okay with you people?

*** Oh, sure! But why the sudden interest in permanent residency? Is the North Pole melting, or did you just discover *dholl puri*?**

You’re too innocent down here, I must say — or are you pretending you don’t know what’s happening on the Old Continent? Haven’t you heard? Christmas markets in Europe are being held barricaded by armed police in the rare city lucky enough to even have one. It’s all concrete bollards and bag checks because of the high risk of potential attacks. It’s hard to be “Jolly Old Saint Nick” when you have to pass through a metal detector and get frisked by a guy with an assault rifle just to buy a gingerbread man!

Why, even nativity scenes are forbidden now in many schools and public places. What’s the fun for me? That’s where I enjoy sitting and charming the kids — not behind a bulletproof screen! Even trips down chimneys are fewer; people are installing high-tech sensors and ‘smart’ alarms. I’m one motion-detector away from being tackled by a private security firm. I shudder to think what awaits me in the

'Beware the 'Keyboard Philosophers' who post novels with no substance.

It's like a fancy gift box with nothing inside'

☞ Cont. from page 7

Look at the Chagos deal — the dilly-dallying is enough to make even a reindeer dizzy. Real leadership isn't about magic wands; it's about having a spine, which seems to be a rare gift this year.

*** What is the most meaningful non-material gift you've ever received — something even better than rum cake and *napolitaine*?**

That's easy. The warm sunshine, the beautiful smiles on kiddies' faces as they open presents, and the fact that I can eat five *napolitaines* without my doctor seeing the bill. Can you think of anything better, ever?

*** Looking back at 2025, what small Mauritian gestures of kindness caught your attention — quiet ones, not the Facebook-friendly kind?**

I love how people of all communities greet each other with '*Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année*' regardless of whose festival it is. It's not for the "likes" or the "shares"; it's just the Mauritian way. Keep it up, and I'll keep coming back!

*** What strengths do you see in Mauritians that keep you hopeful, even when we complain a lot but still help each other out?**

“You picnic like kings and leave the place like a landfill. Put the litter in the bin! Also, the ‘Keeping up with the Joneses’ — incurring debts for flashy lifestyles and needlessly big SUVs for such a small island. You don't need a tank to go buy bread! Expecting the government to fix everything is a global disease, but when the leaders help themselves to “generous packages,” can you blame the people for wanting a piece of the cake too?”

Precisely — it's that helping spirit that mostly prevails still, and genuine friendships cutting across community barriers. Whether it's sharing sweets at Diwali, brioches and *dragées* for a First Communion, or sweets and salted snacks at other festivals. I think next time I'll make my trip earlier to indulge. If I stay any longer, I'll add so much “rotundity” to my waist. Haha!

*** And be honest: what Mauritian habits worry you most — short memories, long queues, or expecting Santa or even the government to fix everything?**

Messing up the beach! You picnic like kings and leave the place like a landfill. Put the litter in the bin! Also, the “Keeping up with the Joneses” — incurring debts for flashy lifestyles and needlessly big SUVs for such a small island. You don't need a tank to go buy bread! Expecting the government to fix everything is a global disease, but when the leaders help themselves to “generous packages,” can you blame the people for wanting a piece of the cake too?

*** In an age of social media, instant outrage, and showy virtue, how do you decide who's naughty or nice?**

Even AI would short-circuit trying to figure that out! My tip? Beware the 'Keyboard Philosophers' who post novels with no substance. It's like a fancy gift box with nothing



inside. If they're blabbering on to prove how smart they are, they're on the 'Naughty' list. The 'Nice' crowd keeps it short and skips the shallow ego-trip.

*** Has technology made your work easier?**

I'm not into TikTok or WhatsApp voice notes. I prefer the handwritten notes dropped in the red-letter boxes. It fires the imagination! Kids should grow up with magic, not just a high-speed data plan.

*** Do you find it harder to tell genuine need from noise in a world where everyone wants to be seen, heard, and shared?**

Indeed, I do, like you do too, isn't it. But as the saying goes, actions speak louder than words, so count more on what people do and what company they keep rather than what they say or peddle in their online posts is the way to go about making out need from noise.

Remember what Mahatma Gandhi remarked about the book 'Mother India' that American journalist author Katherine Mayo wrote, namely that whereas anyone visiting a new country looks out for what is good, she instead went sniffing the drains! Well, you have a lot of drain-sniffers today. Look for the good instead!

*** From your sleigh, how do global conflicts look?**

Frightening, to say the least. Malevolent warmongers and looters, mindless violence and people being targeted and killed just because they are who they are. Disrupt everything, supply chains for food, fuel, fertiliser and other items in jeopardy, freight costs up and up and price rises for food and everything else spiralling — yet no end in sight.

There are hard times ahead for small islands. My advice? Save, don't splash! If you buy another giant flat-screen on credit this year, don't come crying to me when the electricity bill hits!

*** Climate change is hitting islands first; when you fly over Mauritius and see rising seas, does it weigh on your Christmas spirit?**

Fortunately, the beauty of the vast blue sea on which tiny Mauritius appears but like a small dot of green rimmed by

white sand mitigates the impact viewed from above. But yes, closer on the ground the reality dawns of increasing encroachment of green spaces and expanding areas of high rise, not to speak of the disproportionate volume of vehicles that I have seen continuously increasing year by year as seen in the congested thoroughfares. It's peak period all day long! It weighs on me, yes. We need more trees and fewer parking lots. That does weigh, it does I daresay.

*** Any headline that made you think, “At least someone is thinking long-term”?**

Singapore's ongoing planning for 60 years ahead, and Indian PM Modi's thrust for prosperity in the Global South.

*** Which headline this year made you smile this year?**

The UN Secretary General's speeches on ending wars. He wants peace, but everyone keeps selling more arms to make sure the “peace” is very, very loud. It's a classic “Same story, different year” situation.

*** When you fly over Mauritius, what do you notice first?**

The endless debates! You people could have a three-hour argument over the price of a *piment cari*.

*** If Mauritius were a child writing you a letter, what gentle advice would you give — about patience, responsibility, or teamwork?**

Be prepared to work hard, results take time to come so be patient and learn to wait, show respect to all, always keep learning from nature and from others, share ideas. A team is like a pack of reindeer — if one decides to fly backwards, everyone crashes!

“Fortunately, the beauty of the vast blue sea on which tiny Mauritius appears but like a small dot of green rimmed by white sand mitigates the impact viewed from above. But yes, closer on the ground the reality dawns of increasing encroachment of green spaces and expanding areas of high rise, not to speak of the disproportionate volume of vehicles that I have seen continuously increasing year by year as seen in the congested thoroughfares. It's peak period all day long!...”

*** If you could slip one note into the stockings of Mauritian leaders, what would it say — short, polite, and printable?**

'Do what you say and say what you have done' And maybe: 'Stop eating all the cake; save some for the people.'

*** What must Mauritius hold on to, and what must it let go of?**

Hold on to the peace and friendliness. Let go of hypocrisy and those wild, “miracle” election promises.

*** Finally, Uncle Claus, if you could give Mauritians one simple message to carry into the future — small enough to fit on a gift tag — what would it be?**

Happiness is not about collecting objects; it's about shedding excess baggage. Give to the deserving, and keep your heart lighter than my sleigh!

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Nandini Bhautoo

Festivities, Frenzy, and the Psychology of Waiting

Celebration acquires meaning precisely because it is bounded. When every moment is marketed as exceptional, nothing truly is

The end of the year has always carried the weight of reckoning. Across cultures, it marks the closing of a cycle - a time to take stock of what has been gained, what has been lost, and what has quietly endured. This impulse toward reflection is perhaps even more pronounced in tropical climates, where nature itself refuses the excuse of withdrawal. There is no winter to retreat into, no long darkness to justify hibernation. Under the relentless glare of heat and light, bodies remain visible, streets remain active, life insists on participation.

This stands in stark contrast to the wintry imagination of the northern world. In T.S. Eliot's *'The Waste Land'*, the end of the year unfolds as a season of suspension and barrenness, a time when the land itself seems exhausted.

Here, by contrast, the cycle ends not in dormancy but in exposure. There is nowhere to hide - from the weather, from one another, or from ourselves.

Yet beyond symbolism and climate, something more consequential is unfolding.

At this time of year, the island becomes saturated with spectacle. Supermalls expand, promotional campaigns multiply, and urgency is manufactured with relentless efficiency. Trade unions protest - rightly -- the erosion of purchasing power, wages that no longer keep pace with rising costs. These economic struggles are real and pressing. But alongside them, another transformation is taking place, one less visible yet no less profound: a shift in how we experience time, desire, and satisfaction.

Once upon a time -- within living memory -- life was stark for the vast majority of people. Scarcity was not a theoretical concept; it structured daily existence. Families saved carefully throughout the year so that children might receive a Christmas toy - often a single one -- after months of anticipation. The screams of delight, the wonder etched into memory, still linger among those now well into late adulthood. The waiting explained the happiness. Desire was disciplined by time, and joy emerged not from abundance, but



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from restraint.

What has changed is not merely the quantity of goods available, but the rhythm of expectation itself.

In the pursuit of profit, businesses increasingly seek to transform citizens into essentialised consumers. Desire is no longer episodic; it must be continuous. The illusion is carefully cultivated that the island has entered a state of permanent celebration - *une fête perpétuelle*, to borrow Hemingway's phrase from *'A Moveable Feast'*. Sales bleed into one

“Once upon a time — within living memory — life was stark for the vast majority of people. Scarcity was not a theoretical concept; it structured daily existence. Families saved carefully throughout the year so that children might receive a Christmas toy — often a single one — after months of anticipation. The screams of delight, the wonder etched into memory, still linger among those now well into late adulthood. The waiting explained the happiness. Desire was disciplined by time, and joy emerged not from abundance, but from restraint...”

another, occasions are endlessly manufactured, and festivity becomes an obligation rather than an event.

But beneath this artificial abundance lies a more troubling development: the gradual erosion of our collective capacity to wait.

We are becoming impatient with deferred outcomes, intolerant of delay, exasperated by processes that do not yield immediate results. This impatience spills far beyond shopping malls. It affects how students approach learning, how citizens engage with politics, how relationships are formed and abandoned, and how disappointment is processed. The expectation of immediacy has become so deeply embedded that friction itself feels like failure.

Consumerism alone does not explain this shift. Social media has intensified it in subtler, more intimate ways. Platforms reward the performance of happiness and success, demanding the appearance of fulfilment at all costs. Lives are curated, struggles concealed, and constant upward momentum presented as the norm. The quiet labour of waiting -- working without recognition, enduring uncertainty, sitting with ambiguity -- has no place in this economy of visibility.

When life inevitably fails to conform to these curated images, psychologies fray.

Anxiety, resentment, and a diffuse sense of inadequacy take hold. The tragedy is not simply that people consume more, but that they begin to expect life itself to behave like a transaction: fast, efficient, endlessly rewarding.

Yet human existence has never operated that way. Meaning, growth, and even joy are slow achievements. They require endurance, repetition, and acceptance of limits. The wisdom of earlier ethical traditions - Stoic restraint, religious fasting, ritualised waiting - was not rooted in deprivation for its own sake, but in an understanding of the human psyche. Desire, left undisciplined, exhausts itself. Satisfaction, when endlessly available, loses its texture.

In tropical societies, this tension becomes especially acute. Visibility is constant. Festivity is public. The pressure to appear engaged, joyful, and prosperous never recedes. There is little cultural permission to withdraw, to pause, to admit exhaustion. Celebration becomes compulsory, and compulsory celebration is psychologically corrosive.

This is not an argument against pleasure or festivity. It is an argument

against their inflation into a permanent state. A feast, by definition, presupposes fasting. Celebration acquires meaning precisely because it is bounded. When every moment is marketed as exceptional, nothing truly is.

Perhaps there is something quietly radical in recovering older ideas of waiting and restraint - not as moralism, but as psychological necessity. To wait is not merely to delay gratification; it is to allow desire to mature, to let expectations encounter reality, to develop resilience in the face of uncertainty. Waiting forms character in ways that instant satisfaction cannot.

The end of the year, then, should not be reduced to a commercial crescendo. It remains - despite every attempt to turn it otherwise - a threshold. A moment to ask not only what we have purchased, but what we have learned to endure. Not only how much we have consumed, but how well we have learned to live with limits.

In a culture that insists on endless celebration, the most subversive act may be to pause. To take stock. To recognise that not every desire needs immediate fulfilment, and that not every cycle must end in spectacle. The end of the year, after all, is not merely a marketplace. It is a mirror.

And before rushing into the next cycle, we would do well to look carefully at what it reflects.



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The *Siamese State: A Dialogue on the Island of Dreams* opens a window onto Mauritian politics with wit, irony, and a touch of drama. Socrates and Cephalus meet on a quiet terrace in Port Louis in December 2025 to dissect the Alliance du Changement government — just over a year after its sweeping November 2024 victory. The “Siamese State” refers to Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and Deputy Paul Bérenger: two leaders sharing a single government yet seemingly pulling in opposite directions. The “Island of Dreams” evokes the hopes of a public eager for a better future — dreams now threatened by internal disputes, bureaucratic delays, and what political observers describe as growing public disillusionment. This dialogue traces the fragile balance of power and asks the pressing question: can a government so closely joined endure, or is it headed for rupture?

Plutonix

Characters:

Socrates: A persistent asker of inconvenient questions, currently resting in the shade of a banyan tree.

Cephalus: A wealthy and seasoned observer of human affairs, weary of political theatre but fascinated by its mechanics.

Setting: A quiet terrace in Port Louis, overlooking the harbour. The year is December 2025.

Socrates: My dear Cephalus, you look as though you have swallowed a bitter lemon while trying to smile for a portrait. Tell me, has the heat of the Mauritian sun finally reached your temper, or is it the state of our “Alliance du Changement” that weighs so heavily upon your brow?

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates. It is not the sun, but the “Cold War” in the shade that troubles me. Tell me, have you ever seen a creature with two heads that insist on walking in opposite directions?

Socrates: I believe the poets call that a chimera, Cephalus. But in the marketplace, I hear it called a Cabinet. Let us examine this “Alliance.” It has been just over a year since the great landslide of November 2024. Sixty seats out of sixty! A mandate so large it surely could move mountains, or at least pave a few roads without delay?

Cephalus: One would think so. And yet, the “honeymoon” ended before the first anniversary cake was even stale. The unity of the campaign has evaporated like sea spray. We now live in what the wits call a “Siamese State.” Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and his Deputy, Paul Bérenger, are conjoined by power, yet their hearts seem to beat to entirely different rhythms.

Socrates: And what of this Paul? I hear he has been quite vocal. Three press conferences, like three acts of a tragedy — or perhaps a comedy, depending on who is holding the microphone. What is the nature of his grievance?

Cephalus: He complains of a “distressing slowness,” Socrates. He lambasts the ‘Boss’ for a lack of “celerity” in decision-making, particularly regarding the Treasury and the overhaul of Air Mauritius. He sits there, with no specific portfolio of his own, playing the role of the “internal critic,” as if he were a spectator at his own government’s performance.

Socrates: (Laughing) A man who is part of the crew but

The Siamese State: A Dialogue on the Island of Dreams



stands on the deck shouting that the captain is too slow to turn the wheel? That is a curious position. But tell me, Cephalus, is it only speed that concerns him, or is there a dispute over who gets to hold the oars?

Cephalus: Oh, the oars are the heart of it! Bérenger has expressed “profound disagreement” over the Boss’s choice of nominations. He looks at the new Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner of Prisons and objects, as if calling a foul on a football field. He suggests that these appointments reflect “old-school partisan politics” and betray the meritocracy promised to the people.

Socrates: Let us pursue this “meritocracy.” Does Bérenger mean that the “right person” should be in the “right place,” or does he mean that the “right person” should be someone from his own party, the MMM?

Cephalus: You have a sharp tongue, Socrates. Indeed, while he criticizes the Ramgoolam’s “red nominees,” his own people have found comfortable seats in the new government and its boards. It seems “merit” is a relative term in our beautiful island.

Socrates: It often is. But what of the “red lines” I hear whispered about? If the Prime Minister has remained silent — as silent as a statue in the Place d’Armes — does that mean he is conceding, or is he merely waiting for the tide to go out?

Cephalus: Ramgoolam is a master of the “disciplined silence.” He ignores the barbs in public, but in private, he is “tightening the ranks.” He knows the mathematics of the Assembly. His Labour Party holds thirty-five seats. With the smaller partners, he can govern even if the MMM decides to walk away. He has signalled that he will no longer “sacrifice his peers” to satisfy Bérenger’s demands.

Socrates: Ah, so the “Siamese State” has a dominant twin. But there is another bone of contention, is there not? Something regarding the way men are chosen to sit in the Assembly?

Cephalus: Yes, the “dose of proportional representation.” Bérenger views this as the lifeblood of the MMM. He fears that without it, his party will be swallowed by the Labour giant under a First-Past-The-Post system. He wants a reform that ensures the MMM’s “parliamentary weight” remains intact, regardless of the alliance.

Socrates: And the Prime Minister? Does he wish to share this weight?

Cephalus: Ramgoolam is “transactional,” Socrates. He hints at reform, but it’s not really clear what he wants to do or undo in terms of reform — though we hear that he is reluctant to scrap the “Best Loser System” or introduce any measure that would dilute his own dominance. It is a stale-

mate. In a recent high-stakes meeting, they reached no reconciliation — only an “ephemeral truce.” Bérenger told his associates he is ready to go “all the way in his logic of rupture.”

Socrates: A “logic of rupture”? That sounds like a very expensive way to say “divorce.” But tell me, if they break, what happens to the people? I noticed that in last May’s municipal elections, despite the Alliance winning most of the seats, voter turnout was only twenty-six percent. True, the stakes are lower in municipal elections, but tell me — is that the sign of

a contented populace?

Cephalus: Far from it. The people are weary. They see the “smoke and fire” of political bickering while the price of basic goods remains high, and the promised “reform” feels more like a slow-turning fan. The low turnout was a “smoke signal” of its own — a warning that a mandate of 60 seats is meaningless if the leaders are too busy fighting over the Commissioner of Prisons to fix the price of rice or *l’hameçons requins*.

Socrates: So, we come to the final question, Cephalus. Will this government of “Change” endure through 2026, or will it shatter like a glass dropped on the stones of the quay?

Cephalus: The veterans of the MMM are afraid. They do not want to return to the cold of the Opposition. They say “life goes on.” But Bérenger is a man of “unpredictable nature.” If the Electoral Reform Bill does not give him his “dose” by mid-year, he may feel his party’s identity — and its future — is at stake.

Socrates: Then it seems the Alliance is held together not by love, but by the fear of what lies outside the palace walls. Is that not a fragile bond?

Cephalus: The most fragile of all. One head seeks stability, the other leans toward conflict. They share a body, Socrates, yet their visions diverge.

Socrates: Then let us watch the horizon, Cephalus. For when two men share a single body but cannot agree on which path to take, they usually end up standing perfectly still until the ground beneath them begins to crumble. Shall we go find some of those “price-stabilized” basic products for lunch?

Cephalus: If we can find any, Socrates. If we can find any.

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Shyam Bhatia

Who Speaks for Former Colonies in Britain — and Why?

In contemporary Britain, criticism of former colonies increasingly comes not from former colonial officials or white commentators, but from people whose origins lie in those countries themselves. Journalists, academics, policy advisers and public intellectuals — often members of overseas diasporas — are routinely given prominent platforms to denounce bureaucracy, infrastructure, political culture and democratic health in the countries from which their families once came.

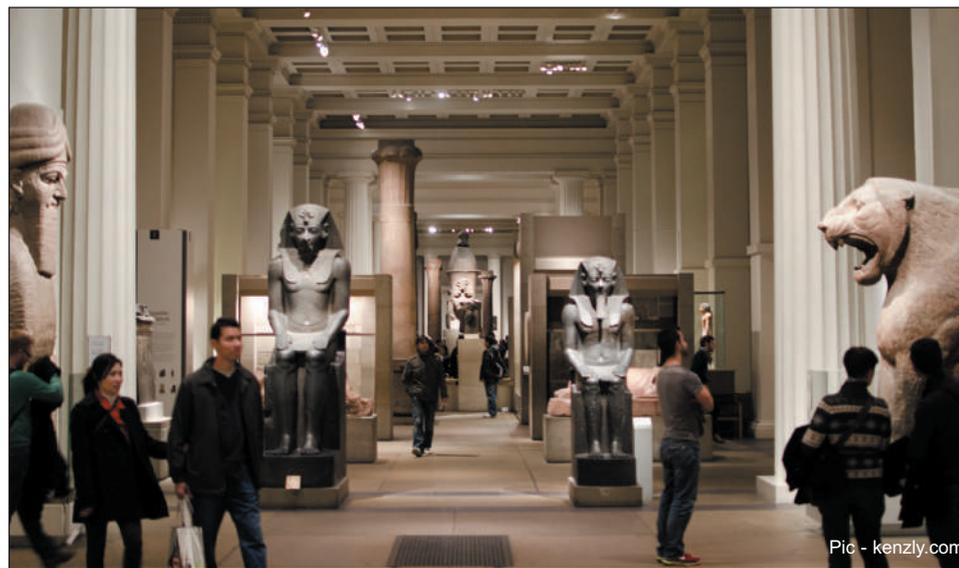
At first glance, this appears to be pluralism at work. Insiders are speaking frankly, unburdened by the paternalism and racial hierarchy that once characterised imperial commentary. On closer inspection, however, it reveals something more troubling: a structural asymmetry in who is encouraged to criticise whom — and to what end.

Critics of Indian, African or Caribbean origin lend a particular authority to these narratives. When they speak, the critique is insulated from accusations of colonial condescension. It is not Britain passing judgement on others; it is “one of their own” doing so. The effect is subtle but powerful. It authenticates an image of post-colonial societies as perpetually failing states, while Britain’s own historical and contemporary failures remain largely unscrutinised.

George Orwell once observed that “the most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.” In modern Britain, history is rarely denied outright. Instead, it is acknowledged briefly, then quietly bracketed. Empire becomes background texture rather than an organising system whose political, economic and moral consequences continue to shape the present.

This asymmetry matters because it determines how power continues to operate long after formal empire has ended. Britain’s public conversation is most comfortable when criticism travels in one direction. Corruption, institutional weakness and democratic backsliding in former colonies are examined with forensic zeal. The conditions under which those weaknesses were created — extraction, racial hierarchy and coercive governance — are treated as settled history, no longer requiring sustained attention.

What is rarely acknowledged is that this pattern does not operate in reverse. Britons living abroad — whether journalists, academics, consultants or policy advisers — are not routinely encouraged to act as moral emissaries, publicly cataloguing Britain’s own institutional failures for foreign audiences. There is no comparable expectation that expatriate Britons will foreground the deterioration of the National Health Service, the chronic shortage of affordable housing, the normalisation of political misconduct, or



Pic - kenzy.com

“Any visitor to the museum from a colonised country is aware of their own past the minute they step into the museum: history, jewels and finery ripped away from their country to be held in Britain, a colonial cultural massacre of sorts in itself...”

the weak accountability of institutions such as the BBC and the monarchy. These are treated as internal matters, discussed domestically with irony or resignation, not as systemic failures requiring explanation abroad.

The same holds true for Americans overseas. American-origin commentators are not habitually elevated in foreign capitals to denounce mass incarceration, gun violence, decaying infrastructure, or the corrosive influence of money on politics as evidence of civilisational decline. When such critiques do appear, they are framed as dissent within a powerful state, not as confirmation of a deeper moral or institutional deficiency. Criticism of Western societies, when it travels, does so cautiously and conditionally. Criticism of former colonies, by contrast, is encouraged to circulate freely, often with the added legitimacy of diaspora voices.

Mauritius will recognise this pattern instinctively. A society shaped by successive empires — Dutch, French and British — it achieved political independence without ever receiving a full moral reckoning for what preceded it. There was no sustained apology, no comprehensive accounting of extraction or hierarchy, and no shared understanding of how colonial power reshaped land ownership, labour systems, language and elite formation. What followed was not closure, but silence — polite, managed, and often mistaken for resolution.

The dynamic is most visible in Britain’s conversation about India, where Indian-origin critics are frequently elevated as authoritative witnesses to decline. Yet the pattern is not confined to India. Across the post-colonial world — including societies such as Mauritius — moral authority is often filtered through selected voices deemed safe, articulate and reassuring, while deeper questions about responsibility, apology and repair remain carefully untouched.

Frantz Fanon warned of precisely this danger. In *The Wretched of the Earth*, he argued that post-colonial societies risk inheriting not only colonial structures, but colonial habits of thought — including the internalisation of external judgement. “The colonial world,” Fanon wrote, “is a world cut in two.” Long after independence, that division often survives in discourse, determining who speaks with authority and who is spoken about.

This reluctance to confront moral responsibility has deep historical roots. British rule in India relied not only on force, but on indigenous intermediaries whose cooperation legitimised repression.

Two figures are emblematic. Sobha Singh, a Delhi contractor, identified and informed on revolutionaries after the assassination of the British officer J. P. Saunders. Hans Raj Vohra provided testimony that helped secure the conviction and execution of Bhagat Singh. These men were not marginal collaborators; they were integral to how colonial justice functioned.

Crucially, they were also rewarded. Sobha Singh prospered under British patronage, accumulating wealth, property and official favour, and remained a respected figure within elite Delhi society. Hans Raj Vohra received protection and leniency from the colonial authorities, his cooperation treated not as betrayal but as civic assistance. The imperial state exercised violence, but it distributed incentives locally — money, security, status — ensuring that responsibility was shared while accountability remained diffuse.

After Indian independence, such figures slipped quietly out of public reckoning, while the colonial system that empowered and rewarded them was rarely subjected to sustained moral scrutiny. As Chinua Achebe observed, “until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.” Empire rarely ruled alone; it

ruled through others and then allowed the record to forget how that arrangement worked.

A similar selectivity shapes Britain’s contemporary remembrance of empire. Families across the former imperial world still take pride in ancestors awarded Victoria Crosses, medals and honours for service in Britain’s wars. These stories are often recalled sincerely, with genuine dignity. Yet they sit uneasily alongside Britain’s refusal to confront the broader violence, extraction and coercion that framed imperial rule itself.

Individual bravery is celebrated; structural injustice is bracketed off. Loyalty is honoured; accountability is deferred. Empire is remembered as a collection of personal stories rather than a political system whose consequences continue to shape lives and institutions.

The absence of apology is central to this moral evasion. Britain has perfected the language of regret without responsibility, sympathy without repair. Museums debate “shared heritage” while retaining control. Cultural diplomacy substitutes for restitution. Loans replace returns. Independence is invoked as proof that the moral conversation is over. Yet for societies shaped by empire — Mauritius among them — the past has never been so neatly sealed.

Mauritius is often described, approvingly, as a model post-colonial society: stable, plural, orderly. The description is not false, but it is incomplete. It risks obscuring how deeply colonial arrangements shaped economic distribution and political culture, and how silence about those arrangements became a condition of post-independence stability. In such contexts, the absence of grievance does not necessarily indicate reconciliation; it may reflect the success of forgetting.

None of this is an argument against criticism, whether from within or outside former colonies. Scrutiny is essential, and self-critique is a mark of political maturity. Diaspora voices have every right to speak and often do so with insight and courage. The issue is not speech, but structure: who is invited to speak, whose critique travels furthest, and which histories are quietly placed beyond discussion.

When criticism of former colonies circulates freely in Britain, while critique of empire itself remains hedged, symbolic or conditional, an imbalance persists. It allows Britain to retain moral authority without confronting moral responsibility. It transforms the descendants of empire into validators of a narrative in which failure is always elsewhere and accountability always deferred.

For Mauritius, as for India and other post-colonial societies, the question is not whether criticism is legitimate — it always is. The question is who sets the terms of that criticism, whose authority is amplified, and which histories are allowed to remain politely unresolved. Until Britain can confront its imperial past without outsourcing moral judgement to selected post-colonial voices, that asymmetry will endure.

Independence ended empire. It did not close the moral ledger.

London, December 20, 2025



Maldives

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Across the Globe



US Caribbean campaign's impact

The US military campaign on Venezuela risks spilling into wider geopolitical conflicts, two prominent analysts argued. The Trump administration has for weeks struck vessels in the south Caribbean it argued were trafficking drugs to the US, and recently imposed a blockade on Venezuela, including seizing oil tankers off its coast.

The moves could undermine Washington's capacity to drum up international support against a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own, China expert Craig Singleton told Reuters. "When Washington blurs terms, it weakens its ability to call out coercion elsewhere," he said.

Meanwhile, the White House's campaign against Caracas may really be about regime change in Cuba, which relies heavily on Venezuelan oil imports, Fareed Zakaria argued on CNN.

Small fraction behind most online hate

US internet users overestimate the actual number of people posting toxic comments online, and thus become overly cynical about the state of society, new research suggested. Americans believed that nearly half of social media users posted hateful material and misinformation, whereas in fact only between 3% and 7% do.

The aggressive minority accounts for most of the posts, three studies found, giving a false impression that their views and behavior are widespread.

The finding matches an age-old rule of the internet, which says that just 1% of members of an online community provide most of the content. The researchers found that when given accurate information about the rarity of toxic behaviour online, Americans felt more optimistic about the country's condition.

Quantum reindeer solve Santa problem

As Santa prepares for a busy evening, a scientist reassured mathematically minded children worried about the numbers involved that it's all handled with quantum. Carrying presents to several hundred million children in a night is a complex business. Some years ago, Flagship's Tom worked out that it would involve about 9,200,000 reindeer travelling roughly 150 times faster than the Voyager space probes and carrying a mass equivalent to 14 Nimitz-class aircraft carriers.

Santa would also drink about 13 Olympic swimming pools full of sherry overnight. Luckily, a physicist pointed out, thanks to quantum mechanics, particles -- and sleighs -- can be in several places at once, so that's all right. Although it doesn't help with the sherry.

Colombia's anti-drug drone plan

Colombia will begin deploying drones to destroy coca crops, as the country grapples with record cocaine production that has fuelled violence across South America and built tension with the Trump administration. Coca production has ballooned under Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who has taken a light approach to drug interdictions, with the number of hectares planted almost doubling between 2016 and 2024.

US President Donald Trump said Monday that Petro



had to "watch his ass" over the cocaine his country exports to the US, Axios reported. Meanwhile, cartels' fight for control over trafficking routes has set off an unprecedented wave of violence across South America, with the murder rate in Colombia's neighbour Ecuador increasing fivefold since 2020.

Switzerland weighs population cap

Switzerland is considering a 10 million population limit, in a referendum proposed by a hardline anti-immigration party. The country currently has around 9 million inhabitants; the proposal would impose a blanket ban on new arrivals, whether they are refugees or "top managers on six-figure salaries," Bloomberg reported.

Switzerland's population has grown 10% in a decade, much faster than other European countries, mainly due to immigration. The backlash to Europe's growing foreign-born population has seen countries adopt restrictive measures, such as Poland suspending asylum applications and Italy creating asylum-processing centres in Albania.

Meanwhile, "remigration" -- the idea of forcibly expelling immigrants that was once only espoused by the far-right fringes -- is entering the political mainstream, a *Financial Times* columnist wrote, including in the US.

Trump's "Golden Fleet": "100 times more powerful"

On December 22, 2025, President Donald Trump unveiled a dramatic expansion of American sea power at his Mar-a-Lago estate, announcing the creation of the "Trump-class" battleship. These vessels are set to serve as the centerpieces of a newly envisioned "Golden Fleet," a program designed to restore US naval dominance and revitalize the domestic shipbuilding industry.

Standing alongside top officials — including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Navy Secretary John Phelan — Trump described the warships as "100 times more powerful" than any battleship in history and "the most lethal surface warfare ships" ever constructed.

The "Golden Fleet" Flagship: USS Defiant

The lead ship of this new class will be named the **USS Defiant (BBG-1)**. While traditional battleships were named after U.S. states, this new class breaks convention by carrying the president's name. The administration plans to begin immediate construction on an initial pair of vessels, with the goal of expanding the

fleet to between 20 and 25 ships by the 2030s.

Key Features & Capabilities

The Trump-class is designed to bridge the gap between traditional heavy-hitting battleships and modern high-tech destroyers.

- **Massive Scale:** Weighing between 30,000 and 40,000 tons, these ships will be more than double the size of the current Zumwalt-class destroyers. They will measure approximately 880 feet in length but will operate with a streamlined crew of only 650 to 850 personnel.

- **Nuclear & Hypersonic Arsenal:** For the first time in decades, the U.S. will return nuclear capabilities to its surface fleet. The ships will carry nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCM-N) and at least 12 Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) hypersonic missiles.

- **Futuristic Weaponry:** Beyond its 128-cell Vertical Launch System (VLS), the class is expected to feature an electromagnetic railgun and high-powered directed-energy lasers (300 kW to 600 kW) designed to "kill the archers" rather



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio looks on as US President Donald Trump speaks after announcing the US Navy's new Golden Fleet initiative, unveiling a new class of warships, at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, on December 22, 2025. Pic - Andrew Caballero-Reynolds / AFP

than just "swatting the arrows" of incoming drone and missile attacks.

- **"Aesthetic" Design:** Trump noted he would be personally involved in the design process, stating, "I'm a very aesthetic person," and promising that the ships would be the "best-looking" in the world.

Strategic Shift

The program represents a significant pivot from the Navy's previous DDG(X) next-generation destroyer plans. By favouring these "super-combatants," the

administration aims to counter the naval expansion of global rivals while forcing US defense contractors to address long-standing issues with cost overruns and production delays.

While critics question the feasibility and cost — estimated by some analysts at \$10 billion to \$15 billion per ship — the administration frames the "Golden Fleet" as a necessary investment in "Peace through Strength."

* Contd on page 16

Across the Globe



India, China ease visa rules

China and India eased visa rules for each other, as once-icy relations between the world's two most populous nations continue to thaw. Starting Monday, Beijing is letting Indian citizens apply for visas online, sparing them from time-consuming, in-person office visits. And India streamlined its visa process for foreign technicians and factory engineers, giving a boost to an industry that leans on Chinese professionals, *The Hindu* noted. The countries have cautiously rekindled ties this year, including by resuming direct flights, as US President Donald Trump's tariff regime pressures both economies.

* * *

Drone deliveries rising in India

Drone deliveries are rapidly expanding in India, increasing efficiency but making gig workers nervous that their jobs are being automated. Medical drone deliveries have been used in remote areas for a while, but several companies are setting up shipping in dense urban zones, *Nikkei* reported.

In the US, retailers including Walmart and Amazon are testing drone deliveries in some cities, and similar systems are in use in Ireland and Israel. One Tel Aviv company makes thousands of takeout deliveries a month with its drones. Proponents say the shift to drones will reduce costs, but that may not be the case yet: McKinsey estimated that delivering one package by drone costs as much as seven times more than by van.

* * *

US-South Africa rift escalates

The Trump administration said South Africa faced "severe consequences" over Pretoria's opposition to US efforts to aid Afrikaners, widening a bilateral rift. The comments came after Pretoria reportedly expelled several Kenyan nationals sent to South Africa to help members of the country's white minority relocate.

Since the start of his second term, US President Donald Trump has accused South Africa of waging a "genocide" against its white population -- an allegation rejected by experts -- imposing hefty tariffs as punishment. South African officials have sought to improve ties by making concessions, only to be rebuffed by the US. "How do you take this forward is a real conundrum," a South African expert told the *Financial Times*.

* * *

Australia, US crack down after shootings

Australia and the US responded in contrasting ways to recent high-profile shootings. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pledged the largest gun buyback in almost 30 years after father-and-son gunmen killed 15 people at a Hanukkah event on Bondi Beach, Sydney. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump suspended the immigrant program that the suspect in a shooting at Brown University used to gain US residency. The Portuguese national, also suspected of killing an MIT professor, was found dead Thursday.

The countries' responses are not atypical: Trump also imposed new migration rules after an Afghan national shot two National Guard troopers in November, while a 1996 mass shooting in Australia led to a rapid tightening of gun laws.

* * *

Europe failing to curb populism

Centrist parties across Europe are not doing enough to block the rise of populism, by failing to address voter concerns and by not enacting reforms necessary to win back wider public support, multiple outlets argued.

Warnings about the end of democracy issued by the leaders of Britain, France, and Germany "smacks of an attempt to draw attention away from their own failures," *The Economist* said in its latest cover story, while a European politics expert wrote in *The New York Times* that mainstream politicians must quickly enact economic policies that give their bases "reasons to hope again." Their options are limited, however. "In most cases, their economies are so moribund that they lack the fiscal firepower," Politico noted.

"Heinous Criminal Act": Global outcry follows brutal lynching of Dipu Chandra Das



The Bangladesh Interim Government has officially condemned the brutal lynching of Dipu Chandra Das, a 25-year-old Hindu garment worker, as a "heinous criminal act." The incident, which occurred in the Bhaluka area of Mymensingh, has drawn significant international condemnation and sparked massive protests in both Bangladesh and India.

The Incident

On the night of December 18, 2025, a mob targeted Dipu Chandra Das at the Pioneer Knitwears (BD) Ltd factory following unverified rumors of a "blasphemous" social media post. Reports indicate that:

- **Factory Betrayal:** According to the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), factory supervisors allegedly forced Das to resign and handed him over to an enraged mob instead of calling the police.

- **Extreme Violence:** The mob beat Das to death, hung his body from a tree, and set it on fire on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

- **No Blasphemy Evidence:** Investigators from the RAB later confirmed that they found **no evidence** of any social media post or action by Das that insulted religious sentiments.

Government and Legal Response

Education Adviser Professor C R Abrar visited the victim's family on Tuesday to offer condolences and financial assistance on behalf of the government.

- **Arrests:** Law enforcement authorities have arrested at least 12 individuals, including the factory's floor manager and quality manager, for their alleged involvement in handing Das over to the mob.

- **Zero Tolerance:** The Interim Government, led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, stated that "allegations, rumors, or differences in belief" cannot justify violence and promised that the perpetrators would face the full force of the law.

International Outcry

The lynching has intensified concerns over the safety of religious minorities in Bangladesh.

- **US Lawmakers:** Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) and Representative Suhas Subramanyam (D-VA) issued statements condemning the "targeted mob killing," urging the Bangladeshi government to uphold the rule of law and protect Hindu communities.

- **Protests in India:** In New Delhi, members of the VHP and Bajrang Dal held massive demonstrations near the Bangladesh High Commission on December 23, clashing with security forces as they demanded justice for the victim.

The incident comes during a period of heightened instability in Bangladesh following the death of student leader Sharif Osman Hadi, which has led to widespread unrest and targeted attacks on media and minority institutions.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

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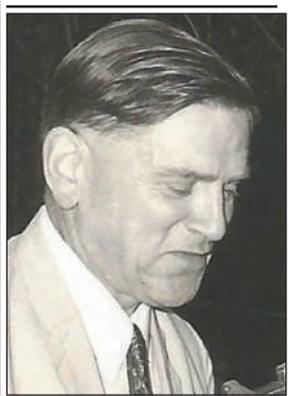
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From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 325

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 18 November, 1960

• *Moral qualities rule the world, but at short distances the senses are despotic.* — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Peter Ibbotson

Production and Higher Standards

High land utilisation drives Barbados's superior living standards across the British Caribbean

Mauritius is not the only overcrowded island in the world. Barbados suffers from the same overcrowding, the same high density of population, the same rapidly-increasing population, the

same demographic as well as economic factors, as Mauritius. In Barbados, it is essential that the land yield as much produce as possible in order to feed as well as possible the ever-increasing number of mouths.

To the Barbadians, in fact, it is essential that every possible bit of land should be planted, should be utilised to the full. The mainspring of the island's economy is, as in Mauritius, the production and export of sugar; but crop production does not stop there. Not for Barbados the colossal quantity of imports of all kinds of food, including food which could well be grown at home. Far from it.

"Come and see my land," the Barbadian will say; and off you go. "I have only an acre," he will say, almost apologetically; but the attitude of apology is only a pose; in reality, the Barbadian is proud of his land, be it but an acre (slightly less than one arpent) or even less. You get to his smallholding; and what do you see? The whole acre is given over to sugar, as far as you can tell; but what does your smallholder go on to say? "Six crops I get from my acre," he boasts, "six crops, and all good ones. I am selling my sugar, that is my cash crop; but see, I have five more". You look for the other five, and you discover one of the most intensive pieces of land utilisation that you are ever likely to come across.

Round the acre is a fence. Not a corrugated iron fence; not a wooden fence. Indeed, no: instead, a cucumber vine, prolific as the proverbial rabbit or mouse. Above the cucumber vine, rear the leaves and pods of peas; fat, plump, juicy pods full of luscious green peas. The whole acre is surrounded by this living fence which produces two crops: cucumbers and peas. Inside the fence grows the sugar cane; but on the ground you will see, trailing between the canes, a pumpkin vine — prolific and fruitful, producing food for several families for weeks on end.

Among the canes you will find crop number five - breadfruit trees. Two of these trees will produce three suppers a week, every week of the year, for a family of five; and at Christmas the farmers drink a rich red brew made from the prickly red pods which are plucked, dried and boiled once a year. This red brew is called sorrel; and any Barbadian will tell you that "Christmas ain't no Christmas if it ain't have a little drop of sorrel".

The sixth crop may well be a couple of pear trees also hidden among the cane; but whereas the sugar is grown to sell for cash, and the cucumbers, peas, pumpkins and breadfruit are grown for food, the pears are a luxury, almost the only luxury which the Barbadian tenant farmer will permit himself. In fact, it has been said of the Barbadian that "You may beg him for a breadfruit; you may pocket a cucumber without arousing his wrath; but any raid on the pear tree is an unforgivable blasphemy against the land."

Some farmers keep a hive of bees in one of their bread-

fruit trees; not so much for the honey produced, but as a protection against predatory robbers who might have designs on the pear tree!

This intensive cultivation of the land helps the Barbadian tenant farmer to enjoy a relatively high standard of living: certainly, his standard of living is higher than that of his counterpart in Mauritius. Too much land in Mauritius is under-cultivated; many a small planter or *metayer* is content to grow his arpent of sugar as a cash crop without attempting a second (let alone a sixth!) crop in conjunction therewith. Nor on the estates do we find such intensive cultivation of the inter-lines as we find in Barbados.

Intensive cultivation of every available bit of arable land, on the lines of that in Barbados would do much to make Mauritius more self-supporting in the matter of food, and less dependent on imports of foodstuffs. Leaving crops for one moment, why on earth should Mauritius import over a million shell eggs a year? not to mention several tons of liquid or dried eggs as well as thousands of poultry carcasses?

Is there no one at the Department of Agriculture or in private enterprise who is interested in increasing poultry-farming in Mauritius and reducing this colossal quantity of poultry imports? (Chickens must be the only commodity capable of being imported before they are born, while they are alive, or after they are dead). A soundly-based domestic poultry-farming industry could be made financially attractive; a deep freeze or cold storage plant (such as I referred to last week when writing about the development of the fishing industry) would help supplies of table birds to be evenly regulated throughout the year; British experience in the boiler industry suggests that the same industry could well and profitably be introduced to Mauritius.

A year ago, a scheme was initiated in Seychelles to import properly balanced and blended poultry feeds from Kenya in order to encourage the production of eggs and table birds for the local market. The scheme has been so successful in its first year of operation that many poultry keepers have asked that it be extended. A co-operative society of poultry-keepers is under consideration - but who initiated the scheme in the first place? A Seychellois poultry-keeper? No. The Department of Agriculture? No. Who then? None other than the Governor's wife - Lady Thorp. Is there no one in Mauritius with personal initiative enough to try and develop poultry-keeping in Mauritius in the same way?

It may be objected that the intensive cultivation as practised in Barbados is not possible in Mauritius. To such an objection, I ask in reply: "When has it been tried? And who gave it a fair trial?" It would seem well worthwhile for the Department of Agriculture to give such intensive cultivation a fair trial; preferably not on a demonstration plot of its own, but, in a different way. I suggest that the Department call for



volunteers who are peasant farmers cultivating plots of about one arpent. These volunteers would be required to work under the direction and supervision of the Department of Agriculture. They would continue to grow their normal arpent or so of sugar but would also undertake additional crops after the Barbadian pattern.

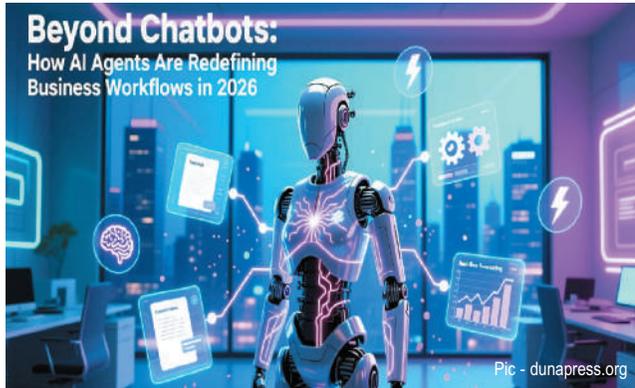
The Department of Agriculture would provide seeds, seedlings, or young plants — whichever is most appropriate — along with necessary technical advice and fertilizers. The results of such experimental intensification of land utilization would be very valuable, especially if volunteers were forthcoming from different parts of the island with diverse soil types on their plots.

Any harvest from the additional crops would of course be the property of the volunteer peasant farmers in return for their work; if the additional planting led to a fall in their normal sugar production, then two different courses of action would be possible. Either the Department of Agriculture could subsidise the farmers, paying a cash grant representing the difference between actual and anticipated return from the sugar crop; or the experiment could continue as a fertiliser trial, so that the Department could determine what would be the best fertiliser to maintain the farmers sugar production and at the same time to make it worthwhile planting the additional crops. Such an experiment on a limited scale could, were it successful, have strong repercussions on the agricultural industry of Mauritius, as well as on people's standards of living and on the import trade.

Not that it is necessary to wait for the Department of Agriculture to help. Surely there are farmers who are willing to try on their own. Isn't there a public-spirited estate owner who is willing to set aside one arpent of his estate and let some willing farmer try the Barbadian scheme of intensive cultivation and maximum land utilisation?

It is this high degree of land utilisation that has led Barbados to enjoy the highest standard of living in all the British Caribbean territories: higher than in metalliferous Jamaica or oil- and asphalt-producing Trinidad, higher than in the sugar-cane islands, the lime vanilla and sea-island cotton and pimento islands. It cannot be a coincidence; it is surely worth giving a trial in Mauritius.

Beyond Chatbots:
How AI Agents Are Redefining
Business Workflows in 2026



Pic - dunapress.org

The next AI frontier

AI firms are moving beyond simple conversational chatbots, creating increasingly autonomous agents that can do much more than answer queries.

ChatGPT users in the US can now buy things directly within the chat, a step closer to a virtual assistant that can book flights or shop. Google DeepMind released two robotics models that can “solve complex, multistep tasks” in the physical world, while Anthropic said its latest model is capable of working for 30 hours on one task, rather than losing focus over time, a major hindrance for AI’s ability to plan and reason.

Firms are investing in training AIs on video and robotic data to learn about the physical world, Ars Technica reported, as returns from training on internet text have slowed.

Thousands of new worlds discovered

Astronomers have identified 6,000 planets outside our solar system. Until 1992, the existence of planets other than the eight familiar ones was only conjecture. But astronomers began detecting them using tiny clues, such as a star wobbling from a planet’s gravity, or dimming as one passes in front of it. Space telescopes have accelerated the

process: The 5,000 mark was passed just three years ago. “Some discovered worlds are covered in lava; others are surrounded by clouds of precious stones,” Wired reported. An additional 8,000 potential planets are awaiting confirmation. Only 100 can be seen directly, and those will be studied for atmospheric signs -- such as oxygen -- that might indicate life.

Happiness is a slope

New research challenged the widely held belief that people tend to be least happy in middle age. The idea that our sense of wellbeing follows a “U-shaped curve” through life was popularized by a 2008 study, which found that people’s self-reported happiness was highest in early and later life, with a dip in the middle years.

But a new study raises a depressing possibility: That happiness declines throughout adulthood, stabilizes in one’s late 50s for a few years, and then rapidly declines again. Earlier studies might have missed the effect because they may have discounted deaths from suicide or disease, one researcher told New Scientist. “After a certain age, happiness would increase only because the unhappy people are already dead.”

Birds’ cuckoo languages

Birds of different species can understand each other’s alarm calls warning of cuckoos. Brood parasites such as cuckoos lay their eggs in other birds’ nests, tricking the hosts into caring for their offspring at the expense of their own. Research found that 21 bird species across four continents all make similar “whining” vocalizations when they spot a brood parasite, and when played recordings of other species’ calls, they all recognize them and react by mobbing the invader. One researcher told New Scientist that the calls, referring to external objects in the world rather than internal states such as fear or excitement, “could be the first stepping stone towards language” and that animal communication and human language were on a spectrum.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

Momentum clearly shifts in your favour. Delayed plans restart, especially career, education, or legal matters. Midweek demands tact — truth is best delivered gently. Finances improve through discipline rather than risk. Weekend favours travel, publishing, or learning.

Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 14, 22, 31, 39

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

A demanding yet rewarding week. Authority figures notice your reliability, opening doors for advancement. Keep personal relationships warm; emotional presence matters more than efficiency. Health benefits from rest and structured routines.

Lucky numbers: 1, 8, 16, 24, 33, 40

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

Innovative thinking is strong, but focus is essential. One solid idea can bring progress if pursued seriously. Social connections offer opportunities. Reduce digital distractions. A return to routine supports wellbeing.

Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 17, 21, 28, 36

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

Clarity replaces recent emotional uncertainty. Trust intuition but double-check financial or contractual matters. Creative expression restores balance. Support from family or close allies strengthens confidence.

Lucky numbers: 2, 6, 13, 19, 27, 35

Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

Strong drive and initiative dominate the week. Start important tasks early. Avoid impulsive spending or arguments. Midweek discussions help align goals. Physical activity channels excess energy positively.

Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 18, 23, 30, 38

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

Slow but steady gains bring reassurance. Financial planning and practical choices improve comfort. Domestic matters stabilise. In relationships, patience and consistency deepen trust.

Lucky numbers: 7, 12, 20, 25, 32, 37

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

Your words carry influence. Writing, negotiations, interviews, or teaching prosper. Guard against scattering energy. News or a short journey brings useful insight.

Lucky numbers: 3, 10, 15, 22, 29, 34

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

Security and priorities take centre stage. Work benefits from careful organisation. Emotional reassurance strengthens bonds.

Financial caution is advised.

Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 18, 24, 31, 40

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Visibility increases. Leadership and creativity attract recognition. Share credit to avoid tension. Romance and social warmth grow toward the weekend.

Lucky numbers: 1, 9, 16, 21, 28, 35

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

Attention to detail brings meaningful improvement. Clearing minor issues lifts stress. Health routines pay off. Avoid excessive self-criticism—progress is tangible.

Lucky numbers: 5, 8, 17, 26, 30, 39

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Balance gradually returns. Partnerships improve through clear boundaries and honest dialogue. Financial choices should remain conservative. Social harmony strengthens.

Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 19, 23, 27, 36

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Focused intensity works in your favour. A private decision supports long-term goals. Avoid control issues. Strategic patience delivers results.

Lucky numbers: 2, 12, 15, 25, 33, 38



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The Hidden Iron Switch That Makes Cancer Cells Self-Destruct

Duke University researchers have identified a powerful new therapeutic strategy against multiple myeloma (MM), a stubborn and currently incurable blood cancer. The key is to force the cancer cells into a specific type of iron-driven death by inhibiting a single enzyme: STK17B.

Multiple myeloma cells are often resistant to ferroptosis, a natural process where excess iron accumulation causes oxidative damage, forcing cells to break apart. Cancer cells suppress this mechanism, allowing them to accumulate toxic levels of iron while adapting to resist the resulting cell death. The Duke team solved the mystery of this resistance by identifying the kinase STK17B as the key enzyme responsible for suppressing ferroptosis in MM cells.

Reactivating Ferroptosis to Boost Therapy

The discovery is significant because elevated STK17B levels are associated with poor overall survival and drug resistance in MM patients. By using a specialized compound to inhibit STK17B's control over



iron, researchers were able to reactivate ferroptosis, forcing the cancer cells to self-destruct.

In proof-of-concept studies using MM mouse models,

finding offers a promising new direction by weaponizing the cancer cell's own iron dependence against it.

an oral version of the inhibitor successfully induced ferroptosis by increasing the cancer cells' iron uptake and significantly reduced tumour growth. Crucially, inhibiting STK17B also made the multiple myeloma cells more sensitive to conventional cancer therapies, suggesting it could be used as a powerful sensitizer to improve current treatments.

This breakthrough establishes STK17B as a critical safeguard for cancer cells. Researchers are now working to commercialize the therapy, with plans to explore its potential to regulate drug resistance and improve outcomes for other cancers that also exhibit resistance to ferroptosis. The

finding offers a promising new direction by weaponizing the cancer cell's own iron dependence against it.



Why can't every country get along with each other? It comes down to resources, inequality and perception

Even countries with similar values and goals can end up in conflict with each other due to forces they cannot fully control.

Countries often share similar goals, such as peace and prosperity for their citizens, so it might seem strange that they find it hard to get along. Cultural differences may sometimes cause countries such as China and the United States to compete for global influence, but even countries sharing similar values or cultures still find reasons to clash.

So why do countries compete or even go to war? As a political science scholar researching some of the most conflict-prone regions in the world, I find that the answer often comes down to three factors: scarcity, uneven distribution and perception.

Scarcity leads to hard choices

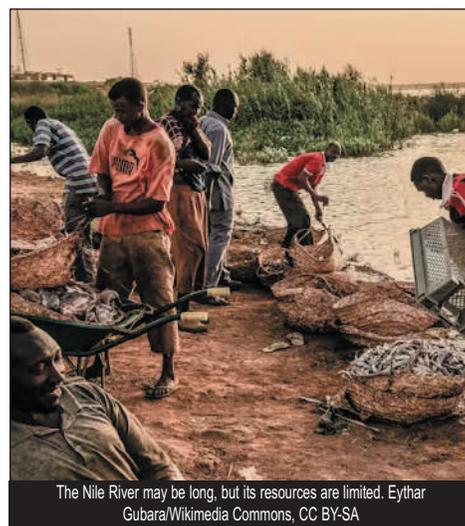
Scarcity is the reality that there are not enough resources – such as food, oil, water and land – to go around. While countries would prefer to pursue all the resources they need, they are forced to prioritize the resources that will make them most secure.

For instance, the Nile River serves as a water resource for more than 300 million people in 11 countries in Africa. However, because water is a scarce resource used for drinking, irrigation farming and hydro-electric power, countries such as Egypt and Ethiopia have often fought about using the river.

Uneven distribution means relying on others

Uneven distribution means that not everyone starts off with the same resources. Nations have different levels of power and capabilities, and this shapes how they calculate risk and opportunity when dealing with each other.

For instance, countries concerned



The Nile River may be long, but its resources are limited. Eythar Gubara/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

about the United States' dominant power joined together in a rival international organization known as BRICS+ in 2009. Its founding members include Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and several other countries have joined over the years.

Perception can lead to misunderstanding

Perception is how countries view each other's actions. A nation can build up its weapons to be safe from potential attacks, but another nation might view this move as threatening rather than defensive.

For instance, India developed nuclear capability in the 1970s to protect itself, but neighboring Pakistan perceived this as a threat and soon developed its own nuclear weapons. The two countries have since engaged in occasional conflict.

Classroom international relations

Countries have leaders with different personal experiences and backgrounds. To understand how countries interact, it is

useful to draw an analogy to a classroom simulation I use in my courses.

Annabelle and Morgan are two good friends who are taking a course in international relations. For a simulation game, their teacher assigns Annabelle and Morgan to lead two different groups. Their classmates are also assigned to be leaders of a handful of other groups. Each group must decide how to spend its resources, build its industries and form partnerships.

In the game, scarcity was represented by a set number of points both groups could use to purchase resources. Since there were not enough points to provide everyone with everything they desired, each group had to prioritize needs. Should they invest more points in defense, social goods or industry?

Annabelle's team started with 100 points and Morgan's team started with 30. That uneven distribution mattered. Annabelle's group could comfortably invest in industry, while Morgan's had to focus on survival. Morgan's group had to decide whether to trust more resource-rich groups and grow their industry points through trade, or find allies among groups with lots of military resources to prepare for potential conflict.

Perception came in when Morgan's team was not sure how Annabelle's team was spending its points. If they were spending many points on military, they could attack another group and steal its points. To protect her group, Morgan decided to form an alliance with two other groups. In return, Annabelle's group perceived the alliance as a threat and started spending more points on military.

In the final round of the game,

Morgan's new alliance invaded Annabelle's group and took most of their resource points. Annabelle felt betrayed, since she assumed her friendship with Morgan would allow their groups to work together. Morgan felt uneasy but also justified. She did not know how other members of Annabelle's group would decide to act, so she prioritized her own group's safety.

By the end of the game, Annabelle and Morgan were angry and frustrated with each other and their friendship was strained.

Cooperation turns into conflict

Even countries that share common goals or values sometimes compete, and the motivations are rarely simple.

Nations cooperate because it helps them grow, but they also take actions to protect themselves. When two countries compete over similar resources, and when their power balance is not clear, they can get the wrong idea about each other's actions and engage in conflict. At the extreme, they may even go to war.

Competition and mistrust can arise even among friends who share similar goals. Similarly, while every country might want peace and stability, the forces of scarcity, uneven distribution and perception make it impossible for everyone to get along all the time.

Still, understanding these realities can help countries to build trust and work toward a shared respect that makes peace more likely.

Kaleb Demerew

Assistant Professor of Political Science,
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Laughter is the Best Medicine

Perks of the Job

When you work for an airline, you often receive free or discounted tickets. Such was the case for Peter Gay, who boarded a free flight from London to Birmingham. He entered the aircraft just minutes before departure as the flight was filling up.

When Peter reached his allocated seat, he found it already occupied, so he quietly sat in another vacant seat.

A few minutes later, a lady in airline uniform, holding a clipboard, walked up to the man sitting in Peter's original seat. In her official capacity, she asked him politely, "Sir, are you Gay?"

The man sank into his seat, looked utterly confused, and finally replied, "Yes..."

The lady responded, "Then you'll have to get off."

Realising the flight had been overbooked and that he was about to lose his perk seat, Peter raised his hand and said, "I'm Gay," and began to stand up.

Immediately, another passenger jumped to his feet and shouted, "I'm Gay too! They can't chuck us all off!"

Trust the Technology

The passenger aircraft was fully loaded and already in the air after take-off when an announcement came over the PA system:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have been experimenting with a fully automatic piloting system for quite some time—one where pilots are not required. We are proud to inform you that it has now been perfected.

You are the first passengers to fly an aircraft controlled entirely by software, with nobody in the cockpit. We are proud to say that during all our testing there has never been a mistake... mistake... mistake..."

Aviation Wisdom

Two wrongs don't make a right,
but two Wrights made an aeroplane.

Arrested Mid-Air

Why was the skydiver arrested for taking pictures?
They were in-descent pictures.

Superman on Board

Muhammad Ali was once on a flight when a flight attendant approached and asked him to buckle his seatbelt.

Ali replied, "Superman don't need no seatbelt."

She answered calmly, "Superman don't need no plane either."

Honesty at Kindergarten Level

Kindergarten kids share what their dads do for a living...

One of my favourite jokes, retold once in a few years:

A kindergarten teacher asks the children what their fathers do for a living.

"My dad's a fireman!"

"My dad's a doctor!"

"My dad's a policeman!"

One by one, the kids proudly share.

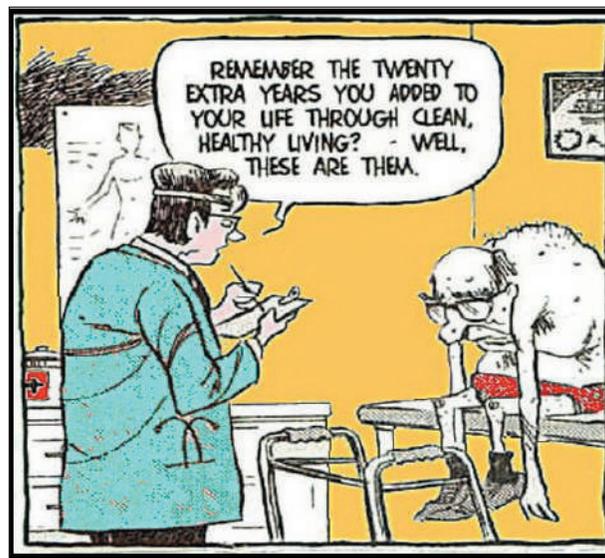
Finally, it's little Lily's turn.

"My dad is a dangerous criminal," Lily says quietly.

The teacher is horrified but tries to stay calm. After class, she gently pulls Lily aside.

"Lily, sweetie... what happened to your father?"

"Oh, nothing! He plays cricket for England - our national losing team. I was just too embarrassed to say that in front of everyone!"



Marriage, Eternity... and the Fine Print

A man and his girlfriend die in a car accident and arrive at the Pearly Gates, where they are met by Saint Peter.

"Welcome to Heaven," Peter says. "Do you have any questions?"

The man replies, "Yes. My girlfriend and I never had the chance to get married while we were alive. Can we get married in Heaven?"

Peter nods. "That's a good question. Give me some time to find out."

He disappears.

Left at the gates, the couple talks about love, commitment, and just how long eternity really is.

Six weeks later, Peter returns. "Good news. Yes, you can get married in Heaven. Come right in and enjoy eternity together."

The couple hesitates. "We do have one more question. Eternity is a very long time... If things don't work out, can we get a divorce in Heaven?"

Peter sighs and says,

"It took me six weeks to find a priest up here. Do you have any idea how long it'll take me to find a lawyer?"

The Real Danger on the Road

A brunette is driving her blonde friend to lunch.

She slows down to avoid a cyclist.

She carefully swerves around a jogger.

Then she slams on the brakes and jerks the wheel to



avoid hitting a man and his dog.

"That was close!" says the blonde.

The brunette shakes her head. "I can deal with cyclists and joggers, but jaywalkers are the worst."

"Yeah," says the blonde. "Like... who names their dog Jay?"

A WWII Joke

It's 1941, and a young German boy is listening to the radio. Hitler comes on and announces that Germany is declaring war on the United States.

The boy asks, "Father, where is the United States?"

"Here, let me show you," his father replies, pointing to North America on a map.

The boy then asks, "We're at war with Russia too, right? Where is that?"

The father points to the Soviet Union.

"And the British?" the boy continues. "Where are they?"

The father points to the British Isles—and then to the many British colonies across the map.

Finally, the boy asks, "And where are we, Father?"

Now slightly irritated, the father points to Germany in Central Europe.

The boy studies the map for a moment.

"Father?"

"What now?"

"I have one more question."

"What is it?"

The boy asks quietly:

"Has Hitler seen this map?"

Confession at the Gates of Heaven

Two women who recently died are waiting at the Gates of Heaven.

Woman 1 asks, "So... how did you die?"

Woman 2 replies, "I froze to death."

"Oh wow, that must have been terrible," says Woman 1.

"It was," says Woman 2, "but after a while you go numb and stop feeling much. What about you?"

"Well," Woman 1 says, "I thought my husband was cheating on me. I rushed home early from work, but he was just playing video games. I ran into the bedroom looking for evidence — nothing. Then the bathroom — nothing. I even checked the backyard — still nothing."

"So, what happened?" asks Woman 2.

"I was so exhausted from running around that I collapsed and died."

Woman 2 pauses, then says: "If you'd checked the freezer first, we'd both still be alive."



Life's Lesson The Illusion of Peace

In contemporary dating culture, silence is often mislabelled as a virtue. People frequently disappear when upset, ignore messages, or shut down entirely, claiming they are "protecting their peace." In reality, this isn't self-care — it is a refusal to take responsibility for the emotional health of the relationship.

Conflict is Not the Enemy: Being angry, experiencing conflict, and feeling intense emotions are not indicators of a failing relationship. They are natural components of human connection. The true threat is

the modern tendency to **ghost, stonewall, or shut down** rather than endure the discomfort of a mature conversation.

When you choose to let resentment grow quietly rather than risk a difficult dialogue, you are confusing emotional distance with maturity and avoidance with self-control.

The Cost of Emotional Withdrawal: Healthy relationships are built in the trenches of uncomfortable honesty. They require saying, "This hurt me," instead of resorting to the passive punishment of silence. Ignoring a partner doesn't resolve the underlying issue; it simply trains both individuals to slowly detach and find safety elsewhere.

Accountability vs. Passive Punishment: True maturity is own-

ing your feelings and inviting your partner to understand them.

• **Trust vs. Disappearing:** You cannot build a foundation of trust with someone who vanishes the moment things get difficult.

• **Longevity vs. Running:** Lasting love is not the absence of anger; it is the commitment to talk through that anger instead of using silence as a weapon.

Choosing Communication Over Comfort: Longevity is never achieved by running. Mature love demands that we sit in the heat of discomfort and choose words over withdrawal. By replacing stonewalling with accountability, we move from a state of "slowly detaching" to a state of building a love that can actually survive the hard times.

Life Talk

The Final Act of Love

Helping my mother downsize -- the complex transition of moving from a large family home to a manageable "rightsized" space -- twice in the last decade taught me a hard truth: the emotional pain of loss is often overshadowed by logistical panic. The hardest part wasn't discarding broken lamps; it was the frantic search for insurance policies and obscure passwords. This paralyzing nightmare is exactly what Ava Brinley's *Everything You Need to Know When I'm Gone* is designed to prevent.



Brinley provides a clear, compassionate roadmap for organizing the "invisible" information your loved ones will need. This book proves that leaving a tidy logistical trail is one of the greatest final acts of responsibility. By facing these details now, you spare your family unnecessary suffering later.

Brinley structures the complex task of end-of-life planning into manageable sections. Her tone is practical and reassuring, treating the workbook not as a morbid

chore, but as an empowering gift. Unlike standard legal planners, she focuses on the personal and digital details that cause the most stress -- passwords, sentimental items, and pet care.

10 Essential Steps for Your Roadmap

1. **The Crisis Binder:** Create one central source of truth -- a physical or digital file -- to eliminate frantic searches.

2. **The Password Vault:** Document access to your digital life (financial, email, social media) to prevent post-mortem chaos.

3. **Beyond the Will:** A will covers assets, but "The List" covers vital instructions: funeral wishes, pet care, and immediate contacts.

4. **Three Financial Pillars:** Clearly list account numbers and locations for Insurance, Bank Accounts, and Retirement funds.

5. **Digital Deletion:** Explicitly document whether social media accounts should be memorialized, deleted, or transferred.

6. **The "Who to Call" List:** List key professionals -- lawyers, advisors, and agents -- alongside a few close friends.

7. **The Three Locations Rule:** Consolidate documents into a few secure, labelled spots (e.g., a fireproof safe or safe deposit box).

8. **The Recurring Bill List:** Document all monthly and annual bills to prevent service shut-offs or missed payments.

9. **Sentimental Item Clarity:** Designate who receives specific keepsakes -- items kept for the sake of the person who gave them or the memories they represent -- to avoid family conflict.

10. **Regular Review:** Update your crisis binder annually or after major life events to ensure the information remains accurate.

By lifting the burden of uncertainty, you allow your family to focus on grieving and remembering, rather than detective work and bureaucratic confusion.



Life's Stories

Leadership in Silence

On May 30, 2015, Barack Obama walked into the Oval Office and found Joe Biden sitting alone, staring at a family photograph, tears streaming down his face. It was just fifteen days after Biden's beloved son, Beau, had died of brain cancer at the age of 46.

What happened next became one of the most profound moments of friendship ever witnessed in the White House.

Obama quietly sat beside Biden and held his hand for nearly 20 minutes without saying a word. Then he whispered something Biden later revealed in his 2017 memoir:

"You gave Beau the best life any son could ask for. Now you have to let yourself grieve like the father you are -- not the Vice President everyone expects you to be."

What makes this moment so devastating and beautiful is that Obama had cleared his entire afternoon schedule without telling anyone why. He instinctively knew that his Vice President -- and his friend -- needed permission to fall apart. According to senior adviser Valerie Jarrett's 2019 book, Obama told his staff:

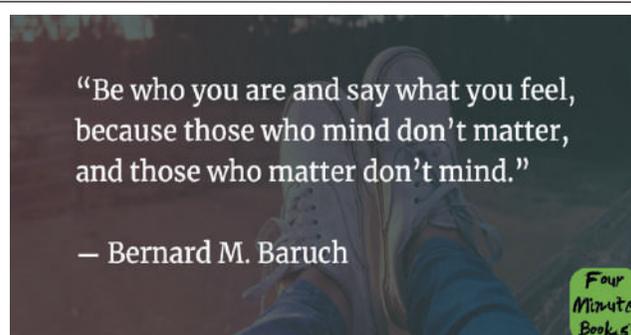
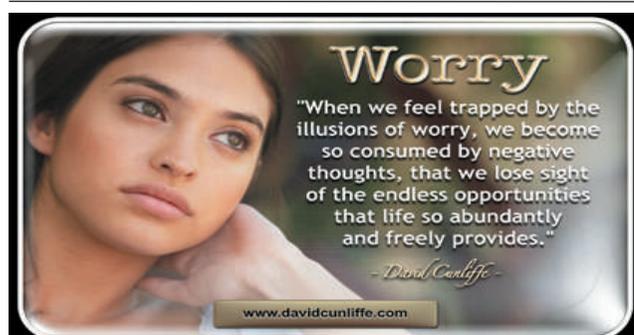
"If anyone needs me today, tell them the President is exactly where he needs to be -- with his brother."

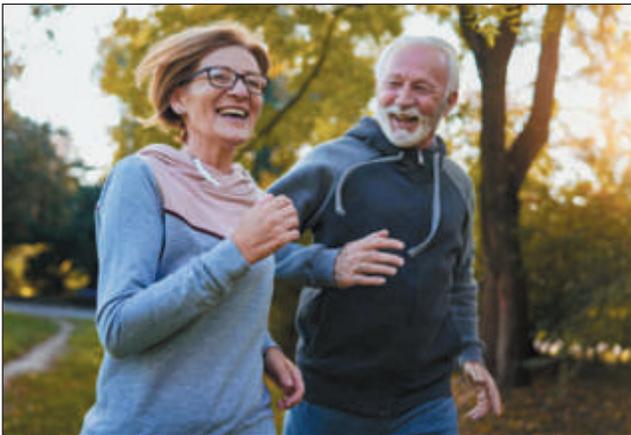
Their bond was forged not through policy victories, but through shared loss. Obama had lost his mother to cancer and his grandmother just days before his 2008 election victory. He understood the particular agony of watching someone you love to slip away despite all the power and resources in the world.

Biden later told Stephen Colbert in a heartbreaking 2015 interview that Obama offered him something extraordinary during those months of grief:

"Barack told me to take all the time I needed. That the Vice Presidency could wait. That America could wait. Because being Beau's father was more important than being Vice President -- and he meant it."

That is more than political partnership. It is friendship that holds your hand in the darkness, gives you permission to be human when the world demands you be superhuman, and proves that real leadership is measured not by the laws you pass, but by the grace you extend when someone's world is crumbling.





Healthy Ageing

What's Normal Ageing?

Ageing is a natural process that affects every part of the body over time. Understanding what changes are typical — and which may signal a health issue — can help you stay healthier and more independent as you get older.

Physical Changes

- **Skin:** Wrinkles, dryness, and thinning are common due to reduced collagen and natural oils.
- **Muscles and Bones:** Muscle mass and bone density gradually decrease, which can affect strength and balance.
- **Vision and Hearing:** Eyesight may decline (especially near vision), and hearing loss is common.
- **Metabolism:** Slower metabolism can make it easier to gain weight.

Cognitive Changes

Mild forgetfulness is normal — like occasionally misplacing keys or forgetting names. However, significant memory loss, confusion, or difficulty performing everyday tasks is **not typical** and should be evaluated by a doctor.

Sleep Patterns

Older adults often sleep less deeply and may wake up more during the night. Napping can help, but persistent insomnia should be addressed.

Emotional Changes

Mood changes can occur, but depression, anxiety, or prolonged sadness are **not normal parts of ageing**. Social support, hobbies, and professional help can maintain emotional well-being.

Maintaining Health During Ageing

- **Exercise regularly:** Strength, balance, and flexibility training protect muscles and joints.
- **Eat a balanced diet:** Lean proteins, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats support overall health.
- **Stay socially active:** Connections with family, friends, and community improve mental health.
- **Schedule regular check-ups:** Preventive care helps detect and manage chronic conditions early.

When to Seek Medical Advice

If you experience sudden changes in memory, mobility, vision, hearing, or mood — or if daily activities become difficult — consult a healthcare professional. These may signal treatable conditions rather than normal ageing.

Bottom line: Normal ageing involves gradual physical, cognitive, and emotional changes — but not sudden or severe declines. Staying active, eating well, and monitoring your health can help you age with strength and independence.

Relationships

People judge you based on 2 criteria when they first meet you

People size you up in seconds, and according to Harvard Business School professor Amy Cuddy and fellow psychologists Susan Fiske and Peter Glick, they are quickly evaluating you on two fundamental criteria: warmth and competence.

Psychologists refer to these dimensions as trustworthiness (warmth) and respect (competence). Ideally, you want to be perceived as possessing both.

Warmth: The most important factor

Counterintuitively, Cuddy says that warmth, or trustworthiness, is the most important factor in a first impression, even over competence.

• **Evolutionary Perspective:** Cuddy explains that from an evolutionary standpoint, it is more crucial to our survival to know whether a person deserves our trust. In ancient



times, determining if a fellow person was going to harm you was more vital than knowing if they were capable of a task.

• **The Trust Filter:** Competence is highly valued, but Cuddy stresses it is evaluated only after trust is established. If someone you're trying to influence doesn't trust you, your efforts will fail; in fact, displaying strength without trust can lead you to

be perceived as manipulative.

The backfire of over-emphasizing competence

Many people, especially in professional contexts, mistakenly believe that competence is the most important factor and focus too much on appearing smart and talented.

Cuddy notes that over-achievers, such as MBA interns, often become so concerned with appearing competent that they may skip social events, avoid asking for help, and generally come off as unapproachable. They may then be surprised when they don't get a job offer because their colleagues never got to know and trust them as people.

A "warm, trustworthy person who is also strong elicits admiration," but only once that initial trust is established does strength become a "gift rather than a threat."



Personal Care

The 6 Night-time Steps That Keep You Wrinkle-Free

As a plastic surgeon, Dr. Gerald Imber emphasizes that while you can't stop yourself from ageing, you can protect and maintain your skin with a simple, consistent night-time routine. Washing your face is just the beginning of this routine, which focuses on cleansing, stimulating circulation, exfoliating, and applying therapeutic products. Here's what the 6-Step Nighttime Regimen is all about:

1. Wash with Soap and Water

Use an unscented and gentle bar, gel, or liquid cleanser that lathers well and rinses clean without leaving residue. The goal is to remove all daily buildup -- oil, grit, cosmetics, and environmental debris -- from your face and neck (including your eyelids). Gently rub the lather over your skin for 30 seconds.

2. Rinse Your Face

Use warm water to rinse thoroughly. The warm

temperature helps to dilate your veins, increasing blood flow to the skin.

3. Lather Again and Rinse Cold

Following the warm rinse, apply a second lathering and then rinse with a refreshing round of cold water. This will close down the blood vessels and help to firm up the skin.

4. Towel-Dry Your Face

Towel-drying helps remove accumulated dead cells, allowing healthy young cells to reach the surface -- a gentle form of exfoliation. Be brisk but gentle, and towel upward, working against the pull of gravity.

5. Apply Protective Products and Treatment

Apply a moisturizer that contains antioxidants (such as vitamins C and E, soy, or green tea) to repair skin and protect it from pollutants. Next, apply a "treatment product" that penetrates the skin to make real changes:

• **Minor Problems (fine lines, blotching, enlarged pores):** Consider an over-the-counter (OTC) moisturizer containing alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs).

• **More Serious Wrinkles:** Use vitamin A derivatives. For fine lines, try OTC retinol. For more severe wrinkles, consult a doctor about prescription drugs like Retin-A and Renova. These improve skin by stimulating cell turnover and collagen production.

Note: Since treatment products partially remove layers of skin, seek advice from a dermatologist or plastic surgeon. All treatments (except Retin-A/Renova, which target specific trouble spots) should be applied to your entire face.

6. Moisturize

This final step is crucial to trap moisture in the surface layer of dead cells. If you have used a treatment product, moisturizing is essential. You can use a natural oil or a good moisturizer to seal in everything else you've applied, making your face look smooth and healthy.

The People's Choice: Top 10 Most Popular Indian Movies of 2025

The year 2025 was a thrilling showcase of Indian cinematic diversity, breaking records not just at the box office but also in terms of worldwide audience engagement. This list of the most popular movies — ranked by actual page views from IMDb's over 250 million monthly visitors — highlights the films that truly dominated conversations this year.

From Bollywood's surprise romantic hit to massive South Indian epics, here are the top 10 titles released between January and November 2025 that captured the public's imagination.



1. Saiyaara (Hindi)

This romantic drama, starring debutants Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, was the undisputed most popular Indian movie of the year. Director Mohit Suri's film became a huge surprise blockbuster, driven by its chartbuster music, powerful debut performances, and emotional storytelling.



2. Mahavatar Narsimha (Hindi)

A path-breaking devotional animated epic, *Mahavatar Narsimha* impressed with its technical finesse. It made history as the first animated movie to secure a spot on an IMDb year-end popularity list, appealing to massive audiences with its spiritual tone.

3. Chhaava (Hindi)

Starring Vicky Kaushal and Akshaye Khanna, this historical action-drama was one of the biggest all-India grossers. It was widely praised for its patriotic narrative, high production value, and detailed character arcs, successfully striking a chord with the audience.

4. Kantara Chapter 1 (Kannada)

Rishab Shetty's folkloric action-thriller is the highest-grossing Indian film of 2025 so far. Hailed as a cinematic triumph, this prequel expanded on the original universe with a compelling origin story and breathtaking visual splendor.

5. Coolie (Tamil)

This action-thriller, starring superstar Rajinikanth, achieved a global gross of approximately Rs 2.55 billion. The film reaffirmed Rajinikanth's enduring mass appeal, driven by strong action sequences and whistle-worthy moments.

6. Dragon (Tamil)

A mid-budget coming-of-age comedy-drama, *Dragon* became one of the biggest Tamil hits of the year. It gained massive popularity thanks to its youthful content and the rising star power of actor Pradeep Ranganathan.



7. Sitaare Zameen Par (Hindi)

Headlined by superstar Aamir Khan, this emotional sports drama connected with viewers across age groups. The film explored the complex relationships of a basketball coach working with players with disabilities, earning strong appreciation for its rewarding narrative.



8. Deva (Hindi)

Despite an average box office performance, Shahid Kapoor's action thriller maintained high visibility and audience chatter on IMDb. It secured its popularity through high-octane sequences, stylish treatment, and Kapoor's powerful central performance.

9. Raid 2 (Hindi)

This investigative crime thriller, featuring Ajay Devgn, was a successful sequel that delivered a gripping, twist-filled storyline. IMDb users particularly appreciated the film's realism and tension-filled narrative structure.

10. Lokah Chapter 1 (Malayalam)

Emerging as the biggest Malayalam blockbuster ever, this superhero action film achieved a global gross of over Rs 1.53 billion. Its success underlined the industry's growing international stature and potential in the superhero genre.

Year-end 2025

Bollywood's star kids: Between breakthroughs, backlash and viral fame

By the end of 2025, Bollywood's newest generation of star kids had little choice but to confront the spotlight head-on.

For some, the year marked a decisive creative breakthrough; for others, it delivered sobering reminders that lineage alone does not guarantee success. From Netflix triumphs and box-office wins to mixed debuts and viral moments, here is how Bollywood's industry heirs navigated a defining year, as reported by News 18.

Aryan Khan: Choosing the Director's Chair

In one of the year's most talked-about career moves, Aryan Khan decisively stepped away from acting speculation and embraced filmmaking. His Netflix series *The Ba**ds of Bollywood** emerged as one of the platform's standout hits of 2025, an impressive feat for a debut director.

Blending sharp humour with insider commentary on the Hindi film industry, the series struck a chord with audiences and critics alike. More importantly, it allowed Aryan to shed the "star kid" label and establish a distinct creative identity. By demonstrating control over storytelling and tone, he positioned himself not as a celebrity experiment, but as a filmmaker with intent and voice.

Ahaan Panday: The Saiyaara Breakout

If one star kid truly arrived in 2025, it was Ahaan Panday. Mohit Suri's *Saiyaara* turned into a surprise box-office juggernaut, resonating strongly with younger audiences through its emotional core and music-driven narrative.

Ahaan's performance drew praise for its sincerity,



while his on-screen chemistry with Aneet Padda became a major talking point. The film's success not only made *Saiyaara* one of the year's biggest hits, but also transformed Ahaan into a fresh, bankable face — one audiences are now eager to see more of.

Rasha Thadani: One Song, Viral Stardom

Rasha Thadani's debut year may ultimately be remembered for a single moment — but what a moment it was. The dance number *Uyi Amma* from her first film *Azaad* exploded across social media, turning Rasha into an overnight viral sensation.

While the film itself struggled commercially and received mixed reviews, the song's high-energy choreography and Rasha's screen presence proved irresistible online. Influencers, fans and reels culture embraced *Uyi Amma*, ensuring that even if the film faltered, Rasha's debut did not go unnoticed.

Ibrahim Ali Khan: Promise Amid Mixed Results

Ibrahim Ali Khan's 2025 journey was marked by experimentation — and uneven results. His debut, *Nadaaniyan*, a teen romantic comedy released on Netflix, attracted attention but failed to impress critics, with writing and performances drawing mixed-to-negative reactions.

Later in the year, Ibrahim appeared in *Sarzameen*, an action drama on JioHotstar alongside Kajol and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The project allowed him to explore a more intense, grounded role early in his career, offering a glimpse of potential beyond the rom-com space and signalling a willingness to diversify.

Shanaya Kapoor: A Tough First Step

After years of anticipation, Shanaya Kapoor finally made her debut with *Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan*. Expectations were high — but the film failed to connect with audiences, resulting in an underwhelming run and mixed feedback.

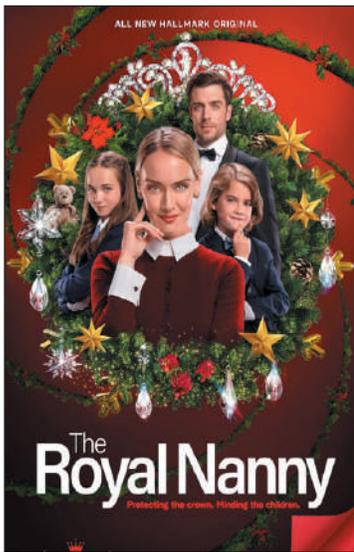
To her credit, Shanaya has spoken candidly about the experience, acknowledging both the effort behind the journey and the disappointment of a launch that did not unfold as hoped. In an industry that rarely forgives weak debuts, her next choices will be crucial.

A Year of Reckoning

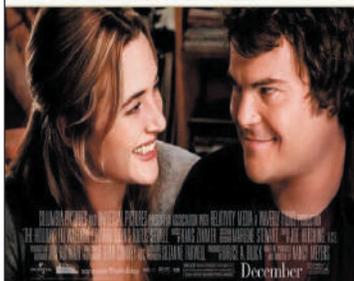
If 2025 proved anything, it is that Bollywood's star kids are no longer judged merely on their surnames. Audiences now demand clarity of craft, authenticity and risk-taking. Some — like Aryan Khan and Ahaan Panday — rose to the moment. Others faced the harsher, but necessary, realities of public scrutiny.



Vendredi 26 decembre - 20.15



Samedi 27 decembre - 20.15



Dimanche 28 decembre -20.15



Programme TV



vendredi 26 decembre

MBC 1

- 05.10 Tele: Living To Love
- 08.36 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 09.02 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
- 09.30 Film: Welcome To Christmas
- 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
- 13.24 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 14.10 Tele: Asintado
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: The Christmas Chocolatier
- 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Magazine
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.10 Film: The Royal Nanny
- 21.39 Tele: Mademoiselle
- 22.39 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 22.58 Mag: Video Killed The Radio...

MBC 2

- 09.35 Film: La Cite D'Eden
- 11.08 Rodrig Prog: A Nou Kwi
- 11.40 Local: Couleur Marine
- 12.54 Local: Sur La Piste De La Crecerelle
- 13.07 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.38 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 14.12 Local: Science Quest 2025
- 14.25 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse
- 15.06 Local: En Forme
- 15.20 Rodrig Prog: A Nou Kwi
- 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 18.27 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.25 Local: Sur Prise
- 19.49 Local: Animalia
- 20.15 Live From Studio A Echos...
- 21.45 Songs For The Season 2025
- 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard...

MBC 3

- 07.00 Lacol: Bhajan Sandhya
- 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
- 08.32 D.Anime: Paap O Meter
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.05 Local: Hunarbaaz
- 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 12.00 Film: Jo Baka Taklif To Rehvani
- Starring: Nishith Brahmabhatt, Preshi Nayak
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.51 Serial: Mithai
- 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 18.00 Samachar
- 20.00 Serial: Khel Khiladi
- 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 20.52 Serial: Porus
- 21.34 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 22.19 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 23.59 Mohammad Rafi Ki Yaad

Cine 12

- 06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 07.00 Film: Anastasia
- 08.31 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
- 08.42 D.Anime: Jungle Book
- 09.10 D.Anime: Les Enquetes De Maelys
- 11.00 Film: Over The Edge
- 13.30 Film: Jurassic Pet 2
- 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang
- 15.16 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 15.26 D.Anime: Caillou
- 15.48 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
- 16.12 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.26 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
- 16.49 Serial: Dance Academy
- 17.15 Serial: The Athena
- 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 18.30 Doc: Reviving Switzerland's
- 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
- 15.13 Film: Mr Joe B. Carvalho
- Cast: Arshad Warsi, Soha Ali Khan
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
- 20.55 Anupamaa
- 21.30 Pyar Ka Phela Adhyaya
- 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
- 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
- 23.30 Film: Mr Joe B. Carvalho
- Cast: Arshad Warsi, Soha Ali Khan

samedi 27 decembre

- 03.46 Serial: Heartland
- 05.11 Tele: Living To Love
- 06.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 07.20 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
- 15.30 Film: The Royal Nanny
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.15 Film: The Holiday
- Cast: Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law
- 22.20 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
- 23.11 Tele: Terra Nostra

- 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
- 06.42 Local: Retrovizor
- 08.00 Local: Sur Prise
- 08.47 Local: Evasion
- 09.22 Local: A Thrill Of Hope
- 10.35 Local: J'ai Faim
- 10.56 Songs For The Season 2025
- 12.42 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.34 Local: Retrovizor
- 14.49 Local: Tous Egaux
- 15.28 Local: Sur La Piste De La...
- 18.10 Tele: Entre Justice Et...
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.46 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.15 En Direct Du Studio A
- 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 23.48 Local: Tous Egaux
- 23.58 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 00.24 Local: Palette
- 00.49 Local: J'ai Faim
- 01.15 Local: Arsiv 264

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 09.00 Mati Ke Mol
- 10.26 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 13.29 Mohammad Rafi Ki Yaad...
- 14.00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.21 Film: Dil Ka Kya Kasoor
- Cast: Prithvi, Divya Bharati
- 18.14 Live: Samachar
- 18.37 Puranya Pakwan
- 18.57 Local: Virasat
- 19.12 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara
- 21.00 Film: SP Chauhan
- 23.15 Puranya Pakwan
- 23.41 Virasat
- 23.55 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara
- 01.41 Film: SP Chauhan
- Cast: Jimmy Shergil, Yuvika Chaudhary

- 06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
- 07.11 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
- 07.35 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 08.58 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier
- 09.12 Film: Beethoven Sauve Noël
- 10.42 Serial: Prefects
- 11.08 Film: Super Wings
- 13.30 Film: Ferdinand
- 15.13 D.Anime: The Grinch
- 16.36 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
- 16.59 Serial: Dance Academy
- 17.22 Serial: The Athena
- 17.51 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
- 19.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.50 Doc: Odd Neighbours
- 21.00 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria
- 22.27 Film: Taxi Driver

- 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: Singham Returns
- With: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Amole Gupte
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Crime Patrol

dimanche 28 decembre

- 03.36 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions
- 05.35 Film: The Holiday
- 07.50 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
- 08.35 Film: The Christmas Chocolatier
- 10.39 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 12.34 Film: Holiday Road
- 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 15.23 Film: The Holiday
- 17.38 Doc: Not About Music
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.15 Film: Independence Day
- 22.28 Serial: S.W.A.T.
- 23.10 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 23.37 Le Journal

- 06.31 Local: Coin Jardin
- 08.42 Local: Science Quest 2025
- 10.30 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
- 12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 12.30 Emotion En Avant Plan
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.56 Local: Palette
- 16.00 Rodrig Prog: Komanter
- 17.20 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 18.10 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.35 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 20.00 Local: Les Klips
- 21.00 Local: Music Tour 2025
- 21.55 Local: Feeling And Signature
- 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.57 Local: Coin Jardin
- 00.10 Local: Palette
- 00.35 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 01.09 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 06.59 Mag: Wellness Watch
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.26 Local: Virasat
- 09.29 Local: Shaam-E-Ghazal
- 10.31 Mahabharat
- 11.00 Excerpts From Krishna Katha
- 12.00 Film: Kunwara
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 Puranya Pakwan
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.27 Udaan Ki Kahani
- 20.15 Local: Sangeet Sitare
- 21.15 Serial: Porus
- 22.36 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 22.58 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 22.37 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 01.41 Local: Udaan Ki Kahani

- 06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
- 06.46 Film: Ice Age
- 09.00 Film: Percy Et Ses Amis
- 09.22 Film: Rio
- 11.05 Film: Rufus Et Le Royaume D'Alyne
- 13.30 Film: Freedom Force
- 14.51 Film: Kidnapped!
- 15.56 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
- 16.06 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
- 16.10 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.33 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
- 16.56 Serial: Dance Academy
- 18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
- 18.30 Doc: Ocean Predators
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.50 Doc: Odd Neighbours
- 21.45 Film: Step Up
- Cast: Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan, Damaine Radcliff

- 00.28 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 02.43 Udaariyaan
- 04.29 Anupamaa
- 07.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 08.20 Dhruv Tara
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.10 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
- 14.00 Doree
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.30 Film: Dabangg
- Cast: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Sonu Sood
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
- 23.02 Dhruv Tara

lundi 29 decembre

- 05.40 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
- 08.19 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 08.43 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
- 09.10 Film: Independence Day
- 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
- 13.24 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 14.10 Tele: Asintado
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Magazine
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.10 Serial: Quantico
- 21.00 Serial: Berlin Station
- 21.54 Tele: Mademoiselle
- 22.44 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 23.06 Mag: Video Killed The Radio...

- 09.10 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 09.30 The Lion King Musical
- 10.36 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
- 12.06 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.50 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
- 16.00 Local: Les Klips
- 16.59 Music Tour 2025
- 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.00 Local: Coca Cola Food...
- 20.15 La Grande Finale - Echos
- 22.30 Local: Grand Titre
- 22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Journal Kreol
- 23.20 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point
- 23.39 Local: Metie
- 23.51 Rodrig Mo Pei

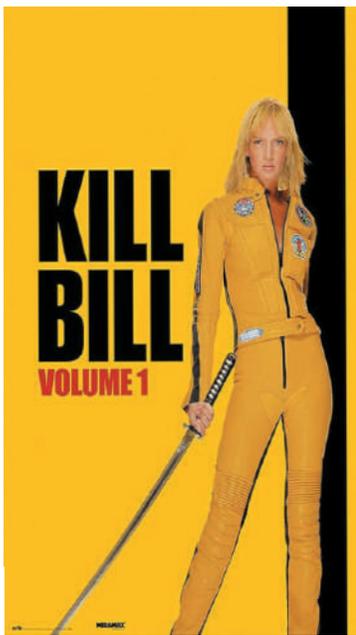
- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 07.00 Serie
- 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
- 09.00 MBC Production
- 10.23 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 12.00 Film: Parivaar
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.41 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.03 Shiv Shakti
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 19.25 MBC Prod
- 20.35 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garud
- 21.00 Film: Mehbooba
- Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini
- 23.14 Mere Sai
- 23.58 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.19 MBC prod

- 07.52 D.Anime: Samsam
- 08.17 D.Anime: Mush Mush and...
- 10.09 Serial: Prefects
- 11.05 Film: Merchant Menteur 2
- 12.35 Film: Miraculous New York
- 13.30 Film: Polly Pocket
- 14.40 Film: Les Trolls
- 14.52 Serial: The Wonder Gang
- 15.21 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 15.34 D.Anime: Caillou
- 15.55 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
- 16.10 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.33 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
- 17.16 Serial: The Athena
- 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.51 Tele: Asintado
- 21.40 Film: Maze Runner

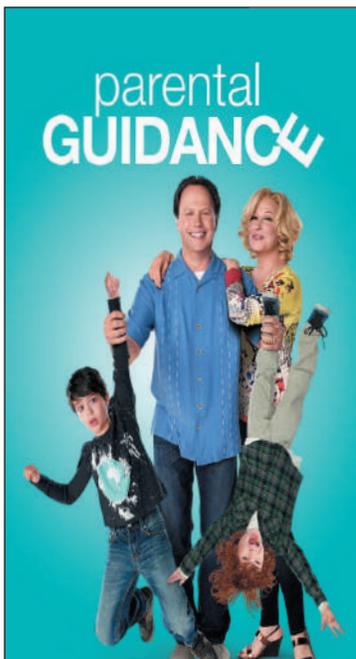
- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 15.30 Film: Bhediya
- Cast: Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
- 21.00 Anupamaa
- 21.30 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya



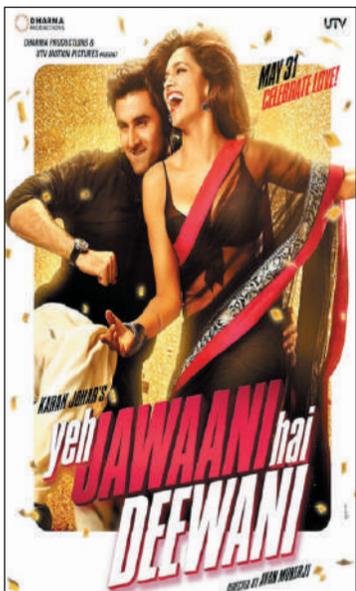
Mardi 30 Decembre - 20.10



Mercredi 31 Decembre - 21.41



Mercredi 31 Decembre - 15.30



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 30 decembre	04.34 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 05.46 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.21 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.15 Film: The Holiday 11.32 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Spider In The Web 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Local: Patrick Bruel 21.10 Film: Kill Bill: Vol.1 23.00 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.49 Le Journal 00.24 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 Local: Coca Cola Food... 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.14 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point 11.33 Local: Grand Titre 12.02 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 13.27 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.47 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 15.11 Local: Coin Jardin 16.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: La Societe 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.37 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Festival Kreol 2025 20.15 En Direct Du Studio A 22.15 Local: La Societe 22.45 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.24 Local: Arsiv 257	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.31 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Prem Tapasya Cast: Jeetendra, Rekha 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.40 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.55 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 MBC Production 20.25 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Mera Naam Joker Cast: Raj Kapoor, Manoj Kumar 00.44 Serial: Mere Sai 01.27 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Film: L'Odyssée D'Albert 08.21 D.Anime: Mush Mush And... 09.03 Les Enquetes De Maelys 11.00 Film: Souris City 12.30 Film: Miraculous World 13.39 Film: Gnomeo Et Juliet 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.17 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.22 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.31 D.Anime: Caillou 15.52 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.02 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.33 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego 16.58 Serial: Dance Academy 17.15 Serial: The Athena 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.25 Film: Hadh Kar Di Aapne Starring: Govinda, Rani Mukherjee 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Hadh Kar Di Aapne Starring: Govinda, Rani Mukherjee
mercredi 31 decembre	06.21 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.48 Serial: Under Pressure 08.26 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.50 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.39 Film: Skyscraper 11.35 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.27 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.17 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.47 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Step Up 17.34 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Magazine 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.14 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T. 21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.37 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.24 Local: La Societe 10.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 10.43 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 12.01 Local: Couleur Marine 12.26 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.18 MBC Production 15.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 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: La Fwar Festival Kreol 20.15 Lambians Banane Avec Grup Lataniers 21.40 Soiree Sega Avek Denis Claude Gaspard 22.45 En Attendant 2026 23.44 Dj Mix 31 December 2025 00.10 Festival Kreol 2024 02.10 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.33 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 09.00 MBC Production 10.14 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Golmaal Returns 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.19 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garud 20.41 Magazine Serial 21.07 Serial: Mere Sai 21.50 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.12 MBC Production 00.00 Radha Mohan	08.38 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.40 D.Anime: Will, La Série 10.36 A Mediterranean Journey 11.00 Film: Spies In Disguise 12.58 Mag: Business Africa 13.30 Film: The Secret Kindgom 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.19 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.30 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.39 D.Anime: Caillou 16.00 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.38 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego 17.25 Serial: The Athena 17.47 Doc: Japan Video Topics 18.00 Heureux Comme Un Chat 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.52 Tele: Asintado 21.41 Film: Parental Guidance Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani Starring: Deepika Padukone And Ranbir Kapoor 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 Anupama 21.28 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani Starring: Deepika Padukone And Ranbir Kapoor
jeudi 1 janvier	06.08 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.14 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.37 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.34 Film: Parental Guidance 11.32 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.12 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: The Day After Tomorrow 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Amitabh Bachchan 23.45 Tele: Mademoiselle 00.33 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Metie 10.32 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.00 Soiree Sega Avek Denis Claude Gaspard 12.00 Feeling And Signature Piano 12.42 Festival Kreol 2025 14.42 Rodrig: La Fwar Festival... 15.34 Lambians Banane Avek... 17.02 Local: En Attendant 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.25 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Festival Kreol 2025 20.30 Anou Ale Li Tipik 21.40 Local: La Grande Finale 23.40 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 00.01 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur 00.58 Sur La Piste De La Crecerelle	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.30 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 10.11 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Sangam Cast: Raj Kapoor, Vyjanthimala 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.40 Na Umpa Ki Seema Ho 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 MBC Production 20.29 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.02 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.23 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.44 Serial: Mere Sai 22.27 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.50 Japan Video Topics 08.36 D.Anime: Jungle Book 09.16 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas 11.00 Film: Rio 2 12.42 Doc: By Train Along The East 13.33 Film: Mina, Mission Rebelle 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.27 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.37 D.Anime: Caillou 15.59 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.08 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.36 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego 16.51 Serial: Dance Academy 17.15 Serial: The Athena 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado 21.40 Film: The Call 23.34 Doc: The Masters Of Rome 00.16 Doc: ORCA Interaction	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.31 Film: Student Of The Year Stars: Varun Dhawan, Alis Bhatt And Sidharth Malhotra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Student Of The Year Stars: Varun Dhawan, Alis Bhatt And Sidharth Malhotra



Jeudi 1 Janvier - 15.30

Stars: Varun Dhawan, Alis Bhatt And Sidharth Malhotra



Jeudi 1 Janvier - 20.10

Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Amitabh Bachchan



Tertiary Education

Dr Neerunjun Gopee Appointed Chancellor of the University of Mauritius



Pic - Defi Media

On Friday, December 19, 2025, Dr Neerunjun Gopee, GOSK, was formally installed as the fifth Chancellor of the University of Mauritius (UoM), succeeding Dr Jean Claude Autrey. The ceremony, held at the Paul Octave Wiéhé Auditorium, marked an important moment for the institution, bringing a well-regarded medical professional and long-time contributor to Mauritian intellectual life into its highest ceremonial office.

A Surgeon and Intellectual at the Helm

Dr Gopee, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS), has had a distinguished career in medicine, combining surgical expertise with public service. Beyond his medical practice, he is well-known as a prolific writer and thinker, contributing for several years to the *Mauritius Times* on philosophy, spirituality, society and politics, education, and ethics. His appointment brings a focus on both professional expertise and the university's contribution to the wider community.

During his induction, Dr Gopee outlined his vision for the University of Mauritius as a "developmental university," one that serves the socio-economic needs of the nation while maintaining high academic standards. He emphasized that the university should not operate as an isolated "ivory tower," but rather as an institution closely linked to national development and the welfare of its citizens.

Priorities and Focus Areas

Among his first priorities, Dr Gopee highlighted governance and institutional stability. The university has recently experi-

enced periods of interim leadership, and he stressed the importance of appointing a permanent Vice-Chancellor and revitalizing the Council and Staff Committee. Ensuring smooth administrative functioning, he noted, is essential for the university to attract international partnerships, top researchers, and maintain a strong reputation.

Dr Gopee also highlighted the importance of research that has practical societal impact, advocating for "translational research" that moves scientific discoveries from the lab into real-world applications — whether in healthcare, sustainable agriculture, digital governance, or other areas relevant to Mauritius. He encouraged faculty to consider not only whether their research is correct, but also how it benefits the public.

Addressing the rise of Artificial Intelligence, Dr Gopee urged a balanced approach. While acknowledging the potential of AI as a tool for efficiency and data analysis, he cautioned against over-reliance, emphasizing that machines cannot replicate human consciousness, empathy, or moral judgment. The university's curriculum, he suggested, should integrate technology while maintaining a strong foundation in the humanities to produce graduates who are both skilled and ethically grounded.

A Focus on Teaching, Knowledge, and Empowerment

In his speech, Dr Gopee reflected on his long association with UoM, from lecturing in anatomy and physiology in the early 1990s to serving multiple terms on the Council. Recalling a 2011 campus health incident, he emphasized the role

of knowledge and clear communication in managing crises. "How critical proper knowledge and communication are," he noted, "to bring clarity and avert potential crises."

He stressed the importance of teaching as a noble profession requiring extensive training, ethical commitment, and selfless dedication to students. Education, he argued, is not only about acquiring degrees but also about developing the attitudes, skills, and adaptability required to succeed in the workplace. Dr Gopee encouraged students to prepare for real-world challenges, be adaptable, and cultivate perseverance.

Sustaining the University's Developmental Mission

Dr Gopee highlighted ongoing challenges, including funding and infrastructure pressures, and the sustainability of free education in a developing country. He praised past initiatives such as the establishment of the UoM Trust and UoM Enterprise, which helped secure additional resources, but noted that adequate funding remains a perennial concern for public universities worldwide.

Good governance, transparency, and accountability were also central to Dr Gopee's message. He emphasized that these principles, alongside high academic standards, contribute to the university's reputation and can encourage alumni to support UoM through experience, mentorship, and potentially funding, similar to practices at leading universities abroad.

Dr Gopee's appointment marks a period of renewed focus for the University of Mauritius. Drawing on his medical experience, intellectual engagement, and public service background, he is set to support UoM in promoting practical innovation, responsible use of technology, and relevance to national development. His tenure is likely to focus on student preparation, research with real-world applications, and institutional stability, helping the university continue to fulfill its academic mission while addressing the needs of Mauritius.

Tree of Knowledge

Habitual Anger

While anger can easily become our go-to emotion, we have a remedy when we start noticing when and why we get angry

Sometimes when we feel anger, it is coming from a deep place that demands acknowledgment and expression. At these times, it is important that we find healthy ways to honour our anger, remembering how dangerous it is to repress it. However, anger also can become a habit, our go-to emotion whenever things go wrong. Often this is because, for whatever reason, we feel more comfortable expressing anger than we do other emotions, like sadness.

Perhaps getting angry gives us the impression that we've done something about our problem. In these cases, our habitual anger is inhibiting both our ability to express our other emotions and to take action in our lives.

If it's true that anger is functioning this way in your life, the first thing you might want to try is to notice when you get angry. You might begin to see a pattern of some kind. For example, you might see that it is always your first response or that it comes up a lot in one particular situation.



Pic - psychowellnesscenter.com

If the pattern doesn't become clear right away, you could try journaling about when you get angry and look for any underlying meaning. The good thing about keeping a journal is that you can explore your anger more deeply in it — from examining who in your family expressed a lot of anger to how you feel when you encounter anger in others. This kind of awareness can be a formidable agent of transformation.

Anger can be a powerful ally, since it is filled with energy that we can harness and use to create change in the world. It is one of the most cathartic emotions, and it can be a very effective cleanser of the emotional system. However, when it becomes a habit, it actually loses its power to transform and becomes an obstacle to growth. Identifying the role anger plays in your life and restoring it to its proper function can bring new energy and expansiveness to your emotional life.

Daily Om