

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Leaders think and talk about the solutions. Followers think and talk about the problems. — Brian Tracy

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing

“What we need to change in this country is the current politics of spectacle to a politics of purpose”

‘The problem is that we are stuck in transactional leadership’

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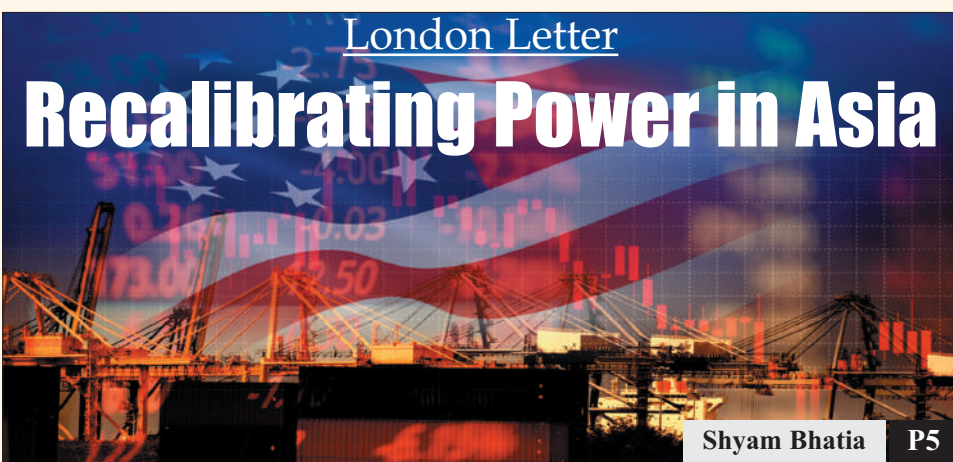


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Engineering Our Destiny

Implementing Vision 2050 in an Era of Polycrisis

History has a way of coming full circle. In the 1990s, Rundheersing Bheenick piloted Vision 2020. It was a seminal moment that helped in the transformation of Mauritius from a fragile, sugar-dependent monoculture into a diversified, service-oriented economy. Today, as we stand at the threshold of 2026, the launch of the national consultations for Vision 2050 is another welcome and important initiative. It signals a return to the strategic foresight necessary to chart a course through an era of 'polycrisis' — where climate change, ageing demographics, and artificial intelligence redefine the global landscape.

For the first time in a generation, the nation is being invited to lift its gaze from the immediate, often suffocating pressures of the next fiscal cycle to imagine the landscape of the country three decades hence. This return to long-term strategic planning is far more than a bureaucratic exercise; it is a necessary correction to a decade of "short-termism" that threatened to erode the nation's fiscal stability, institutional integrity, and collective hope.

However, as we embark on this ambitious 25-year journey, we must confront a sobering global reality: the world is littered with "Vision" documents that have gathered dust on many shelves. A strategic framework, no matter how intellectually rigorous, is merely a wish list without a robust engine of implementation. If Vision 2050 is to succeed where other global planning exercises have faltered, it must move rapidly from a "government project" to a "national pact," owned by every stakeholder and insulated from the vagaries of political cycles.

In the years that followed Vision 2020, the vital function of economic planning was "drowned" within the Ministry of Finance. While the merger may have seemed efficient on paper, the reality was that the long-term "architectural" view of the country was sacrificed at the altar of the immediate "accounting" view. Short-term political calculations began to overshadow long-term development responsibility.

By re-establishing a dedicated Ministry of Economic Planning, the current government, led by Dr Navin Ramgoolam, has signalled that "wisdom has prevailed." Under the leadership of Minister Jyoti Jeetun, the state is reclaiming its role as an "enabler" and "architect of destiny."

The Implementation Gap

While the vision focuses on three pillars — Prosperity, Durability, and Inclusion — we must address the "implementation gap" that haunts governments across the globe, including our own. The history of public administration is often a history of "great intentions met by poor execution."

The bottlenecks are well-documented and must be sorted out before the first brick of the 2050 framework is laid:

Bureaucratic Inertia: Public sectors are often designed for stability, not agility. In an era where AI and Fintech evolve monthly, a three-year procurement cycle for digital infrastructure is a recipe for obsolescence.

Siloed Governance: National goals are frequently diluted because Ministry A does not communicate with Ministry B. Vision 2050 requires a "whole-of-government" approach where policy coordination is seamless.



The Budgetary Mismatch: There is often a disconnect between long-term strategic goals and the annual budgetary allocations. Implementation begins with ensuring that the money follows the vision, not the other way around.

To overcome these, the government must identify and eliminate these bottlenecks immediately. Implementation cannot be treated as the "final stage" of the process; it must be baked into the consultation and drafting phases themselves.

For Vision 2050 to survive the inevitable changes in government over the next quarter-century, it must be owned by all stakeholders. This is the challenge of the four-month consultation period. From the students at the University of Mauritius to the tech entrepreneurs in Ebène, from the fishers in our coastal villages to the high-achieving diaspora in London or Silicon Valley, the vision must be a mirror in which every Mauritian sees their own future reflected.

The Prime Minister's call to "Be Bold, Be Inclusive, and Be Future-Focused" is the right rhetoric, but it must be matched by a mechanism that ensures the private sector and civil society are active partners in delivery. When the private sector sees a stable, 25-year roadmap, it gains the confidence to invest in high-value, high-risk sectors like the Blue Economy, renewable energy, and medical sciences. Without this "partnership of trust," the vision remains a government monologue rather than a national dialogue.

Strategic Imperatives for 2050

As the consultations begin, several non-negotiable priorities have already emerged from the policy communities.

1. The Human Capital Revolution: We are entering an era where human cognition itself is on the "obsolescence curve" due to AI. Our education system must move away from rote learning toward critical thinking, creativity, and digital fluency. With an ageing population and a "brain drain" that sees our brightest talents seeking horizons elsewhere, Vision 2050 must make Mauritius a "talent magnet." This means not just higher wages, but a higher quality of life.

2. Sovereignty and Resilience: As a small island state, we are on the frontlines of climate change. Vision 2050 must be a "Green and Blue Vision." We must accelerate the

shift to renewable energy and move toward circular, sustainable agriculture to reduce our dangerous dependence on food imports. Security in 2050 will be measured by our ability to protect our lagoons, our soil, and our healthcare systems from external shocks.

3. Institutional Integrity: A vision is only as strong as the institutions that protect it. The document outlines a need to reclaim the independence and professionalism of our public institutions. This means reinforcing checks and balances and ensuring that meritocracy — not cronyism — is the engine of the state. When institutions are fair and predictable, national confidence grows, and investment follows.

Minister Jeetun poignantly noted that while the government focuses on the year 2050, many citizens are deeply concerned about "20 heures 50" — the immediate, daily struggles of making ends meet. This is the ultimate test of the project. If the 2050 strategy does not provide a

credible pathway to better wages, affordable housing, and a more just society today, it will lose the public's heart before the ink is dry.

The vision must bridge the gap between the macro-economic "leap" and the micro-economic "struggle." It must promise that the child entering primary school today will inherit a nation that is "Secure and Sovereign" — a lighthouse of democracy where a person's life trajectory is determined by their talent and hard work, not their origins or connections.

From Dreaming to Doing

The launch of Vision 2050 is a bold declaration that Mauritius refuses to be a "boat on an unpredictable ocean," carried by currents it does not choose. It is an act of "engineering destiny" rather than "managing decline."

However, the most difficult, taxing, or substantial part of the task does not end with a successful launch at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium. The real work begins in the "sectoral round tables" and the "digital platforms for participation." We must identify the implementation bottlenecks — be they legal, financial, or administrative — and clear them with the same "spirit of hard work" that saw our parents transform this island from a \$200 per capita economy to the upper-middle-income nation we are today.

We have the vision. Now, we need the relentless discipline to execute. The next generation is watching, and the clock to 2050 has already begun its countdown.

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Parliamentary Practice

“When confronted with a PQ, a Minister cannot simply hide behind the slogan ‘Bring proof’”

‘Rather, the Minister has a duty to ensure that proper investigations and follow-up action are undertaken’

In a recent session of the House, a heated exchange between backbencher Stéphanie Anquetil and Minister Arianne Navarre-Marie brought to light not only tensions within the governing alliance but also broader questions about the role and impartiality of the Speaker. The incident, which centred on allegations of daycare mismanagement, highlighted the delicate balance between a backbencher’s right to hold the government accountable and the Speaker’s responsibility to maintain order and enforce parliamentary procedure. This Qs & As examines the key issues raised by the episode, including the proper scope of a Speaker’s authority, the treatment of allegations in Parliamentary Questions, and the safeguards necessary to preserve the impartiality and integrity of the Chair.

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* A heated parliamentary exchange in December 2025 between Stéphanie Anquetil and Arianne Navarre-Marie exposed internal tensions within the governing alliance and raised concerns about the Chair’s impartiality. The dispute centred on allegations of daycare mismanagement, prompting DPM Paul Bérenger to challenge Anquetil’s line of inquiry. The episode culminated in Speaker S. Aumeeruddy-Cziffra dismissing the allegations as “hearsay” and addressing the MP in what some described as a “maternal” tone — raising the question of whether the Speaker overstepped her role by appearing to question a Member’s motives rather than the procedural validity of the question. What is your assessment of this incident?

It is the fundamental right and privilege of a backbencher to question a minister as part of their role in holding the government accountable. As this is a core function of a Member of Parliament, the Speaker has no mandate to interfere with this right absent a compelling and legitimate justification.

* If an MP is required to prove that a scandal exists before being permitted to ask about it, does this not make it impossible to hold the government accountable for matters that are deliberately kept under wraps?

Under parliamentary privilege, a backbencher is not required to prove allegations to a judicial standard when questioning a minister. However, they are expected to maintain a factual basis for their questions and exercise this privilege responsibly.

* However, we understand that *Erskine May* provides that an MP is responsible for the accuracy of the facts they present. That said, where an

MP receives information from whistleblowers or internal sources — which may technically amount to hearsay — is it not precisely the function of a Parliamentary Question (PQ) to require the Minister to confirm or deny that information on the record?

Erskine May’s authoritative guide to UK parliamentary procedure — *‘Parliamentary Practice’* — does not contain a specific or explicit rule or chapter titled ‘Responsibility of backbenchers to act responsibly’. Rather, it sets out the procedural rules and established conventions governing the conduct of all Members of Parliament during Question Time, which inherently require responsible behaviour.

The duty of all Members — including backbenchers — to act appropriately is enforced through the Speaker’s discretion and the general rules of order and decorum, as described in *Erskine May* and related procedural guidance.

“*Erskine May* indeed provides clear guidance that questions should not be used to launch accusations or attacks against individuals, particularly those who cannot defend themselves in the House. However, a Parliamentary Question may, at times, contain allegations that are not directed at any individual but are an unavoidable part of the inquiry being raised. It is the duty of the Minister — and even more so of the Speaker — to listen carefully to both the wording of a question and its underlying implications before commenting on it or offering advice to a backbencher...”



“The Speaker would exceed her authority by questioning the motives or agenda of a backbencher. The Speaker’s role is to act as a politically impartial referee, concerned strictly with the procedural validity and orderliness of questions and debate, and not with the merits or substance of a question — unless it is manifestly contrary to the Standing Orders...”

* How should information originating from unofficial reports or rumours be treated? Does it automatically fall within the prohibition against “hearsay”?

If a backbencher were constrained by the evidential rules that apply in a court of law, their role and their right to ask questions would be severely stifled. When confronted with a Parliamentary Question, a Minister cannot simply hide behind the slogan ‘Bring proof’. Rather, the Minister has a duty to ensure that proper investigations and follow-up action are undertaken.

Concerns raised in Parliament must be referred to the appropriate authorities for examination. In the case of shelters for children, the Minister should engage the Permanent Secretary, the Ombudsperson for Children, or a dedicated child-protection agency. Ministries are often required to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect and to determine whether a child is in need of protection.

* Could it be argued that by demanding documentary proof at very short notice (for example, by the following Friday), the Speaker risks creating a “chilling effect” that discourages MPs from raising sensitive issues involving potential malpractice?

The rules of parliamentary procedure,

as set out in *Erskine May*, provide that while a Member who asks a question is responsible for the accuracy of the facts presented, the Speaker has the authority, in certain circumstances, to require assurance as to their authenticity.

The Speaker is the final authority on the admissibility of all questions and is tasked with ensuring that they comply with the rules and decorum of the House. In this instance, however, the Speaker did not seek clarification or supporting evidence; rather, she appeared to side with the Deputy Prime Minister.

* Under *Erskine May*, the Speaker’s role is to assess the form of a question — namely, whether it complies with the rules of the House. Would a speaker exceed her authority by questioning an MP’s motives or perceived “agenda” rather than limiting herself to the procedural validity of the question?

The Speaker would exceed her authority by questioning the motives or agenda of a backbencher. The Speaker’s role is to act as a politically impartial referee, concerned strictly with the procedural validity and orderliness of questions and debate, and not with the merits or substance of a question — unless it is manifestly contrary to the Standing Orders.

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Parliamentary Practice

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* Could it be argued that a Speaker’s use of personal language — such as offering advice “as a friend and a mother” — undermines the strict neutrality expected of the Chair?

A Speaker may offer personal advice of a general nature; Sir Harilal Vaghjee was known to do so. However, interfering with a backbencher’s right to ask a question — and then attempting to justify or mask that interference — smacks of partiality.

* *Erskine May* also cautions against using PQs to attack individuals who cannot defend themselves in the House. Was the Speaker’s intervention therefore a

necessary protection for the Assistant Child Programme Officer, or could it be perceived as shielding the Minister instead?

Erskine May indeed provides clear guidance that questions should not be used to launch accusations or attacks against individuals, particularly those who cannot defend themselves in the House. However, a Parliamentary Question may, at times, contain allegations that are not directed at any individual but are an unavoidable part of the inquiry being raised.

It is the duty of the Minister — and even more so of the Speaker — to listen carefully to both the wording of a question and its

underlying implications before commenting on it or offering advice to a backbencher.

What Stéphanie Anquetil did was to alert the House to the conditions prevailing in a shelter. There was nothing improper in that. Given the nature of the issue, the question inevitably contained allegations. The Speaker appeared to act with undue haste in responding in a manner that could be perceived as aligning with Paul Bérenger and, by extension, Minister Navarre-Marie. Regardless of past political affiliations — whether linked to the MMM associated with Paul Bérenger or to the splinter group led by Nababsing and de l’Estrac — the Speaker must rise above party considerations and be seen to act with complete impartiality.

* The Speaker suggested that critics

could file a motion of censure if they questioned her conduct. Is this a realistic check on the Speaker’s power, or does the weight of a governing majority render such a motion functionally impossible for a lone MP or the opposition?

It was inappropriate for the Speaker to comment on her own actions regarding backbencher Stéphanie Anquetil in a manner that could be perceived as personal or critical. In particular, the use of the phrase ‘Je ne suis pas dupe’ suggested that Ms Anquetil had an ulterior motive in asking her question.

The Speaker’s role is to act as a neutral and impartial moderator, enforcing the rules and maintaining order without bias or personal remarks.

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Mauritius Times

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Shyam Bhatia

Recalibrating Power in Asia

In a region shaped by India's expanding naval role, China's widening footprint and a more selective American engagement, Mauritius's leverage lies in credible maritime governance, blue-economy development, secure port infrastructure and digital resilience

Is Mauritius beginning to feel a quiet recalibration of international power, not through dramatic announcements or visible withdrawals, but through subtler shifts in attention, priorities and presence across the Indian Ocean?

For a small island state whose prosperity depends on secure sea lanes, predictable trade routes and a stable maritime balance, such shifts matter. They are felt not in summit declarations but in shipping costs, port traffic, insurance premiums and the quiet movement of naval forces beyond the horizon. The United States' new National Security Strategy (NSS), released in early December, suggests that such a recalibration is under way.

Buried in the document's 33 pages is a clear signal: Washington is narrowing its focus. The Indo-Pacific is no longer treated as the central organising framework of American strategy, and China is recast not as an ideological or civilisational adversary but as a competitor to be managed. This is less a rupture than a clarification, a stripping away of rhetoric that reveals a more selective, interest-driven American posture.

For India, long described as an indispensable Indo-Pacific partner, the implications are significant. For Mauritius, positioned astride vital shipping lanes linking Africa, the Middle East and Asia, the consequences are quieter but no less real.

Early in the NSS, Washington declares that the era in which the United States sustained the global order by default has come to an end. American power, it argues, must now be applied with "discipline and focus". Commitments once assumed in Asian capitals are being pruned, not dramatically abandoned, but carefully narrowed.

The strategy places overwhelming emphasis on the Western Hemisphere, stating unambiguously: "The United States must be preeminent in the Western Hemisphere as a condition of our security and prosperity." Domestic industrial strength, border control and economic resilience now take precedence over extended overseas entanglements.

For the Indian Ocean region, this signals a United States that remains engaged but is less inclined to act as a stan-

“Arrangements such as the Quad — linking India, the United States, Japan and Australia — remain relevant, but they no longer sit at the centre of Washington's strategic worldview. The US-India partnership is likely to endure, but in a more transactional form, focused on technology, trade and supply chains rather than expansive geopolitical alignment. For Mauritius, the implications are indirect but important. A more restrained American posture means that the balance of power in the Indian Ocean will be shaped increasingly by resident actors. As China's naval footprint expands from Djibouti to Gwadar, and as India assumes greater responsibility for maritime stability, smaller states must navigate a more crowded and competitive environment...”



Pic - Daily Sabah

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ding security guarantor. For Mauritius, this reinforces a long-standing reality: regional stability will increasingly depend on regional actors rather than distant assurances.

The NSS's softened language on China reinforces this trend. After two decades of framing Beijing as the defining strategic challenge of the 21st century, the document now describes China primarily as a major economic competitor, explicitly rejecting the notion of a global ideological struggle. This does not imply American disengagement from Asia, but it does suggest a shift away from military underwriting towards lower-cost diplomacy and selective engagement.

In this context, arrangements such as the Quad — linking India, the United States, Japan and Australia — remain relevant, but they no longer sit at the centre of Washington's strategic worldview. The US-India partnership is likely to endure, but in a more transactional form, focused on technology, trade and supply chains rather than expansive geopolitical alignment.

For Mauritius, the implications are indirect but important. A more restrained American posture means that the balance of power in the Indian Ocean will be shaped increasingly by resident actors. As China's naval footprint expands from Djibouti to Gwadar, and as India assumes greater responsibility for maritime stability, smaller states must navigate a more crowded and competitive environment while preserving strategic autonomy.

The NSS also takes a firmer line on burden-sharing, making clear that the United States will no longer assume responsibilities that partners are capable of managing themselves. Automatic guarantees are discouraged; regional self-reliance is encouraged. This approach aligns with India's growing maritime role but also underscores the need for Indian Ocean states to invest in diplomacy, maritime aware-

ness and economic resilience.

Pakistan, while not central to the document, illustrates this recalibration. A US strategy grounded in domestic priorities offers Islamabad little of the leverage it once enjoyed during the Afghanistan years. Recent American courtesies towards Pakistan's military leadership are best read as tactical gestures designed to keep channels open, not as signs of renewed strategic centrality.

At the same time, the NSS opens opportunities. Its emphasis on economic security, resilient supply chains and technological cooperation aligns with India's priorities and has spill-over benefits for Indian Ocean states. Port infrastructure, undersea cables, digital connectivity and maritime domain awareness are areas where Mauritius has a direct stake.

For Mauritius, the recalibration outlined in the NSS sharpens rather than diminishes strategic relevance. As a small island state with a vast Exclusive Economic Zone, a major transshipment port at Port Louis, and growing importance as a node for undersea cables and digital traffic across the Indian Ocean, its interests are inherently maritime. In a region shaped by India's expanding naval role, China's widening footprint and a more selective American engagement, Mauritius's leverage lies in credible mari-

time governance, blue-economy development, secure port infrastructure and digital resilience.

The task ahead is not alignment, but positioning: sustaining stability, protecting sea-borne commerce and anchoring itself as a rules-based, dependable hub in a more contested oceanic order.

London, December 16, 2025



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Nita Deerpalsing

“What we need to change in this country is the current politics of spectacle to a politics of purpose”

‘The problem is that we are stuck in transactional leadership’



In a political landscape increasingly dominated by optics, slogans, and performative outrage, Nita Deerpalsing argues that Mauritius has lost sight of what truly matters: purpose, substance, and institutional integrity. In this wide-ranging interview, she delivers a sharp critique of what she describes as a “politics of spectacle”—a system driven by transactional leadership, rent-seeking behaviour, and the steady erosion of democratic checks and balances. From electoral reform to the over-concentration of power in the Executive, Nita Deerpalsing warns against dangerous shifts away from rules-based governance towards discretionary decision-making. Candid, uncompromising, and intellectually rigorous, her reflections challenge comfortable assumptions about reform, rupture, and the real cost of maintaining the status quo.

Mauritius Times: Most citizens would report a sense of liberation from the restrictive and heavily policed atmosphere that characterized the previous decade — a shift they largely credit to the Alliance du Changement’s new political culture since it assumed power in November 2024.. Beyond this change in climate, what other areas do you believe should have seen more tangible improvement?

First, let me reiterate that there is no doubt that the population was absolutely right in voting the previous government out. The more so when we have now seen things such as the “reward money” saga, the extra loans in the billions given to a family hotel which was already incapable of paying those loans and so much more.

In my view, the ‘liberation’ you are referring to, is limited. Indeed, this sense of liberation was there at the announcement of the election results. In the meantime, we have seen the arrest of MrJasodanand and the treatment meted out to him compared to

other similar cases. No inspiration to sing liberation songs there.

Now let’s consider what liberation is, in its fullest sense. Viktor Frankl in *“Man’s Search for Meaning”* shared a vital insight: that freedom is not the absence of constraint but the *presence of meaning*. It is about how free/empowered citizens really are, to realize the potential that lies within them.

At the end of the day, *human dignity* is about having purpose and meaning to one’s life. Can we say that the signals we have seen over the last 12 months give us reason to be confident that we are creating conditions for each citizen to live in a full sense of

well-being?

I suggest that it is within this broader framework that we should measure ‘liberation’. In 2029, that is the very lens through which we will gauge the success of this regime.

*** On a more practical note, how would you evaluate the government’s progress in high-priority areas — specifically law and order and the fight against drug trafficking? What key factors or indicators inform your assessment?**

Let us consider what are the quintessential ingredients in order to create the conditions for pervasive sense of *‘bien-être’* (well-

being) both at the individual as well as the collective level. Those are: a fully rules-based and rights-based State architecture.

That means State institutions *“ki pa gett figir”*, that is, where there isn’t even one ounce of discrimination towards any citizen; and that a citizen does not need to behave in a spineless manner in order to obtain what is his/her fundamental rights or in order to apply for any opportunity.

In a plural society, genuine nation building, a shared sense of public goods, a shared sense of *“lakorite”* will only become reality when the State architecture is wilfully engineered to run strictly on “rules-based” and rights-based” fuel.

Until then, we will continue to see the symptoms of fragile or failed institutions: *‘repli identitaire’*, tribalism, communalism. These are mere symptoms which emerge when institutions fail to respond as expected, when people feel excluded, when the system stops rewarding merit.

Taken further, when we have what Daron Acemoglu, (Economics Nobel Prize) termed as “extractive institutions” instead of “inclusive institutions”, which also inevitably leads to widespread breakdown of law and order. In our context, this would include drug proliferation which continues unabated because the proceeds are also used to finance electoral as well as mandate-wide expenses

*** Beyond the initial rhetoric, do you believe the government has demonstrated a genuine commitment to uprooting corruption — particularly in cases involving high-ranking officials or politically connected entities? Furthermore, how effectively has it addressed public concerns regarding high-profile instances of mismanagement and institutional malpractice?**

Well unfortunately the signals do not give us any reason to celebrate. When you see that in the by-catch contract, the only thing that has changed is the colour of the *“marsan poisson”* who can sense that there is firm resolve to fight corruption, passe-droits, etc?

There are at least two obvious things which are very conducive to corruption practices: (1) lots of *‘pouvoir discrétionnaire’* in the hands of one or very few decision makers in position of power, and (2) lack of transparency.

Now tell me, do we need to wait for a go-ahead certificate from Moody’s to bring the changes needed with respect to these two aspects? How long does it take to bring a Freedom of Information Act? How long does it need to take to minimize as much as possible all *‘pouvoir discrétionnaire’*?

Have we seen anything yet even in the form of pious intentions about curbing toxic lobbies, policy capture and clientelism? Let us not fool ourselves: all of this is more often than not, fuelled by bribery. These practices distort the national ecosystem and destroy public trust.

I see we are now talking of Vision 2050. Pray do tell: in 2050, will by-catch contracts still be awarded in the same manner that it has been so far?



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Electoral Reform: “I am totally against moving from a rules-based system to a discretionary-based system”

‘This is extremely dangerous and could even be downright nefarious’

☞ Cont. from page 6

*** Do you nevertheless believe that meaningful progress has been made in strengthening accountability and integrity in public life, and in ensuring that the Financial Crimes Commission is genuinely independent, adequately resourced, and fully capable of carrying out its mandate?**

The fact that one year later we are still wondering when there will be a Freedom of Information (FOI) Act is in itself, an answer. And let us keep in mind that we don't need a FOI Act just to tick the box. We need real transparency not only in the form of a FOI Act but also in every single procurement exercise.

Do you know that African countries such as Rwanda are leading the way in making public procurement fully transparent with the use of blockchain technology? What are we waiting for to start copying these best practices?

*** With public finances in the red—a legacy of previous policies—the need for wealth generation to boost disposable income is urgent. Is the current economic model diversified and future-proofed for sustainable growth, or does a risky reliance on traditional sectors persist? Ultimately, how must the Alliance du Changement transform this model to honour its pledge of ‘rupture’?**

Unfortunately, the rent-seeking culture which erstwhile was ‘limited’ to the economic elite, has now metastasized at all levels. From the ones bending rules to build luxury clinics under the previous regime to the continued practice of allocating by-catch contracts on the basis of ‘*pouvoir discrétionnaire*’.

‘With a majority of MPs serving in the Executive (35 out of 60), the functioning of our Westminster-based democracy is being mocked and distorted’

Have we seen any serious plan to re-industrialization? Are we going to continue to import everything without taking advantage of the fantastic tool that the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area), provides us? What do we produce in order to significantly boost our export capacity?

What hope is there still for any “rupture” when you see members of the Executive parading from cocktail to cocktail hosted by the very people who have benefited from huge subsidies from the public coffers for decades? Is it the role of a PM to be seen at rebranding exercises celebrating the consolidation of economic concentration? What signal does that give to the Competition Commission?

By the way, speaking of Competition Commission, can you tell me if it still exists, is operational or are we paying “extractive” salaries from public funds just by way of political reward for yet another political nominee without an appointments committee? Yet another form of rent-seeking...

Can you tell me whether there is any signal out there for IPPs to stop the decades-long practice of abusive profits with

returns of 35% without taking a commensurate level of risks? Where are the inclusive institutions which will prevent such “extractive” practices? Any even faint sign of them on the horizon?

As long as we continue to ever extend and entrench a rent-seeking model, there will be no ‘rupture’ from the status quo. Taken against this context, this whole Vision 2050 will unfortunately remain limited to a box-ticking spectacle ‘*pour la galerie*’.

And the evidence that this Vision 2050 is devoid of any depth, is in our fatal insistence to be “*le petit village gaulois*” which will go beyond reason, to remain heavily dependent on French language. Don't get me wrong. I believe in multilingualism. But remaining stuck on the *predominance* of French language is a huge policy mistake which will cost us in terms our ability to draw from the economic potential of the future.

Do you know that in most foresight studies for 2050 and beyond, everyone is talking about the rise of the Anglosphere? From the US to UK to Nigeria, to India, to Singapore, to Australia. All these foresight studies show that the Anglosphere will represent more than 50% of global GDP in 2050. With the Francosphere ever shrinking ‘*comme une peau de chagrin*’.

And what are we doing in our great Vision 2050 country? We are introducing French as a medium of instruction in our schools! Can you imagine? Instead of dramatically revving up our capacity in English, instead of the MBC aggressively promoting English, we are stuck in a French language based ‘*reverie*’!

Besides the Anglosphere holding more than 50% of GDP

in 2050 – and possibly linked – is the fact that all Artificial Intelligence (AI) content is predominantly in English. If we think we are going to leverage AI as a tool for economic advancement in 2050 with a totally inadequate capacity in English language, then we are truly delusional.

So much for “rupture” and Vision 2050 when already in 2025, we are entrenching such irrational policy actions.

*** Given the multiple and interrelated challenges currently affecting the living standard of a broad cross-section of Mauritians, do you believe electoral reform remains an urgent priority? Furthermore, how do you respond to the announcements concerning the proposed methodology and the overall scope of the electoral reform exercise?**

At the outset let me emphatically say that I am totally against moving from a **rules-based system** to a **discretionary-based system**. This is extremely dangerous and could even be downright nefarious.

Let us deal with the arguments people normally use when they argue for a dose of PR (proportional representation)

The first is the “injustice” argument. This goes as follows: “Oh, it is unfair because some political colours do not have a fair representation in parliament.”

But let us rewind for a minute. Why do citizens vote in the first place? In the representative parliamentary model that we have, true it is that we say people vote so that they are ‘represented’ in parliament. But what is that representation



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supposed to yield? Just the presence of the colours of a political party T-shirt?

The answer obviously is no. The end result of any ‘representation’ is for citizens to send people in parliament who will seek to cement a democracy which is rules-based and rights-based. Because it is **ONLY** when we have a fully operational rules-based and rights-based democracy that each and every citizen of this country will live with a sense of justice.

Only then will we have the sine-qua-non conditions for “*morisianism*” to flourish. It certainly will not flourish by the tweaking of a couple of lines in our Constitution which deal with the electoral system. It strikes me as highly delusional to think that what is blocking “*morisianism*” is related to those few lines in our Constitution rather than the embedded injustice rooted in our institutions vis-à-vis the lay citizen who does not have the power of being somehow connected either to the economic elite or the political class.

Now more often than not, those who put forth this ‘injustice’ argument will argue that it is not right for the PTR, MMM, or MSM not to be ‘represented’ in parliament after a 60-0. But where is the ‘injustice’ when today there is really no fundamental difference in all of these 3 parties?

☞ Cont. on page 8

☞ Can you tell me whether there is any signal out there for IPPs to stop the decades-long practice of abusive profits with returns of 35% without taking a commensurate level of risks? Where are the inclusive institutions which will prevent such “extractive” practices? Any even faint sign of them on the horizon?

☞

'As long as we continue to ever extend and entrench a rent-seeking model, there will be no 'rupture' from the status quo'

☞ Cont. from page 7

Can't we fairly say that in today's version of money politics, the only difference is who will take turns, to varying degrees to erode "*le bien commun*"?

When you consider that today, there is no difference in the politics of **IDEAS** amongst these 3 parties, the "injustice" argument doesn't hold scrutiny.

The second argument is that 60-0s are against democracy.

On the surface this may seem to be a valid argument. But please note that it is only valid if in our minds, all MPs on the majority side are supposed to be mere '*marionnette*' (a term used by Guy Rozemont when he protested against the nominations that the British Governor made to the Legislative Council in the 1940s).

Any sensible person will understand that these 60-0s need not be de-facto evil, if we had a strong sense of the crucial, critical importance of the role of the Legislative in this country.

If all parties - including the media - encouraged a culture of total independence of the Legislative where MPs are actually encouraged to be fearless and even insolent if need be. Whatever their motivation may be, we must understand that **inbuilt** in any MP's intention to show a minister in a bad light, is a **systemic insurance** against any abuse of power. Until we understand this fundamental point, we will continue to operate as if a parliament is about some weird 'solidarity' amongst members of the same football team.

☞ When we see a minister saying that an MP should have come and seen her before asking a question, everyone who cares about democracy should shout out loud in unison: **NO, NO, NO!** You know when I was an MP, I did not even adhere to the guideline that all PQs should be channelled through the Chief Whip. I found that to be a strange request in the first place. I have always been very allergic to anyone trying to control my freedom to think for myself...



This is not only an ignorant reading of the core function of an MP in parliament; it is also a dangerous one. When we see a minister saying that an MP should have come and seen her before asking a question, everyone who cares about democracy should shout out loud in unison: **NO, NO, NO!** You know when I was an MP, I did not even adhere to the guideline that all PQs should be channelled through the Chief Whip. I found that to be a strange request in the first place. I have always been very allergic to anyone trying to control my freedom to think for myself.

I went to seek guidance from the officers of the National Assembly. When I ascertained there was no legal obligation for me to send my PQs "for vetting" by the Chief Whip, I always sent my PQs directly to the Clerk of the National Assembly. No one, not even the PM, had any prior notice of my questions. To be fair, the then Prime Minister never pressured me to act otherwise. This independence is essential if the parliamentary system of checks and balances is to remain effective.

Therefore, it should be clear to anyone that in itself a

60-0 should not be against democracy if all MPs are completely free to exercise their duties. It's all about the culture we want to nurture. But you saw what happened a couple of weeks ago! A most glaring, outrageous violation of that very concept by none other than senior members of the Executive as well as a referee who believes it is her role to remind us of every so often how great of a football player she once was.

And as if that was not enough, it went even to the point of suggesting that the MP may have a hidden agenda! The MP's very existence is to verily embarrass the Executive, not to show the Executive in a glorious light as was outrageously the case for those utterly hapless and ignorant MPs of the previous regime!

What is also needed in order to ensure that genuine democracy thrives is for a limit to the number of ministers - say a maximum of 15. And no nonsense such as this PPS or Junior minister phenomena which only distorts the balance between the Executive and the Legislative. Do you realize that currently with a **majority** of MPs being in the Executive (35 out of 60), this is a total mockery and an outrageous distortion of the functioning of our Westminster based parliamentary democracy? You cannot ever have more people in the Executive than the Legislative and talk about parliamentary democracy! And to add insult to injury you then try to shut down any MP who brings embarrassment to ministers. That is not democracy. Once again, this is another example of how institutions are tuned to "extractive" mode, rather than delivering for the larger interests of the population. It would be wiser to strengthen local democracy significantly than to be so top heavy in the National Assembly.

So, no there is no urgency to bring any electoral reform which responds **only** to the "injustice" and "undemocratic" narratives peddled by some in order to advance their own restricted political-party interests, certainly not the interest of the nation at large.

Instead, what is urgent in terms of Constitutional reform as far as the elections system is concerned, is the tackling of financing of politicians. Not just at the time of elections, but throughout the 5-year mandate period. How do we ensure that our society's very fabric is not eroded via "sponsors" of all kinds of activities of the politician throughout a 5-year mandate.

How do we ensure that the funds of the generous "sponsors" do not represent kickbacks given. Or '*blanchiment d'argent*' from drug traffickers? If we want to tackle the obstacles which are blocking right-minded voices to be in parliament, it is imperative to tackle the widespread disease that is money politics.

As far as parliamentary representative democracy is concerned, it is true that in a plural society it is crucial to weave in the politics of representation with the politics of ideas. The glaring injustice with respect to gender representation is met with mere lip service and hypocritical '*pincement de coeur*', election after election.

I heard Shakeel Mohamed rightly point out that each "section" of the population needs to have a place at the table. Yet, how very ironical it is that this argument does-

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☞



n't seem to apply to the "section" which concerns factually a clear majority: women.

Even if we were to consider bringing any "corrections" to the FPTP (First Past The Post) system, it should definitely not be via any discretionary power that lies in the hands of party leaders. We could, for example, envisage 2 corrections - both implemented by the Electoral Commissioner in order to keep to a strictly rules-based system. The first correction would be to deal with the "community"/gender aspect, and then the second "correction" could deal with the "political presence" aspect. I will submit my thoughts on this over the next few weeks.

But going well beyond reforms pertaining to the electoral system, we need Constitutional reforms which tackle larger aspects where citizens are meted out injustice in their day-to-day interactions with Institutions. What we also urgently need is a Constitutional reform which makes place for reparations based on the Truth and Justice Commission's report. For example, through a win-win and holistic agrarian reform.

*** Given that the Alliance du Changement is a coalition of diverse parties, and that the leader of the alliance must manage internal ideological and political differences (for example, between the Labour Party and the MMM), we have yet to hear his views on the clashes involving MMM Minister Arianne Navarre-Marie and Junior Minister Anishta Babooram, more recently Stéphanie Anquetil, as well as the opposing positions taken by Ameer Meea and Eshan Juman. Taking together, these developments do not bode well for the stability of the ruling alliance over the remainder of its term. What do you think?**

What we need to change in this country is the current politics of spectacle to a politics of purpose and meaning. The problem is that we are stuck in transactional leadership (I promise to give you X, Y, Z in return for your vote) versus purpose-driven leadership (we will build a better country together).

Yet however painful the woes we are currently experiencing, we cannot yield to any sense of nihilism. A better alternative is possible and must emerge. One that is rooted in justice as a concept based on universal human values. Based on the deep search of the human being for meaning and purpose which capture, in the fullest sense, the idea of human dignity.

But we must keep in mind that even the most inspiring vision, on its own, cannot deliver results without purpose-driven leadership. Leadership loses its value if leaders do not consistently turn their vision into actionable results. And to do that, it is an absolute must for leaders to master the skill of execution.



Nandini Bhautoo

Geet Gawai: A Diasporic Echo Across Oceans

'We may not have understood it as children, but we were witnessing a tradition with centuries of memory behind it'

On 1st December 2025, Mauritians marked nine years since *Geet Gawai* was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This event was recently celebrated at the initiative of the Bhojpuri Speaking Union, which brought together well-wishers and practitioners at the Rabindranath Tagore Institute to commemorate this milestone. It is certainly a moment of pride, but also one that invites a more reflective understanding of what this tradition represents - not only for Mauritius, but for a much wider arc of communities shaped by indenture.

For many of us who grew up in Mauritius, *Geet Gawai* was not an abstract heritage item. It was the soundscape of childhood. We knew only that women were singing in a room where boys were not allowed - a mysterious, fragrant world of laughter, clapping, turmeric, teasing, devotion. We did not realise then that we were witnessing a practice with deep historical currents, born in the Bhojpuri belt of India and remade across continents through the journeys of indentured women.

Mauritius: A Women's World Inside the Wedding House

In the Mauritian context, *Geet Gawai* developed into a finely textured ritual: a circle of women preparing the bride, singing *sohar* and *banna*, invoking blessings, poking gentle fun at relatives, and preserving memory through melody. It created an autonomous feminine space - one of the few arenas where everyday women could speak, joke, critique and console without surveillance. The UNESCO recognition in 2016 brought visibility and pride, yet the lived meanings of *Geet Gawai* remain anchored in the intimacy of these gatherings, not in their staged versions.

Mauritius is not alone in this legacy. In Trinidad, the *Matikor* night forms a near mirror: women gather before the wedding, joking, blessing and singing in Bhojpuri-inflected cadences. Suriname and Guyana possess equally resonant traditions -- *sohar*, *banna*, and *baithak gana* -- with women's wedding songs that carry the same blend of devotion and mischief. In Fiji, *vivah* and *haldi* songs similarly survive in women's pre-wedding gatherings, maintaining older meters and melodic patterns even as language shifts.

Despite geographical distance, these traditions form a single diasporic constellation. Each community adapted the old North Indian forms to new soils, new social realities, and new cultural blends. Yet the fundamental structure -- a women's communal



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space where voice, memory and emotional life could circulate freely - remains recognizable across oceans.

Euphoria and the Edges of Visibility

The UNESCO listing triggered a justified wave of celebration in Mauritius. Community groups perform with renewed confidence; younger Mauritians are rediscovering a tradition that once seemed destined to remain behind curtains. But the public excitement also reveals a paradox: while the community feels uplifted, broader society often engages with *Geet Gawai* only at a surface level -- as entertainment, a token of multiculturalism, or colourful heritage for national stages.

Outside the intimate wedding house, the deeper textures of the tradition -- the women's humour, the coded social commentary, and the emotional bonds forged through ritual labour -- often remain unacknowledged. The practice is embraced sym-

"If the nine-year UNESCO moment means anything, it is this: Geet Gawai is part of a vast, oceanic story. It connects Mauritius to Trinidad, Suriname, Guyana, Fiji, South Africa and beyond. It reveals how women carried culture across indenture, how songs travelled when almost nothing else could, and how communities re-rooted themselves through repetition, rhythm and ritual. We may not have understood it as children, but we were witnessing a tradition with centuries of memory behind it..."

bolically, yet not fully integrated into the country's shared cultural imagination.

Across Space and Time

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We may not have understood it as children, but we were witnessing a tradition with centuries of memory behind it - and a future still being negotiated. The euphoria is real. But so is the need to understand the depth of what has been inherited, and the fragility of what remains to be passed on.



Communiqué of SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd

SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd ("the Bank") hereby informs its stakeholders that the contract of **Premchand Mungar**, who has held the position of Chief Executive at the Bank, has been terminated effective **Tuesday 02 December 2025**.

This decision follows his prior suspension and was taken after the completion of all requisite internal procedures. In accordance with established governance and disciplinary protocols, the matter was reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee, after which his contract was terminated. This process was conducted in full compliance with the Bank's policies, regulatory requirements, and principles of fairness and due process.

The Board of Directors of SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd
03 December 2025



Vijay Makhan

Return of the Age of 'Might is Right'?

Unravelling the spaghetti bowl that seems to depict the current state of affairs on the international scene is a mammoth undertaking

Dramatic changes in the geo-political structure of the world have left most people bewildered. The old order, in place since the end of the Second World War, is in tatters. The UN seems to have lost all its prestige and relevance. Where is the world heading?

Never since the end of World War II have we witnessed events on the international scene unfold at such a pace and with such inconsistency that they verge on incomprehension.

While there is no dearth of pundits ready to expound on how they see the world at any given period of time, no sooth-sayer has yet emerged to predict, with conviction and empirical evidence, the future of our universe in the short, medium and long term.

The unpredictable events that unravel daily on the world scene can easily put paid to any forecast, however learned its source. We are living through a shifting sands period. This situation has brought many countries to redraw the fundamentals and parameters of their domestic and foreign policies. Predictability is no longer a constant. Hence, regular adjustments.

This is rightly so. Those who fail to reckon with this verity and adjust accordingly will remain mere confused spectators, as opposed to being proactive actors.

Is 2025 then, the year that the international order, as has hitherto informed the behaviour of the world, collapsed? The picture that is emerging is clear: the order that has served the international community in good stead and acted as a leash to restrain it from going astray is today being battered by the near-hegemonic behaviour of the mighty.

On 26 June 1945, in the wake of two devastating world wars, the United Nations Organisation was established. It was time for a solidly anchored rules-based world. Its lofty objective was to maintain international peace and security while achieving cooperation among nations on economic, social and humanitarian matters.

The 50 states originally signed their charter. Eighty years later, one would have thought that an organisation of that stature, boasting 193 member states, would be firmly anchored and consolidated. The reality is that our world is under assault and fast becoming a power-based one. It's no longer the rules-based one that had been imagined. The adage 'might is right' is fast becoming the new norm.

The end of the Cold War had ushered in a new environment. It turned out to be ephemeral. Certain events that developed in the years that followed that milestone in our contemporary history soon displayed visible cracks in the multilateral system.

The September 11, 2001, terror attacks on US soil were conveniently used to justify the March 2003 invasion of Iraq — despite the failed attempt of the US to obtain a mandate for such an action at the UN. No weapons of mass destruc-



FOUNDERS OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

1 January 1942 First Washington Conference, Washington DC: The United Nations formally pledged themselves to cooperate for victory and to adhere to the Atlantic Charter

tion — despite the dramatic and grandiloquent performance of then US Secretary of State Colin Powell at the Security Council — were ever found in Iraq, which was also accused of sponsoring terrorism.

Earlier, in October 2001, Afghanistan was attacked by

major political challenges.

Veto power does not reflect the current reality

It is simply unacceptable that with a membership of 193 states, the permanency of seats with veto should be restricted to five countries only when the world's characteristics have undergone such drastic changes over the past eight decades.

Between 1945 and 1964, these five countries successfully carried out nuclear weapons tests: the US, 1945; the Soviet Union (now Russia), 1949; the United Kingdom, 1952; France, 1960; and China, 1964. Since then, four more countries are known or suspected of having joined the Nuclear Arms Club: Israel, 1967 (though it neither denies nor confirms it); India, 1974; Pakistan, 1998; and North Korea, 2006.

The current geopolitical and geo-economic scenarios are more dynamic than ever. Even the economic powerhouses have shifted. China and India have moved up the ladder to the extent that it is now forecast that India will reach third place in the world economic ranking by 2027.

Yesterday's alliances are in question. Some alliances are being forsaken or abandoned for perceived immediate economic and material gains, all in the pursuit of self-interest. New ties are being forged, propelled by the changing circumstances.

As an example, the thawing of relations between the two giants of the Asian region — China and India will, for sure, bring in a new perspective to the world scene. Russia will be in that camp and will encourage a rapprochement to counter the perceived aggressive, if not coercive, posturing of the US, which appears to be pursuing an agenda of unknown parameters.

US President Donald Trump's actions at the economic and commercial levels, in addition to the political front, uphold that view. His 'Liberation Day' tariffs are shackling everyone.



“The go-it-alone, inconsistent and unpredictable actions of the current US administration, as have been witnessed on such live issues as the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Middle East imbroglio, the out-of-the-blue desire to subsume Canada and Greenland into the United States, the weaponisation of tariffs to cow the international community, have roiled the world. The latest is the instruction conveyed by the President to the Department of War (Pentagon was until recently known as the Department of Defence!) to resume nuclear weapons testing, which had been stopped since 1992 in keeping with the Convention on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty...”

Return of the Age of 'Might is Right'?

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Its partners in Europe are not always on the same page with it, however much they try to minimise their differences.

In effect, West Europe is treading with unsure feet, with a total absence of cohesion on foreign policy matters. The insistence of the US that the European members of NATO should spend as much as 5% of their GDP on defence isn't popular with their public opinion.

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The latest is the instruction conveyed by the President to the Department of War (Pentagon was until recently known as the Department of Defence!) to resume nuclear weapons testing, which had been stopped since 1992 in keeping with the Convention on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

That now seems to be history. Russia, which had ratified the CTBT, withdrew its ratification in 2023, whereas the US, though having signed, never ratified it. Relationships with the US, even among long-standing friends, have become unpredictable and have become saw-like.

Is multilateralism dead?

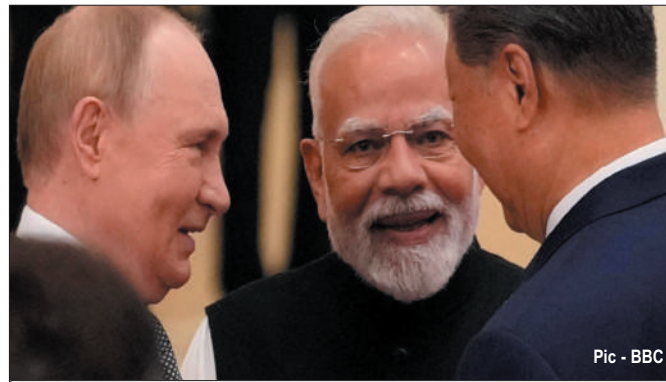
In sum, multilateralism is fast losing its essence. The cohesive and consensual dynamics of interactions at the level of the United Nations that have informed it and stood it in good stead thus far are fading. Is the United Nations then losing relevance? Are we now embarked on a multipolar set-up?

Similarly, other international, regional and sub-regional bodies are losing their lustre and *raison d'être*. To wit, the Non-Aligned Movement, which was a powerful force to reckon with during the Cold War years, has practically slid into oblivion and is no longer the solid common platform that it represented for the developing world.

Sub-regional organisations also appear to be caught in the throes of uncertainty and near passivity. Take, for example, the Indian Ocean Commission or the Southern African Development Community or even the African Union.

None of these organisations displayed a proactive position with respect to the recent events in Madagascar that led to an unconventional change of government. The so-called early warning mechanism put in place by the African Union to flag any sign of strife, social or political, in any of its member states, failed to trigger or simply, wasn't triggered.

Action at the level of these organisations has been timidly reactive. So, has multilateralism reached its expiry date? The more cynical among us could conclude so, espe-



Pic - BBC

“Yesterday's alliances are in question. Some alliances are being forsaken or abandoned for perceived immediate economic and material gains, all in the pursuit of self-interest. New ties are being forged, propelled by the changing circumstances. As an example, the thawing of relations between the two giants of the Asian region – China and India will, for sure, bring in a new perspective to the world scene. Russia will be in that camp and will encourage a rapprochement to counter the perceived aggressive, if not coercive, posturing of the US, which appears to be pursuing an agenda of unknown parameters...”

cially in the global South.

The withdrawal of the US from some of these organisations exacerbates the dilemma. Aid funds are drying up. Essential programmes are being curtailed, if not entirely abandoned.

A glaring example of the failure of the United Nations at the political level is the current situation in the Middle East. The unbridled atrocities unleashed in the Gaza Strip, where the weaponisation of hunger and famine is causing as many casualties as actual bombs, are a clear demonstration of that dismal failure and helplessness. The world is losing its bearings. So, is the new norm: each one for themselves?

Yet, no country can go it alone, even if, temporarily, it may appear advantageous to do so for some. One simply cannot live within a fortress, however great the temptation. The crumbling of the Berlin Wall should have shown us the way. But we chose the wrong path, and instead of building new bridges, we appear to have slipped into the construction of walls. We have passed the middle age of isolated existence. In today's world, if countries want to live in peace and harmony, lift up their societies, they need each other more than ever.

The present form of multilateralism, if allowed to slide further, is probably breathing its last. But can we afford to let it succumb, or is it time for us to set the wheels in motion to revive it, but within a new format that satisfies universal aspirations? A multilateral set-up where no one is left behind, where each voice counts, where, in moments of need, one can truly count on each other.

In short, a complete overhaul of the system. The UN has to be restored to its prime position and not continue to be merely a forum for debate and resolutions while humanity at large languishes.

For decades now, calls have been made for its reform. Maybe the term 'reform' scares the major players off. However, it's quite glaring that one cannot address today's multifarious problems with yesterday's limited instruments.

The Security Council is nearly obsolescent. Its membership is too restrictive and not representative at all of the international community as it stands today. Entire regions are either not on board or, if at all, their representatives play but a perfunctory role.

The membership of the Security Council needs to be expanded so that all geographical regions of the world, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

are adequately represented. The veto power retained by the five countries has been used more often than not to stymie resolutions of conflicts and attempts to exer-

cise the rule of international law.

If it is difficult and perhaps inconceivable for those who hold such power to give it up, then consideration should be given to widening the field to other countries and regions and extending to them the permanency of membership with veto power. Countries like India, Japan, Brazil, South Africa and Egypt (in the case of the African membership, a system of rotation could be envisaged) should be considered in that category.

A likely solution to obviate a blockage at the Security Council on account of a veto would be to resolve that no single veto can stop a resolution unless two other veto-holding countries are in support.

A counter-veto system could also be envisaged, whereby all other veto-holding member states — in an expanded Security Council — vote down a vetoing country as the case necessitates. But, in the absence of any goodwill and progressive disposition of the major players, this debate will go on *ad vitam aeternam*.

The uncertain future of multilateralism is agonising. What will this chaotic paradigm lead to? Will it last? Unravelling the spaghetti bowl that seems to depict the current state of affairs on the international scene is a mammoth undertaking.

Vijay Makhan is Special Adviser on Diplomatic and International Trade Matters to the Government of Mauritius. He was Deputy Secretary General of the OAU and Commissioner of the AU.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

PRESS NOTICE

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1. The Economic Development Board is inviting bids from eligible bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius through the Government eProcurement System for the **Supply, Installation, and Support of IBM Power11 Servers and SAN Solutions**.
2. Bidding documents may be downloaded from the eProcurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system **EDB/IFB/2025/214**.
3. Bids must be submitted online on the eProcurement System at latest by **Thursday 15 January 2026, 14h00**.
4. Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall decrypt and re-encrypt their bids from **Thursday 15 January 2026, 15h01 to Friday 16 January 2026, 15h00**.
5. Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 16 January 2026, 15h01**.
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03 December 2025

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Ponzi Schemes and Financial Bubbles

Are we living through another financial bubble?

Pawan Kumar

As artificial intelligence continues to dominate markets and headlines, a growing number of investors are asking an uncomfortable question: are we living through another financial bubble? Others go further and ask not whether, but when it will burst. The surge in AI valuations is increasingly fuelled by a familiar and dangerous sentiment — the fear of missing out. History shows that such moments of technological euphoria often conceal financial bubbles, and when these bubbles collapse, they frequently expose elaborate frauds that flourished unnoticed beneath the surface.

Paul David Richard Griffiths of EM Normandie reminds us that Ponzi schemes are rarely obvious while markets are booming. A Ponzi scheme pays existing investors using funds from new investors rather than genuine profits. It depends on continuous inflows of capital and inevitably collapses when confidence falters. While difficult to detect in real time, these schemes appear astonishingly simple in hindsight. The critical question, therefore, is whether Ponzi schemes leave identifiable footprints within technology-driven bubbles that might help us anticipate the next crisis — possibly under cover of today's AI frenzy.

To explore this, Griffiths compares two emblematic cases separated by more than a century: the railway mania of the 1840s, orchestrated in part by George Hudson, the so-called "Railway King", and Bernie Madoff's



Charles Ponzi (March 3, 1882–January 18, 1949). Charles Ponzi was a businessman born in Italy who became known as a swindler for his money scheme. Wikimedia commons

vast fraud, enabled by information and communications technology and sustained by the dotcom and housing bubbles of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

In both cases, the macroeconomic environment played a decisive role. Britain's railway mania began in 1829, driven by exuberant expectations surrounding a transformative new technology and a shortage of alternative investment opportunities after the government curtailed bond issuance. Railway companies proliferated rapidly, with more than fifty registered in the first four months of 1845 alone. Cost estimates were routinely understated by over 50 percent, while revenue projections were wildly optimistic. Accounting standards were primitive, allowing directors enormous discretion, and regulation was weak. Hudson, who was also a member of parliament, actively promoted deregulation of the railway sector.

Similarly, Madoff's scheme thrived in an environment shaped by technological optimism and regulatory blind spots. His repu-

tation was built in the 1970s on technological innovation in trading, and his firm, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities (BLMIS), benefited from the explosive growth of ICT companies during the dotcom era. Between 1996 and 2000, more than 1,900 technology firms listed on US exchanges. By 2000, Madoff's fund reportedly held \$300 million in assets. The subsequent expansion of complex financial derivatives — including credit default swaps and collateralised debt obligations, which grew by over 450 percent between 2001 and 2007 — created a climate in which abnormal returns seemed normal.

In both eras, cheap money amplified the bubble. Interest rates were exceptionally low during the railway boom, just as the US Federal Reserve's rate cuts in the 2000s lowered mortgage costs and fuelled the housing bubble. When liquidity is abundant and asset prices are rising, uncomfortable questions tend not to be asked.

The personal styles of Hudson and Madoff reveal further striking similarities. Both restricted access to information and discouraged scrutiny. Hudson raised vast sums without clear investment plans, while Madoff avoided investor meetings and relied on personal networks and philanthropy to attract funds. He deliberately employed under-skilled staff and overcompensated them, reducing the likelihood of probing questions. In both cases, there were warning signs: shareholders suspected Hudson's misconduct, and whistleblowers alerted the US Securities and Exchange Commission about Madoff. Yet

action was delayed, reflecting regulatory weakness, limited technical understanding and, in Madoff's case, his close relationships with oversight bodies, including his former role as Nasdaq chairman.

When the bubbles burst, the truth became undeniable. Both schemes were classic Ponzis, using new capital to pay existing investors while financing lavish personal lifestyles. Hudson embezzled an estimated £750,000 — roughly £74 million today — while Madoff's fraud reached a staggering \$65 billion in claimed losses, with actual investor losses of around \$18 billion. Both men ended in disgrace: Hudson fled to France, and Madoff died in prison.

What lessons does this history offer today? Griffiths warns that investors should be wary of AI companies with rapidly rising valuations led by charismatic, well-connected figures, especially when those leaders enjoy close relationships with political power. The quality of communication with investors matters profoundly — particularly transparency around capital allocation and cash flows. Audited financial statements alone are insufficient. Deep scrutiny of business models, revenue generation and investment strategy is essential, and auditors themselves will need to raise their standards.

History suggests a simple but sobering conclusion. When investors are swept up in technological excitement and markets appear unstoppable, conditions are ripe for deception. Around the corner of every frenzy, a Ponzi may be waiting.

High Seas Piracy or High-Stakes Geopolitics?

The Caribbean has long been a theatre of American influence, but recent actions by the second Trump administration have signalled a shift from traditional diplomacy to what critics are describing as "international piracy". Following the December 10 interception and boarding of a Venezuelan oil tanker — an act a Venezuelan government spokesman labelled "barefaced robbery" — the world is beginning to grapple with the "Trump Corollary," a revival of 19th-century regional dominance that threatens to upend international law and global alliances, argues Jonathan Este, The Conversation

The Venezuelan Intercept and Narcoterrorism

The seizure of the oil tanker is only the latest in a series of aggressive maneuvers. The administration has conducted 22 strikes on Caribbean vessels suspected of transporting "narcoterrorists," resulting in at least 87 deaths. While Donald Trump has remained cryptic, stating only that "other things are happening," the legal community is sounding alarms. Mark Chadwick, an international law expert at Nottingham Trent University, suggests these actions tread dangerously close to — or outright over — the legal definition of piracy under international statutes.

Critics have noted a jarring irony: while the administration targets maritime pilots in the name of anti-drug efforts, President Trump simultaneously issued a pardon for a man previously convicted of flooding the United States with cocaine. Furthermore, legal scholars like Elisabeth Schweiger note that "targeted killings" and extrajudicial strikes have been so frequent in recent decades that they are becoming normalized, shifting the global conversation from if

such strikes should occur to how they are executed.

The Return of the Monroe Doctrine

The driving force behind these actions is a reimagined National Security Strategy. The administration has invoked the **Monroe Doctrine**, a 19th-century policy asserting that any interference by foreign powers in the Americas is a hostile act against the US. While the Obama administration declared the era of the Monroe Doctrine "over" in 2013, the current White House has introduced the "**Trump Corollary**." This states unequivocally that the American people — not "globalist institutions" or foreign nations — will control the destiny of the Western Hemisphere.

This policy is a direct challenge to China, which has spent decades building trade and military ties with Latin American nations. As the primary buyer of Venezuelan oil and a supplier of arms to Caracas, Beijing has responded with admonitory warnings against "external interference." The collision between Washington's hemispheric claims and Beijing's global economic interests creates a volatile friction point that could lead to a modern "Gulf of Tonkin" incident — a fabricated or exaggerated confrontation used to justify wider conflict.

Europe and the Risk of "Civilizational Erasure"

Trump's 2025 National Security Statement is equally disruptive regarding the transatlantic alliance. The 33-page document barely mentions Russia or North Korea, instead focusing its ire on Europe. The administration describes a continent weakened by "out of control" immigration, warning of a looming "**civilizational erasure**." This rhetoric aligns with the "great replacement theory," a concept obsessed over

by far-right thinkers who argue indigenous Europeans are being replaced by immigrant populations.

The administration's stance toward Europe is not one of isolationism, but of a "protector" of a racially and culturally defined Western civilization. This has led to a dramatic shift in security dynamics:

* **Endorsement of Candidates:** Trump has hinted at endorsing European candidates who align with his MAGA vision over current leaders.

* **The End of the Alliance:** Security experts Stefan Wolff and David Dunn conclude that the cornerstone of European security — the US as a backstop — has effectively ceased to exist.

* **Scrambled Budgets:** While European nations are increasing defense spending to meet Trump's demands, they are also forming a "coalition of the willing" to handle regional security without US reliability.

Conclusion: A Hemisphere and a World in Transit

The administration's actions in Venezuela are more than a crackdown on drugs; they are a manifestation of a world where the liberal international order is being dismantled in favor of "strategic states" driven by nationalism. Whether boarding tankers in the Caribbean or critiquing the birth rates of European nations, the White House is signaling that it is no longer bound by 20th-century norms.

As the Nobel laureate María Corina Machado waits for the "correct moment" to return to a Venezuela under US maritime siege, the rest of the world watches the horizon. The transition from a rules-based order to a "might-makes-right" maritime policy is no longer a theoretical fear — it is the current reality of the high seas.

Nepal's ousted PM KP Sharma Oli re-elected as party leader

Members of ousted Nepali prime minister KP Sharma Oli's political party voted for him to retain leadership of the organisation on Thursday, meaning he will oversee its preparations for national elections next year.

Members of the Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) cast their ballots during a two-day general convention in the capital Kathmandu, which Oli won by a landslide.

The 73-year-old political veteran's success comes after he stepped down as prime minister during a September youth-led uprising that toppled his government.

Nepal will hold elections in March with a caretaker administration running the country in the meantime.

Oli bagged nearly three times more votes than his nearest competitor, Ishwar Pokhrel, securing 1,663 votes compared to Pokhrel's 564, Rajendra Gautam, the head of the party's publicity department, reports AFP.

Oli, often known by his initials "KP", has carefully crafted an image as his party's supreme leader, with life-size cutouts and banners of "KP Ba (father), we love you" seen at some of his rallies.

'Make the country prosperous'

The four-time prime minister quit office



KP Sharma Oli's success comes after he stepped down as PM during a September youth-led uprising. Pic - BBC

shortly after angry protesters set fire to his house and hundreds of other buildings, including the parliament and courts, during the September protests.

Oli wrote in his resignation letter that he hoped his stepping down would help "towards a political solution and resolution of the problems".

At least 77 people were killed during the unrest that was triggered by anger over a brief government ban on social media, building on public frustration after years of economic stagnation and allegations of entrenched political corruption.

After Oli's ouster, 73-year-old former chief justice Sushila Karki was appointed interim prime minister to lead the Himalayan nation until the March 5 elections.

The government has imposed a travel ban on Oli, as well as several other former top officials, as a government commission investigates his role in the deadly crack-down on protesters.

Hundreds in Japan to sue govt over 'unconstitutional' climate inaction



Hundreds sue Japan's government over climate policies, citing health and livelihood risks -VnExpress International

Hundreds of people across Japan will sue the central government Thursday seeking damages for "unconstitutional" inaction on climate change, the country's first such litigation.

The landmark lawsuit criticises Japan's "grossly inadequate" fight against the climate crisis, saying it jeopardises the health and livelihoods of the approximately 450 plaintiffs.

Plaintiff Kiichi Akiyama, a construction worker said that relentless heat forced his team to work slower, causing "huge losses" to his business.

There have also been cases where "people collapse out in the field, or have dropped dead after they return home", the 57-year-old said.

In the past, five climate-related lawsuits have been filed with Japanese courts, including against coal-fired power

plants, said Kyoto University assistant professor Masako Ichihara, who has followed climate lawsuits in the country, reports AFP.

But Ichihara says this is the first compensation claim against the state over climate change.

This year, Japan sweltered through its hottest summer since records began in 1898, and the plaintiffs argue such heatwaves cause economic losses, ruin crops and put many at risk of crippling heatstroke.

Burning hot playgrounds

Similar legal moves are underway globally, including in South Korea where young environmental activists won the first such case in Asia.

Last year, a South Korean court ruled that much of the country's climate goals were unconstitutional. In Germany, climate targets were also ruled insufficient and unconstitutional in 2021.

Japan's case is bolder than previous lawsuits in the country in that it seeks to directly hold the state accountable for climate inaction, academic Ichihara said.

Chances of a legal win are slim, she explained, but "if the purpose ... is to raise public awareness, then it may succeed because of its 'very relatable' messaging.

EU faces big decision on Russian assets

EU leaders meet Thursday to decide whether to unlock frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's war efforts, a momentous decision with political, legal, and military ramifications. The bloc holds \$246 billion in Russian assets, but it has been divided over whether to use the funds as a loan to Kyiv. The effort has taken on greater urgency as Washington has stopped providing new aid to Ukraine.

Failure to unlock the assets means Europe "would not have the money to sustain Ukraine economically and militarily into 2026 and on," the head of an Italian think tank argued. But Belgium, where most of the funds are held, is especially fearful of blowback from Russia in the form of lawsuits and hybrid warfare tactics.

* * *

Differing strategies for Indian e-commerce

Indian investors are hungering for e-commerce and food delivery stocks. Meesho, a platform offering affordable and unbranded retail products, became India's best-performing major IPO of 2025 after its debut last week. And grocery delivery firm Zepto is planning to file for a \$500 million IPO, Bloomberg reported: The company promises 10-minute delivery times, part of a crowded Indian quick-commerce market racing to ship goods at hyperspeed. Both developments reflect the "divergent ways in which India shops online," Nikkei wrote: High-income customers gravitate toward the quick-commerce options, while firms like Meesho believe lower-income Indians are willing to wait to receive goods at a lower price.

* * *



A new 'Bitcoin City'. Pic - DL News

Bhutan to fund new city with bitcoin

Bhutan is pledging up to 10,000 bitcoins to build a new megacity, a reflection of how much national governments have embraced the cryptocurrency. The small Himalayan kingdom has amassed deep bitcoin reserves over the years by converting surplus hydropower into digital tokens.

The allocation being put toward Gelephu Mindfulness City is valued at roughly \$860 million to \$1 billion, and marks one of the world's most ambitious sovereign uses of bitcoin

for national infrastructure, Bitcoin Magazine wrote. The new city is part of Bhutan's efforts to diversify its economy, but the bitcoin strategy carries risk, as a fall in price could dent the country's coffers.

* * *

Trump takes aim at weather research lab

US President Donald Trump plans to dismantle a major climate and weather lab, prompting alarm among scientists who hailed its groundbreaking work. The administration called the Colorado-based National Centre for Atmospheric Research a hub for "climate alarmism" in the US. Colorado's Democrat governor noted that NCAR's work "goes far beyond climate science."

One expert argued the dismantling would "decimate...the kind of weather, wildfire, & disaster research underpinning half a century of progress in prediction, early warning, & increased resilience," while a climate scientist lamented that it was "like taking a sledgehammer to the keystone holding up our scientific understanding of the planet." GPS dropsondes — instruments dropped into the eye of a hurricane to gather data — were developed at NCAR.

Across the Globe



Hyundai to suspend EV production in S Korea due to slow demand, US tariffs.
Pic – Yahoo Finance Canada

The EV Retreat

Major carmakers are delaying efforts to pivot to electric vehicles as they come under pressure from Chinese rivals and shifting political priorities. Ford dropped plans for an all-electric truck, accepting a \$19.5 billion write down, while Volkswagen is expected to extend its investment in gas-driven cars.

Chinese models dominate the global EV market, and the US has dropped EV-purchase incentives, making it “all but impossible” for Western carmakers to give up the better profit margins available on internal combustion vehicles, The Wall Street Journal reported. Canada, the EU, and the UK are also rethinking their EV mandates. But firms also want to avoid falling behind technologically, and “it will be difficult to do both,” the Journal noted.

* * *

South Africa to slash cash

South Africa announced plans to gradually cut the country's reliance on physical cash, in a bid to reduce crime and increase taxation. Around two-thirds of payments in Africa's biggest economy are made using bills and coins, transactions that have huge downstream costs: Managing, transporting, and securing physical money costs South Africa around \$5 billion a year, or

slightly more than 1% of its GDP.

Crime accounts for around 13% of that cost, Bloomberg reported. Restricting the amount of physical cash in circulation — which authorities say is the biggest change to the country's financial system in decades — could also increase taxation rates while cutting down on corruption, potentially boosting growth amid an economic slowdown.

* * *

Year-end scramble to seal trade pacts

Many of the world's biggest economies are scrambling to finalize long-awaited free trade deals. China's foreign minister urged Gulf countries Monday to seal an agreement after decades of negotiations. EU leaders this week are also hoping to close the landmark Mercosur pact with several South American countries that has been 25 years in the making, but member states are divided on whether to sign off.

At the same time, Brussels is racing to strike a deal with India after a challenging, year-long effort. The end-of-year hustle reflects US President Donald Trump's upending of the global trade landscape, and the desire in Europe to diversify partnerships and “open markets abroad... all against a tightening geopolitical clock,” Euractiv wrote.

* * *

Humans made fire earlier than believed

Humans intentionally made fire 350,000 years earlier than thought, new archaeological finds revealed. People are known to have exploited naturally occurring fire — perhaps from lightning strikes — for a million years or more, but evidence of them deliberately making it only goes back to around 50,000 years ago, in the last ice age.



The Dawn of Controlled Fire: Rewriting History 400,000 Years Back. Pic - Instagram

The new discovery, in the English county of Suffolk, is 400,000 years old, when brain sizes were approaching modern levels, and shows clay that was repeatedly heated above 700°C (1292°F) and iron pyrite fragments that can be struck against flint to create sparks. Fire mastery was crucial to human development, and the discovery suggests ancient humans' behavior and social relationships were more complex than believed.

* * *

Water could become MidEast flashpoint

Water is poised to become a flashpoint in Middle East tensions as countries wrestle for control over limited regional resources, a former Israeli politician argued. Tehran is currently facing a severe water shortage fuelled by drought and poor water management, putting pressure on Iran's leaders and spurring urgent calls to move the capital.

There are also signs that water infrastructure could escalate tensions in the region: Israel's incursions into Syria are partly aimed at control over a dam, former Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami wrote in Project Syndicate: “If Middle Eastern countries want to avoid a new wave of disasters and conflicts, they must place water at the centre of their diplomatic strategies, beginning with more robust water-sharing arrangements.”

Russia warns US President Donald Trump against ‘fatal mistake’ over Venezuela tensions

**PUTIN ENTERS US-VENEZUELA FIGHT?
RUSSIA'S CHILLING WARNING STUNS TRUMP**



Putin joins Venezuela in war against US. Pic - YouTube

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday it hoped that U.S. President Donald Trump's administration would not make a fatal mistake over Venezuela and said Moscow was concerned about U.S. decisions that threatened international shipping.

Trump on Tuesday ordered a “blockade” of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela as Washington tries to

increase pressure on President Nicolas Maduro's government.

There has been an effective embargo in place after the U.S. seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela last week, with loaded vessels carrying millions of barrels of oil idling in Venezuelan waters rather than risk seizure, reports Reuters.

“We note the continuous and deliberate escalation of tensions

around Venezuela, a country friendly to us. Of particular concern is the unilateral nature of decisions that pose a threat to international shipping,” the Russian ministry said in a statement.

“We hope that the Trump administration, which is characterised by a rational and pragmatic approach, will not make a fatal mistake.”

Moscow favoured a normalisation of dialogue between Washington and Caracas and hoped the U.S. would not wade into a situation that would have “unpredictable consequences for the entire Western Hemisphere”, it added, saying Russia supported “the Maduro government's course”.

Separately, the Kremlin called for countries in the region to show restraint.

“We see tensions rising in the region and consider this to be potentially very dangerous,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.



Selling of assets in Kenya. Pic - Serran Group

Kenya sells off assets after aid cuts

Kenya said it would sell almost \$1.6 billion in state assets in order to plug a widening infrastructure investment gap. Nairobi will offload its stake in telecom giant Safaricom, marking Kenya's biggest-ever sale of government property as it looks to fund an infrastructure program due to be unveiled this week.

The divisive sale comes as several African nations face a funding crisis instigated by Western nations' sudden aid reductions this year: Kenya received almost 2.5% of its national income from foreign assistance before the cuts. A recent analysis by consulting firm McKinsey showed that of the \$106 trillion forecast to be spent on infrastructure globally by 2040, less than 5% will be invested in Africa.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 323

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 4 November, 1960

• Next to religion, let your care be to promote justice. — Bacon



Philippe Forget

En Prévision de l'Indépendance

La presse a, ces jours-ci, donné publicité à l'annonce d'un nouveau plan du Gouvernement britannique qui consacrera entre 12 et 16 millions de livres par an au maintien des 21 000 fonctionnaires britanniques des colonies, après que celles-ci auront obtenu l'indépendance. Ce soutien durera jusqu'à ce qu'un per-

sonnel local expérimenté puisse les remplacer.

Ce plan a été généralement décrit comme une offre d'assistance et d'aide coloniale. Il a aussi été rapporté que Sa Majesté la Reine, au cours d'un discours prononcé pour clore la session parlementaire, avait déclaré: «Mon Gouvernement a publié son plan pour mon *Service Civil d'outre-mer*, qui prévoit pour les membres de celui-ci une plus grande mesure de sécurité et permettra aux territoires qui ont obtenu le gouvernement autonome de les conserver plus facilement en leur emploi.»

S'il est entièrement légitime et louable que le Gouvernement britannique s'occupe de prévoir une plus grande mesure de sécurité pour 21 000 de ses nationaux, qui en pourraient être réabsorbés, même graduellement, dans les cadres administratifs et techniques de leur pays, il n'est pas moins légitime pour nous de réfléchir aux graves

conséquences de l'acceptation possible de telles dispositions.

Les détails de l'utilisation projetée des 12 à 16 millions prévus par an ne furent pas donnés, mais, vraisemblablement, cette somme servirait à rembourser en totalité ou en partie les salaires d'un nombre important de fonctionnaires anglais que les gouvernements autonomes continueraient à employer.

À un pays qui, comme le nôtre, est appelé à se trouver continuellement en difficultés financières, ces propositions peuvent paraître particulièrement attrayantes. Si attrayantes même, qu'il pourrait sembler moins urgent d'établir et de réaliser le vaste programme de bourses d'études pour les Mauriciens sans lequel ni indépendance, ni augmentation de la production, ni progrès technique, ni réveil national ne sont réalisables.

La tentation se fera sentir, en effet, d'économiser non seulement sur les salaires des fonctionnaires anglais, mais encore sur les études des Mauriciens qui auraient remplacé ces mêmes fonctionnaires. On se doit d'exercer sur



cette question-là la plus grande vigilance, car le plan britannique a certaines propriétés soporifiques qui peuvent entraîner une trahison de l'avenir.

Cette vigilance est d'autant plus justifiée que, malgré et depuis le *Report of the Ministerial Committee on Recruitment and Training*, aucune preuve n'a été donnée que le gouvernement est convaincu de l'urgente nécessité de prévoir un meilleur avenir par le placement, aujourd'hui, des sommes indispensables dans des techniques, des connaissances, et un niveau élevé de compétence mauricienne.

Nous recommandons au Gouvernement en général et au Ministre des Finances en particulier l'opinion du Professeur Kalelkar sur un sujet analogue: "*Imported rivers cannot fertilize this Sahara.*"

Reconnaissons clairement que le nouveau plan britannique pourrait nous être utile dans certains cas, et ne ménaçons donc pas notre gratitude. Mais comprenons également que l'indépendance serait un vain mot sans le développement et l'utilisation de nos propres ressources intellectuelles.

Sur cette question, la primauté n'est pas à l'économique.

Politics and Economics

That the present political climate is "des plus défavorables" to capital investment is maintained by the possessing class, and this prevalent opinion was persuasive enough to lead, some time ago, to the abolition of the 80% rate of income tax. The persistent effort to find evidence of infiltrating communism in Mauritius, symptomatic as it is of a fear-syn-drome, is unlikely to improve matters.

The answer to fears of communism and communal oppression alike lies in a wholehearted mobilisation of all available resources and energies for planned economic development, for increasing the income per head of population and establishing a socialist structure of society. To cling to the sugar industry a few of them own while they eschew any responsibility in the national issues; to flaunt the varieties of life in the eyes of those whom the capitalist structure of society deprives of essentials; to defy, from the security of interlocking pinnacles of wealth, the spirit of socialism even — let alone its institutions — is to bring the very foes they fear nearer to reality.

The calculated risk, for the possessing class, is no other than to marshal the whole of their wealth and

undoubted personal gifts in an endeavour to increase the national income and improve, with his standard of life, the dignity of every Mauritian. Such a policy, which purer hearts will undoubtedly enjoin them to adopt for the sake of the human values involved, happens to be equally sound as a cool-headed calculation.

The urgency of economic development is all the greater because contraception, to many, represents an unacceptable method of rescuing a falling income per head. Whatever be the resolutions with which Mauritian families individually propose to counter the tremendous rate of population growth, the priority feature of planned development is maximum production; and, to the majority of the possessing class, it is a compensation for the ten-year-old upset of a hundred and fifty-year-old traditional political order, that the new economic and social order has no small need of their contribution — it might even be a sort of revenge, had this low emotion any likelihood of appealing to them.

At a time when all wish Mauritianism well but few seem concerned with devising the institutions it needs for its development,

surely a truly national effort in the economic field is the logical first step. It may not be possible to integrate different modes of life and attitudes, dependent as they mostly are, on the unconscious psychological mechanisms which favour prejudice and conformity, into a single Mauritian way of life. But we know that the great tides of life drive us closer: the comrade-instinct, intellectual and artistic common grounds, intermarriage, the warm tolerance which flows from culture, the common essence of religious needs. We know that attitude and behaviour change at different rates. We will not expect, therefore, a linear path of progress towards Mauritianism. We will not scrutinize, therefore, the oscillations or even the jerks on the path; we must train our mind's eye to focus on the long-term process and will be satisfied with general trends. Meanwhile, since we are as much part of the short-term process, we will insist that tolerance and co-operation be built into the national institutions we raise. Because they are urgently needed, economic development and organization will be the first serious tests of our wish and capacity for tolerance and cooperation.

By Philippe Forget
Mauritius Times - Friday
18th November, 1960



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Selection of Vendor for Digital Portals & Website Redevelopment for LIC-Mauritius

LIC-Mauritius Branch is one of the Life Insurers in Mauritius. LIC-Mauritius Branch is seeking to develop a new corporate website and digital portals (agent and customer) to enhance service delivery, engagement, and operational efficiency. Please visit the LIC-Mauritius website www.lic.mu (Tenders section) for more details.

General Manager

Date: 19 December 2025

Telephone: (+230): 208 1485 / 211 0465 – Extn. 21 or 22

E-Mail IDs: chief@lic.mu ; manager@lic.mu

Profiting off committed smokers



Tobacco companies are reporting bumper profits despite an overall decline in customers, thanks to die-hard smokers. US cigarette sales have fallen by nearly a third over the past decade, but as more price-sensitive users quit, cigarette makers are thriving by raising prices among the “most committed smokers.” The Economist wrote: The strategy is short-lived, however, because “even the most determined smokers” will eventually die. The nicotine business overall is booming, The Wall Street Journal noted, thanks to a “tailwind” of popular pouch and vape products and friendly regulation fostered in no small part by committed “Zynfluencers”; Health

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and conservative commentator Tucker Carlson are both avid partisans.

US high school girls don't want to marry

The percentage of senior US high school girls who say they want to get married has plummeted, polling suggested. Though attitudes among boys aged 17 and 18 have remained largely unchanged, the proportion of similarly aged girls looking to marry has fallen from 83% in 1993 to 61% in 2023.

Falling fertility rates are causing concern globally, but the problem may be upstream of childbirth. Marriage rates worldwide are falling; in China they hit an all-time low of 6.1 million last year, and South Korea and Japan have seen major falls. Japan had the fewest marriages in 90 years in 2024, and Korean women are embracing the “4B” movement, rejecting marriage, childbirth, dating, and sex with men.

Being multilingual could slow brain aging

Researchers found that the brains of people who speak more than one language age more slowly. A possible link between brain health and language has been mooted for years, but this study is the largest and most comprehensive so far, looking at 86,000 people across 27 European countries. It found that multilingual people scored significantly lower on measures of brain aging than monolingual ones. The question is whether the effect is causal: As Flagship’s Tom discussed in a recent podcast episode, it’s hard to tell whether “brain training” effects like this are real, or caused by smar-

ter people both being better at puzzles (or languages), and also being less likely to get dementia.

Our brains have four key turning points

Our brains go through four distinct turning points as we age, changing the way we learn, plan, and remember, a new study found. British researchers studied brain scans from 3,800 people, examining how structures called white matter tracts — essentially brain wiring — exchange information.

The range and efficiency of those connections change around ages 9, 32, 66, and 83: In the first shift, mental wiring becomes faster and more focused, but between 32 and 66, connections between brain regions slowly start losing efficiency. Then, those regions begin to separate — “like band members starting their own solo projects,” the BBC wrote. At 83, connections weaken further. The findings could help explain why people over 65 face higher dementia risks.



YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

This is a progressive and motivating week. Matters related to travel, education, publishing, or legal issues move forward after a slow start. Midweek brings clarity in decision-making and renewed optimism. Financially, sensible planning works better than risk-taking. Relationships improve through honest communication. The weekend is ideal for setting long-term goals and realigning priorities.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 14, 21, 29, 37

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

Professional duties take centre stage. Your discipline and reliability are noticed by seniors or institutions. Financial consolidation and budgeting bring peace of mind. Avoid emotional rigidity with close ones. By the weekend, attention shifts to home matters and personal comfort.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 12, 20, 28, 36

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

A socially active and mentally stimulating week. Teamwork, networking, and public engagement prove beneficial. Innovative ideas receive appreciation but avoid scattering energy. Financial caution is advised. Emotional clarity improves through open dialogue.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 15, 22, 30, 39

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

Sensitivity and intuition are heightened. Work requires structure and follow-through. Avoid confusion caused by assumptions. Support comes from an unexpected source. Creative and spiritual pursuits bring inner balance toward the weekend.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 11, 18, 27, 34

Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

Drive and ambition are strong, but patience is essential. Leadership roles or new responsibilities emerge. Channel energy carefully to avoid arguments. Financial matters show gradual improvement. Physical activity helps maintain equilibrium.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 16, 23, 31, 38

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

Practical concerns dominate the week. You may need to adjust routines or financial plans.

Relationships benefit from flexibility and listening. Avoid unnecessary resistance to change. The weekend restores confidence and comfort.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 17, 24, 32, 40

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

Communication flows smoothly. Writing, negotiations, interviews, and discussions are favoured. Pay attention to details and deadlines. Social life is active, bringing useful information. Short trips or news bring fresh perspectives.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 14, 19, 26, 35

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

Emotional matters require balance and maturity. Financial planning benefits from caution and review. Family or domestic responsibilities need diplomacy. Midweek brings reassurance and emotional grounding. Prioritise rest over the weekend.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 12, 20, 28, 33

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Visibility increases, especially at work or in public roles. Recognition follows steady effort. Avoid ego clashes and power struggles. Romance and creative interests are favoured. Time management is essential to avoid exhaustion.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 15, 21, 30, 36

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

A productive and orderly week. Focus on organisation, health routines, and practical tasks. Small issues resolve quickly with attention to detail. Financial discipline yields positive results. A calm, satisfying weekend is likely.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 16, 22, 29, 37

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Balance and clarity return after uncertainty. Partnerships, negotiations, and agreements move forward. Fairness and diplomacy are rewarded. Creative inspiration improves mood and confidence.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 18, 24, 31, 39

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Quiet but powerful progress. Strategic planning works better than direct confrontation. Trust deepens in close relationships. Financial insights help future security. The weekend favours privacy, rest, and long-term thinking.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 20, 27, 34



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

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

Procurement of Contract WW566W – Sewerage Project at Capitaine Pontrais, St Croix

Procurement Reference: WMA/IFB/2025/1753

Open National Bidding

The **Wastewater Management Authority** is inviting bids from eligible and qualified bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius through the Government E-Procurement System for the **Procurement of Contract WW566W – Sewerage Project at Capitaine Pontrais, St Croix**.

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2025/1753**.

Bids must be submitted online on the E-Procurement System at latest by **Wednesday 11 February 2026 up to 13.30 hours (Local Time)**.

Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt** and **re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 11 February 2026 from 14.31 hours till Friday 13 February 2026 up to 13.30 hours**.

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 13 February 2026 from 13:31 hours up to 16.00 hours**.

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

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

17 December 2025

What makes certain memories last forever?

Why do some moments feel instantly unforgettable while others fade like sketches? New research from Boston University (BU) offers a compelling answer: emotional experiences can retroactively and proactively boost memory for ordinary moments.

The study, published in *Science Advances*, found that mundane incidents -- like spotting a rock on a path -- can gain staying power if they become connected to a significant emotional event, such as seeing a majestic herd of bison. The "wow" of the emotional moment doesn't just cement that one experience; it also reaches back and forward in time to stabilize otherwise "fragile" memories surrounding it.

"Our brains decide what matters, and emotional events can reach back in time to stabilize fragile memories," says BU associate professor Robert M.G. Reinhart.

Graded Prioritization and Conceptual Overlap

The research, involving close to 650 participants and



ten individual studies, provides the first definitive evidence in humans of "graded prioritization" -- a new principle for how the brain consolidates experiences.

Researchers found the way the brain selectively rescues these weaker memories is nuanced. For proactive memories (events *after* the emotional moment),

the strength of recall depended on the enduring emotional impact of the significant event. However, for retroactive memories (events *before* the emotional moment), the key was conceptual overlap. These memories were more likely to be cemented if they shared a similarity -- such as a matching colour or visual cue -- that connected them to the pivotal event. According to the study, the brain seems to prioritize fragile memories that would otherwise slip away.

From Lab to Life

The discovery has significant real-world implications. In education, pairing emotionally engaging material with difficult concepts could greatly improve retention. In clinical settings, this mechanism could potentially be harnessed to rescue weak memories in older adults or, conversely, to treat trauma-related disorders by managing the emotional weight attached to distressing memories. By understanding the brain's "sliding scale" for memory preservation, scientists are paving the way for new strategies to both boost learning and treat memory-related conditions.



How are dark matter and antimatter different?

Normal matter – which makes up everything we see and touch – isn't the only type of matter present in the universe.

Imagine an epic video game with your favorite hero as a character. Another character is a mirror-image twin who shows up occasionally, exploding everything they touch. And, to add an extra level of difficulty, the game includes a mysterious hive of minions hiding at every corner, changing the rules of the game, but never showing themselves.

If you think of these characters as types of matter, this video game is basically how our universe works.

The hero is regular matter, which is everything we can see around us. Antimatter is the mirror-image explosive twin that scientists understand well but can barely find. And dark matter is the invisible minions. It is everywhere, but we cannot see it, and scientists have no idea what it is.

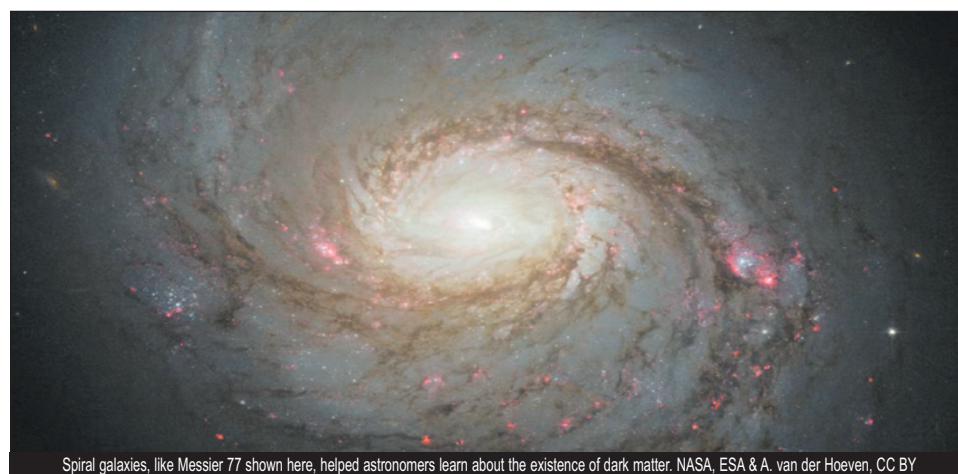
Despite having similar-sounding names, dark matter and antimatter are completely different. Interestingly, physicists like me know exactly what antimatter is, but there is almost none of it around. On the other hand, we have no idea what dark matter is, but there is a lot of it everywhere.

Antimatter: The mirror-image twin

All the regular matter around you is made of basic building blocks called atoms. Atoms have positively charged particles called protons surrounded by tiny negatively charged electrons.

Think of antimatter as regular matter's oppositely charged twin.

All particles, like protons and the electrons, have antimatter siblings. Electrons have positrons, which are anti-electrons, while protons have antiprotons. Antiprotons and positrons make up antimatter atoms, or anti-atoms. They're like mirror images, but with their electric charges



Spiral galaxies, like Messier 77 shown here, helped astronomers learn about the existence of dark matter. NASA, ESA & A. van der Hoeven, CC BY

flipped. When matter and antimatter meet, they destroy each other in a flash of light and energy and vanish.

Luckily, antimatter is very rare in our universe. But some special regular matter atoms, such as potassium, can decay to produce antimatter. For example, when you eat a banana, or any food rich in potassium, you are eating tiny amounts of these antimatter-producing atoms. The amount is too small to affect your health.

Antimatter was discovered almost 100 years ago. Today, scientists can create, store and study antimatter in the laboratory. They understand its properties very well. Doctors even use it for PET scans. They inject tiny amounts of antimatter-producing atoms into your body, and as these atoms travel through your body, the scan takes pictures of the flashes of light from the annihilation of the antimatter and regular matter in your body. This process lets doctors see what is happening inside your body.

Scientists have also figured out that when the universe was born, there were almost equal amounts of matter and antimatter. They met and annihilated each

other. Fortunately, just a tiny bit more regular matter survived to make stars, planets and all of us.

Dark matter: The invisible minions

Dark matter is far more mysterious. Have you ever spun very fast on a merry-go-round? If so, you know how hard it is to stay on it without getting thrown off, especially if you're the only one on the merry-go-round.

Now imagine there are a bunch of invisible minions on that merry-go-round with you. You can't see them and you can't touch them, but they hold you and keep you from flying off as it spins super-fast. You know they're there because the merry-go-round is heavier than it looks, and it is harder to push and get it spinning. The invisible minions don't play or talk to anybody; they just hang around, adding their weight to everything.

About 50 years ago, astronomer Vera Rubin discovered a similar mystery in spiral galaxies. She looked at spinning galaxies, which are like cosmic merry-go-rounds, and noticed something strange: The outer stars in these galaxies were

spinning much faster than they should. They should have gone flying off into space like sparks from a firework display. But they did not.

It was like watching kids on a merry-go-round move at incredible speed but somehow stay perfectly in place.

The only explanation? There must be a sea of invisible "stuff" holding everything together with their extra gravity. Scientists called this mystery material "dark matter."

Since then, astronomers have observed similar strange behavior happening throughout the universe. Galaxies within large clusters move in unexpected ways. Light gets bent around galaxies more than it should be. Galaxies stick together far more than the visible matter alone can explain.

It is as if our cosmic playground has swings moving by themselves, and seesaws tipping with nobody visible sitting on them.

Dark matter is just a placeholder name until scientists figure out what it is. For the past 50 years, many scientists have been running experiments that are trying to detect dark matter or produce it in the lab. But so far, they have come up empty-handed.

We don't know what dark matter is, but it's everywhere. It could be unusual particles scientists have not discovered yet. It could be something completely unexpected. But astronomers can tell by observing how fast galaxies rotate that there is about five times more dark matter than all the regular matter in the entire universe.

Dipangkar Dutta

Professor of Nuclear Physics,
Mississippi State University

*Laughter is the
Best Medicine*

Heavenly Interviews

Bill, Hillary, and Al Gore died in a plane crash. They arrived in heaven and saw God sitting on a giant white throne.

God questioned Al first.

"Al, what do you believe in?"

Al replied, "Well, I believe that the combustion engine is evil, that we need to save the world from CFCs, and that if any Freon is used, the whole Earth will become a greenhouse and we'll all die."

God pondered this and said, "Okay, that makes sense. Come and sit at my left."

God next addressed Bill.

"Bill, what do you believe in?"

Bill replied, "Well, I believe in power to the people. I think people should be able to make their own decisions and that no one should dictate what they should do. I also believe in feeling people's pain."

God thought for a second and said, "Okay, that sounds great. Come and sit at my right."

God then turned to Hillary.

"Hillary, what do you believe in?"

She replied, "I believe you're in my chair."

Robert's Cowboy Boots Surprise

Old man Robert had always wanted a pair of authentic Texas cowboy boots. So, when he saw some on sale, he bought them and wore them home with pride.

Strutting into the kitchen, he turned to his wife and asked, "Notice anything different about me?"

She looked him over and said, "Nope."

Frustrated, Robert stormed into the bathroom, stripped completely naked except for the boots, and walked back into the kitchen. Louder this time, he asked, "Notice anything different now?"

His wife looked up and said, "Robert, what's different? It was hanging down yesterday, it's hanging down today, and it'll be hanging down tomorrow."

Furious, Robert bellowed, "Do you know why it's hanging down, Margaret?"

"Nope. Not a clue," she replied.

Robert grinned. "It's hanging down because it's looking at my new boots...!"

The Headache-Free Underwear



Fred had suffered from terrible headaches for twenty years. Finally, he saw a specialist.

"Good news," said the doctor. "I can cure your headaches. Bad news... it will require castration. Your testicles press against your spine, causing the pain. Removing them is the only solution."

Fred agreed. For the first time in decades, he had no headache.

Feeling reborn, he decided to buy a new suit.

At the tailor's, the old man sized him up. "44 long," he said.

Fred laughed. "Exactly right!"

"Been in the business sixty years," said the tailor.

Shirt? "34 sleeve, 16½ neck."

Fred was amazed. "Perfect!"

"Sixty years," said the tailor.

Then came underwear. "Size 36," the tailor said.

Fred laughed. "No way! I've worn 34 since I was eighteen."

The tailor shook his head. "You can't wear 34. It would press your testicles against your spine... and give you one terrible headache."

Dylan and the Unusual Genie

Dylan was practising his golf swing in his front yard when he swung too hard and shattered his neighbour's window.

He rang the doorbell, but no one answered. Pushing the door open, he saw an old lamp lying near the broken glass -- and a huge, rotund Arabian man wearing a turban sitting on the couch.

"Who are you?" Dylan asked.

"I'm a genie," the man replied. "You've freed me from that lamp."

"Do I get three wishes?" Dylan asked.

"Since you freed me by accident, you get two, and I get one," said the genie.

Dylan thought for a moment. "I want to be the best golfer ever."

"Most people wish for money, but okay," said the genie. "Now your wife gets a wish."

Dylan's wife didn't hesitate. "I want a million dollars every week for the rest of my life."

"Granted," said the genie. "And now my wish: I've been cramped in that lamp for many years, so I want one day of wild, crazy sex with your wife."

Dylan balked. "No way!"

The genie shrugged. "Not even for a million dollars a week?"

Dylan looked at his wife. She sighed. "Well... not until Dylan leaves."

"Okay, have fun, I guess," Dylan said -- and left.

The rest of the day, Dylan's wife indulged the genie. Afterwards, he asked, "How old is your husband?"

"Forty-five," she said.

The genie laughed. "Isn't he a little old to still be believing in genies?"

The Bold Maid

A maid went to the lady of the house and demanded a raise.

"Why should I give you a raise?" asked the lady.

"Because I cook better than you ever could," said the maid.

"Who told you that?" demanded the lady.

"Your husband, he said," replied the maid. "Also, I clean better than you ever could."

"Who told you that?" the lady asked, frowning.



"Your husband, he said," the maid continued. "And... I f**k better than you ever could."

"Did my husband say that too?" hissed the lady.

"No," said the maid. "The gardener, he said."

"...And how big a raise did you have in mind?" asked the lady.

The Medical Exam

A man has been in severe pain all over his body for months. Nothing has helped.

At yet another follow-up, he unloads on his doctor:

"Doc, I've had CT scans, MRIs, X-rays, and a heart cath. I've had an endoscopy, colonoscopy, a dozen biopsies. I've given blood, urine, and stool. I've been wired up for breathing tests, sleep studies, EKGs, EEGs, even psych evals. I've done every medical test under the sun, and I still don't have a diagnosis. My pain is debilitating. I'm no better today than I was months ago."

The doctor nods sympathetically. "Well... I do have a bit of good news. Your insurance has pre-approved one last test -- and it's guaranteed to tell us what's wrong."

"That's wonderful!" the man cries. "At last! What's this final test called?"

The doctor smiles. "An autopsy."

The Blonde at the Doctor

A blonde goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, my whole body hurts -- everywhere I touch is extremely painful!"

The doctor says, "Show me."

She touches her arm -- "Ow!" touches her leg -- "Ow!" touches her stomach --- "w!"

"See, Doc?" she says. "Everywhere I touch, it hurts terribly!"

The doctor looks at her and says, "That's because your finger is broken."



Life's Stories

Letters, Loyalty, and a Legacy

The Love Story of Winston and Clementine Churchill

Winston Churchill spent 57 years married to his wife, Clementine. And he loved her -- deeply, fiercely, faithfully.

He wasn't easy to live with. He smoked cigars in bed, burning holes in pajamas and sheets. He drank more than he should have.

His life was a roller coaster of victories, failures, battles, and comebacks.

He could be blunt, explosive, stubborn. And often... he didn't hear what anyone was telling him. Literally and figuratively.

Churchill was not handsome, rarely gentle, and never athletic -- but he adored Clementine. She was the one person he couldn't imagine life without, even if he didn't always listen.

So Clementine found her own quiet way to reach him. Instead of shouting, arguing, or matching his temper, she wrote letters -- filled with affection, gentle corrections, encouragement, subtle guidance.

Sometimes she drew a little heart at the end. Just like we do in messages today.



Churchill read every letter. And he changed.

Her words softened him, grounded him, steadied him -- without a single quarrel. They never fought.

He never betrayed her, though before marriage he had admired many women.

For 57 years, he loved only her.

When he passed away, Clementine was left utterly alone. She confessed she no longer knew what she was living for -- she wanted only to be reunited with him.

One day, going through his old papers, she found a passage in his

handwriting. Words she had somehow forgotten or overlooked. And she felt -- as if he had written them for her. As if reaching out from beyond death, answering her grief, her fear, her silent question: "What do I do now? Why keep going?"

She heard his voice in the lines: **"Never give in -- never, never, never."**

Not in great matters, not in small ones.

Never yield to force.

Never yield to the overwhelming power of an adversary

if it contradicts honour and good sense."

And she didn't give in.

She gathered his papers, organized his manuscripts, and published his legacy.

When her work was complete, she quietly followed him -- to the man she had loved all her life.

Two people, bound not by perfection, but by loyalty, tenderness, patience... and letters that saved a marriage and shaped a legacy.

Wisdom from Africa

A fly that does not heed advice follows the corpse into the grave. Meaning: Those who ignore warnings suffer consequences.

Even the antelope knows to hide from the hunter. Meaning: Even the innocent must be cautious.

A person who does not know where the rain began to beat him cannot say where he dried his body. Meaning: Understand your problems

before trying to solve them.

A river does not flow without a source. Meaning: Everything has an origin.

A child who climbs a tree to the top must have someone on the ground. Meaning: Support systems are important when taking risks.

You do not pour away the water used to bathe a child before removing the child. Meaning: Don't discard the valuable while removing the unwanted.

"To know yourself, you must be with yourself. To be with yourself, you must love yourself."

- Rupi Kaur

LIFE ARCHITECTURE

Life Talk

The Japanese Art of Letting Be

Once read that in Japan, love isn't defined by passion, grand romance, or bouquets of flowers on special days. It's defined by respect for personal space.

In their culture, it's not about demanding constant closeness or asking endless questions. While we often say: "If you love someone, you must always be by their side," they believe: "If you love someone, you let them breathe."

There is even a concept called *Ishin-denshin* -- the silence beside someone. The ability to sit together for an hour without words, not because of anger, but because you feel calm. In many cultures, silence is seen as a problem. In Japan, it's a sign of depth.

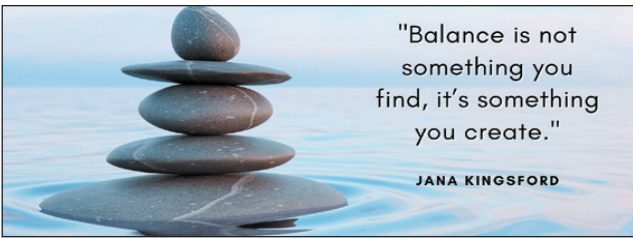
Love there doesn't mean "always together." It's normal for couples to sleep in separate rooms, take separate vacations, or pursue different interests. Independence is not betrayal. Distance is not the end. What matters most is not interfering with each other's



essence.

Happiness is not something demanded from the other person, but the peace you bring into the relationship. That's why in Japan, divorce rates are lower, there are fewer emotional breakdowns, and less burnout.

Maybe it's because their relationships aren't built on consumption, but on respect. On quiet care. On giving each other the freedom to simply be.



"Balance is not something you find, it's something you create."

JANA KINGSFORD

Stray Thoughts

Slow Cooked Greatness: The Wisdom of Time

I came across this image, and it struck something deep within -- a simple visual yet overflowing with timeless truth.

Two meals.

Same ingredients.

Different temperatures.

Radically different outcomes.

One is burnt -- rushed through the fire at 900°F for an hour.

The other? Golden, tender, perfected -- patiently cooked for three hours at 300°F.

This isn't just about food. This is about life.

We live in a culture obsessed with speed -- overnight success, instant results, quick fixes, microwave mindsets. But wisdom doesn't come fast. True mastery isn't rushed. And healing doesn't happen on demand.

Everything of real value -- be it wisdom, character, love, skill, strength, or legacy -- is slow-cooked through time, pressure, reflection, and patience.

The Universe doesn't rush...

The stars take eons to form.

Mountains rise slowly over centuries.

Even the oak tree starts as a fragile acorn -- buried in darkness before breaking through.

So, if your journey feels slow...

If your progress isn't flashy...

If your breakthroughs seem delayed...

Good.

You might just be becoming something extraordinary.

Let the world race.

You're cooking at the right temperature.

Stay steady.

Honour the process.

Trust the timing.

Because when it's done right, what you become will be worth every minute of the wait.



We are willing to help each other because we love each other, and my brother's needs become my needs, and mine become his. No matter what language my brother speaks or what country he comes from, we love each other because we are brothers, children of the same Father.

— Hugo Montoya
@Latterdayhelp



Relationships

Managing a Partner's Anger: You Deserve to Feel Safe

While frustration is a normal part of any relationship, living with a partner who is consistently angry or frequently loses control of their emotions is not. As author Lucy Smith stresses, feeling safe is something you absolutely deserve.

Handling a consistently angry partner requires a thoughtful, compassionate, yet firm approach that prioritizes self-protection and clear communication. Here are eight essential steps to take when navigating a partner's anger issues.

1. Consider whether there is an underlying reason for your partner's anger

Persistent anger often indicates a deeper, unresolved issue. Try to think about what may be driving this behaviour. Is it stress from childhood trauma, work pressure, or feeling overwhelmed? Understanding the root cause allows you to approach your partner with compassion and better equip yourself to help them address the issues they are facing.

2. Identify any triggers or patterns in their behaviour

Do certain events consistently precede an angry episode? Whether it's after a difficult meeting at work, a specific social interaction, or even a stressful routine, identifying these triggers is crucial (as noted by Talkspace therapy). Making a mental note of these patterns allows you to communicate about the anger from a caring, preventative perspective, rather than reacting defensively.

3. Be open and honest with them



Approach your partner from a place of love and honesty, recognizing they are likely aware of their frustration. Communicate how their behaviour makes you feel and that their anger worries you. Make sure they know you want to help them resolve these issues, but that they must also take responsibility for their actions. This collaborative approach avoids making them feel immediately guilty or attacked.

4. Be clear about your expectations

For your own health and well-being, articulate what you expect from them and the relationship. You deserve to feel loved and safe, and to express yourself without being lashed out at. Clearly state the adjustments you both can make. Be realistic -- change won't happen overnight -- but be firm that you need them to be more in control of their emotions.

5. Be clear and firm in setting boundaries

Setting ground rules and boundaries is essential, and contrary to common fear, often helps moderate moods. Following your expectations (Step 4), put them into action. For example, if you expect less complaining, set a boundary: "We're each allowed 10 minutes after work to vent." This establishes limits on unhealthy behaviour and encourages them to practice self-regulation.

6. Remember, your wants and needs deserve to be met

Do you feel safe? Do you feel valued? Are you happy? If the answer is "not all the time" or "never," you must honour your own needs. Being with an angry person often means your feelings are overshadowed. You may find yourself always listening, always having to swallow your own frustrations, and never getting a chance to express your own anger just to keep the peace. You should never have to 'put up with' their anger.

7. Seek external support

If your efforts aren't leading to change, seeking professional support is a sign of commitment, not failure. A therapist or counsellor can help identify deeper issues causing the anger or pinpoint unhelpful behaviours in your dynamic that perpetuate the cycle. Therapy is about giving your relationship the best chance at safety and happiness.

8. End the relationship and seek refuge if you feel unsafe

This is the most critical step. If you feel unsafe -- if their rage is being used to control or manipulate you -- you must seek external help immediately. If anger is used to control you, you are likely experiencing a form of abuse. You cannot change your partner under these circumstances. You must protect yourself and find a way to leave. Leaving a loved one to protect yourself does not make you a bad person. There are resources, hotlines, and trusted people ready to help you prioritize your safety.

It can be overwhelming to confront these issues, especially the difficult reality presented in the final step. Which of these steps -- the initial conversation, setting boundaries, or seeking professional help -- feels like the most achievable next move for you?

Men's Health

Power Foods for Men: What to Add to Your Plate

Good nutrition is one of the most powerful tools men have to protect strength, stamina, hormonal balance, heart health, and cognitive performance. The right foods can support muscle building, sharpen mental focus, improve circulation, stabilise weight, and help keep long-term diseases at bay.

Here's a science-backed guide -- based on expert recommendations and medically reviewed by Poonam Sachdev of WebMD -- highlighting the best foods for men, plus the common eating habits that quietly expand the waistline.

Lean Red Meat: Muscle Fuel - Lean meat offer high-quality protein and leucine -- an amino acid essential for building and maintaining muscle. With only slightly more fat than chicken breast, lean red meat remains a strong ally for active men or those trying to preserve muscle as they age.

Tart Cherries: Nature's Anti-Inflammatory - The pigments in cherries mimic anti-inflammatory medications -- without the side effects. A glass of cherry juice can help speed up recovery after intense workouts.

Dark Chocolate: Heart + Circulation Support - Dark chocolate rich in flavanols

may improve blood flow, reduce LDL cholesterol, and support healthy blood pressure. Better circulation also supports better erectile function. Enjoy one small square (about 1 ounce) a day.

Shellfish: Zinc for Strength and Fertility - Oysters, crab, and shrimp are loaded with zinc -- a mineral vital for hormone production, immune function, and sperm quality. Good substitutes include beef, turkey, nuts, and seeds.

Avocado: The Good Fat - Packed with monounsaturated fats, avocados help lower total and "bad" cholesterol. Other excellent sources: nuts, seeds, and olive oil.

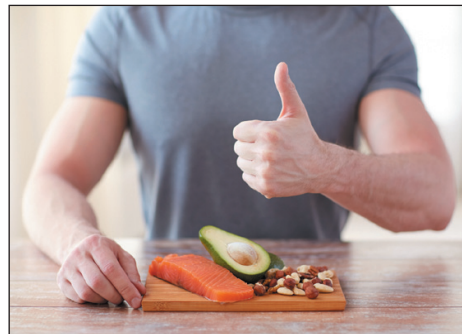
Fatty Fish: Omega-3 for the Heart - Salmon, sardines, herring, and halibut deliver omega-3 fatty acids, which reduce the risk of heart disease -- the leading cause of death among men. Aim for two servings weekly.

Ginger: Joint and Muscle Relief - Ginger helps reduce inflammation and the pain of exercise-related injuries. Add it to stir-fries, tea, or fresh juices.

Milk and Greek Yogurt: Protein + Gut Health - Rich in protein, potassium, and probiotics, dairy (especially Greek yogurt) supports muscle repair and digestion.

Bananas: Potassium Power - Potassium helps with muscle contractions, heart function, and blood pressure control. Bananas offer a quick, portable source.

Pistachios: Smart Snacking - Pistachios contain fiber, protein, and plant



sterols that help improve cholesterol levels. Eating them from the shell slows down snacking.

Brazil Nuts: Selenium Surge - Just one ounce provides seven times the daily selenium needs -- supporting the immune system and thyroid.

Tomato Sauce: Prostate Protection - Tomatoes are rich in lycopene, a compound linked in some studies to a reduced risk of prostate cancer.

Soy Foods: Prostate-Friendly - Tofu, soy milk, miso, and edamame are linked to lower prostate cancer rates. Many Asian countries consume far more soy -- and have far lower rates of the disease.

Mixed Vegetables: Color = Protection - Different colored vegetables offer different phytochemicals, supporting cell health and lowering cancer risk. "There should be color on your plate at every meal," says sports dietitian Leslie Bonci.

Orange Vegetables: Eyes + Prostate - Carrots, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and red peppers provide vitamin C, beta-carotene, and lutein, which help protect

vision and prostate health.

Leafy Greens: Vision + Vitality - Spinach, kale, and collard greens are rich in lutein and zeaxanthin, nutrients that guard against cataracts and age-related macular degeneration.

Eggs: Protein Done Right - Eggs offer protein, iron, and lutein. One whole egg fits into the daily cholesterol limit for healthy adults, but men with high cholesterol should consult their doctor.

High-Fiber Cereal: Gut and Focus - Fibre supports digestion and helps you stay full longer. Mix your favourite cereal with shredded wheat or bran flakes for a performance-boosting breakfast.

Brown Rice: Whole-Grain Benefits - Rich in fiber and easily paired with lean proteins and vegetables, brown rice helps control weight and reduces the risk of diabetes and heart disease.

Berries: Brain and Body Boost - Loaded with antioxidants, berries may support memory, coordination, and cancer prevention.

Coffee: The Clean Energy Source - Plain coffee boosts alertness with almost zero calories -- far better than sugary energy drinks.

The Golden Rule: Focus on the "Adds" - Nutritionists emphasise adding good foods rather than obsessing about cutting out bad ones. Over time, healthier foods naturally replace less nutritious options.

The Ageless Allure: Why Rekha's Reign Over Bollywood Remains Untouched

In the vast and ever-shifting landscape of Indian cinema, true stardom often fades with the box office returns. Yet, Rekha stands as a magnificent, timeless exception. Even after nearly a decade away from a full-fledged film role, the veteran actress remains one of India's most enduring icons, her popularity and relevance untouched.

But what defines the enduring power of a star who is largely absent from the screen? For Rekha, it is a potent blend of shrewd financial acumen, unmatched legacy, and an aura of mystique that keeps her perpetually in the news.

The Unseen Empire

Rekha's sustained financial strength challenges the conventional Bollywood model, where earnings are intrinsically tied to active film projects. Despite her last major cinematic outing being *Super Nani* in 2014 — followed only by brief cameos in films like *Shamitabh* (2015) and *Yamla Pagla Deewana Phir Se* (2018) — her net worth today stands at a massive Rs 1.7 billion (as of November 20, 2025).

Her wealth is built not on daily acting fees, but on three pillars:

1. **Real Estate Mastery:** The crown jewel of her portfolio is her luxurious sea-facing bungalow, 'Basera,' located in the affluent Bandra area of Mumbai, reportedly valued at



over Rs 520 million. She also maintains other premium real estate holdings.

2. **Selective Endorsements:** She earns significant income through selective brand endorsements and high-profile appearances, maintaining her exclusivity and premium market value.

3. **Luxury Assets:** Her wealth is further bolstered by luxury assets, including high-end vehicles such as the Rolls-Royce Ghost.

The Enduring Icon: Style, Mystery, and Legacy

Rekha's five-decade-long career spans nearly 200 films, beginning as a child artist before her first major hit in 1970. She collaborated with all the top stars of her time, transitioning effortlessly from glamorous roles to performance-driven characters.

However, her iconic status transcends her filmogra-

phy:

- **Unmatched Style:** Rekha is an eternal trendsetter, instantly recognizable for her stunning appearance, characterized by her signature Kanchivaram sarees, traditional temple jewellery, and timeless beauty looks.

- **The Aura of Mystery:** Her personal life has frequently captured headlines, from celebrated relationships to her short-lived marriage to industrialist Mukesh Agarwal. Since his tragic death, her decision to largely withdraw from the public eye has intensified the aura of mystery surrounding her, fuelling public fascination.

- **Public Service:** From 2012 to 2018, she also served as a Rajya Sabha MP, adding another layer to her public persona beyond the screen.

The Comeback Buzz: Waiting for Stature

Despite her prolonged absence, the rumour of a Rekha comeback is industry perennially strong. The current buzz was recently ignited by her close friend, celebrity designer Manish Malhotra, who confirmed she was in talks for a role in a film titled 'Gustakh Ishq'.

However, industry chatter indicates that her return is conditioned purely by the script. Director Vicky Puri reportedly felt the discussed part was "too small for a legend like Rekha." As Manish Malhotra noted, the eternal diva is waiting for a powerful role—one that truly matches and honours her legendary stature.

Rekha's journey is a powerful demonstration that in Bollywood, true stardom is less about continuous output and more about grace, resilience, and an unmatched, self-managed legacy. Her fans, alongside the industry, continue to wait patiently for the moment she decides the perfect role is ready for her return.

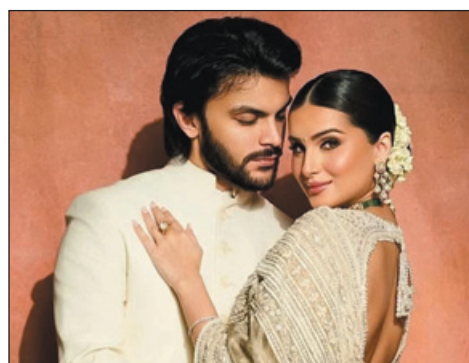
The Hottest and Unofficial Couples who Ruled 2025

The latest generation of Bollywood stars has kept the public entertained all year, not just with their film projects, but with their love lives — or rather, their rumoured love lives. From celebrity children stepping into the spotlight to established actors finding new partners, 2025 was dominated by duos whose relationships are "not confirmed, but undeniably obvious." Gossip columns and social media feeds were buzzing with these pairings, setting major headlines ablaze. The new duos defining the year, as listed by eTimes are:



Shradha Kapoor and Rahul Mody:

This pair captivated fans with what was arguably the year's sweetest link-up. Speculation peaked following a now-famous viral video where Shradha lovingly fed the writer-filmmaker a mochi. Their romance remains a constant topic of discussion, fueled by their discreet but frequent joint appearances at private events and holidays.



Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya:

They became an instant "it" couple of 2025 after a public exchange at the Indian Couture Week. The moment Tara blew a kiss from the runway toward Veer in the audience — a gesture widely covered by the media — was seen as a virtual confirmation. Further intensifying the buzz were photos of the two twinning in matching outfits at the Mumbai airport.

Kriti Sanon and Kabir Bahia: Kriti and businessman Kabir Bahia found their way onto numerous dating lists this year. Although both stars have chosen to remain private, paparazzi consistently captured them together at high-profile events, including various social outings and cricket matches, leading to continuous chatter about a romantic connection.

Triptii Dimri and Sam Merchant: The actress and model-turned-entrepreneur have been romantically linked throughout 2024 and 2025. While Triptii and Sam rarely make public appearances, their sporadic social media interactions and

occasional sightings are enough to keep the 'will they/won't they' debate alive among their loyal followers.

Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya:

Their relationship has been a steady source of conversation thanks to their many visible appearances. Janhvi and Shikhar were photographed together on vacations, at major public functions, and even side-by-side at Wimbledon 2025. Although the buzz included marriage rumours, Janhvi subtly addressed the speculation by stating her current focus is her career, without outright denying the relationship.

Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina:

The former *The Archies* co-stars continue to feature prominently on dating watch lists since their debut. The rumour mill spun even faster after Vedang recently described their connection as "easygoing and genuine," lending credence to the idea that their on-screen bond has become a real-life romance.

Suhana Khan and Agastya Nanda:

Another pair emerging from *The Archies*, Suhana and Agastya have been a consistently speculated couple. They made multiple appearances together, including one New York event where separate photos taken with singer Teshar inadvertently sparked joint headlines. Their close friendship has kept them in the forefront of Bollywood gossip since their debut film.

Ananya Panday and Walker Blanco:

Following her reported split from Aditya Roy Kapur, Ananya was most often linked

to former model Walker Blanco starting in mid-2024. Neither Ananya nor Walker has made an official announcement. However, their frequent interactions and shared moments strongly suggest a connection deeper than mere friendship, maintaining intense public curiosity.



Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda:

Ahaan and Aneet rocketed to fame after their incredible on-screen chemistry in the blockbuster debut *Saiyaara*. Despite Ahaan publicly clarifying that Aneet is not his girlfriend and that they share a unique bond, the phenomenal connection they displayed on screen has led fans to desperately "ship" the duo, hoping they transition into a real-life couple.

The year 2025 was truly defined by this young crop of stars and their intriguing, yet unconfirmed, love stories, proving that sometimes, a whispered rumour and a public sighting are all it takes to steal the spotlight.



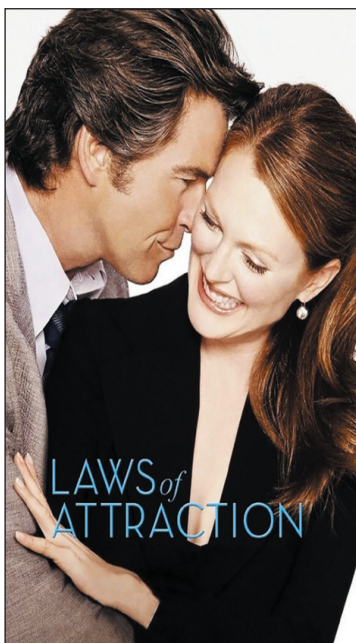
Vendredi 19 decembre - 20.15



Samedi 20 decembre - 20.15



Dimanche 21 decembre -20.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 19 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: Brooklyn
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
13.24 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Asintado
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Triple Alliance
17.17 Doc: Not About Music
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Magazine
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: L'Appel De La Forest
21.50 Tele: Mademoiselle
22.39 Tele: Lying Heart
23.02 Mag: Video Killed The Radio..

MBC 2

09.35 Local: Extraits Du Festival Sagam 2025
10.46 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.40 Local: Saver Kiltirel
12.54 Local: Sur La Piste De La Crecerelle
13.07 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
13.38 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
14.06 Rodrig: Manyer Fer
14.33 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
15.15 Local: En Forme
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Sépré Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Sur Prise
19.49 Local: Animalia
20.15 Live From Studio A Echos...
21.45 Local: La Sosiete
22.16 Local: Glwar Danan
22.47 La Journee Sous Le Regard..

MBC 3

07.00 Celebrating The Day Of Inscription Of Geet Gawai
08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
08.18 D.Anime: Paap O Meter
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.05 Local: Ramayan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Aadmi Aur Insaan
Starring: Dharmendra, Saira Banu, Feroz Khan
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
19.37 Serial: Khel Khiladi
20.56 Serial: Porus
21.48 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.33 Serial: Mere Sai
23.18 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.39 Local: Mati Ke Mol
00.45 Khel Khiladi

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.26 D.Anime: La Famille Blaureau
07.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix
09.00 D.Anime: Jungle Book
09.15 Les Enquetes De Maelys
11.00 Film: Garfield 2
12.27 Mag: Eco India
13.30 Film: Les Chiens A L'Opéra
15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang
15.11 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.22 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.53 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.12 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.33 D.Anime: Les Petits Carnets
17.03 Serial: Dance Academy
17.15 Serial: The Athena
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
18.30 Doc: The Plant Wonders Of...
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: Hum Dono
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar
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: Hum Dono
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar

samedi 20 decembre

03.38 Serial: Heartland
05.02 Tele: Living To Love
06.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
07.10 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
08.19 Serial: Blue Lights
09.17 Serial: Heartland
09.57 Serial: Hawaii
10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.56 Doc: BRGRS
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: All The Flowers
14.53 Doc: Quotes By Famous...
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Film: L'Appel De La Foret
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Taken 3
Cast: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker
21.243 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani

06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
06.42 Local: Retrovizer
08.00 Local: Sur Prise
08.53 Local: Glwar Dantan
09.19 Local: La Sosiete
09.45 Local: Evasion
10.35 Local: J'ai Faim
12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.24 Local: Glwar Dantan
14.55 Extraits Du Masterclass
15.10 Local: Retrovizer
18.10 Tele: Entre Justice Et...
19.00 Zournal Kreol
20.00 Local: Belle Et Mystérieuse
20.15 Live: Mo Sega Sa
22.21 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
23.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel
00.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
00.30 Local: Metie

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.26 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
13.29 Khel Khiladi
14.00 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha
14.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Phool Bane Angaray
Cast: Rekha, Rajnikant
18.14 Live: Samachar
18.37 Puranya Pakwan
18.57 Local: Virasat
19.12 Rangmanch Ki Awaaz
21.00 Film: Mickey Virus
23.15 Puranya Pakwan
23.41 Virasat
23.55 Rangmanch Ki Awaaz
01.34 Film: Mickey Virus

06.00 D.Anime: H2O Aquateam
07.29 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
07.39 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
08.40 Le Rythme De La Jungle
09.26 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas
10.00 Mag: N*Gen
10.34 A Mediterranean Journey
11.04 Film: L'Odysée D'Albert
12.30 Film: Caillou: The Bravest
13.30 Film: Princess Halle And The Jester
15.05 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.16 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.26 D.Anime: Caillou
15.48 Film: Miraculous New York
17.41 Mag: Carnet De Sante
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Doc: Odd Neighbours
21.00 Tele: Laura, Una Vida...

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: Love Aaj Kal
With: Rishi Kapoor,, Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Giselli Monteiro



21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Crime Patrol

dimanche 21 decembre

03.57 Doc: BRGRS
04.05 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...
06.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.24 Film: Taken 3
08.08 Serial: Hawai 5-0
09.05 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins
10.39 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Suavage
12.34 Film: The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid
14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Taken 3
17.26 Doc: Visionary Gardens
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Laws Of Attraction
21.44 Serial: S.W.A.T.
22.31 Tele: Terra Nostra
23.33 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
14.02 Local: Palette
16.00 Local: Mo Sega Sa
17.15 Local: Belle Et Mystérieuse
18.10 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.35 Local: En Toute Intimite
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.00 Local: A Thrill Of Hope
21.55 Local: Silent And Holy Night
22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.16 Local: Coin Jardin
23.33 Local: Inspirasion
23.58 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
00.37 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin

06.59 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.26 Puranya Pakwan
09.42 Local: Swagat 2025
10.31 Mahabharat
11.00 Excerpts From Ganga Aartee
12.00 Film: Auzaar
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Puranya Pakwan
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.42 Udaan Ki Kahani
20.07 Local: Sangeet Sitare
21.25 Serial: Porus
21.51 Keh Doon Tumhein
22.12 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.37Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
00.48 Local: Udaan Ki Kahani
04.58 Film: Auzaar

06.00 D.Anime: H2O Aquateam
06.46 Film: Polly Pocket
07.51 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
09.30 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas
10.20 Mag: N*Gen
10.37 Doc: A Mediterranean...
11.05 Film: Ghoster
13.30 Film: Anastasia
15.05 Serial: The Wonder Gang
15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.22 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.54 Film: Miraculous World
16.48 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: Lawrence D'Arabie
Cast: Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness

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: Dil Ne Jise Apna Kaha
Cast: Salman Khan, Bhoomika Chawla
21.00 Mahabharat
22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
23.02 Dhruv Tara

lundi 22 decembre

05.20 Tele: Living To Love
08.46 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.11 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Laws Of Attraction
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
13.24 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Asintado
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Columbo
17.23 Doc: BRGRS
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
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: Lying Heart

09.10 Local: En Toute Intimite
09.30 Local: Palette
10.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
12.06 Film: The Story Of Jesus For Children Inspirational
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
15.30 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
16.00 Local: Les Klips
16.43 Local: Silent And Holy Night
18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel
19.36 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Local: Echange Culinaire
20.40 Local: Tous Egaux
21.15 Le Journee Internationale
22.07 Local: 19 Minutes
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
07.00 Local: Bollywood Beats
08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.27 Local: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Aasmaan
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
19.25 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.35 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Kaalia
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Parveen Dabi
23.27 Mere Sai
23.59 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.43 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein

07.52 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
08.10 Film: Chasing Horrifox
10.09 Serial: N*Gen
11.05 Film: Kidnapped!
12.21 Doc: Planete Mediterranee
13.30 Film: Le Vent Dans Les Roseaux
14.30 Film: Percy Et Ses Amis
14.52 Serial: The Wonder Gang
15.21 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.24 D.Anime: Caillou
15.46 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.22 Les Petits Carnets Des...
16.44 Serial: Dance Academy
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: Time For Him To Come Home For christmas

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain



15.30 Film: Saatwan Aasman
Cast: Pooja Bhatt, Shekhar Kapoor
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 Abhyaya



Mardi 23 Decembre - 20.10



Mercredi 24 Decembre - 21.41



Mercredi 24 Decembre - 15.30



Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 23 decembre 04.26 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.33 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.38 Film: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner 11.32 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Time For Him To Come Home For Christmas 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 21.10 Film: Holiday Road 22.35 Tele: Mademoiselle 00.05 Tele: Lying Heart	09.30 Local: Koze Fam 10.14 Local: Saveurs Plus 10.40 La Journee Internationale... 12.00 Film: The Savior 14.11 Local: Emotion En Avant... 14.58 Local: Saver Kiltirel 15.37 Local: Tous Egaux 15.51 Local: Ti Zistwar Zafan 17.15 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 20.00 Local: Noel Mazik 20.39 Local: Ti Zistwar Zafan 20.48 Local: C'est Noel Ce Soir... 21.33 Joie Dans Le Monde Avec New Generation Choir 22.31 Local: Retrovizer 22.45 Local: Le Challenge 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard	06.59 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.28 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.21 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Thodisi Bewafai Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Shabana Azmi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sajjanwa Baira Ho Gaille... 15.40 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 16.55 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 19.00 Geet Nriya Aur Parampara... 20.00 Local: Prakriti 21.00 Film: Alag Alag Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Tina Munium	07.00 Words And Sounds With Akili 07.37 D.Anime: La Famille Blaureau.. 09.03 Les Enquetes De Maelys 11.05 Film: Caillou 12.34 Doc: The Baobab 13.39 Film: The Grinch 15.00 Film: Le Tigre Qui S'invita Pour Le Thé 15.25 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.35 D.Anime: Caillou 15.57 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.28 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.29 Les Petits Carnets Des... 16.58 Serial: Dance Academy 17.15 Serial: The Athena 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.25 Film: Fun2shh Starring: Anuj Sawhney, Iqbal Khan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Fun2shh Starring: Anuj Sawhney, Iqbal Khan
mercredi 24 decembre 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.33 Serial: Under Pressure 08.11 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.39 Film: Holiday Road 11.35 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.27 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.17 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.47 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: La Nativite 17.34 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.14 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T. 21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.43 Tele: Happily Ever After 23.03 Mag: Video Killed The Radio	09.10 Local: C'est Noel Ce Soir 10.54 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 11.04 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 12.01 Film: Jesus Inspirational 14.07 Local: Noel Mazik 14.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.49 Local: Metie 15.00 Local: Echos Du Passe 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 19.00 En Direct De L'Eglise Noire-Dame Du Rosaire Quatre Borne 21.00 Local: Nwel Ariv Ankor Avec Les Etoiles De La Cathédrale 22.00 Local: Les Klips 22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion	06.59 Geet Nriya Aur Parampara 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 08.23 D.Anime: Paap O Meter 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Gopi Kishan 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Radha Mohan 16.27 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha 17.07 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Abhyas Yog 21.00 Film: Bobby Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia 23.48 Serial: Mere Sai 00.32 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.54 Local: Abhyas Yog 01.20 Local: Sangeet Sitare	08.38 D.Anime: Jungle Book 08.50 Film: Nutcracker And The Magic Flute 10.43 Mag: Travel 11.00 Film: Ice Age 12.35 Carribean Cruise On The... 13.30 Film: A Merry Friggin' Christmas 15.00 Film: Les Trolls 15.23 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.31 D.Anime: Caillou 15.52 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.28 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 17.15 Serial: The Athena 17.47 Mag: Planet A 18.00 Mag: Travel 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.41 Film: Holiday Hotline Cast: Emily Tennant, Niall Matter	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Cirkus Starring: Ranveer Singh, Varun Sharma, Pooja Hegde 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Cirkus Starring: Ranveer Singh, Varun Sharma, Pooja Hegde
jeudi 25 decembre 06.08 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.20 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.43 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.34 Film: Holiday Hotline 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: A Dance In The Snow 17.15 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Kuch Kuch Hota Hai Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Rani Mukerji 23.29 Tele: Mademoiselle 00.18 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Nwel Ariv Ankor Avec Les Etoiles De La Cathédrale 10.13 Local: Saveurs Plus 10.45 Local: Les Klips 11.37 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Local: Palette 13.06 Local: Nwel Mazik 14.34 La Journee Sous Le Regard 15.30 Local: A Thrill Of Hope 16.30 Local: Diocesan Christmas... 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.20 Les Petits Frisquet Fetent La Noel 20.00 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse 20.30 Local: Messages De Noel 21.00 Film: La Cité D'Eden 22.38 Local: Mo Sega Sa 23.48 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 00.08 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Local: Sangeet Sitare 08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole 09.00 Local: Sangeet Sitare 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Eana Meena Deeka Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Sajjanwa Baira Ho Gaille... 15.41 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.07 Local: Masti Ki Pathshala 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.21 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.24 Serial: Mere Sai 22.09 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.50 Japan Video Topics 07.23 La Famille Blaieux Renard 09.00 Film: A Merry Friggin' Christmas 11.00 Film: Rio 12.34 Doc: Fungi 13.33 Film: Beethoven Sauve Noël 15.00 Film: The Prince Of Peace 15.27 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.37 D.Anime: Caillou 15.59 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.08 D.Anime: Jurassic Would 16.36 Les Petits Carnets Des Perles 16.51 Serial: Dance Academy 17.15 Film: Son Of God 19.26 Japan Video Topics 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado 21.38 Serial: Columbo 23.10 Film: Welcome To Christmas	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.31 Film: Besharam Stars: Ranbir Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Besharam Stars: Ranbir Kapoor



Jeudi 25 Decembre - 15.30 Stars: Ranbir Kapoor



Jeudi 25 Decembre - 20.30

Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Rani Mukerji





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Managing Diversity in a Time of Global Polarisation

The recent call for a coordinated international initiative — led by France, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia — to advance recognition of a Palestinian state has unfolded against the backdrop of Israel's ongoing military campaign to dismantle Hamas, which it regards as essential to its national security. In this charged global climate, extremist narratives have gained renewed traction.

The terrorist attack targeting Jewish citizens celebrating Hanukkah at Bondi Beach in Sydney on Sunday, 14 December, sent shockwaves across Australia and beyond. While investigations continue, the incident has reignited debate over the unintended effects of highly polarized public discourse and mass demonstrations linked to the Middle East conflict. Repeated street marches in several Western cities, some marked by aggressive or inflammatory slogans, have contributed to an environment in which extremist actors may feel emboldened to act.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, like several Western leaders, has defended the authorization of public demonstrations in the name of freedom of expression. Critics, however, argue that insufficient attention has been paid to the line between legitimate protest and rhetoric that incites hatred or violence. Jewish organizations in Australia had reportedly raised concerns about rising threats well before the attack, warning of increased risks to community safety.

Authorities have indicated that the perpetrators maintained online links to extremist networks, including ISIS — an organization whose ideology openly calls for violence against Israel and Jews worldwide, and which aligns, at least rhetorically, with other radical actors in the region. The broader geopolitical context, including recent threats issued by Iran following the killing of a senior Hezbollah commander in southern Lebanon, has further heightened tensions. ISIS has also claimed responsibility for recent attacks elsewhere, underscoring the transnational nature of contemporary extremist violence.

The role of international institutions and global media narratives has also come under scrutiny. Critics contend that the United Nations' perceived imbalance on the Middle East conflict, coupled with sustained negative portrayals of Israel in mainstream media, has contributed — directly or indirectly — to the resurgence of anti-Jewish sentiment. Countries geographically distant from conflict zones,



Pic - ABC

“Addressing extremism requires more than surface-level solutions. It demands the political courage to identify and challenge the ideological sources, financial backers, and online networks that fuel hatred. Yet those who attempt to name these dynamics are often swiftly branded as intolerant, while others face intimidation, threats, or legal pressures for speaking out...”

such as Australia, can no longer assume immunity from the ripple effects of global polarization and radicalization.

While expressions of solidarity and condolences from Western leaders are necessary, they risk sounding hollow if not accompanied by concrete measures to address the roots of violent extremism. Recent events suggest that intelligence cooperation among allies remains crucial, yet often unacknowledged publicly, as governments attempt to balance transparency with the need to avoid public panic.

From Indulgence to Firm Measures

Across the West, political leaders face growing criticism for what some perceive as overly cautious or permissive approaches to extremist ideologies. Short-term political calculations and electoral considerations are frequently accused of overshadowing long-term concerns for social cohesion and public safety. Symbolic gestures — candles, flowers, and statements of condemnation — cannot substitute for a coherent strategy to confront violent radicalization.

Addressing extremism requires more than surface-level solutions. It demands the political courage to identify and challenge the ideological sources, financial backers, and online networks that fuel hatred. Yet those who attempt to name these dynamics are often swiftly branded as intolerant, while others face intimidation, threats, or legal pressures for speaking out. Meanwhile, some figures — sometimes cloaked in respectability — continue to exploit digi-

tal platforms to influence younger audiences with minimal scrutiny.

Interestingly, several Middle Eastern countries have adopted far stricter controls on public demonstrations linked to the conflict. In Morocco, for instance, authorities have issued explicit warnings against any violence targeting Jewish citizens, reinforcing security measures in public spaces and limiting the scope of religious preaching to prevent politicization. While such policies may appear severe by Western standards, supporters argue that they reflect a prioritization of public order and minority protection.

What is often described as the “importation” of foreign conflicts into Western societies is, in reality, a more complex phenomenon. It reflects policy choices on migration, integration, and law enforcement that have sometimes allowed radical ideologies to take root. The consequences are visible in rising incidents of harassment, vandalism, and street violence, alongside more subtle forms of sectarian pressure. Over time, extremists can develop a sense of entitlement that rejects pluralism itself.

These trends should concern all citizens, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or religion. The solution does not lie in cosmetic policy responses or blanket restrictions, but in a clear-eyed commitment to confronting extremist ideologies of whatever hue at their source.

International diplomacy and domestic governance both carry responsibilities — and consequences. Vulnerable societies must decide, with clarity and resolve, where they stand.

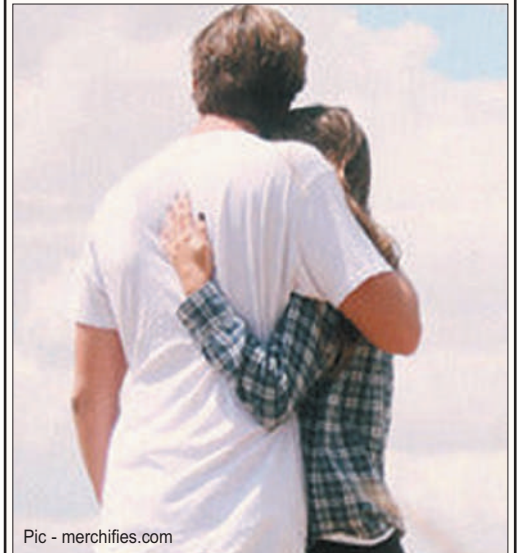
Tree of Knowledge

Letting People Know You Love Them

Love exists to be expressed, not withheld

It's easy to take our feelings for granted and to assume that the people we care about know how we feel about them. While those we love are often quite cognizant of our feelings, saying “I love you” is a gift we should give to our loved ones whenever we can. Letting people know you love them is an important part of nurturing any kind of loving relationship. Few people tire of being told they are loved, and saying the words out loud can make a world of difference in someone's life. It can take a relationship to a new level or reaffirm and strengthen a steady bond. Everyone needs to hear the words. Three simple words — I - Love - You. When you declare your love for someone, you admit to them that you care for them in the most significant way.

It can be difficult to express your love using words, particularly if you grew up around people who never expressed their affection verbally. But you should never be afraid to say “I love you” or worry that doing so will thrust you into a position of excessive vulnerability. It is important to share your feelings with those who matter to you. Part of the fulfillment that comes with loving someone is telling them that you love them. Besides, love exists to be expressed, not withheld.



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If you love someone, let them know. Don't be afraid of the strength of your emotions or worry that your loved one won't feel the same way. The words “I love you” are often best said to another when there is no expectation of a return investment. Each one of us is filled with an abundance of love, so there is never any worry that you'll run out of love if your expression of love isn't said back to you. Saying those three special words is a gift of the heart sent directly to the heart of a recipient. Even though it may not always look that way, love from the heart is an offering that is always unconditional and given without strings attached. That is the true essence of the gift of “I love you.”

Daily Om