

MAURITIUS TIMES

• This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” – Taylor Swift



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The High Stakes of Electoral Reform



The political tremors currently vibrating through the *Alliance du Changement* government have, for the moment, settled into a deceptive calm. Following a series of high-stakes meetings between Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and his Deputy, Paul Bérenger, the immediate threat of the alliance collapse has been “defused.” However, as any seasoned observer of the Mauritian political landscape knows, a defused crisis is not a resolved one. The underlying fault lines — primarily the thorny, decades-old issue of electoral reform — remain active.

While the public discourse has been cluttered with friction over alleged scandals involving officials/advisers close to the PM and the management of the Finance Ministry, these could be merely diversions. The heart of the matter remains Paul Bérenger’s singular, career-long obsession: an electoral overhaul that incorporates a significant “dose” of Proportional Representation (PR). As the MMM leader retreats from his demand for the Finance portfolio, he has recalibrated his stance, making his continued presence in the government contingent on “correct and sincere” progress on reform. But the nation must ask: whose interests is this reform truly intended to serve?

The Prism of Self-Interest

It is a truism that a nation’s political architecture requires periodic maintenance. The government’s stated aim to consult the public on a system “adapted to the 21st century” is, on the surface, laudable. However, the history of constitutional change in Mauritius teaches an indelible lesson: every proposed reform is viewed through the prism of political self-interest before it is judged on national merit.

For the MMM, the push for PR is not merely a matter of democratic principle; it is a calculated necessity for survival. Under our current First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system, a party’s national vote share can be diluted. We have seen historic “60-0” sweeps where a winning coalition secures every seat in Parliament despite the opposition maintaining a significant portion of the popular vote. For a party like the MMM, which has seen its influence wane at successive elections, a dose of PR is more than a policy preference; it is a strategy for survival. It would guarantee a significant, permanent presence in the National Assembly, securing both influence and a clear opposition function, regardless of whether the party is in government or out. It also offers a

path to escape the “tyranny of pre-electoral alliances,” allowing the party to stand alone and negotiate power post-election.

Conversely, the Labour Party’s historical reluctance is equally pragmatic. The FPTP system has traditionally favoured dominant parties, allowing them to secure comfortable governing majorities. To dilute this power by conceding seats to the opposition via PR is a bitter pill that no Prime Minister swallows easily. Thus, we find ourselves in a familiar deadlock: one partner views reform as a lifeline, while the other views it as a threat to government stability.

The Best Loser System: A Delicate Equilibrium

The most dangerous aspect of the current manoeuvring is the potential impact on the Best Loser System (BLS). Since independence in 1968, the BLS has functioned as the essential compromise that guaranteed minority representation, ensuring that the “General Population,” Muslim, and Sino-Mauritian communities felt they had a seat at the table.

Critics rightfully argue that the BLS institutionalizes communalism by requiring candidates to declare their ethnic identity. However, as journalist and political analyst Jean-Claude de l’Estrac wisely observes in this week’s interview, identity is a potent force. Abolishing the BLS in the name of a “modern” or “post-ethnic” Mauricianism, without providing a robust and guaranteed alternative for minority representation, risks creating a sense of exclusion. In a multi-ethnic society, “wounded identities” can become “murderous identities.” If minority groups — specifically the General Population and the Muslim community — perceive that their representation is being sacrificed to satisfy the PR requirements of a political party, the resulting communal friction could far outweigh any perceived democratic gains.

The Ticking Clock and the Generational Risk

Beyond the technicalities of the law, there is a human element of legacy and succession. Paul Bérenger is acutely aware that time is not on his side. If he does not secure this reform during the 2025–2029 mandate, it is highly improbable that another opportunity will present itself. His strategy appears crystal clear: to force Navin Ramgoolam into a definitive choice. Either the Prime Minister yields, allowing Bérenger to cement his place in history as the architect of a new electoral era, or he refuses, stripping the current alliance of its primary political justification.

However, Bérenger is playing a high-stakes game that carries significant risk for his own party. By remaining in an alliance without a firm guarantee of reform, he risks weakening the MMM’s identity. Such obstinacy could poison the well for the party’s rising stars, notably Joanna Bérenger and the younger guard. If the MMM is seen as a junior partner that traded its core principles for a seat at the table without achieving its central mission, it may leave the next generation with a depleted political inheritance, making the transition of leadership far more difficult.

A Realistic Timeline vs. Political Expediency

The Prime Minister has called for more time, citing the national consultation ending January 30. While some see this as a dilatory manoeuvre to exhaust Paul Bérenger’s patience, it is a necessary caution. Constitutional reform of this magnitude cannot — and should not — be rushed to settle a cabinet spat.

In any case, electoral reform should not be the exclusive preserve of politicians seeking to maximize their seat count. If the government’s consultations are merely a hollow exercise intended to provide a “credible exit” for a coalition partner, they are doomed to fail. A proper reform initiative must be broad:

Equal Franchise: Adhering to the “one person, one vote” principle.

Party Democratisation: Mandating internal democracy to prevent the rise of political dynasties.

Finance Transparency: Curbing the influence of “big money” on public policy.

The Constitution has served the nation well. It should not be tampered with merely to suit the narrow, short-term interests of parties that may be losing favour with the electorate.

Mauritius stands at a crossroads. We can choose to pursue a “hastily constructed amendment” to satisfy the MMM’s proportional aspirations and keep the *Alliance du Changement* afloat, or we can commit to a meticulous, inclusive process that strengthens our democracy for the next generation.

Paul Bérenger may see reform as his final “véritable combat,” and Navin Ramgoolam may see it as a strategic piece on a larger chessboard. But for the citizen, the electoral system is the bedrock of social peace. We must guard against the “mirage of reform” — the idea that changing the rules will automatically improve the quality of governance. Until there is a genuine national consensus that transcends party lines and communal anxieties, the most “sensible” path is one of extreme caution. Stability is too high a price to pay for political expediency.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
Aug 1954–Sept 2000

Editor: M. Ramlallah

*This epaper has been produced with
the assistance of*

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& Kersley Ramsamy**

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From ICAC to NCA: Avoiding the Trap of Institutional Weaponisation

“Ultimately, what matters most is the unwavering integrity of the DG of the National Crime Agency”

The announcement of the National Crime Agency marks a pivotal moment in the Mauritian fight against financial crime and high-level corruption. However, the proposal arrives in an atmosphere thick with historical scepticism. For over a decade, the shadow of the now-defunct ICAC has loomed large, often perceived as a weaponised instrument used to settle political scores rather than a neutral arbiter of justice.

The central challenge for the legislator is clear: how do we build an agency powerful enough to dismantle complex criminal networks without creating an “institutional monster” that devours the very civil liberties it is meant to protect? Lex looks into the issues involved.

LEX

* The risk of the National Crime Agency (NCA) becoming an “institutional monster”, as highlighted in political and legal debates, concern is not unfounded in light of the recent past with the former ICAC perceived as being weaponized against political opponents. What specific legislative “brakes” would be required to prevent it from becoming another “super-agency”?

To prevent a ‘super-agency’ from exceeding its mandate, we must implement legislative ‘brakes’ that focus on narrow jurisdiction. One could go for a ‘Serious Crime Threshold,’ ensuring the NCA only intervenes in high-value or complex cases. Additionally, there could be a case for a mandatory sunset clause — requiring Parliament to re-authorize specific intrusive powers every five years — which would ensure the agency remains accountable to evolving democratic standards rather than growing unchecked.

* There are apprehensions that by centralizing data from the Police, MRA, and FSC, the NCA risks becoming a high-power “intelligence bank” prone to abuse. Without strict oversight, its advanced surveillance tools — originally intended for complex crime — could be turned against journalists, activists, and private citizens. If the agency’s leadership is politically appointed, it faces a high risk of being weaponized by the executive to target the opposition.

Centralization can improve efficiency but threatens privacy. To prevent abuse, the law should require strict data separation and permanent audit logs, as is done in other sectors such as banking.

Every time an official accesses cross-departmental data, it should trigger an automated notification to an independent compliance officer. We should also make unauthorized access by agency staff a crime, ensuring surveillance tools are used only for legitimate investigations, not to target journalists or activists.

The protection of personal data is strictly

regulated by the Data Protection Act, which mandates that any access to such information requires a formal judge’s order. To ensure the system’s integrity, unauthorized access to or misuse of data is a serious offence, severely punished under the law to deter any breach of public trust.

* As regards the appointment of the Director-General of the NCA, would you expect it to be a political appointment by the Prime Minister, or should it be best left to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) to ensure neutrality?

For the NCA to be truly neutral, it is argued that the Director-General should be appointed by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) rather than the Prime Minister. Such a move is designed to remove the “patronage” element; if the head of the agency serves at the discretion of the executive, public perception will likely remain clouded by scepticism. An appointment by the JLSC aligns the DG’s loyalty strictly with the Constitution rather than a political benefactor.

Ultimately, what matters most is the unwavering integrity of the appointee and the political will of the Prime Minister and politicians to allow the agency to function without interference. In this view, institutional safeguards are essential, but they are only as strong as the character of the individuals who inhabit and oversee them.

* Given the immense power the NCA will hold, should its Director-General be granted security of tenure equivalent to that of a Supreme Court Judge or the DPP — where removal is only possible for ‘inability’ or ‘misbehaviour’ via a special tribunal — to ensure the office is shielded from ‘at will’ dismissal by the government of the day?

Security of tenure is essential. If the DG can be dismissed ‘at will,’ they are vulnerable to political pressure. By granting tenure equivalent to a Supreme Court Judge or the DPP, where removal requires a specialized tribunal for proven misbehaviour, we ‘fire-proof’ the office. This allows the DG to pursue high-level corruption cases without fear



of professional retaliation.

* The NCA will likely have access to “intrusive surveillance” (phone tapping, etc.). Shouldn’t the law mandate that every single surveillance act requires a warrant from a Supreme Court Judge, rather than just an internal agency authorization?

In a democracy, the power to conduct surveillance must be balanced by independent judicial oversight. Every use of intrusive surveillance should require a warrant from a Supreme Court judge, not internal approval. This ensures that surveillance is necessary and proportionate before a citizen’s privacy is infringed.

* When the Police, MRA (Tax), and FSC (Finance) share one database, a person’s entire life is visible to one agency. What ‘Chinese Walls’ or data-siloing requirements must be in the Bill to prevent investigators from browsing through citizens’ private financial lives without a specific criminal predicate?

We must avoid a ‘totalitarian view’ of a citizen’s life. One could go for a ‘Need-to-Know’ architecture: an investigator looking into tax evasion shouldn’t have automatic access to health or family records unless they can demonstrate to a Data Controller that those specific records are relevant to the crime. These ‘Chinese Walls’ should be embedded into the software architecture of the agency, not just the policy manual. One could learn from other sectors how such safeguards are put in place.

* Would it be correct for the NCA to have the power to reopen cases that were already “closed” or “discontinued” by the ICAC/FCC or the Police? If so, does this violate the principle of fairness?

To ensure accountability, there should be no statute of limitations on such actions, especially when considering how the ICAC “slept” on sensitive cases involving those in power between 2014 and 2024. Proponents

of this view argue that these cases must be reopened to correct past inactions and restore public trust.

However, to maintain a fair and stable legal system, reopening cases should be the exception rather than the rule. To ensure fairness and avoid “double jeopardy” concerns, the law must incorporate a “Fresh and Compelling Evidence” test. Under this framework, a case should only be reopened if new evidence emerges that was fundamentally unavailable during the initial investigation.

* Many lawyers believe that the success of the NCA would depend entirely on whether it remains under the DPP’s absolute control or if it becomes a separate branch under the Attorney General. How do you react to that?

The NCA must remain under the ultimate prosecutorial supervision of the DPP. The Attorney General is a political figure; the DPP is a constitutional one. If the NCA reports to the AG, there is a risk that prosecutions become a tool of government policy. Keeping the ‘investigative’ and ‘prosecutorial’ functions separate — with the DPP as the final gatekeeper — is the strongest safeguard for the rule of law.

* There is always the question of “Who guards the guardians” question: Which body is best suited to provide oversight for the NCA? A Parliamentary Committee (which may be politically biased) or a truly independent Operations Review Committee?

It would be advisable to adopt a “dual-layer oversight model”. A Parliamentary Committee is useful for budgetary transparency, but for operational integrity, we need an independent Operations Review Committee (ORC) consisting of retired judges and forensic experts. This ORC should have the power to ‘walk in’ and audit any file at any time. This ensures that the agency is held to account by experts, not just politicians.



Anil Madan

Strategic Preemption or Imperial Overreach?

The Cases of Venezuela and Greenland

In 2019, more than six years ago, Donald Trump was asked about his interest in acquiring Greenland. He said: "Denmark essentially owns it. We're very good allies with Denmark. We protect Denmark like we protect large portions of the world. So, the concept came up and I said, 'Certainly I'd be.' Strategically it's interesting and we'd be interested but we'll talk to them a little bit. It's not number one on the burner I can tell you that."

He went on to say: "Well a lot of things can be done. Essentially, it's a large real estate deal. A lot of things can be done."

Denmark is a member of NATO; ergo, so is Greenland. In fact, the US operates its missile warning and space surveillance commands from Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base) in Greenland.

At that time, back in 2019, as if formulating a rationale for relieving Denmark of a burden, Trump claimed that ownership of Greenland was "hurting Denmark very badly because they're losing almost \$700m a year carrying it. So, they carry it at a great loss and strategically for the United States it would be very nice and we're a big ally of Denmark, we protect Denmark and we help Denmark and we will."

Five years later, in December 2024, just a month before his swearing-in to a second presidential term, designs on acquiring Greenland resurfaced as a national security issue. In a post on his social media platform, he wrote "for purposes of National Security and Freedom throughout the World, the United States of America feels that the ownership and control of Greenland is an absolute necessity."

Greenland's leadership responded that the semiautonomous territory is "not for sale."

Almost one year into Trump's second term as President, the mere real estate deal has become a national security obsession and he said: "We have to have it" for "national protection," and on Jan. 9 this year, he threatened that if America cannot acquire Greenland "the easy way" then it would get it the "hard way."

Denmark and Greenland sent their foreign ministers for a high-level meeting with Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Vice President Vance also attended. The result was a "frank and constructive" exchange. That is diplomatic-speak for an agreement to disagree. Indeed, Denmark's foreign minister, Lars Løkke Rasmussen said after the meeting that the US and Denmark still have "still have a fundamental disagreement, but we also agree to disagree." Nothing has been resolved; while



“Denmark, and by extension Greenland, is a NATO member, and the United States already operates key missile warning and space surveillance facilities at Greenland’s Pituffik Space Base. In 2019, Donald Trump floated the idea of acquiring Greenland, arguing that Denmark was losing nearly \$700 million annually and implying that US ownership would relieve this burden while serving American strategic interests. The issue resurfaced in December 2024, when Trump again framed ownership of Greenland as a national security necessity. Greenland’s leadership firmly rejected the notion, reiterating that the territory is not for sale...” Pic - youtube.com

the US maintains its interest in acquiring Greenland, both Denmark and Greenland remain opposed.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of Trump's statement that "We are going to do something in Greenland, whether they like it or not, because if we don't do it, Russia or China will take over Greenland, and we're not going to have Russia or China as a neighbour."

The Monroe Doctrine

Following the US action in Venezuela when its Maduro was captured and Trump declared that the US was "in charge" of Venezuela and would be running it, in a follow-up meeting with American business executives, he offered a similar rationale: "If we didn't do this, China would have been there, and Russia would have been there. Maybe they both would have been there together."

The Trump administration has also justified its action against Venezuela as a law enforcement operation against Maduro for narcotics trafficking, as well as recoupment of oil assets seized from American companies by nationalization.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio echoed the national security concerns in words reminiscent of the Monroe Doctrine: "We're not going to allow the Western Hemisphere to be a base of operation for adversaries, competitors and rivals of the United States."

On January 3, 2026, Trump touted the doctrine as a continuation of America's foreign policy. Ousting Maduro was justified also because Venezuela was "hosting foreign adversaries" and "acquiring offensive weapons."

It has also been reported that Trump administration officials have told the Venezuelans that first, the country must kick out China, Russia, Iran, and Cuba and sever economic ties. Second, Venezuela must agree to partner exclusively with the US on oil production and favour America when selling heavy crude oil. Here, we see elements of both economic interest and national security concern.

On the economic side of the ledger, it has also been reported that Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated to leaders in Congress that the US has leverage because Venezuela is on the verge of financial insolvency unless it can sell oil already in tankers.

In a recent article, I adverted to the recently published National Security Strategy document. The comments on European security and its importance to the US are telling:

"Over the long term, it is more than plausible that within a few decades at the latest, certain NATO members will become majority non-European. As such, it is an open question whether they will

view their place in the world, or their alliance with the United States, in the same way as those who signed the NATO charter..."

"Yet Europe remains strategically and culturally vital to the United States. Transatlantic trade remains one of the pillars of the global economy and of American prosperity. European sectors from manufacturing to technology to energy, remain among the world's most robust. Europe is home to cutting-edge scientific research and world-leading cultural institutions. Not only can we not afford to write Europe off — doing so would be self-defeating for what this strategy aims to achieve."

Our goal "should be to help Europe correct its current trajectory. We will need a strong Europe to help us successfully compete, and to work in concert with us to prevent any adversary from dominating Europe."

As applied to Greenland, perhaps there is the suggestion that if the island breaks away from Denmark, its allegiance to NATO could be in question. Whether such concerns are valid or not, perhaps there is a strategic element involved in ensuring that the separation of Greenland from Denmark does not involve a separation from US strategic interests. Indeed, if one contemplated that there could be a fracturing of the "alliance with the United States" of certain European countries, Greenland might well be of even more defensive importance to the US. This, of course does not detract from the proposition that Greenland is critical to the control of shipping lanes as ice melt in the Arctic makes commercial shipping there a viable prospect in the not-too-distant future.

End of the NATO military alliance

Denmark's foreign minister Løkke Rasmussen said that the security situation in the Arctic has indeed changed, and that Denmark is eager to work with the US on security improvements. On the other hand, NATO already provides the necessary framework for an agreement, and acquisition of Greenland by the US is "absolutely not necessary" to that end.

Vivian Motzfeldt, Greenland's minister of foreign affairs, acknowledged the importance of strengthening ties with the US, and added: "but that doesn't mean that we want to be owned by the United States."

Trump's response was that although he had not been briefed on the meeting: "We need Greenland for national security, so we're going to see what happens," Mr Trump said.

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“Trump has argued that acquiring Greenland is essential to the US “Golden Dome” missile defense system, claiming NATO would be stronger only if the island were under American control, and insisting that the United States would obtain it “one way or the other.” Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warned that any U.S. military move against Greenland would spell the end of NATO, though Article 5 does not apply to conflicts between member states. Beyond security, Greenland’s strategic importance is heightened by its rare earth mineral resources, now largely dominated by China...” -- Pic - Greenland

☞ Cont. from page 4

Trump has also said that acquiring Greenland “is vital for the Golden Dome that we are building” referring to the missile defense system, and that “NATO should be leading the way for us to get it.” He added: “NATO becomes far more formidable and effective with Greenland in the hands of the UNITED STATES... Anything less than that is unacceptable.” He went on: “I’d love to make a deal with them. It’s easier. But one way or the other, we’re going to have Greenland.”

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said that an American military move to seize control of Greenland would amount to the end of the NATO military alliance. It is not clear whether this is meant as a declaration that Denmark would withdraw from NATO. Certainly, the argument that Article 5 of NATO charter would be invoked does not hold water since the charter does not contemplate that a NATO member would attack another NATO member.

And one could argue that Greenland is critical for rare earth minerals that are now all but controlled by China.

It may well be that the US can get all the access to Greenland that it desires by agreement and a merger of the island with the US is not needed. On the other hand, governments can terminate agreements and who knows what the relative strength of the US and China will be fifty years hence.

One can frame the intervention in Venezuela as a strategic move to secure America’s strategic interest in stabilizing the world’s oil supplies and limiting Chinese,

Russian, and Iranian influence in Latin America. And one can view the Greenland issue in purely strategic terms but its economic implications for worldwide commerce as

shipping across the Arctic lanes grows are unmistakable. So, are these moves merely economic imperialism, or strategic security calculations? At this point, we have to say that both elements are at work. Whether these turn out to be good business deals remains to be seen. In terms of national security, the challenges of a surging China, coupled with aggression from Russia and Iran, are unpredictable.

Cheerz...
Bwana



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Date: 08 January 2026

The HR Manager
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Interview: Jean Claude de l'Estrac

Réforme électorale: " C'est maintenant l'heure de la décision. Elle n'est pas simple"

'La FPTP a bien servi le pays... Il ne faudrait pas que l'on provoque des conséquences inattendues en cherchant à corriger ses faiblesses'

Dans un climat politique marqué par de fortes incertitudes économiques, des tensions croissantes au sein de l'alliance gouvernementale et le retour en force du débat sur la réforme électorale, *Mauritius Times* s'est entretenu avec Jean Claude de l'Estrac, observateur averti de la vie politique mauricienne. La décision du Premier ministre de conserver le portefeuille des Finances, les conséquences politiques de choix impopulaires, le bras de fer latent avec Paul Bérenger et les lignes de fracture autour de la représentation proportionnelle et du Best Loser System sont au cœur de cet entretien. Avec lucidité et sans complaisance, Jean Claude de l'Estrac décrypte les rapports de force, les enjeux institutionnels et les risques politiques qui pourraient façonner l'avenir immédiat du pays.



cas de réforme électorale. Je vais me focaliser sur deux de ces retombées, l'une politique, l'autre ethnique. Sur le plan politique, l'enjeu est plutôt clair. Le MMM souhaite ardemment une réforme du système électoral qui permettrait de calquer sur l'actuel système de *First-Past-The-Post* (FPTP), une «dose» de Représentation proportionnelle (PR). Elle propose une dose suffisamment conséquente pour vraiment se rapprocher le plus de l'idéal d'une représentation parlementaire, qui soit autant que possible, le miroir des votes exprimés. Il y a aussi, dans cette proposition, un enjeu non-avoué, nous le verrons.

Sur le principe, il n'y a pas de divergence, encore que dans le 'Consultation Paper' présenté par le Premier ministre en 2014, il prend la précaution de dire que sur la question de système électoral «*there never will be total agreement*».

Tous les partis politiques, à un moment ou à un autre, ont été victimes de l'actuel système qui ne leur assure pas toujours une juste représentation parlementaire en adéquation avec les suffrages exprimés.

Mauritius Times: Dans un contexte où une crise économique et d'éventuelles mesures d'austérité se profilent à l'horizon, assumer seul la responsabilité de décisions impopulaires, sans les partager avec un allié du gouvernement, cela peut paraître politiquement périlleux. En gardant le ministère des Finances sous sa tutelle, Navin Ramgoolam n'assume-t-il pas seul un coût politique qu'il aurait pu partager?

Jean Claude de l'Estrac: Absolument ! D'autant plus qu'il a déjà démontré du courage politique quand il avait choisi de proposer lui-même ce qui sera sans doute la mesure la plus impopulaire de son mandat, la réforme de la pension de vieillesse.

Il aurait pu considérer que cela est même juste que son principal partenaire prenne maintenant la responsabilité de la suite d'autant plus qu'elle ne sera pas de tout repos.

Avec Bérenger comme ministre des Finances, je pense

« Avec Bérenger comme ministre des Finances, je pense que Ramgoolam n'aurait engrangé que des bénéfices politiques. Il lui a manqué une dose de cynisme et une vue à plus long terme. Lui-même, et ceux qui le soutiennent dans cette décision, n'ont vu que la perception de faiblesse du politicien devant les exigences sans fin de Bérenger. Je ne nie pas que cela puisse être une considération, mais quand on le considère sous l'angle *cost/benefit*, pour parler comme un économiste, je pense qu'il aurait été le grand gagnant...»

que Ramgoolam n'aurait engrangé que des bénéfices politiques. Il lui a manqué une dose de cynisme et une vue à plus long terme. Lui-même, et ceux qui le soutiennent dans cette décision, n'ont vu que la perception de faiblesse du politicien devant les exigences sans fin de Bérenger. Je ne nie pas que cela puisse être une considération, mais quand on le considère sous l'angle *cost/benefit*, pour parler comme un économiste, je pense qu'il aurait été le grand gagnant. Trop tard.

* **Ce refus marque en tout cas un tournant. Face à une fin de non-recevoir sur les Finances, Paul Bérenger se replie sur ce qui a toujours constitué son véritable combat politique : la réforme électorale. Il demeure une question centrale : le Premier ministre est-il réellement prêt à faire des concessions sur un dossier aussi stratégique, alors que le Parti Travailleiste n'a historiquement jamais eu intérêt à modifier un système électoral qui lui assure, le plus souvent, une majorité relativement confortable?**

Vous mettez le doigt sur ce qui sera, à ne pas manquer, la prochaine crise gouvernementale, et peut-être, la véritable sortie de Bérenger.

Je pense, comme vous, que les positions du Parti Travailleiste et du MMM sur cette question extrêmement complexe quand on entre dans les détails, sont, à première vue, irréconciliables.

Il y aura plusieurs conséquences politiques majeures en

« Le Parti Travailleiste, depuis sir Seewoosagur, se méfie d'une réforme qui pourrait ébranler la position électoralement dominante qu'il occupe dans la constitution des majorités gouvernementales. Je serai très surpris que Navin Ramgoolam et ses conseillers électoraux acceptent la proposition MMM de 20 sièges supplémentaires même si ce nombre corrige à peine la disproportionnalité entre les suffrages et la représentation parlementaire. A vrai dire, il faudrait au moins 30 sièges de PR pour vraiment corriger le déséquilibre. Le Premier ministre pourrait être tenté de proposer une dose symbolique, inacceptable pour le MMM...»

Souvent la disproportion a été grossière. Présentement, c'est l'alliance menée par le MSM aux dernières législatives qui en fait les frais. Elle a obtenu 27% des voix, elle n'a que 3% de représentation parlementaire, et encore cela, grâce au *Best Loser System*. Il y a eu pire : avec un peu plus de 50% des suffrages, le MMM a obtenu 100% des sièges en 1982 et pratiquement le même type de résultat en 1995.

☞ Suite en page 7

'Bérenger est un livre ouvert, Ramgoolam est une carpe. Et il s'est peut-être dit que le temps des concessions est terminé'

☞ Suite de la page 6

La difficulté surgit quand on commence à chiffrer l'importance de cette «dose» et le modèle électoral de désignation des élus de la PR. Tout en se disant favorable à l'introduction de la Représentation proportionnelle, le Parti Travailleiste, depuis sir Seewoosagur, se méfie d'une réforme qui pourrait ébranler la position électoralement dominante qu'il occupe dans la constitution des majorités gouvernementales.

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Le MMM, de son côté, a toutes les raisons vouloir une dose significative de PR. Outre l'objectif déclaré de correction des inégalités parlementaires induites par le FPTP, Bérenger vise à soustraire son parti de la tyrannie des alliances préélectorales quasi obligatoire dans le système actuel. Avec une bonne dose de PR, le MMM peut aspirer à se présenter seul à des élections, et éventuellement, si nécessaire, conclure des alliances postélectorales pour accéder au pouvoir.

*** Vous dites qu'il y a également une question ethnique. De quoi s'agit-il?**

Elle est de grande importance et découle de notre Constitution. La réforme électorale ne pourrait pas se faire à l'encontre des dispositions de notre Constitution. Or, la Constitution reconnaît l'existence de communautés — ethniques et religieuses — et exigent leur juste représentation. Elle va même jusqu'à une définition mathématique de ces communautés.

Que deviendrait le *Best Loser System* qui est un moyen d'obtenir une plus juste représentation des communautés à l'Assemblée nationale et à laquelle des communautés minoritaires sont émotionnellement attachées même si, en vérité, sa fonction est plutôt symbolique? La majorité des élus des communautés, dites minoritaires, siègent à l'Assemblée nationale parce qu'ils ont été élus et non pas par le biais du BLS.

Il faudrait d'abord tordre le cou à la thèse étiquée selon laquelle l'appartenance à une communauté est antinomique à la citoyenneté nationale. Au fait, je me pose la question de savoir si l'abolition du BLS qui est réclamée pour promouvoir, dit-on, un mauricianisme dépouillé d'ethnicité, ne risque pas, au contraire, de susciter des réactions communales, ce qui serait contraire à l'objectif visé.

La question de l'identité et des appartenances est aujourd'hui considérée comme un enjeu majeur de nos sociétés qui sont devenues presque toutes multiethniques. L'identité a été et reste la cause de tant de guerres, de haine,

« La question de l'identité et des appartenances est aujourd'hui considérée comme un enjeu majeur de nos sociétés qui sont devenues presque toutes multiethniques. L'identité a été et reste la cause de tant de guerres, de haine, de violence partout dans le monde. Le communaliste que l'on veut combattre n'est pas celui qui est simplement attaché à son identité mais celui qui instrumentalise son appartenance communautaire contre l'intérêt des autres... »

de violence partout dans le monde. Le communaliste que l'on veut combattre n'est pas celui qui est simplement attaché à son identité mais celui qui instrumentalise son appartenance communautaire contre l'intérêt des autres. Il peut le devenir aussi quand il a le sentiment que son identité n'est pas respectée. Depuis Amine Malouff, on sait que les identités meurtries pourraient devenir meurtrières.

Le gouvernement devra bien mesurer le risque qu'il y aurait à introduire un système qui donnerait le sentiment aux communautés minoritaires qu'elles ne seront pas adéquatement représentées. Ce sentiment existe déjà dans certains milieux. Ce n'est pas le seul fait du système électoral mais la représentation au Parlement et au conseil des ministres est un symbole fort.

Pour traiter objectivement de la question, il faudrait commencer par éliminer les contradictions hypocrites du système actuel. On prétend vouloir nous assurer, comme l'exige la Constitution, le strict respect, presque mathématique, des rapports de force ethniques mais nous n'avons plus de statistiques précises pour mesurer le poids de chaque communauté depuis 1972.

Ce n'est pas une tare de constater l'existence des communautés et de respecter leur droit à la différence. C'est

« La réforme électorale ne pourrait pas se faire à l'encontre des dispositions de notre Constitution. Or, la Constitution reconnaît l'existence de communautés — ethniques et religieuses — et exigent leur juste représentation. Elle va même jusqu'à une définition mathématique de ces communautés. Que deviendrait le *Best Loser System* qui est un moyen d'obtenir une plus juste représentation des communautés à l'Assemblée nationale...? »

même une exigence de notre Constitution. Je suis frappé par la définition que certains sociologues donnent de la nation américaine multiethnique, présentée comme «la communauté des communautés».

Autre épineuse question: selon quels critères, dans quel ordre, et par qui les candidats figurant sur la liste de la Représentation proportionnelle seront-ils établis? La dernière chose serait que les chefs de parti puissent s'arroger ce droit. C'est faire d'eux, plus encore qu'aujourd'hui, des propriétaires de parti.

*** Mais la demande de «temps supplémentaire», formulée par Navin Ramgoolam pour statuer sur la question de la réforme électorale, pourrait alimenter des soupçons dans le camp du MMM. Techniquement, elle peut s'apparenter à une manœuvre dilatoire visant à étirer les discussions jusqu'à la fin de la consultation prévue le 30 janvier, sans jamais déposer de projet de loi concret. Une façon, peut-être, d'user la patience de son partenaire sans prendre d'engagement irréversible?**

C'est une hypothèse.

La fin de la consultation n'est pas la fin de l'histoire. Je ne crois pas d'ailleurs que cette énième consultation nous dira plus que ce que nous savons déjà. Depuis les rapports de Banwell, Trustam-Eve, de Smith, Carcassonne, Sachs, Collendavellou et Sithanen, nous savons tout des forces et des faiblesses de notre système. La Commission Sachs, par exemple, avait reçu 70 mémorandums écrits.

C'est maintenant l'heure de la décision. Elle n'est pas



simple. La FPTP a bien servi le pays, en lui donnant à chaque fois des majorités gouvernementales fonctionnelles. Il ne faudrait pas que l'on provoque des conséquences inattendues en cherchant à corriger ses faiblesses.

*** Si le Premier ministre estime que Paul Bérenger a déjà, intérieurement, acté son départ, il pourrait aussi juger inutile de consentir une concession majeure pour maintenir une alliance qu'il sait fragile, voire condamnée à moyen terme. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Jusqu'à maintenant, les médias et l'opinion en général se sont préoccupés de savoir ce que fera Bérenger. Je crois qu'à partir de maintenant il faudra surtout analyser les mouvements de Ramgoolam.

Ce ne sera pas facile, Bérenger est un livre ouvert, Ramgoolam est une carpe. Et il s'est peut-être dit que le temps des concessions est terminé.

*** Fort de son expérience politique, Paul Bérenger doit également savoir que les chances d'une réforme électorale en profondeur sont faibles. Ainsi, tout en affirmant l'urgence de cette réforme, il en anticipe l'échec, ce qui lui permet de préparer le discours selon lequel son camp aurait tout tenté, rejetant la responsabilité du blocage sur les autres — s'offrant ainsi une porte de sortie crédible. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Bérenger estime qu'il existe déjà un consensus entre les Travailleistes et le MMM sur la base de leur accord électoral de 2014, notamment sur la dose de Proportionnelle (une liste de 20 candidats et un seuil d'éligibilité de 10 %). Il semble que les Travailleistes n'en fassent pas la même lecture.

Quoi qu'il en soit, je postule depuis longtemps que Bérenger partira; la seule question reste de savoir quand, et sur quel désaccord ou prétexte. Politiquement, il ne pouvait pas partir simplement parce que le Premier ministre ne lui a pas donné le poste de ministre des Finances. Il attendra une occasion plus justifiable: la réforme électorale, s'il n'obtient pas satisfaction.

Pour Ramgoolam, compte tenu de l'allergie atavique des Travailleistes à la représentation proportionnelle, il y aura peut-être des dividendes à engranger.

☞ Suite en page 8

'Avec une bonne dose de PR, le MMM peut aspirer à se présenter seul à des élections, et éventuellement, si nécessaire, conclure des alliances postélectorales pour accéder au pouvoir'



☞ Suite de la page 7

* Bérenger doit sans doute aussi savoir que s'obstiner dans une alliance, sans obtenir la réforme électorale, finirait par affaiblir le MMM. À terme, cela pourrait même gâcher le terrain pour la relève et nuire à la transition vers la nouvelle génération, incarnée par Joanna Bérenger et les autres jeunes du parti...

Effectivement. Sauf qu'il aura à bien analyser le rapport de force dans les différentes instances de son parti. Je pense qu'il cherchera à éviter une énième fracture du MMM.

De ce que l'on sait, les instances du MMM, majoritairement, sauf peut-être l'Assemblée des délégués qu'il ne tardera pas à convoquer, sont hostiles à un retour dans l'opposition.

* Il se trouve que la situation économique reste préoccupante. Les conséquences d'une éventuelle politique d'austérité, si elle se confirme, pourraient fragiliser davantage l'alliance PTr-MMM. Cette alliance est-elle suffisamment solide pour y résister?

Il est certain que la situation risque de se dégrader dans les mois qui viennent. Il y a deux risques immédiats : les mauvaises notes de la *Financial Action Task Force*

« Je postule depuis longtemps que Bérenger partira ; la seule question reste de savoir quand, et sur quel désaccord ou prétexte. Politiquement, il ne pouvait pas partir simplement parce que le Premier ministre ne lui a pas donné le poste de ministre des Finances. Il attendra une occasion plus justifiable : la réforme électorale, s'il n'obtient pas satisfaction... »

(FATF) sur notre secteur financier et parallèlement par Moody's sur l'économie en général dans un climat de stagnation et de gouvernance molle.

C'est pourquoi il serait désastreux que l'on vienne à ajouter une crise politique à un environnement économique fragile. Certaines de nos entreprises sont au bord de la faillite, il faut craindre des licenciements.

* En tout cas, les signes de fragilisation sont déjà visibles. Les désaccords semblent désormais se gérer par des tête-à-tête informels — la dernière a duré 30 minutes — ou, pire encore, par des conférences de presse. Pour beaucoup d'observateurs, l'alliance apparaît politiquement « cliniquement morte », même si elle n'a pas encore été officiellement débranchée. Partagez-vous cette impression?

« Le gouvernement devra bien mesurer le risque qu'il y aurait à introduire un système qui donnerait le sentiment aux communautés minoritaires qu'elles ne seront pas adéquatement représentées. Ce sentiment existe déjà dans certains milieux. Ce n'est pas le seul fait du système électoral mais la représentation au Parlement et au conseil des ministres est un symbole fort... »

L'Alliance ce n'est pas certain, un départ de Bérenger c'est probable, comme je vous l'ai dit. Mais en tout état de cause, ce sera un séisme politique, le pays n'a pas besoin de ça.

* En fin de compte, sommes-nous une fois de plus témoins d'un éternel recommencement, à l'instar de ce qui s'est produit au lendemain des grandes victoires électorales de ces alliances unissant le PTr ou le MSM au MMM, et qui portent en elles les germes de leur propre destruction?

Encore et toujours... la guerre des égos. J'ai vu ça dix fois. Rien ne changera tant que nous n'aurons pas des hommes d'État à la place de politiciens.

Peut-être bien aussi que si l'on parvient à réaliser une réforme électorale, qui dans sa finalité pourrait mettre fin à l'obligation d'alliances préélectorales, l'on entrera dans une nouvelle phase de coalitions post électorales quand la situation l'exigera.

A priori, les coalitions ont plus de chance de durer que des alliances qui ne le sont pas en réalité parce qu'elles ne sont faites que pour gagner des élections. Les alliances sont faites pour gagner les élections, les coalitions sont nécessaires pour gouverner.



ROSE BELLE SUGAR ESTATE BOARD VACANCIES

The Rose Belle Sugar Estate Board (RBSEB) hereby invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following posts with relevant qualifications and experience who wish to be considered for Appointment.

(A) ACCOUNTANT ON A PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE BASIS- Ref: RBSEB/ACC-001

Qualifications and Experience:

- (a) A pass at the final examination required for admission to membership of one of the following bodies:
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales;
 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland;
 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland;
 - The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants;
 - The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy;
 - The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants;
- Candidates should be registered with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants.

- (b) Have at least three (3) years' post qualification experience.

The Accountant will be responsible for the smooth running of the Finance Department.

☞ SALARY:

Salary to be negotiated based on qualifications and experience.

(B) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN ON A PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE BASIS-Ref: RBSEB/ATECH-002

Qualifications and Experience

- (a) A Cambridge Higher School Certificate with passes in at least two subjects including Mathematics or Accounting or Passes in at least two subjects including Mathematics or Accounting obtained on one certificate at the General Certificate of Education "Advanced Level"
- (b) Passes in papers F1, F2 and F3 of the ACCA Fundamentals (Knowledge) and any other four papers of the ACCA Fundamentals (Skills)

OR

Equivalent qualifications to A and B above acceptable to the Board.

- (c) Candidates should:
- Possess analytical, communication and interpersonal skills.
 - Be computer literate and fully conversant with computerized accounting systems.

☞ NOTE

To cross the Qualification Bar (QB) in the salary scale, Accounting Technicians must complete the ACCA Fundamentals Examinations or possess an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

☞ SALARY:

The post is permanent and pensionable and carries salary in the scale: Rs 23,950 x 525- 26,050 x 675- 27,400 x 825- 35,650 x 900- 37,450 x 950 - 41250 QB 42,200 x 1300 - 46,100 x 1575 - 49250 x 1650 - 50,900 per month plus salary compensation at approved rates.

Application should be submitted on the prescribed form obtainable from the office of Rose Belle Sugar Estate Board.

The application forms and the Schemes of Service can be downloaded on:

<https://agriculture.govmu.org/Pages/Vacancies/Notice-for-Vacancies.aspx>

Further details and information may be obtained during office hours from the HR Department, phone number 627 4545.

The completed application form in sealed envelope bearing reference together with photocopies of professional/academic qualifications, evidence of experience and other relevant documents should reach the:

The General Manager
Rose Belle Sugar Estate Board
Royal Road
Rose Belle

at latest by Friday, 30 January 2026 by closure of business.

Reference for the post applied for should be inserted on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

The Rose Belle Sugar Estate Board reserves the right:

- To call only the best qualified candidates for interview.
- Not to fill in the vacancy as a result of this advertisement.

Date: 12.01.2026

Canards, Swans and the Ecology of Outrage

U. Dasin

“Canard symbology” has suddenly become the new frontier of ecological conscience. This shift is born neither of deep reflection nor sustained engagement with environmental ethics, but rather as a reflex of opposition — another pretext in the expanding theatre of outrage. Governments now face this theatre daily as they fumble with the new realities of social media and the instantaneous spiral of information into uncontrollable rhetoric. It is laughable — until it acquires the momentum of a rolling stone, gathering moss, sediment, and moral certainty along the way, becoming a problem in its own right unless a clear strategy is developed by those in power.

On 14 January, the Prime Minister and several ministers undertook a site visit to Grand Bassin to ensure that all was in order before the great pilgrimage of Maha Shivaratree. On the face of it, this was a conciliatory gesture: representatives of political Hindu groups were present, protocols were observed, and the optics were reassuring. During the visit, however, one representative reportedly suggested that the ducks which had been living on the lake for several years be removed on the grounds that they were causing pollution.

What followed was a burlesque eruption on social media. Overnight, keyboard warriors were transformed into animal lovers; armchair experts emerged in the field of “canard symbology”; and Saraswati’s sacred swan was confused with the quacking ducks of the farce unfolding before us. Opposition parties leapt in, and their mouth-piece newspapers milked the event for every millimetre of outrage, reposting the story every half-hour to harvest new readers — and with them, fresh waves of indignation.

Psychologists will tell you that most people bend with the wind of public opinion. They embrace pre-packaged views with little personal reflection, congratulating themselves on being intelligent, sensitive, and enlightened, while failing to see that they have simply entered another layer of conditioned reaction.



This time, however, the conditioning does not stem from big business or capitalist interests. It arises from a generalised weariness — one that now seems to inhabit populations across the world in their relationship with authority. If we were generous, we might admit that a similar sense of loss probably inhabits those in power, who are discovering that politics can no longer be conducted in the old way. This is not only because social media amplifies everything, but because after decades of revolutions and revolutionary false starts — Occupy Wall Street, the Arab Spring, leaderless movements, and symbolic uprisings — revolution itself has become a *cause célèbre*. You no longer need results; you only need a selfie proving that you participated in the protest, even when the protest may be ill-advised.

Everyone wants to protest. Postmodern fragmentation has transformed the theoretical idea that every individual is the start of a story into a practical nightmare. Everyone is outraged, and AI and Google now assist them in becoming “instant experts” in canard symbology. Most of these people, one suspects, have never paused to notice that animals feature prominently in Hindu symbolism: the tiger, the lion, the eagle, the monkey, the rat, the serpent, the cow, the peacock. One could go on indefinitely, tracing how, in the interconnection of divine powers — what modern science might poetically call a form of string theory — every plant and animal life echoes a structure within human existence.

This is why the shamans of Latin America say that for every disease there exists a plant remedy, and why every animal represents a configuration of power recognisable within the larger human psyche as a phase of our deep evolutionary psychology. Yet none of this troubles the new “duck symbologists.”

For years, the area around Pari Talao has seen the regular abandonment of domestic animals and ducks. This never provoked outrage. Only now, when a politically exploitable spark appears, does “ecological sanctity” suddenly descend upon digital timelines.

Robert Langdon, of *The Da Vinci Code* fame, would himself struggle not to laugh at the bathos unfolding before us. The observers, in their attempt to become symbols of moral vigilance, become instead symbols of the stupidity of the age. They do not realise that in proclaiming their symbolic literacy, they themselves become the burlesque.

All this aside, something more serious is emerging. New strategies are urgently required to cope with the online unfurling of what often verges on the stupidity of near-hate speech. Governments are unpopular — that is their fate. But they must learn to manage cyber-communication not merely by issuing posts, but by engaging: explaining, contextualising, debating, and influencing opinion. Is this not precisely what all relatively successful governments now attempt?

No government will ever be fully loved. But if it can convince even half the population of the sincerity of its vision, the other half may safely be left to enjoy their canard symbology for breakfast.



SUGAR INSURANCE FUND BOARD

COMMUNIQUE TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS
OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

ACTUARIAL REVIEW 2025/26

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

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

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

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

Sugar Insurance Fund Board

24 November 2025

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

Moka District Council Employees Union

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Moka District Council Employees Union will be held on
Saturday, 28 February 2026, at 10.00 am at
La Laura Community Hall, St Pierre.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM 2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Indrashan Gajadhur
Secretary

16 January 2026

Federation of Democratic Labour Unions

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Democratic Labour Unions will be held on
Saturday, 28 February 2026, at 12.00 pm at
Prabhat Hall, Grand-Baie.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM 2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

I. Gajadhur
Secretary

16 January 2026



Shyam Bhatia

International Law and Geopolitics

Is the Chagos deal safe?

Formal sovereignty is acknowledged, while substantive control is retained through strategic, security, or technical arrangements that evolve quietly over time

The agreement to restore sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius, while allowing the United States to retain military facilities on Diego Garcia, has been presented as a settled and irreversible outcome — legally sound, diplomatically endorsed, and morally overdue. For Mauritius, it marked the correction of a long-standing colonial injustice. For Britain, a means of closing an increasingly untenable chapter. For Washington, a way to preserve strategic continuity in the Indian Ocean.

On paper, the alignment appears stable.

Yet recent developments in both US domestic enforcement and foreign policy raise a legitimate question: how secure are international agreements that depend not on enforcement, but on restraint, in an era when power is increasingly asserted first and justified later?

Two events from early January illuminate this concern.

In Minnesota, a 37-year-old woman, Renee Nicole Good, was shot dead during a federal immigration operation involving US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Federal authorities defended the agent's actions as self-defence. Local officials, including the mayor of Minneapolis, publicly rejected that account, accusing federal agents of reckless use of power. Video footage circulated online appeared to contradict claims of imminent threat. Investigations are ongoing, and legal responsibility will be determined by courts.

What matters here is not the eventual verdict, but the pattern: a widening scope for coercive federal action, defended after the fact, with accountability contested rather than assured. Immigration enforcement in the United States has increasingly taken on a performative, highly visible, security-first character, with local and federal authorities operating at odds.

At the same time, far beyond US borders, Washington carried out a dramatic military operation in Venezuela, triggering international criticism and condemnation at the United Nations. UN officials warned that the action violated principles of sovereignty and international law and risked further destabilising an already fragile global order. The US response was unapologetic, framed in the language of necessity and security.

These two episodes — one domestic, one international — are often discussed separately. They should not be. Together, they illustrate a governing approach in which law is treated less as a prior constraint than as a framework for post-hoc justification when security imperatives are invoked.

This is not a new phenomenon. As Henry Kissinger once observed bluntly in an



“Diego Garcia is not an abstract territory. It is a critical US military asset in a region of intensifying strategic competition. As global tensions rise and security rationales expand, history suggests that bases, access arrangements, and “temporary” accommodations have a tendency to outlive the circumstances that justified them. This does not mean the Chagos deal will unravel. There is no evidence of imminent reversal. But the confidence with which the agreement is often described as irreversible deserves scrutiny...” -- Pic - aerotime.aero

interview with *Der Spiegel*:

“The United States has never accepted the idea that international law should constrain its freedom of action.”

Kissinger's remark was not a confession of lawlessness, but a statement of doctrine. It reflected a long-standing belief that great powers retain ultimate discretion when core interests are at stake.

That belief has only hardened in recent years. As Robert Kagan wrote in 'The Jungle Grows Back':

“The ‘rules-based international order’ exists only as long as powerful nations are willing to defend it — and, when they believe it necessary, to bend or break the rules.”

This framework connects Minnesota and Venezuela. In both cases, necessity is asserted first, legality debated later. Thresholds shift. Exceptional measures normalise. Political costs diminish.

Why does this matter for Mauritius?

Because the Chagos agreement ultimately depends not on courts or enforcement mechanisms, but on continued political willingness by powerful actors to honour legal commitments even when strategic calculations change. Mauritius won its case through patient diplomacy, international adjudication, and moral clarity. Few decolonisation claims were argued more meticulously or vindicated more clearly.

But legal victory does not automatically translate into durable security.

Diego Garcia is not an abstract territory. It is a critical US military asset in a region of intensifying strategic competition. As global tensions rise and security rationales expand, history suggests that bases, access

cumstances that justified them.

This does not mean the Chagos deal will unravel. There is no evidence of imminent reversal. But the confidence with which the agreement is often described as irreversible deserves scrutiny. International arrangements are only as strong as the political culture that sustains them. When powerful states demonstrate, repeatedly, that rules yield to necessity elsewhere, smaller states are entitled to ask whether their hard-won legal gains are truly insulated from that logic.

For former colonial territories, this pattern is familiar. Formal sovereignty is acknowledged, while substantive control is retained through strategic, security, or technical arrangements that evolve quietly over time. The language remains cooperative; the paperwork immaculate. But the balance of power remains largely unchanged.

The lesson of the present global moment is not that international law is irrelevant. It is that law no longer enforces itself. Rights secured through courts and diplomacy require sustained political vigilance long after declarations are signed and headlines fade.

For Mauritius, the Chagos settlement remains a landmark achievement. Ensuring that it remains meaningful — in practice as well as in principle — will depend on continued scrutiny, international engagement, and a clear-eyed understanding of how rapidly norms are being tested elsewhere.

The deal may be concluded. The question of its durability is not.

London -- January 8, 2026

SALE BY TENDER NOTICE



SALE BY TENDER

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), a member of AHL Group, invites potential buyers to submit their competitive bid/offer for **Scrapped Items** available at the SSR International Airport

A complete set of bidding document may be downloaded, free of charge, from AML website at <https://aml.mru.aero>

Prospective bidders should visit this website regularly so as to take cognisance of any Addendum and/or Clarification(s) issued.

Potential buyers may inspect the said Scrapped Items on Thursday 22 January 2026 and Friday 23 January 2026 at SSR International Airport, as from 09.00 hrs up to 15.00 hrs.

Bids should be addressed to the Chairperson eProc Committee and deposited in the dedicated Tender Box located at the Ground Floor, AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien on or before **Tuesday 03 February 2026 by 13.00 hrs at latest**. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Date: 08 January 2026



Nandini Bhautoo

The Eternal Rehearsal: Buridan's Ass, Hamlet, Peter Pan and Modernity

From Aristotelian times to the medieval literary landscape, there is an image which recurs across Western thought. It is that of a creature who stands between two equal options and cannot move towards either choice. Aristotle imagined a man, equally hungry and thirsty, paralysed by symmetry.

The Middle Ages, impatient with abstractions, swapped the man for a donkey and let it starve. Buridan's Ass is a famous philosophical paradox. It is the story of a donkey placed exactly midway between two identical bundles of hay. Unable to find any rational reason to choose one over the other, the ass starves to death.

The paradox is used to illustrate a problem in theories of rational choice and free will, with a good degree of satire in its mediaeval version, which apparently was a mediaeval meme before it became attributed to the mediaeval French philosopher Jean Buridan, who wrote on topics such as choice and motivation. So, Buridan's Ass became the emblematic paradox about indecision and rationality

A few centuries later, Shakespeare gives a tragic twist to the paradox of indecision by upgrading the animal into a prince and calls it *Hamlet*. Same architecture, higher budget. Only the tone shifts. Aristotle is earnest. Buridan is mischievous. Shakespeare is tragic. The lesson remains rude and simple: reason, when perfectly balanced, cannot move life. Something irrational - will, desire, superstition, or a lucky hunch - must intervene.

Our age, however, believes it has solved the problem of choice. Welcome to the Kingdom of Choice. Menu stretches to infinity. Every identity has a dropdown. Somewhere out there is the correct door: the right career, the right partner, the right ideology, the right version of the self. Choose well and the future will applaud. Choose badly and - don't worry - there will be a patch update or at least a TikTok to console you.

Ancient philosophy would regard this optimism with gentle contempt. In the *Gita*, in Stoicism, in Buddhism, in Aristotle's ethics, no choice is absolute. Two doors labelled "Right" and "Wrong" often lead, over time, to remarkably similar landscapes. What distinguishes them is not cosmic accuracy but existential posture. To choose is not to escape consequence; it is to *adopt* it. Freedom is not exemption. It is ownership.

Modern culture, however, has perfected the art of choosing without choosing. Decisions become expressions, not commitments. If things go wrong, responsibility is politely outsourced - to systems, algorithms, parents, capitalism, or



Pic - Medium

“From Aristotelian times to the medieval literary landscape, there is an image which recurs across Western thought. It is that of a creature who stands between two equal options and cannot move towards either choice. Aristotle imagined a man, equally hungry and thirsty, paralysed by symmetry. The Middle Ages, impatient with abstractions, swapped the man for a donkey and let it starve. Buridan's Ass is a famous philosophical paradox. It is the story of a donkey placed exactly midway between two identical bundles of hay. Unable to find any rational reason to choose one over the other, the ass starves to death...”

planets in retrograde. One can always rebrand. Thus, we choose endlessly while remaining inwardly untouched. We want doors without thresholds, decisions without destiny.

And here lies the fracture at the heart of modern rationality - the hairline crack we all ignore while scrolling, swiping, liking, and updating our résumés for the self who is forever in a state of becoming. Admit the emptiness at the core of things when willpower disappears, and the illusion collapses: all our clever optimization produces not freedom, but very sophisticated donkeys. The tragedy is invisible, except to the poor ass, which is already buffering between tabs.

Buridan's ass has therefore not disappeared. It has evolved. It no longer dies between two bales of hay; it dies slowly between two TikToks, two job offers, two political

choices, to go or no to go. It does not starve - it buffers, refreshes, refreshes again. Hamlet's existential agony becomes a lifestyle subscription. Paralysis is no longer tragic; it is user-friendly.

Psychology calls this "Peter Pan syndrome." Philosophy calls it metaphysical adolescence. To grow up is to accept that every real choice murders other possible selves. Modernity experiences this not as fate but as trauma. Better to remain "open," "exploring," "in process" - permanently in rehearsal, like an endless Zoom call with destiny.

“Modern culture, however, has perfected the art of choosing without choosing. Decisions become expressions, not commitments. If things go wrong, responsibility is politely outsourced — to systems, algorithms, parents, capitalism, or planets in retrograde. One can always rebrand. Thus, we choose endlessly while remaining inwardly untouched. We want doors without thresholds, decisions without destiny...”

Hence the public figure who, at eighty, still poses as the youthful revolutionary. History wrinkles; the selfie does not. He performs rebellion but never completes it. He denounces without concluding. He preserves innocence by never fully entering consequence. Ancient political thought -- from Aristotle to the *Mahabharata* -- understood rule as tragic: to govern is to choose without guarantees and to wound someone whatever you do. The eternal revolutionary avoids this by staying in the trailer of history, where nothing yet counts.

Literature has always known this. It has not merely recorded indecision; it has mocked it, dignified it, and anatomized it. From Sophocles to Shakespeare, from the *Gita* to Kafka, and from Dostoevsky to Beckett, narrative insists that incoherence is not a modern bug but a human feature. What is new is our refusal to digest it. Earlier cultures ritualized decisions through initiation, tragedy, and myth; ours soothes us with infinite options, push notifications, and the comforting lie that "there's always a next choice."

The ancient verdict remains stubbornly unsentimental: meaning begins where alternatives end. One does not become free by postponing decisions. One becomes free by inhabiting one.

Even a donkey, after all, must eventually step forward -- or prove, with exemplary rationality, that perfection is indeed an excellent way for a legend to die.

Coastal Resorts and Small Enterprises Employees Union

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Coastal Resorts and Small Enterprises Employees Union will be held on **Friday, 27 February 2026**, at **10.00 am** at **Prabhat Hall, Grand-Baie**.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM 2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Mrs Anuradha Ramkurrn
Secretary

16 January 2026

The Union of Employees of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Union of Employees of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care will be held on **Friday, 27 February 2026**, at **12.00 p.m.** at **Prabhat Hall, Grand-Baie**.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM 2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Complete amendments to rules and change of name 5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any) 6. AOB

Arbhaz Nabeebaccus
Secretary

16 January 2026

Bon-Air Cooperative Credit Society and Other Workers Union

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Bon-Air Cooperative Credit Society and Other Workers Union will be held on **Friday, 27 February 2026**, at **2.00 pm** at the **Community Centre, Morc St Andre**.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM 2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any) 5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any) 6. AOB

Indrashan Gajadhr
Secretary

16 January 2026

Rivière du Rempart District Council Employees Union

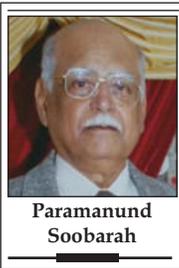
Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Rivière du Rempart District Council Employees Union will be held on **Friday, 27 February 2026**, at **4.00 pm** at the **Community Centre, Morc St Andre**.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM 2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Yashwant Rai Bahadoor
Secretary

16 January 2026



Paramanund
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Civil Aviation

Aviation and Other Threats to National Security

Increasing unauthorized arrivals demand a permanent, 24-hour watch. Strategically placing radar surveillance within 100 nautical miles of Trou-aux-Cerfs and key heights in Rodrigues would significantly strengthen national security.

In October 2025, a Cessna Citation carrying high-profile Malagasy figures, including former PM Christian Ntsay and businessman Mamy Ravatomanga, landed irregularly in Mauritius amidst an attempted coup in Madagascar. Lacking prior clearance, the crew used contradictory justifications — ranging from “medical reasons” to “tourism” — before forcing a landing by declaring a fuel emergency. In this article, former Director of Civil Aviation P. Soobarah uses the incident to analyze national security risks. He argues that while the Chicago Convention facilitates emergency landings, Mauritius must prioritize sovereignty and security through strict local enforcement and decisive executive action.



“In normal peacetime, an Air Traffic Controller faced with a landing request from an aircraft with declared fuel emergency has little choice, but due process for ensuring national security must be followed. Two issues need to be considered. The first issue is local in nature and is the possible threat to national security; these days an additional concern is the possibility of drug smuggling. The second issue is adherence to and respect for international law...”

Press articles about the recent case of the handling of the arrival of an aircraft without prior approval aroused substantial interest in the international rules governing flight across territorial boundaries. These rules are set out in the Chicago Civil Aviation Convention of 1944 and its Annexes. Every country in the world is party to that Convention. Mauritius adhered to it sometime after Independence; prior to that we were party to it under British colonial legislation.

Having spent forty years of my working life actively complying, or overseeing compliance with, those rules, I feel that certain aspects of the process of international regulation of flight across territorial boundaries, including particularly the exceptionally remarkable role of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in the matter, will be of interest. But in this article, I will only deal with the security aspect of the matter.

Wartime situations have their own logic and in that case the airspace is controlled by the military. The Chicago Convention permits the application of special provisions in times of war and emergency conditions. In Mauritius the Colonial Civil (Aviation Application of Act) Order 1952, in force in the country until 1986, strictly followed the Convention. But our own Civil Aviation Act 1974, in force since 1986, sadly evades the question.

Even in peace time authority for certain types of flight, even by locally-based aircraft can be denied. I recall that I was on duty as Air Traffic Controller on a day of November 1963 at the Control Tower in Plaisance, and a political party was holding a massive protest meeting in Port Louis. They contacted the Tower for permission for some sort of a demonstration flight in con-

nection with their movement using a local aircraft. I referred the request to the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA, then Mr F.H. Menham, then my immediate superior). After a couple of minutes, he told me permission was denied. When I informed the requesting party of the decision, they wanted to know who had denied the permission. All that I was authorised to say was that the decision came from higher authorities. There was some arguing, but I stood my ground.

In normal peacetime, an Air Traffic Controller faced with a landing request from an aircraft with declared fuel emergency has little choice, but due process for ensuring national security must be followed. Two issues need to be considered. The first issue is local in nature and is the possible threat to national security; these days an additional concern is the possibility of drug smuggling. The second issue is adherence to and respect for international law.

Concerned authorities for the first issue are the Police, the Customs Department and others, and for the second, the External Communications Division of the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Attorney General, but sitting above them all is the Prime Minister. Usually there isn't the time for normal consultations through the various levels of the hierarchy, and the fastest channel of communication with the Prime Minister must be used.

Concerning international legislation, the relevant law is Article 5 of the Chicago Convention, whose first sentence is as follows:

Article 5: Right Of Non-Scheduled Flight. Each contracting State agrees that all aircraft of the other contracting States, being aircraft not engaged in scheduled

international air services, shall have the right, *subject to the observance of the terms of this Convention*, to make flights into or in transit non-stop across its territory and to make stops for non-traffic purposes **without the necessity of obtaining prior permission**, and subject to the right of the State flown over to require landing. (Italics added.)

When the Convention was being drawn up, an important long-held concern of European nations was freedom of marine navigation on the oceans outside of territorial waters. This article was an attempt to introduce a parallel concept in air law, but it has largely failed to achieve that objective. While the sentence from the article quoted can be said to be its core part, it continues further down later as follows:

“Such aircraft, if engaged in the carriage of passengers, cargo, or mail for remuneration or hire on other than scheduled international air services, shall also, subject to the provisions of Article 7, have the privilege of taking on or discharging passengers, cargo, mail, *subject to the right of any State where such embarkation or discharge takes place to impose such regulations, conditions or limitations as it may consider desirable.*”

If an aircraft arrives without permission, it is not known whether it intends to offload

one or more passengers or other traffic. Most nations find refuge in the bits italicized to impose restrictions which lead to the need of obtaining prior permission. (Article 7 concerns cabotage and is not relevant here.)

Irecall a discussion in the Transport Commission of an ICAO Assembly Meeting in the seventies where the matter was being discussed, and I was part of the Mauritian delegation. I defended our own stipulation regarding the need for prior permission by saying that we had only a small airport where we could (then) accommodate only three aircraft in our parking area, and so it was necessary for non-scheduled foreign aircraft to make prior arrangements with us for ensuring parking space for them.

Conditions have changed since, but far as we are concerned, the core portion of this article can be ignored; non-scheduled aircraft operators have to abide by the conditions set out in our AIP, which include the need to obtain prior permission. Our AIP (the document providing all necessary information for flights to and from Mauritius and within the Mauritian Flight Information Region) is issued in complete accord with the rules framed under the Convention, and so its terms have to be observed.

☞ Cont. on page 13

Civil Aviation

Aviation and Other Threats to National Security

Cont. from page 12

A case of a non-scheduled aircraft arrival occurred about 50 years ago, involving a Rhodesian aircraft. I, as Director of Civil Aviation at the time, had liaised through Security Adviser John Rewcastle, as a result of which the SMF had arrived at the airport fully equipped with armoured vehicles and guns. Prior to landing the aircraft was instructed to come to full stop on the runway after its landing run. Thereafter armoured SMF vehicles were positioned on either side and behind the aircraft, and they then accompanied the aircraft to the parking position in front of the Terminal Building. There was no remote parking position in those days. The pilot was instructed to keep its doors and windows closed until the arrival of Security, Police, Immigration, Health, Customs, and Agriculture officials. Further processing was done by them. I cannot recall what explanations the pilot offered, but it turned out to be a totally harmless situation.

Such need not always be the case; besides, serious security problems need not arise just from aircraft arriving without prior permission. The attempted coup in the Seychelles in 1981 involved people who had arrived by a fully authorised Royal Swazi flight. It was thanks to the diligence of a Customs Officer who detected weapons in a false bottom of a suitcase (supposed to be containing toys only) that the plot was uncovered. Following the Customs Officer's discovery, fighting broke out at the airport, and eventually the mainly South African terrorists hijacked an Air India plane on a technical stop at the airport and forced the pilot to fly them to Durban.

The team aboard the Royal Swazi aircraft, it was subsequently confirmed, had come with firm plans for a regime change and had been preceded by an advance party that had apparently prepared the ground for them. But it is doubtful whether the management of Royal Swazi had any knowledge of the intentions of the terrorists, who had pretended they were members of a beer-drinking club on a mission to distribute toys to children in the Seychelles. It was later confirmed that the attempt had been secretly authorised by South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha and had been actively assisted by Defence Minister Magnus Malan, both being subsequently exposed during Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings. Allegedly deposed Prime Minister Sir James Mancham was also party to the attempt, but he denied all knowledge of it.

It is a matter for consideration whether an action-ready detachment of the SMF should be permanently posted at the airport or not. According to Wikipedia, an article of the *Gung Ho* magazine of May 1981 titled "Mercenary opportunities west of Suez" had



“Threats to security (and crimes like drug-smuggling) can also occur at the seaport. Furthermore, ships on the ocean lanes can accost the country readily – as happened in the MV Wakashio case. (Could such a ship have approached so close to our coast without the knowledge and express consent of the Prime minister?). With the growth of yachting capabilities, threats can also occur at any point on the coast or on one of our numerous islets around the main Island, and indeed in some or other of the dependent Islands like Rodrigues, Agalega and St. Brandon...”

“extolled the benefits and possibilities associated with a mercenary take-over of Seychelles and Mauritius”. All at Seychelles (and Mauritius) had remained blissfully ignorant of the article, and the attempt in Seychelles was actually made a few months later, on 25 November 1981.

Threats to security (and crimes like drug-smuggling) can also occur at the seaport. Furthermore, ships on the ocean lanes can accost the country readily – as happened in the MV Wakashio case. (Could such a ship have approached so close to our coast without the knowledge and express consent of the Prime minister?). With the growth of yachting capabilities, threats can also occur at any point on the coast or on one of our numerous islets around the main Island, and indeed in some or other of the dependent Islands like Rodrigues, Agalega and St. Brandon.

In these days when drones are no longer just toys, they could be launched from a ship in our neighbourhood and land just at any point in the country to deposit their cargo. The watch against criminals has become much tougher. It is time to put the whole country including the dependent islands and our territorial waters under constant radar surveillance and also to impose mandatory death sentence for drug trafficking as is done in Singapore.

Precautions in handling cases of aircraft arriving without prior clearance are therefore absolutely necessary; the procedures employed previously in the Rhodesian aircraft case in Mauritius authenticate the wisdom of our higher authorities. I am not aware of the details of the recent case, but the public display of irritation by the Acting Prime Minister was absolutely appropriate. Until it was determined by the relevant authorities

that no security threat existed, the possibility of such a threat — along with the potential for drug smuggling — could not be dismissed, and appropriate preemptive action should have been taken. Such action could only have been ordered by the acting Prime Minister. Allowing the flight to land without taking such protective measures was, in my view, a serious dereliction of duty.

To demonstrate to the nation that compromises with national security are taken

“Serious security problems need not arise just from aircraft arriving without prior permission. The attempted coup in the Seychelles in 1981 involved people who had arrived by a fully authorised Royal Swazi flight. It was thanks to the diligence of a Customs Officer who detected weapons in a false bottom of a suitcase (supposed to be containing toys only) that the plot was uncovered. Following the Customs Officer's discovery, fighting broke out at the airport, and eventually the mainly South African terrorists hijacked an Air India plane on a technical stop at the airport and forced the pilot to fly them to Durban...”

seriously, I believe a token high-profile arrest even for just a day should have been made. I am not suggesting that the Air Traffic Controller on duty should have been dragged to jail. He only carries out instructions. Approved standing instructions for dealing with such cases, and the particular instructions given to the Air Traffic Controller on the occasion, will have been examined. Even in the absence of such instructions, a Controller cannot be blamed for issuing a clearance to land to an aircraft with declared fuel or other emergency. But if in the process he fails to alert higher authorities at once, that would be a different matter.

These issues also point to the need for the Control Tower to be keeping a listening watch round the clock. With the frequency of aircraft arrivals and departures these days this is probably already happening. In the

early days, in the fifties and sixties, the Tower was not even manned when no aircraft movement was expected. Up to the end of the fifties there used to be only one Air Traffic Controller; in the early sixties, two, and from about the middle of the sixties, three. But even with three Controllers it would not have been possible to keep a permanent watch.

With the increase in traffic after Independence, staff numbers were increased, but I cannot recall if and when strict 24-hour watch was imposed. The traffic situation today is very, very different. While formerly an aircraft in the neighbourhood would only be travelling to or from Plaisance Airport, today aircraft crisscross our region without landing. I understand that ICAO offered the entire oceanic area around the country down to the South Pole as Flight Information Region to Mauritius; this would have been a matter of great pride for the nation. However, the offer was turned down; this could only have been done by, or with the authority of, the Prime Minister at the time.

Flights between Southern Africa and SE Asia (e.g. Singapore) do cross the Mauritian Region, but those between Australia and Southern Africa do not – our Region does not go far enough to the south for that to happen. The reasons for turning the offer down were, apparently, anticipated communications difficulties and Search and Rescue requirements. With satellite communications the entire Indian and Antarctic Oceans are within reach, and with the USAF based in Diego Garcia no point is beyond

reach for Search and Rescue purposes. Besides, even with the present situation, SSRIA would still be the nearest port for a diversion in cases of emergency at some stage of the flights between Australia and Southern Africa. I am absolutely certain that Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, under whom I worked closely for ten years, would never have allowed such a thing to happen.

The possibility of an unauthorized arrival has increased, and so also the need for a permanent watch. Keeping a radar watch on traffic within 100 nautical miles of Trou-aux-Cerfs and also of some high point in Rodrigues would be very helpful. No opportunity must be left to evil-doers to harm our country or misguide the youths of our country.

Paramanund Soobarah

Across the Globe

Trump says Iran 'killing' has stopped

US President Donald Trump said "the killing has stopped" in Iran, though he warned that Washington was still weighing military action against the country. Thousands of people are reported to have been killed in the weeks-long protests, and Trump has vowed to support demonstrators, saying help was "on its way."

Tehran has threatened the US with reprisals were it to be attacked, alongside conciliatory signals, including the suspension of a protester's execution. Washington's Gulf allies — including several of Iran's own rivals — have also pushed against a US military intervention, warning that the ripple effects would undermine regional security and damage their reputations as havens for foreign capital, *The New York Times* reported.

* * *



Trump administration rakes in \$500 million in first Venezuelan oil sale. Pic – Washington Examiner

US sells \$500M of Venezuelan oil

The US sold its first tranche of Venezuelan oil, a milestone in its stewardship of the country's energy sector since ousting Nicolás Maduro. The \$500 million sale, some of the proceeds of which were kept in Qatar, was first reported by *Semafor*, with *The New York Times* adding that the White House could expand the plan: US President Donald Trump has vowed to take control of tens of millions of barrels of Venezuelan crude and distribute some of the proceeds back to Caracas, part of Washington's bid to revive Venezuela's oil industry. Mean-while, the US is expected to expand Chevron's license to operate in Venezuela, though experts warned that doubling production there may cost as much as \$100 billion.

* * *

Europe steps up Greenland presence

Denmark and allied European countries are sending troops to Greenland as President Donald Trump presses for a US takeover of the autonomous territory. The move follows a "frank" White House meeting in which Greenlandic and Danish ministers said a "fundamental disagreement" with Washington remains.

The parties agreed to form a high-level group to discuss Greenland's future, as Europe seeks deals favouring "conciliation over confrontation with Trump," *Politico* reported. Trump has also urged Denmark to eliminate Russian and Chinese influence in the Arctic. While he overstated their current presence, Danish intelligence says Beijing and Moscow are seeking to expand activities there.

* * *

Metal prices hit record highs



Gold prices hit a record high as economic uncertainty looms - ABC News

Gold, silver, copper, and tin all reached record highs as investors sought safe havens amid geopolitical tensions and concerns over the independence of the US Federal Reserve. A commodities analyst told the *Financial Times* there was "no precedent" for all four metals peaking simultaneously.

Fears of US military action against Iran, following Maduro's ouster in Venezuela, and the probe into the Fed chair have driven stockpiling and set the metals market "on fire," CNN reported.

US Carrier Strike Group rerouted to Middle East amid Iran tensions

The ongoing tension between the United States and Iran escalated on Wednesday after reports confirmed that the aircraft carrier **USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)** and its carrier strike group are being redeployed from the South China Sea to the Middle East. NewsNation correspondent Kellie Meyer first reported the movement, citing sources with knowledge of the matter.

The redeployment comes as the Trump administration intensifies its warnings to Tehran following a violent crackdown on anti-government protests that began in late December 2025. While the movement has not been formally announced by the Pentagon, military analysts suggest the transit will take "a week or so" to complete.

Airspace Disruptions and Regional Alerts

The naval movement coincides with significant disruptions in regional aviation:

- **Iran Airspace:** Early on Thursday, January 15, Iran temporarily closed its airspace (Tehran FIR) for several hours. While the restrictions have since expired and flights have begun to resume, many international carriers continue to divert.
- **Lufthansa Group:** The German airline group — including Swiss, Austrian,



Why a US aircraft carrier's voyage to the Middle East is causing ripples around Taiwan. Pic - South China Morning Post

and Brussels Airlines — announced it will bypass both **Iranian and Iraqi airspace** "until further notice."

- **Qatar Base Evacuation:** The US has initiated a "change of posture" at the **Al Udeid Air Base** in Qatar. Some personnel were advised to evacuate on Wednesday as a precaution following Iranian threats against US bases in neighboring countries.

Escalation Context

The sudden military posturing follows a statement from President Trump, who warned that the US is "locked and loaded" to intervene if the Iranian regime continues to use deadly force against protesters. Human rights organizations report that thousands have been killed or arrested during the 18 days of unrest.

Ailing astronaut returns to Earth in NASA's first medical evacuation from Space Station

An ailing astronaut returned to Earth early Thursday, marking the first time NASA has cut short a space station mission for medical reasons. The unexpected return brought four astronauts back more than a month ahead of schedule, ending a mission that began in August aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

The astronauts splashed down in the Pacific Ocean near San Diego shortly before dawn after an 11-hour journey from orbit. The return capsule, operated by SpaceX, completed a routine entry and splashdown, and recovery teams were on hand with their standard complement of medical personnel.

"It's so good to be home," said NASA astronaut Zena Cardman, who served as commander of the capsule.

Cardman was joined on the return by fellow NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, Japan's Kimiya Yui, and Russia's Oleg Platonov. NASA and SpaceX declined to identify which crew member experienced the medical issue or provide details about the condition, citing medical privacy. Officials said the astronaut was stable while in orbit but needed to return to Earth promptly for further evaluation and care that could not be provided aboard the space station.



Ailing astronaut returns to Earth early in NASA's first medical evacuation. Pic - idahostatejournal.com

The medical issue arose on Jan. 7, prompting NASA to cancel a planned spacewalk the following day by Cardman and Fincke. After monitoring the situation, the agency decided to bring the crew home early. NASA emphasized repeatedly that the situation was not considered an emergency and that no special procedures were required for the return.

This was the first time NASA has ended a spaceflight early due to medical concerns, although Russian space agencies have taken similar actions decades ago. The early return leaves the ISS temporarily staffed by just three crew members—one American and two Russians. While the station has operated with reduced crews before, NASA said it will be unable to conduct spacewalks, even in an emergency, until the arrival of the next crew.

* Contd on page 15



Iran closes airspace to most flights as tensions with US escalate. Pic - AOL

Why Iran's airspace is a global aviation chokepoint

Iran's geography makes its airspace one of the most vital corridors in the world. It serves as the primary great-circle route connecting Europe with South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.

• **Fuel and Time Efficiency:** Flying through the Tehran Flight Information Region (FIR) saves airlines roughly 60 to 90 minutes per flight compared to southern detours.

• **Operational Constraints:** For some ultra-long-haul flights (e.g., India to the US), bypassing Iran makes the route

"fuel-infeasible," meaning the aircraft cannot carry enough fuel for the extra distance, leading to cancellations.

The high cost of rerouting

The sudden closure on Wednesday night (GMT) triggered a logistical crisis for several major carriers:

• **Air India & IndiGo:** Both airlines reported significant delays. Air India was forced to cancel multiple flights to New York, Newark, and London because alternative routes were too long for current fuel capacities.

• **Lufthansa Group:** Carriers including Swiss and Austrian Airlines have opted to bypass both Iranian and Iraqi airspace "until further notice," despite the reopening, citing safety concerns.

• **Economic Impact:** Rerouting adds thousands of dollars in fuel costs per flight, a burden that typically translates into higher passenger fares.

A history of "deadly mistakes"

The primary reason airlines remain wary of Iranian skies is the risk of misidentification by air defense systems.

• **Flight PS752 (2020):** Iranian air defences shot down a Ukraine International Airlines flight shortly after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board.

• **Current High Alert:** With the US USS Abraham Lincoln strike group moving into the region and President Trump warning of "imminent" action to support Iranian protesters, experts believe Iran's air defences are on a "hair-trigger," significantly increasing the risk of another accidental shoot-down.



Norway's EV Revolution. Pic - YouTube

Norway leads global EV charge

More than 97% of cars sold in Norway last year were electric or plug-in hybrids, and EVs now outnumber both diesel and petrol cars on the country's roads. In 2017, Oslo set an ambitious target of ending fossil-fuel car sales by 2025, "and it basically got there," Electrek reported. December numbers were even starker than the whole-year figures. Norway has long led the way on EVs, with generous incentives for consumers to buy them, and despite a few wobbles for the industry, the rest of the world is heading in a similar direction. EVs now account for 25% of global market share, with Europe and Asia leading the charge, an Ember Energy report found.

Across the Globe

Uganda blocks internet ahead of vote

Uganda shut down internet access ahead of this week's presidential election as Yoweri Museveni seeks a seventh term. Authorities cited preventing the "weaponization of the internet," but critics say the blackout aims to curb potential protests.

Opposition candidate and pop singer Bobi Wine remains defiant: "They'll see me broken, but they'll never see me give up," he told *The New York Times*.



Cancer patients. Pic - Liv Hospital

Cancer patients are living longer

US five-year cancer survival rates surpassed 70% for the first time, the American Cancer Society reports. This represents steady progress since the 1970s, when survival rates were around 50%. Early screening and improved treatment have contributed to these gains, though cuts in science funding could threaten progress.

2026 could be 'hinge year' for geopolitics

There are no signs that global volatility will dissipate next year, several analysts projected. Crucial elections defined 2024, and in 2025, US President Donald

Trump upended global commerce and intervened in foreign conflicts. 2026 will see a further fraying of norms, a geopolitical risk consultant argued: "The long-term shift to a more anarchic world order is accelerating," marked by overlapping spheres of influence.

2026 will be "a hinge year" for global power, especially surrounding Venezuela and Ukraine, while Israeli elections could alter Middle East dynamics, a former US envoy wrote. A shipping expert predicted 2026 could be "the year of the tariff consequences," but a *Bloomberg* columnist is bullish about the US economy.

Religiosity on the rise

Religiosity is on the rise in France and Britain, driven by growing interest among young people disillusioned with their country's political leadership. France has seen increased attendance at prayer ceremonies across Christian, Jewish, and Muslim services, *Le Monde* reported, with youths in particular "openly displaying their beliefs and wearing religious symbols that older generations had set aside."

Overall church attendance among young adults has quadrupled since 2018 in Britain -- albeit from a base of just 4% -- which one *Bloomberg* columnist linked to young people living through "broken promises and frustrated hopes." In the US, meanwhile, churchgoing has largely held stable for years, after a protracted period of decline, according to research by Pew.

India, China scrutinize delivery apps

The world's two most populous countries are stepping up regulation of delivery platforms in a bid to curb damaging competitive practices. China's antitrust regulator this week opened an investigation into the country's e-commerce sector to target aggressive discounting that has pushed prices down and dampened margins. Indian authorities convinced major delivery apps to stop promising 10-minute delivery times, following concerns



Delivery apps. Pic - Smarther Technologies

about the impact on gig workers' health and safety.

Competition in the Indian market has driven a "quick commerce" sector boom, aided by strategically located warehouses and armies of drivers who could be penalized for late deliveries. Some 200,000 gig workers recently protested across the country to call for better wages and conditions.

China reports \$1.2T trade surplus

China reported a record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus last year, signalling resilience amid US tariffs. While exports to the US have fallen, shipments to Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia surged in 2025, raising concerns that local industries may be undercut by cheap Chinese imports.

Trump has vowed to boost Chinese purchases of US products and stated that market access "is going to happen," Reuters reported. Canada's prime minister will also push to increase Chinese imports of Canadian goods, which dropped over 10% last year.



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From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 326

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 25th November, 1960

• Popular opinion is the greatest lie in the world. — Thomas Carlyle



Dr Philippe Forget

Science and Our Needs

Professor Meade, whose report on economic development should be published fairly soon, described briefly the necessary prerequisites to economic advance in Mauritius at the memorable lecture he gave at the Plaza. These prerequisites were three in number. First, a bigger savings pile was needed

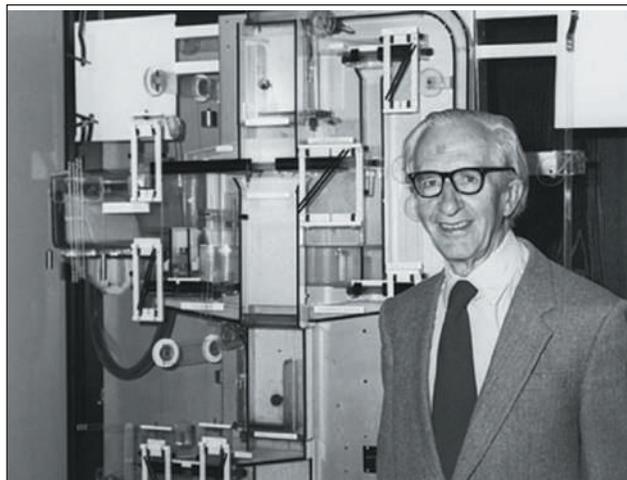
— which could only be achieved if population pressure was realistically stemmed. Next, a considerable increase in technical know-how was essential. Finally, wage restraint must be conceded, for cheap labor would be vital in the early stages of competitive production.

The least pessimistic among his audience can hardly have scanned those prerequisites with equanimity. But few could have assessed, then, the actual viscosity of conformity to conventional values in Mauritius. In April last, confronted by birth control as the sole means of population control, the forces of conformity cringed away — and left the problem unsolved. Sociologists and psychologists would find interesting material in a study of that episode. But it will remain for History to record the long-term effects — not only in economic terms but, also, in physical misery and its concomitant jeopardy of higher aspirations. Such was round number one and the fate of Professor Meade's first prerequisite.

Fundamental Capacity

It would be contrary to the fundamental capacity of the human race to profit by experience if one envisaged the desired increase in technical know-how (Professor Meade's second prerequisite) as a smooth development to be achieved by rational cooperative effort. That a number of blind and therefore unpredictable forces will emerge to impede progress is only too likely. To forestall this opposition is a pressing duty. Again, previous experience suggests that measures aimed at technical progress must not be sprung as a surprise, but that the necessary awareness and slow psychological reorientation must be encouraged first. General resistance to change, the antagonism of older age groups to new techniques in the hands of younger men, the traditions of achievement by seniority, and undue focusing on salary, the standard of professional achievement as a measure of all achievement in life, are some of the foes to be encountered sooner or later in pressing forward a plan for technical progress.

Technical progress, taken in the broadest sense, is a crying need of Mauritian society now at a turning point of its history. It is no visionary scheme which ascribes to science this earnest and important role; world experience thrusts towards us the glaring truth that survival today — let alone improvement in standards of life — is inseparably linked with investment in science: natural science, applied science, and social science. In return for the bounty of technical ideas, science demands a favorable climate for its unhampered expansion. Already, a hundred years ago, Pasteur could write: "Les laboratoires sont les temples de l'avenir, de la richesse et du bien-être" — nor was he concerned only with material "bien-être," for he added: "C'est là que l'humanité grandit, se fortifie, devient meilleure." Pasteur, one in the long line of men of science,



"Professor Meade" most commonly refers to Nobel laureate James Meade, a renowned 20th-century economist known for his foundational work on international trade and national accounting. He taught at LSE and Cambridge, helped develop Keynesian economics, and famously (though perhaps inaccurately) predicted Mauritius's poor economic future before its success. Pic - Wikipedia

benefactors of humanity, was showing the way one hundred years ago.

Application And Research

The two main avenues of technical progress are application and research. Application depends in the first place on availability of technical know-how, on the men who know the technique and will apply it if given the suitable conditions of work. It depends also on public receptivity and attitude, itself a by-product of inspired educational methods. One has a feeling that nonetheless the avenue of application may well be the easier one, and that the concept of research as a vital parallel activity is probably further from attaining recognition. Research conveys a picture of costly institutions and apparatus, of a few men devoting large sums and tireless energy to smaller and smaller problems, the relationship of which to consumer goods is remote and uncertain. To some extent a version of this picture, freed from exaggeration and the prejudice which sticks to the unfamiliar, is not altogether untrue. But it would be untrue to say that this was the whole of research.

Research is concerned also to an always great extent with fact-finding. Fact-finding about social problems awakens social consciousness and "in so far as a society fails to identify by fact and not by inference its contemporary and changing social problems, it must expect its social conscience and its democratic values to languish." (1) Fact-finding about local nature cannot fail to foster national feelings and a sense of belonging here that are far from negligible. Such fact-finding we need most. Whether it be about the rate of procured abortion, or the economic wastage due to asthma; whether it be concerned with the extent to which "greater democratization of public life intensifies the conflict over the individual's personal identity" (2) or the extent to which a close season of net fishing in summer preserves a steady fish population in our lagoons; fact-finding about superstition and paramagical practices, their relevance to the health of the community; research in social ideas or small crafts; fact-finding as opposed to fancy, to wishful thinking, to hypo-

critical camouflage or to static conformity of public opinion.

Recently, scientists of Western Europe estimated that 0.2% of the gross national product is about the right amount to invest in research. One cannot avoid the thought that underdeveloped countries would have much to gain in devoting similar or even larger percentages to research. On the basis of a gross national product of 666m. in 1958, research in Mauritius has a right to 1 1/3m. in our budget. Research is not only an investment; it is a formative discipline. Its method, the scientific method, is unrivalled in the quest for truth. Then, research, inasmuch as it rejects absolutism, thrives on humility and receptivity, and is content to oppose irrational beliefs by the inexorable principle of "limited but increasing certitude," has a vital role to play in clearing some of the fog that shrouds us. Provided, of course, that research should be encouraged as an inner activity of the community, a facet of its life, not as a monkeying of facts imported from elsewhere.

A number of measures must be designed to achieve this integration of research and the scientific method (as an attitude) in the community. No foreign scientist should be brought here on contract before and unless a suitable Mauritian candidate has been selected and sent abroad to acquire the equivalent knowledge. A greatly expanded programme of scholarships must be pushed forward and candidates selected strictly on merit. The closed-shop attitude which restricts the selection of candidates to privileged groups — whether these be social groups or the civil service — must be mercilessly tracked and eradicated. Within all technical departments, the arrogance of seniority must be stigmatized and combated. Not only must merit be given its due, but the country must exploit merit to the full — the kind of national suicide which consists in holding back enthusiasm and skill until it succumbs into tepid conformity must not be tolerated.

Research facilities, the proper freedom of scientific thought, must provide the desirable environment. We must be constantly on our guard lest we accept scientists who in their country would be third-rate, and should not watch complacently technicians in one field becoming experts in other fields — a metamorphosis catalyzed by bigger and bigger emoluments. Specialists must not abandon their special field for administrative duties, for this represents a misapplication of the public funds devoted to their acquiring specialist training. We must undoubtedly forgo the luxury of overseas leave and invest the corresponding savings in study leaves, more scholarships and refresher courses. These and many more things we must do quickly to provide a substantial increase in technical know-how.

To be continued next week

Raashtriya Sanatan Sansthaan

The Annual General Meeting of the Raashtriya Sanatan Sansthaan will be held on **Saturday, 28 February 2026, at 6.00 pm at Prabhat Hall, Grand-Baie.**

AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

16 January 2026

Indrashan Gajadhar
Secretary

Global web freedoms tumble

Global internet freedom declined for a 15th consecutive year, according to Freedom House's annual report. "Always grim reading," this year's is particularly sobering, Tech Policy Press noted, with the lowest-ever portion of users living in countries categorized as "free." Conditions declined in 27 of the 72 countries assessed, with those in Kenya – where anti-corruption protests were quelled, in part, by a seven-hour internet shutdown – deteriorating



Pic - Florence Lo/Reuters

the most. China and Myanmar tied for least-free, and the US' ranking dropped, while

Iceland retained its top spot for the freest digital environment. Bangladesh improved the most. The most consistent trend observed over 15 years, Freedom House noted, is the growing digital influence of state actors: "Online spaces are more manipulated than ever."

* * *

China has 2 million factory robots

China has more factory robots than the rest of the world combined. More than 2 million robots were working in Chinese factories

in 2024, and 300,000 new ones were installed during the year; US factories added 34,000, The New York Times reported. The machines range from simple claws that lift boxes onto conveyor belts to machines that weld car parts together. China is making robots as well as using them: Beijing has used directives and subsidies to encourage Chinese companies to become leaders in robotics manufacturing. China's robotics boom— it has installed at least 150,000 robots every year since 2017— has coincided with a manufacturing one.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec): Next week encourages introspection and re-evaluating priorities. You may feel drawn to learning or travel plans. Relationships need patience — avoid impulsive words. Career prospects improve if you focus on long-term goals. Health: moderate exercise helps.
Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 12, 18, 25, 32

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan): Work demands take center stage. Your discipline will pay off in tangible results. Avoid overcommitting socially; boundaries are key. A financial opportunity may appear — assess carefully. Emotional clarity comes from journaling or reflection.
Lucky numbers: 4, 9, 14, 21, 28, 36

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb): Innovation and creativity peak. Use this energy to start a new project or hobby. Friendships strengthen through shared goals. Romance is playful; unexpected encounters bring excitement. Health benefits from mental relaxation techniques.
Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 11, 19, 23, 37

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar): Emotional insight guides your decisions. Trust intuition, especially in partnerships. Avoid overthinking finances; stick to your budget. Career shifts may feel slow but steady progress matters. Health: hydration and light exercise restore energy.
Lucky numbers: 5, 10, 16, 22, 29, 35

Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr): Dynamic energy drives success in work and personal life. Channel impatience into constructive action. Communication is key clarity avoids misunderstandings. Romance sparks from shared adventures. Health: outdoor activity boosts mood.
Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 13, 17, 26, 31

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May): Stability and comfort are highlighted. Focus on home, finances, and self-care. Avoid stubbornness in disputes; compromise leads to harmony. Creativity flows through artistic or culinary projects. Health: restful sleep improves resilience.
Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 15, 20, 27, 33

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun): Curiosity leads to learning and networking opportunities. Adaptability is rewarded at work. Avoid gossip — focus on meaningful conversations. Emotional balance comes from reflection and honest discussions. Health: light cardio energizes.
Lucky numbers: 2, 7, 14, 18, 24, 39

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul): Family and emotional connections dominate. Open communication resolves tensions. Career: focus on collaborative projects rather than solo efforts. Romance benefits from shared understanding. Health: gentle yoga supports mental calm.
Lucky numbers: 5, 10, 16, 23, 30, 38

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug): Confidence and leadership shine. Career opportunities may bring recognition. Social interactions thrive; avoid unnecessary conflicts. Romance is exciting, but patience is needed with close ones. Health: maintain energy with balanced diet.
Lucky numbers: 4, 9, 12, 19, 25, 34

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep): Attention to detail brings success at work. Planning ahead prevents stress. Relationships require honesty and empathy. A financial decision may need careful thought. Health: routine check-ups or preventive care help stability.
Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 11, 18, 24, 32

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct): Harmony and balance guide the week. Partnerships flourish with patience and diplomacy. Financial clarity comes through organization. Creativity is stimulated—express it through art or writing. Health: meditation reduces stress.
Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 13, 20, 27, 36

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov): Intense focus improves problem-solving. Personal growth arises through introspection. Romantic connections deepen through honesty. Careers require strategic moves; avoid impulsive choices. Health: mindful eating supports wellbeing.
Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 15, 21, 28, 30



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NOTE TO APPLICANTS:

1. AGE LIMIT: Candidates unless already employed in the public service or in parastatal organisations should not have reached their 45th birthday by the closing date for the submission of applications.
2. Applicant should possess and submit all certificates / qualifications/testimonials at the time of application.
3. The onus for the submission of equivalence of qualification (if applicable) from the relevant authorities rests on the candidate.
4. The title of the post applied should be clearly marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
5. Application letters received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.
6. Selected candidates will be required to submit a Certificate of Character to the CWA within 3 months of joining office.
7. Non-submission of information/documents at time of application will entail disqualification of the applicant.
8. Incomplete, inadequate or inaccurate filling of the Application Form may entail elimination of the applicant.

CLOSING DATE: Applications should reach the CWA not later than 14.00 hrs on 23 January 2026.

MODE OF APPLICATION:

All applications should be made on the prescribed form with copies of academic and professional certificates together with documentary evidence of working experience claimed.

Application forms may be downloaded from our website <https://cwa.govmu.org> or collected at the Reception Counter of the Head Office from 09.00hrs to 15.00hrs on weekdays and sent to:

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From Scorpion Venom to AI: Pioneering Frontiers in Cancer Treatment

Scientists are turning venom, radioisotopes, engineered proteins, and AI into powerful new tools against cancer

Scientists are harnessing an extraordinary array of tools — from scorpion venom and radioisotopes to engineered proteins and artificial intelligence (AI) — to fight cancer in ways previously thought impossible. Recent research demonstrates how nature, biotechnology, and cutting-edge computing are converging to target tumors with precision, offering hope for more effective and personalized therapies.

Nature's Pharmacy: Amazonian Scorpion Venom

Researchers at the University of São Paulo's Ribeirão Preto School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FCFRP-USP) have made a significant discovery in the fight against breast cancer. They identified a molecule in the venom of the Amazonian scorpion, *Brotheas amazonicus*, that attacks breast cancer cells similarly to paclitaxel, a common chemotherapy drug.

"Through bioprospecting, we identified a molecule in this scorpion species that acts against breast cancer cells," said Eliane Candiani Arantes, project coordinator at FCFRP-USP. This discovery is part of a broader effort to turn venom components into biopharmaceutical tools.

- **Fibrin Sealant:** Researchers are cloning and expressing proteins from snake and scorpion venom to develop therapies, including a patented fibrin sealant ("biological glue") that mimics the body's natural clotting

process for applications in nerve and bone repair.

- **Anti-Tumour Peptides:** They have also identified other scorpion neurotoxins and peptides, such as BamazScplp1, which showed cancer cell-killing effects comparable to chemotherapy in lab tests.

Precision Medicine: Theranostics and Vaccines

Two major approaches are driving personalized treatment: Theranostics and Immunotherapy.

Radioisotopes for Precision Theranostics

The Cancer Theranostics Innovation Center (CancerThera) in Campinas is pioneering Theranostics, an approach that combines diagnosis and treatment. This involves attaching radioisotopes to tumor-targeting molecules.

This dual-action strategy allows doctors to:

1. Visualize tumors through imaging.
2. Deliver targeted radiation therapy directly to the cancer cells.

This approach is being explored for multiple cancers, including head and neck, liver, and thyroid cancers, offering a critical alternative for patients resistant to conventional treatments.

Personalized Cancer Vaccines

At the University of São Paulo's Biomedical Sciences Institute, scientists are developing personalized immunotherapies using dendritic cells. These immune



cells are often compromised in cancer patients.

Researchers fuse a patient's tumor cells with dendritic cells from healthy donors to create a personalized vaccine. This vaccine trains the patient's immune system to mount a strong, targeted attack against the tumor, treating it effectively "like a transplant," according to project coordinator José Alexandre Marzagão Barbuto. Early studies in melanoma, kidney cancer, and glioblastoma patients have shown encouraging results.

AI-Powered Prognosis

On the computational frontier, researchers in France are leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance the prognostic power of MRI scans for glioblastoma patients.

AI models analyze the scans to predict crucial DNA modifications in tumors — such as *MGMT* promoter methylation — that directly influence how effective chemotherapy will be, all without the need for invasive biopsies.

"AI allows us to predict survival with 80–90% accuracy, surpassing existing methods," said Elizabeth Moyal, highlighting AI's potential to precisely tailor treatment decisions and significantly improve patient outcomes.

By bridging biology, technology, and computational power, these breakthroughs are heralding a future where cancer treatment is not only more effective but also custom-tailored to the individual patient's unique disease.



Why does orange juice taste bad after you brush your teeth?

Sour acidic tastes turn bitter after you brush your teeth with toothpaste.

It's a mistake you hopefully only make once. In your morning rush to get ready, you brush your teeth before you head to the kitchen and down a big glass of orange juice. Yuck!

What makes your clean, minty mouth taste so gross when it meets OJ?

The short answer is that toothpaste contains a detergent that dissolves fat. And since your taste buds are partly made of fat, they are disrupted whenever you brush your teeth.

Before you decide you need to stop brushing your teeth to save your taste buds, know that this disruption is temporary, lasting only a few minutes. Brushing with toothpaste is still important for your health.

But how does this change in taste happen? And how are the taste receptors that are all over the surface of your tongue supposed to work?

I'm a psychologist, and I've spent more than 40 years researching the science of how people experience taste and flavor.

Let's look at the science behind this phenomenon:

A bittersweet symphony

Thanks to evolution, your brain is wired to make you love the sweet sugars your body and brain need for fuel and hate the bitter poisons that could kill you. So your receptors for these two particular tastes are vital to your survival.

All of the cells in your body are held together by an outer layer, known as the membrane, that is made up of fats called



There's a scientific reason your OJ tastes funny after you brush your teeth. JGI/Tom Grill/Tetra Images via Getty Images

lipids. And in sweet or bitter taste receptor cells, the cell membranes also contain a special molecule called a G protein-coupled receptor, or GPCR.

Some GPCRs are designed to detect sweet tastes. They tune out all compounds that aren't sweet and respond only to the sugars your body can use. Others detect bitter tastes, tuning in to the large number of compounds in nature that are poisonous. They act as a built-in alarm system.

Salty chips and sour candies

Your perception of saltiness and sourness happens a little differently. These tastes are detected when positively charged ions called cations pass through tiny openings in the cell membrane of your salty and sour receptors.

In the case of saltiness, the cation is the positively charged sodium found in sodium chloride — common table salt.

For acidic, or sour, tastes, the cation is a positively charged hydrogen ion. While

different types of acids may contain different chemical compounds, they all contain the hydrogen cation.

When you eat potato chips, the positively charged sodium cations from the salt pass through special openings in a receptor's membrane, producing the salty taste. Similarly, the hydrogen cations in your favorite sour candy slip through other special openings in your sour receptor's membrane and send a "sour" signal to your brain.

Toothpaste and OJ

The orange juice that many people like to drink with breakfast is naturally high in sugar. But it also contains citric acid, with its hydrogen cations. As a result, it's a delicious combination of both sweet and a little sour.

But if you brush your teeth before breakfast, your OJ tastes terrible. What's changed?

It's not just that minty tastes clash with sweet ones. Toothpaste contains the detergent sodium lauryl sulfate, which helps remove dental plaque from your teeth. Plaque is the sticky film of germs that can cause cavities and make your breath smell bad.

If you ever do the dishes, you've probably seen what happens when you squirt detergent into a sink full of greasy water: The detergent breaks up the greasy fat, making it easy to wipe it off the dishes and rinse them clean.

But there's another type of fat in your mouth that the detergent in toothpaste dis-

rupts — the lipids in the cell membranes of your taste receptors. Brushing your teeth breaks up that layer of lipids, temporarily changing how you perceive taste.

Testing it out

Back in 1980, I conducted a study with a couple of my colleagues who were studying chemistry. We wanted to know how the tongue responds to sweet, bitter, salty and sour after being exposed to sodium lauryl sulfate, the detergent in toothpaste.

We conducted an experiment with seven student volunteers at Yale. They tasted very high concentrations of sweet sucrose, sour citric acid, salt and bitter quinine, both before and after holding a solution (0.05%) of sodium lauryl sulfate in their mouths for one minute.

You could conduct your own version of this experiment with something sweet like sugar, a little table salt, orange juice and tonic water. Taste them before you brush your teeth and then after, and see what happens!

We found that the intensity of the tastes of sucrose, salt and quinine were reduced by a small amount, but the most important change was that a bitter taste was added to the sour taste of citric acid.

This is why, instead of tasting sweet with a bit of nice tanginess, your OJ tastes bitter after you brush your teeth.

Linda Bartoshuk

Research Professor of Psychology, George Washington University



When Love Dresses Go Wrong

A mother-in-law stopped by unexpectedly at her recently married son's house.

She knocked on the door -- and immediately walked in. She was shocked to see her daughter-in-law lying on the couch completely naked.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I'm waiting for Jeff to come home from work," the daughter-in-law replied.

"But you're naked!" the mother-in-law exclaimed.

"This is my love dress," the daughter-in-law said.

"Love dress? But you're naked!"

"Jeff loves me to wear it. It makes him happy, and it makes me happy."

On the way home, the mother-in-law thought about the love dress. When she got home, she undressed, showered, put on her best perfume, and lay provocatively on the couch, waiting for her husband.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"This is my love dress," she said.

He looked her over and replied:

"Needs ironing. What's for dinner?"

* * *

If You Can't Beat 'Em, Conjoin 'Em

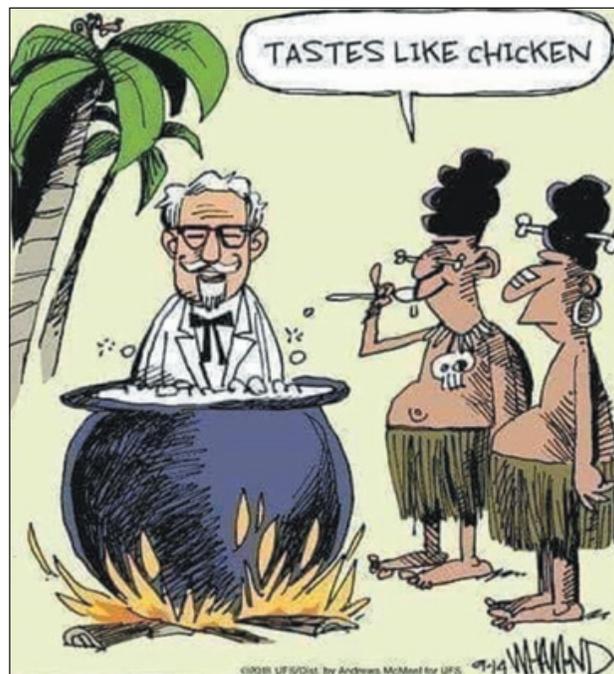
Hercules returned from his latest adventure in the city of Molione, where he had defeated the demigod brothers, Eurytos and Kteatos -- siamese twins with the strength of two demigods.

At the temple, Hercules spoke to his father, Zeus, and asked, "Why did I have to slay them? Why didn't the gods just handle it?"

Zeus, running his fingers through his beard, paused. "A single demigod could challenge a god, but would not defeat one. These brothers, however, were too powerful and resented the gods. For years, we debated what to do..."

Hercules nodded. "Oh, so the gods were scared?"

Zeus chuckled. "Oh heavens, no. We are far too practical for something as frivolous as fear. Eurytos and Kteatos weren't born that way. When one of them plotted to overthrow the gods, we laughed. But when they teamed up, we thought..."



He leaned closer, lowering his voice.

"...if you can't beat 'em, conjoin 'em."

* * *

Presidential Race

It's the end of the 2016 Presidential race

The people of the US hated all the candidates so much that no one voted. The government is in a panic, trying to figure out what to do to decide who the next president will be.

Finally, Barack Obama comes up with an idea:

A literal presidential race. The three candidates would run a lap around the White House, and the best time would become president.

Bernie Sanders goes first, but being as old as he is, he takes 24 minutes.

Trump goes next and posts a time of 14 minutes 24 seconds.

Hillary Clinton goes last, running as fast as she can in an effort to beat Trump's time. She finally crosses the finish line in just under 10 minutes.

"Aha, that must be some kind of record!" she exclaims.

"I don't think so," says Obama, "Bush did 9:11"

* * *

The Pencil Permission Paradox

Student: Can I borrow a pencil?

Teacher: I don't know, can you borrow a pencil?

Student: Aha! But I clearly meant to ask for permission. Since you and the rest of the class understood my intent perfectly, and the word "may" to show permission is rapidly falling out of fashion, there is nothing wrong with asking whether I "can" borrow a pencil.

Teacher: Possibly so, in colloquial speech. Discerning context can help us decipher the nuance of each sentence on a case-by-case basis. However, as your teacher, my task is to teach you the intricacies of the English language with rigour, so that you may gain a mastery of the language and precisely control what you communicate -- in this case, the difference between "can" and "may."

Student: Point taken. May I borrow a pencil?

Teacher: No, you may not. The State cut funding for education again.

* * *

Daddy's Belly

A little girl said, "Mommy, I saw you jumping on Daddy's belly last night."

Her mom smiled and said, "Yes, we were trying to

help Daddy's belly go down. I jump on him so the air will come out."

The girl nodded thoughtfully. "Aha! I know why it's not working -- because the neighbour comes by every afternoon when you go shopping and she blows all the air back in!"

* * *

Roger's Surprising Energy

Roger, 85, married Jenny, a lovely 25-year-old. Because Roger was much older, Jenny suggested they sleep in separate bedrooms, worried her new husband might get too tired.

That night, there was a knock on Jenny's door. It was Roger, full of energy and ready to spend some time together. After a while, he said goodnight and left. A few minutes later, there was another knock. Again, Roger was ready for more, and after a little while, he bid Jenny goodnight once more.

When he knocked a third time, Jenny said, "Roger, I'm impressed! At your age, I expected you to be tired by now. You've surprised me!"

Roger, looking a bit embarrassed, replied, "Wait... I was here already?"



* * *

That Restaurant...

Bob and his wife, who live in a retirement home, were out for a stroll when they met their neighbour, Ted. They exchanged news, and Bob said, "Oh hey Ted, the missus and I went to a great restaurant last night."

"Really?" said Ted. "What was it called?"

Bob scratched his head. "Uh... er... um... what's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? It's red and has thorns."

Ted replied, "A rose?"

"Aha!" exclaimed Bob. He turned to his wife and said, "Hey Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

* * *

Weapons of Math Instruction

A guy carrying a backpack was stopped by the police on suspicion of terrorism.

The officer asked, "Mind if I check your backpack?"

The guy nodded. Inside, the officer found textbooks, a calculator, a compass, and a ruler.

"Aha!" shouted the policeman. "As I suspected -- you're under arrest!"

"But... why?" the guy protested.

"You've been caught in possession of weapons of math instruction!"

Life's Stories

The King Who Became a Father to 640 Children

In 1942, a battered ship drifted through the Arabian Sea, carrying a cargo the world seemed determined to forget: 640 Polish children. These orphans had survived the horrors of Soviet labor camps and the crushing grief of losing their parents to cold and hunger. Now, they faced a new cruelty. At every British-controlled port along the Indian coast, the answer was the same: "You cannot disembark. Move on."

Twelve-year-old Maria clutched her younger brother's hand, a silent promise to her late mother hanging in the air. But as hunger returned and diseases began to spread, hope was vanishing into the horizon.

The ship's plight eventually reached the ears of Jam Sahib Digvijaysinhji, the



Maharaja of Nawanagar. His kingdom in Gujarat was small, and the British authorities -- his political overseers -- had already made their stance clear. Challenging them was a massive political risk. Yet, the Maharaja's response was immediate and resolute: "The British may control my ports, but not my heart. Bring them here."

When the children finally stepped onto

the sun-drenched docks of Nawanagar, they were skeletal and traumatized. The Maharaja did not meet them with soldiers or barbed wire; he met them with the compassion of a parent. He knelt to their level and spoke words that would echo through history: "You are no longer orphans. From today, you are my children, and I am your father."

He built them more than a shelter; he

built Balachadi, a sanctuary of healing. Unlike standard refugee camps, Balachadi was a vibrant Polish village in the heart of India. The Maharaja ensured they had Polish teachers, traditional food, and the freedom to celebrate their own faith and holidays. He didn't want to assimilate them; he wanted to protect the culture they had nearly lost.

For four years, the Maharaja was a constant presence in their lives, learning their names and celebrating their milestones. While the rest of the world burned in the fires of World War II, these 640 children grew, laughed, and healed.

When the war ended, the children left as doctors, engineers, and teachers. Though they returned to Europe, they carried the soul of Nawanagar with them.

Poland later honored him with gratitude and remembrance. But his true monument lives on in 640 lives, each carrying the same lesson: When doors close, one open heart can change everything.

Because real power isn't found in empires -- it's found in the courage to say "yes" when the world says "no."

Raising strong sons

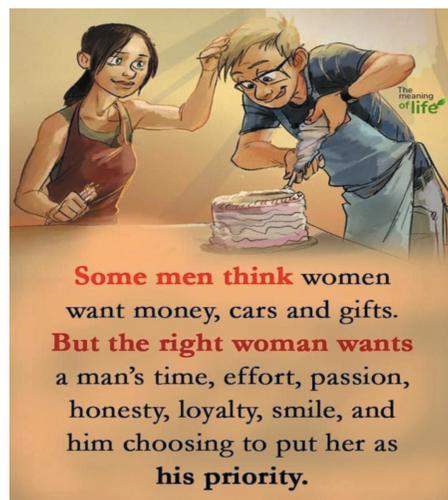
Raising strong sons is not about hardening their hearts.

It is about teaching them courage with kindness and discipline with empathy.

Women must raise sons to impact society, to lead women with respect and guide children with wisdom and care.

This starts with mindset before skill set, because how a man thinks will always shape how he leads.

mindsetbeforeskillset.com



Pay Attention To Her!

When a woman is "tripping" she cares. When a woman is "mad" she believed in you and you let her down. When she's "asking questions" she is trying to gain clarity. When she's quiet and letting things "slide" she is giving up. And when she's not doing any of the above just know you lost a good woman.

A REAL MAN

never hurts a woman.

Be very careful when you make a woman cry, because God counts her tears.

THE WOMAN

came out of a man's rib, NOT from his feet to be walked on, and NOT from his head to be superior, but from his side to be equal. Under the arm to be protected, and next to the HEART to be loved.

[FACEBOOK.COM/MOTHERHOOD.ORG](https://www.facebook.com/motherhood.org)

Let's Talk Success

Beyond Progress: 7 Lessons from Quantum Leap

Most books tell you how to improve; Quantum Leap dares you to change levels. From the very first pages, it becomes clear that this isn't a manual for slow progress or endless preparation. Instead, it is a guide to the decisive inner shifts that collapse years of struggle into moments of profound clarity.

Reading it feels like a private conversation with a mentor who has walked the path, stumbled, and returned with a map. You don't read this book casually; you feel summoned by it. If you've ever sensed that you are capable of far more -- but felt held back by an invisible weight -- this book speaks directly to that tension. By the time you finish the preamble, you aren't just curious. You're ready.

1. Small thinking is the greatest

enemy

The book makes it clear that our primary limitation isn't a lack of resources, time, or talent -- it is the scale of our thinking. We often aim for changes that feel safe and "logical." Evans challenges this, arguing that incremental goals keep us emotionally tethered to our current identity. A quantum leap requires thinking beyond comfort and explanation. Growth doesn't respond to caution; it responds to bold clarity.

2. Identity must precede circumstance

One of the most powerful ideas in the text is that life only upgrades after you do. Many people try to change their habits or income without changing the internal identity driving them. Evans emphasizes that your results are simply a reflection of who you believe you are. When your identity shifts -- from "trying" to "deciding" -- circumstances follow naturally.

3. Waiting for confidence is a trap

The book delivers a bracing truth: confidence is a result, not a requirement.

Evans shows how decisive action -- even in the presence of fear -- is what actually rewires self-trust. Quantum leaps occur when you move before certainty arrives. Fear is reframed not as a warning sign, but as proof that you are standing at the edge of expansion.

4. Environment is either fuel or friction

Evans explores the silent influence of our surroundings -- the people, routines, and conversations that fill our days. The lesson is clear: you cannot leap while surrounded by anchors. This requires intentional separation from influences that normalize mediocrity. It isn't about arrogance; it's about alignment. Growth accelerates when your environment matches the future you are stepping into.

5. Overthinking is resistance disguised as intelligence

The book dismantles the habit of over-analysis, describing how excessive planning often masks a fear of responsibility. A quantum leap doesn't require a perfect strategy; it requires commitment. While

the mind will always find reasons to delay, clarity comes through movement, not before it. This lesson is a wake-up call for those who mistake contemplation for progress.

6. Detachment unlocks speed

One of the most freeing lessons is learning to detach from how things must happen. Attachment to rigid timelines or specific methods often slows momentum and amplifies frustration. Detachment doesn't mean indifference; it means trust. Evans shows how surrendering the need to control every variable actually sharpens the final result.

7. The leap is a decision, not a process

The defining takeaway of the book is that a quantum leap is not gradual -- it is decisive. Evans emphasizes that life changes the moment you make a non-negotiable choice. Everything else -- habits, opportunities, and clarity -- organizes itself around that central choice. You are always exactly one decision away from an entirely different life.

Being Mum & Dad

Why Early Screen Time Can Harm Your Child's Brain

In an era where digital devices have become the default babysitters, many parents view screen time as a harmless necessity of modern life. However, as Bill Murphy Jr., founder of Understandably, highlights in a recent analysis of neuroscience research, the consequences of early digital exposure may not manifest until a decade later.

New research out of Singapore, led by Dr. Huang Pei and his team at the National University of Singapore, tracked 168 children over a ten-year period. Their findings, published in *eBioMedicine*, reveal a startling trend: infants exposed to high levels of screen time before age two undergo a process called "accelerated maturation."

The "Foundation" Problem

While "accelerated maturation" might sound like a developmental advantage, neuroscientists warn it is often a response to environmental adversity. In typical development, brain networks specialize gradually. In children with high screen exposure, the networks responsible for visual processing and cognitive control specialize too quickly — before the brain has built the efficient connections required for complex thinking.

Murphy compares this to building a house: "Building a house too quickly gives you a frame that goes up fast, but without a solid foundation. Years later, cracks appear."



Long-Term Consequences

The study found that these neural changes lead to tangible struggles as children age:

- **Delayed Decision-Making:** By age 8.5, children with altered brain networks took significantly longer to complete cognitive tasks.

- **Increased Anxiety:** By age 13, those with slower decision-making reported higher symptoms of anxiety.

Crucially, the study noted that screen time at ages 3 and 4 did not produce these specific effects. The "vulnerability window" is infancy — specifically before age two — when the brain is at its most plastic and reactive.

The Silver Lining

Despite these findings, there is a powerful antidote. Murphy notes that a related study found parent-child reading can counteract these brain changes. Engaging in interactive activities with a child at age three significantly weakens the link between infant screen time and negative neural development.

As Murphy suggests, while maintaining strict limits in a digital world can feel like a Sisyphean task, the long-term mental health of our children makes the effort worth it.

The One Bitter Leaf Quietly Rewriting Health After 60

Place a single fresh leaf on your tongue: bitterness like strong coffee, earthy and sharp. Seconds later, warmth spreads through your body -- and, for many seniors, blood sugar readings begin to shift in ways they haven't in years.

That leaf is Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), long known in India as "the village pharmacy." Today, more people across the world over 60 are turning to it for support with blood sugar, blood pressure, joint pain, cholesterol, and circulation -- areas where many rely on multiple medications.

The five problems most seniors face

By 65, most older adults struggle with at least three of the following:

- Rising blood sugar
- High blood pressure
- Aching joints
- Stubborn cholesterol
- Cold or tingling feet

Nearly 80% take five or more daily medications -- yet rates of heart disease, stroke, and neuropathy remain high. That's why interest in neem's broad support has grown rapidly.

How Neem may help (with real-life examples)

Blood Sugar. Robert, 69, lowered his A1C from 9.2 to 6.8 in three weeks with fresh leaves and tea. Studies report similar drops linked to quercetin and nimbidin.



Blood Pressure. Laura, 71, went from 164/98 to 128/80 in 17 days after replacing her morning coffee with neem tea.

Joint Pain & Neuropathy. M.K., 67, reduced arthritis and nerve pain from 8/10 to 2/10 using neem tea and warm neem paste.

Cholesterol. Saira, 70, cut her LDL from 212 to 112 in two months using neem capsules and tea.

Circulation. Tom, 73, regained warmth and colour in his feet within days through neem foot soaks and daily tea.

Other commonly reported benefits

- Better liver and kidney markers

- Fewer colds
- Clearer skin
- Improved sleep
- Weight loss
- Sharper memory
- More energy and hormone balance

How to use Neem

- **Fresh leaves:** Chew 3–5 in the morning
- **Tea:** 1–2 cups daily
- **Capsules:** 500 mg with meals
- **Oil:** Warm a few drops on joints or feet

Start slowly and monitor how you feel -- Neem can enhance the effects of glucose and blood pressure medications.

Is it too good to be true?

Neem isn't a cure-all, but it contains over 140 bioactive compounds and has thousands of years of traditional use behind it. Some people notice changes quickly; others take weeks. Still, its broad support -- at very low cost -- makes it worth consideration.

Imagine 30 Days From Now

- Less stiffness
- Steadier glucose
- Easier walking

Thousands already report these changes with nothing more than a Neem plant on a windowsill or dried leaves in the pantry.

So, taste the bitterness -- and see what follows.

Consult your healthcare provider before using neem or adjusting medications, especially if you have diabetes, take blood thinners, or are scheduled for surgery.

The 10-Minute Walk That Could Save Your Life

For years, the "10,000 steps a day" rule has been the gold standard for fitness. However, as Lauren Gray of 'The Healthy' magazine reports on recent medical findings, the way you walk may be far more important than the total number of steps you record.

A groundbreaking October 2025 study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* suggests that "step accumulation patterns" are the key to longevity. The research, led by teams from the University of Sydney and Universidad Europea, tracked over 33,000 inactive adults for

eight years. The results were clear: uninterrupted walking bouts are significantly more effective at preventing heart attacks, strokes, and premature death than scattered movement.

The Power of the "Bout"

The study found that participants who walked continuously for 10 to 15 minutes daily saw their risk of a major cardiovascular event drop to just 4%. In contrast, those who moved in brief increments of five minutes or less faced a 13% risk.

For those who struggle to hit high step



counts, the news is even better. Among people taking 5,000 steps or fewer:

- **Cardiovascular disease risk** dropped from 15% to 7%.
- **Risk of death** plummeted from 5% to under 1%.

Why Duration Trumps Total Count

Co-lead author Matthew Ahmadi, PhD, explains that these findings challenge the necessity of the 10,000-step goal. For the least active individuals, simply consolidating activity into one or two steady, comfortably-paced sessions can deliver a 60% reduction in health risks.

As sports science researcher Borja del Pozo, PhD, notes, the takeaway is simple: you don't need a marathon. If you only walk a little, ensure that at least once a day, you do it without stopping for at least ten minutes. This small change in habit creates the solid cardiovascular foundation necessary for a longer, healthier life.

BollyBytes



Action Icons of 2026: The Year Bollywood Redefines Heroism

2026 is being hailed as the "Year of Action" for Bollywood, with the industry's biggest names slated for high-stakes, adrenaline-fuelled releases:

- Shah Rukh Khan in **King**: A stylised action spectacle that marks his next major move after the record-breaking 2023.
- Salman Khan in **Battle of Galwan**: A patriotic drama based on real-life events, scheduled for an **April 17, 2026** release.
- Alia Bhatt in **Alpha**: Stepping into the YRF Spy Universe as a lead agent.
- Ranveer Singh in **Dhurandhar 2**: Following the historic success of the first film, a sequel is already among the most anticipated projects of the year.
- Varun Dhawan in **Border 2**: Joining the legendary franchise for a large-scale war epic.

Whether it's **Adivi Sesh** in *G2* or **Ali Fazal** bringing Guddu Bhaiya to the big screen in *Mirzapur: The Movie*, 2026 is set to keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

A Family Full of Stars

Sussanne Khan's Heartfelt birthday wish for Hrithik Roshan and Saba Azad

In a beautiful display of modern family dynamics, entrepreneur Sussanne Khan took to social media to celebrate her ex-husband Hrithik Roshan's 52nd birthday on January 10. Sussanne shared a touching video montage that highlighted the actor's journey, featuring their sons, Hrehaan and Hredaan, along with close friends and Hrithik's partner, Saba Azad.



In her caption, Sussanne referred to Hrithik as a "sky full of stars" for their family, extending her warmest wishes for "endless love" to both him and Saba. The post has been widely praised by fans for its maturity and warmth. Saba Azad also shared an intimate tribute to the actor, calling him her "heart" and wishing him a year of creative fulfillment. Despite their 2014 divorce, Hrithik and Sussanne remain a golden standard for co-parenting in Bollywood.

From engineering to economics

The highly educated stars of Bollywood

While they rule the silver screen today, many of Bollywood's A-listers began their journeys in prestigious lecture halls. A recent feature highlights the impressive academic backgrounds of B-Town's elite:

For instance, the late **Sushant Singh Rajput** was a brilliant student who pursued Mechanical Engineering at the Delhi College of Engineering before dropping out to follow his passion for acting.

Parineeti Chopra holds a unique Triple Honors degree in Business, Finance, and Economics from the Manchester Business School in the UK, while **Kartik Aaryan** balanced his early acting struggles with his



studies to earn a degree in Biotechnology Engineering in Navi Mumbai.

The industry also boasts specialized scholars like **Preity Zinta**, who earned a Master's in Criminal Psychology from St. Bede's College, and **Kriti Sanon**, who completed her B.Tech in Electronics and

Telecommunication at IIIT, Noida, before making her mark in cinema.

From Taapsee Pannu, who worked as a software engineer, to Ayushmann Khurrana, who holds a Master's in Mass Communication, these stars prove that talent and intellect go hand-in-hand in modern Indian cinema.

Box Office Tsunami

Ranveer Singh's 'Dhurandhar' enters the 1300 crore club

Ranveer Singh has officially conquered the global box office. His latest spy thriller, *Dhurandhar*, has achieved a historic milestone, crossing the Indian Rupees 1300 crore mark (approximately MUR 6.65 Billion) worldwide on its 39th day.

It is now the second-highest-grossing Bollywood film in history, trailing only *Dangal*, and the fourth-highest-

grossing Indian film of all time.

Directed by Aditya Dhar, the film has become a domestic phenomenon, earning over INR 860 crore (approx. MUR 4.40 Billion) in India alone, surpassing the lifetime collections of *KGF: Chapter 2*. While fresh competition like Prabhas's *The Raja Saab* and Chiranjeevi's *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu* have arrived in theaters, *Dhurandhar* continues to draw massive crowds.

Ranveer Singh's explosive screen presence and the film's gritty action have cemented its status as a global titan, making it a "must-watch" for fans from Mumbai to Mauritius.

30 Years of Brilliance: Anil Kapoor celebrates Rani Mukerji's cinematic milestone

Bollywood veteran Anil Kapoor recently penned a glowing tribute to Rani Mukerji as she marked three decades in the film industry on January 12. Kapoor, who starred alongside Mukerji in the cult classic *Nayak: The Real Hero*, described her as "sellable, watchable, and truly brilliant," noting her rare ability to stay relevant in an ever-changing industry.

Reflecting on her 30-year journey,

Rani shared a note via Yash Raj Films, admitting she entered cinema without a "master plan" but stayed for the love of storytelling. She highlighted iconic roles from *Black* to *Hichki*, and expressed excitement for her next chapter: *Mardaani 3*. The upcoming film, directed by Abhiraj Minawala, is set to release on January 30, 2026, and will see Rani returning as the fearless Shivani Shivaji Roy to rescue missing girls.



Priyanka Chopra unleashes 'Bloody Mary' in Gritty First Trailer for 'The Bluff'

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is back in a role unlike any she has played before. The first trailer for *The Bluff* has officially dropped, revealing a blood-soaked, high-octane pirate epic set in the 19th-century Caribbean. Priyanka stars as Ercell Bodden, a former pirate known as "Bloody Mary" who must protect her family when her violent past resur-



faces.

The trailer features Chopra in a "gritty, R-rated" avatar, performing intense physical combat and commanding the screen with a battle-hardened intensity. Produced by the Russo Brothers and directed by Frank E. Flowers, the film also stars Karl Urban and Temuera Morrison.

Fans and family are already buzzing, with husband Nick Jonas taking to social media to share his excitement. *The Bluff* is scheduled to premiere on Prime Video on February 25, 2026.



Vendredi 16 Janvier - 20.20



Samedi 17 Janvier - 20.15



Dimanche 18 Janvier -20.10



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 16 janvier

MBC 1

05.04 Serial: Living To Love
08.31 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Gifted
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
14.00 Tele: Asintado
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Die Hard
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Murder On The Orient Express
22.00 Tele: Mademoiselle
22.45 Tele: Happily Ever After
23.07 Mag: Video Killed The Radio

MBC 2

09.35 Local: Le Mag
10.27 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.03 Local: Glwar Dantan
11.30 Local: Couleur Marine
12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.40 La Nature De Roches Noires
15.00 Emotion En Avant Plan
15.45 Local: Sineas Moris
16.41 Local: Metie
17.00 Local: La Sosiete
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Sur Prise
20.00 Local: Strictly Sugar 2025
21.10 Local: La Sosiete
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: En Forme
23.33 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
23.53 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante

MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Amrit Vani
10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Raiszaada
Starring: Govinda, Sonam
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
15.51 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Local: Bhojpuri Ke Gammat
20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
20.52 Serial: Porus
21.34 Serial: Crime Patrol
Cast: Anup Soni, Satyajeet Rajput, Shruti Gholap, Rahul Tomar
22.19 Serial: Mere Sai
23.03 Wagle Ki Duniya

Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Let's Make It Tasty
07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today
10.08 Doc: Holding Up the Sky
11.09 Mag: Eco India
11.47 Mag: Asia 2050
12.00 Doc: Reviving Switzerland's
12.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
12.56 Doc: Treasure Islands
14.25 Doc: Caribbean Cruise On...
14.53 Doc: Janpan Video Topics
15.34 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.49 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.09 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
16.18 Snoopy Dans L'Espace
16.33 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
16.55 Serial: So Awkward
17.23 Mag: N*Gen
17.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics
18.30 Doc: The Omnivore
19.00 Other: Student Support...
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Lekar Hum Deewana Dil
Cast: Armaan Jain, Deeksha Seth, Nikita Dutta
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dharam Patni
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.25 Shrimad Ramayan
20.55 Anupamaa
21.25 Mere Sai
21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
22.23 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
23.23 Film: Lekar Hum Deewana Dil
Cast: Armaan Jain, Deeksha Seth, Nikita Dutta

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03.37 Serial: Heartland
04.23 Serial: Hawaii
05.05 Tele: Living To Love
06.30 Serial: Under Pressure
07.13 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
08.11 Serial: Blue Lights
09.08 Serial: Heartland
09.51 Serial: Hawaii
10.38 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: All The Flowers
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Murder On The Orient Express
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Le Village
21.53 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
22.51 Tele: Terra Nostra
23.43 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
06.45 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
08.15 Local: Retrovizor
09.37 Local: La Sosiete
10.30 Local: J'ai Faim
11.00 Festival Kreol 2025
12.00 Local: ES Science
13.45 Local: Retrovizor
14.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
17.30 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.28 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
22.00 Local: Music Tour 2025
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.03 Zournal Kreol
23.23 Local: Tous Egaux
23.38 Local: Saver Kiltirel
00.06 Local: Passerelles
00.30 Local: Percy Yip Tong, The Kaya Tape Parcous D'un...

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.34 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Live: Aaj Ki Charcha
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.22 Local: Mati Ke Mol
14.30 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Jigar
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Karishma Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
21.00 Film: Halla Bol
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Vidya Balan
23.02 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.28 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
23.53 Local: Hunarbaaz
01.10 Film: Halla Bol
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Vidya Balan

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
06.43 D.Anime: Akili And Me
08.06 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic...
09.06 Les Enquetes De Maelys
09.18 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
09.59 D.Anime: Will, La Série
10.08 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
11.29 Film: C.I.A.P.E
13.40 Film: A.R.I.
15.16 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.34 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
16.04 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
16.56 Serial: So Awkward
17.28 Mag: N*Gen
18.00 Doc: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
18.56 Doc: Business Africa
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.53 Doc: Odd Neighbours
21.00 Film: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria

08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.08 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Sangdil Sanam
With: Salman Khan, Manisha Koirala
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Crime Patrol



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02.19 Film: Le Village
04.59 Doc: Quotes By Famous...
05.02 Tele: Living To Love
06.21 Film: Le Village
08.05 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
08.49 Film: Patch Adams
10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.34 Local: High Plains Drifter
14.15 Doc: Not About Music
14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Le Village
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Moulin Rouge!
22.15 Serial: S.W.A.T.
23.00 Tele: Terra Nostra
23.30 Le Journal

08.55 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.30 Lazourmin Mondial Teat 2025
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
12.45 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.10 Local: Le Mag
15.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
15.40 Local: Festival Enn Zour dan Enn Pei
17.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.00 Local: Lisa Ducasse En Concert A L'IFM
22.10 Local: Influencers' Award
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin
23.33 Local: Generations J
23.59 26em Edision Festival Kreol

08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
09.19 Local: Hunarbaaz
10.35 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Anmol
Cast: Manisha Koirala
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
15.47 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
16.43 Local: Sankranti Sangam
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Bollywood Beats
19.30 Local: Theatre Ram Leela
19.58 Local: Ek Mulakaat Vineet Singh Ke Saath
20.31 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
21.57 Sajanna Bairi Ho Gaile...
22.55 Bollywood Beats
23.55 Local: Theatre Ram Leela
00.21 Local: Ek Mulakaat Vineet...

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
09.03 Les Enquetes De Maelys
09.59 D.Anime: Will, La Série
09.59 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
11.35 Doc: Country Dreams
12.01 Doc: Afrimaxx
12.31 Doc: Australia's Towering...
13.30 Film: L'Impermeable Magique
14.56 D.Anime: The Wonder Gang
15.06 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.44 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.28 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
18.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners
19.22 Doc: Japan Video Topics
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
21.50 Film: Christina Noble
Cast: Deirdre O'Kane, Sarah Greene
23.30 Doc: Rap ANd Reindeer
00.07 Doc: The Light To Women

00.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.35 Udaariyaan
04.27 Anupamaa
06.49 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
08.00 Serial: Dhruv Tara
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Dance Deewane
14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Hum Kisi Se Kum Nahin
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Ajay Devgan, Aishwariya Rai, Asad Aleem
21.03 Mahabharat
22.01 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
22.45 Dhruv Tara

lundi 19 janvier

04.15 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
04.40 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
05.02 Tele: Living To Love
05.51 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
07.17 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...
08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
08.35 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.27 Film: Moulin Rouge!
11.33 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle
13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.33 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Serial: Columbo
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Live: Grand Titre
20.15 Serial: Quantico
21.00 Serial: Berlin Station
21.54 Tele: Mademoiselle

09.09 Local: Clin D'oeil
09.36 Local: Le Mag
10.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.27 Local: Glwar Dantan
15.17 Local: Metie
15.53 Local: Les Klips
17.00 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Séparé par L'Amour
19.00 Zournal Kreol
20.40 Local: Tous Egaux
20.55 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.44 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Metie
23.40 Rodrig: Kot Nou

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Bollywood Beats
09.00 Live: Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajanna Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Pakhandee
Cast: Shashi Kapoor, Zeenat Aman
15.00 Samachar
15.51 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
18.57 Local: Ayush
20.00 Local: Hindi Diwas 2026
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Khote Sikkay
Cast: Firoz Khan, Rahana Sultan
23.02 Mere Sai
23.47 Wagle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners
07.22 Mag: Arts Unveiled
08.33 Doc: Rap And Reindeer
09.15 Doc: The Light Of Women
11.26 Doc: The Last Town
12.13 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
12.40 Doc: Brilliant Corners
13.32 Mag: Arts Unveiled
15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang
15.11 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.28 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.36 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.48 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
15.58 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
16.08 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
17.25 Doc: Pasteca
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.31 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.30 Live: News
21.40 Film: Seberg

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.19 Film: Aankhen
Starring: Govinda; Chunky Pandey; Raj Babbar
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan





Mardi 20 Janvier - 20.10

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

ROBERT REDFORD MERYL STREEP

SYDNEY POLLACK film

OUT OF AFRICA



A MIRAGE Production "OUT OF AFRICA"
KLAUS MARIA BRANDAUER
TERRY CLEGG, KIM JORGENSEN, JUDITH THURMAN, ANNA CABELLO, JOHN BARRY
KURT LUEDTKE
SYDNEY POLLACK



Mercredi 21 January - 21.40



KARL URBAN SOFIA VERGARA ANDY GARCIA

BENT

CORRUPTION HAS ITS OWN SET OF RULES.



Mercredi 21 January - 15.30



ROCK ON

every generation finds its voice

11th NOV. 2016

Programme TV






	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 20 janvier	04.24 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.35 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.38 Film: Red 2 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: The Hired Hand 17.30 Tele: Happily Evr After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.17 Film: Out Of Africa 22.57 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.42 Le Journal 00.17 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.36 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.36 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.03 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 11.34 Local: Grand Titre 12.02 Local: Fam Model 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.49 Local: Sur Prise 15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.44 Local: Festival Kreol 2025 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrög 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.08 Local: Le Mag 21.57 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Point Culture 23.32 Local: Music Tour 2025	08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.27 Local: Ayush 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Rajkumar Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Sadhna 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.40 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 16.55 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 19.27 Ek Mulakaat Doctor Ke Saath Heart Disease 20.00 Local: Prakriti Biodiversity Pamplemousses 21.00 Film: Bachpan Cast: Sanjeev Khan, Tanuja	06.25 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.17 Mag: In Good Shape 09.42 Doc: Switzerland's 12.03 Doc: Madam Chutney And The Taste Of Freedom 12.30 Mag: In Good Shape 13.41 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.27 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.39 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 15.52 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.02 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.31 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales 16.58 Serial: The Avatars 17.18 Doc: Japan Video Topics 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.25 Film: MP 3-Mera Pehla Pehla Pyaar Starring: Menekka Arora, Sarthak Bhasin, Sagar Chawla, R.Mumtaaz 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 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: MP 3-Mera Pehla Pehla Pyaar
mercredi 21 January	06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.33 Serial: Under Pressure 08.06 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.39 Film: Mamma Mia 11.35 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.27 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.17 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.47 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Happy Death Day 17.34 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.14 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T. 21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.33 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.35 Local: Le Mag 10.27 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Local: Couleur Marine 12.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 12.44 Local: Festival Kreol 2025 12.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.18 Local: En Forme 15.13 Local: Evasion 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2025 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.31 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.16 Local: Encounter 22.35 Local: Grand Titre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.34 Lisa Ducasse En Concert	08.00 Local: Pani Nai Ba... 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Ittefaq Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Nanda 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Radha Mohan 16.39 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha 17.07 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Darshan 21.00 Film: Chori Chori Cupke Chupke Cast: Kesari Lal Yadav, Safar Afsa 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai 00.18 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.39 Local: Darshan 01.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol	08.10 Doc: Going Beyond 09.31 By Train Along The Fjord... 10.13 Doc: We All Are Detroit After... 11.09 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 12.53 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.19 Doc: Going Beyond 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mot... 15.21 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.33 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.56 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 16.28 Zig's Space Rangerts 17.03 Serial: The Avatars 17.30 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 18.45 Mag: The Dip 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.41 Film: Bent Cast: Karl Urban, Sofia Vergara	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Rock On 2 Starring: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shradha Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupama 21.28 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Rock On 2 Starring: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shradha Kapoor
jeudi 22 January	06.08 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.11 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.37 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.34 Film: Nine Days 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: Murder On The Orient Express 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 20.10 Film: Zanjeer Stars: Ram Charan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Sanjay Dutt 22.18 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.03 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 Lisa Ducasse En Concert 10.24 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.48 Local: Les Klips 11.40 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Local: Passerelles 13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc 14.33 Local: Agir Ensemble 15.39 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 17.08 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.00 Local: Metie 21.30 Le Mag 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem Rises 23.33 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Darshan 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Dhool Ka Phool Cast: Mala Sinha, Rajendra Kumar, Nanda 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.07 Excerpts From Varshik Utsav 2025 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.21 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.43 Serial: Mere Sai 22.27 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.50 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.20 Doc: Ageless Gardens 07.43 Mag: Close Up 10.06 Doc: My Family Lies 10.50 Mag: Carnet De Sante 13.15 Mag: Focus On Europe 13.41 Doc: Rainforest Pharmacy 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.20 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.33 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.44 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 15.59 D.Anime: Yétili 16.08 D.Anime: Handico 16.40 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 17.02 Serial: The Avatars 17.25 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Asia 2050 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.31 Film: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan Stars: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan Stars: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati



Jeudi 22 January - 15.30 Stars: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati



Jeudi 22 January - 20.10 Stars: Ram Charan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Sanjay Dutt





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

2026 Kicks Off

Official statements in Mauritius are currently stoking expectations for a 2026

economic rebound — one that might finally curb the rising cost of commodities if international conflicts subside. These statements are at least honest enough to admit that domestic inflation is primarily driven by external volatility. While a shift in the global climate could ease the cost of living, we must remain wary; the hollow political promises shouted from rooftops during electoral campaigns are designed only to entice the gullible.

As we scan the horizon for silver linings, several geopolitical hurdles remain. If American firms controlling Venezuelan oil production dictate export costs to China, global market prices will inevitably react. Similarly, any hope for peace between Russia and Ukraine is shattered whenever negotiations are answered by a fresh barrage of missiles. Attempting to isolate the Russian leadership through “Hollywood-style” tactics — reminiscent of the treatment of Maduro — is a gamble that will likely alienate the Global South. Vladimir Putin is of a different mettle than the corrupt South American leaders entangled in drug trafficking; any plan to destabilize a BRICS leader should be abandoned for the sake of global stability.

Meanwhile, the revolts in Iran against theocratic tyranny and economic despair create a powder keg. If Russia and China back Iran against US military intervention, the risk of full-fledged warfare looms large. Even in isolation, Iran’s erratic nuclear threats have placed the region on maximum alert. With reports of US fighter jets deployed and citizens evacuating, American military superiority may soon paralyze the regime, potentially stabilizing the Strait of Hormuz — a maritime artery where Israel is also expanding its influence via support for Somaliland. Whether these shifts will actually lower energy prices remains to be seen. While we hope for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East, the world also watches nervously as the US manages “de-dollarization” without collapsing global markets.

Amidst this turmoil, a few bright spots emerge: trade deals are being quietly negotiated across several borders. Though 2026 begins under a cloud of uncertainty, there is hope the sky will clear. The real question is whether Mauritius is prepared to seize the resulting opportunities.

* * *

Tourism alone cannot sustain us..

Tourism reports suggest that 2025 lacked a traditional “low season.” However, as the European middle class

loses purchasing power, the Ministry of Tourism is pivotally targeting Russia and Eastern Europe. We must be realistic: the upper-middle classes of China and India typically prefer destinations rich in historical monuments and artifacts. For them, “Sun, Sea, and Sand” is a one-time novelty. Conversely, Europeans are loyal patrons of island life, yet in lean times, they tend to stay closer to home.

Is our position truly secure? Mauritius recently declined an offer from Israel’s national carrier — a decision made with political blinkers to appease specific crowds, ignoring long-term economic benefits. Smart countries prioritize smart partnerships. Consider how Nvidia is expanding into Israel, creating ten thousand high-tech jobs. A leadership attuned to the importance of innovation adopts a rational, pragmatic stance; yielding to biased lobbies and aligning with countries of dubious credentials only stunts national growth.

Meanwhile, hotel moguls continue to

complain about airfares, demanding the national carrier subsidize costs to pad their own profits. This begs the question: despite the influx of tourists, has the hotel industry over-expanded beyond its capacity to fill rooms year-round?

Finally, there is the matter of our capital’s hygiene. Those who view Port Louis only from the comfort of their offices may express satisfaction, but they are shielded from the stench of wastewater and urine on Bourbon and Pasteur Streets. Years ago, the “Portwi by Light” festival masked this decay with dancing lights, but it couldn’t hide the garbage. Our modern “night markets” lack the charm of European Christmas markets, where tradition and quality meet. Instead, we offer low-quality trinkets and blaring music to a low-income demographic — a spectacle often fuelled by media stunts rather than genuine cultural value.

While marketing strategies for hiking and cultural tourism have seen some success, the sector cannot be stretched indefinitely. A diversified pool of visitors is a helpful short-term fix, but tourism alone cannot sustain us if we ignore the structural decay beneath the surface.



Pic - byfood.com

“Tourism reports suggest that 2025 lacked a traditional “low season.” However, as the European middle class loses purchasing power, the Ministry of Tourism is pivotally targeting Russia and Eastern Europe. We must be realistic: the upper-middle classes of China and India typically prefer destinations rich in historical monuments and artifacts. For them, “Sun, Sea, and Sand” is a one-time novelty. Conversely, Europeans are loyal patrons of island life, yet in lean times, they tend to stay closer to home...”

Federation of Local Government and Other Labour Unions

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Local Government and Other Labour Unions will be held on **Saturday, 28 February 2026, at 2.00 pm at Prabhat Hall, Grand-Baie.**

AGENDA: 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM

2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

I. Gajadhar
Secretary

16 January 2026

Hindu Prabhat Sangh

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Hindu Prabhat Sangh will be held on **Saturday, 28 February 2026, at 4.00 pm at Prabhat Hall, Grand-Baie.**

AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Approval of financial statements
4. Amendments to rules (if any)
5. Election/selection of office-bearers (if any)
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Mrs Anuradha Ramkurrin
Secretary

16 January 2026

Tree of Knowledge

Life as We Know It



Pic - workitdaily.com

Our lives can sometimes become status quo, and that is okay as long as we aren't keeping it that way on purpose

When our lives are going well and sometimes even when they aren't, we may find ourselves feeling very attached to the status quo of our existence — life as we know it. It is a very human tendency to resist change. But change will come and the status quo will go, sooner or later, with or without our consent. We may find at the end of the day that we feel considerably more empowered when we find the courage to ally ourselves with the universal force of change, rather than working against it.

Of course, the answer is not to go about changing things at random, without regard to whether they are working or not. There is a time and place for stability and the preservation of what has been gained over time. In fact, the ability to stabilize and preserve what is serving us is part of what helps us to survive and thrive. The problem comes when we become more attached to preserving the status quo rather than honouring growth and change. For example, if we allow a situation, we are in to remain stagnant simply because we are comfortable, it may be time for us to summon the courage to challenge the status quo.

This may be painful at times or surprisingly liberating. Most likely, it will be a little of both. Underneath the discomfort, we will probably find excitement and energy as we take the risk of unblocking the natural flow of energy in our lives. It is like dismantling a dam inside ourselves because most of the work involves clearing our own inner obstacles so that the river of our life can flow unobstructed. Once we remove the obstacles, we can simply go with the flow, trusting the changes that follow.

Daily Om

NEWSPAPER NOTICE FOR BUILDING & LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that Sham E Hidaayat Sunnee Society represented by Mr Ibrahim Rasmally will apply to the District Council of Pamplermousses for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed conversion of part of an existing building to be used as Pre-Primary and Primary school at Grand Baie Road A4, Triolet.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 15 days as from the date of this publication.

Date: 16 January 2026