

MAURITIUS TIMES

• You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. – C.S. Lewis



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‘Convictions depend on the complexity of the investigation and the DPP’s evaluation of the submitted files’

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Breakfast with Bwana



The Certainty of Uncertainty

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Analysis

The Choice for 2026 and Beyond

Mauritius faces a stark choice: a decade of stagnation or a new era of accelerated growth. Success requires the political courage to abandon the status quo



Editorial

The Myth of the “Decisive” Year



Socratic Dialogue

Gen Z, Straw Hats, Scrolls, and the Ballot Box



The Myth of the “Decisive” Year

As 2025 draws to a close, the gathering at Domaine Anna in Flic-en-Flac this past Friday (December 26) carried more than the usual end-of-year conviviality. Alongside the seasonal atmosphere was a clear undercurrent of political signalling. When Paul Bérenger, leader of the MMM, described 2025 as a “year of transition” and positioned 2026 as “decisive” for both the country and his party, he was doing more than offering a retrospective assessment. His remarks served as a pointed reminder of the internal pressures and high expectations currently testing the governing alliance.

The Alliance du Changement (ADC) entered 2025 riding a tidal wave of democratic fervour, securing a staggering 60-0 mandate that promised a “New Era of Trust and Prosperity.” One year on, the transition from electoral victory to the day-to-day management of the state is proving to be a complex task. Bérenger’s reference to “major tests” — notably Air Mauritius, the drug scourge, the police force, the prison system, and the Economic Development Board — reads as a strategic intervention. By singling out these institutions, he draws attention to sectors that fall under the Prime Minister’s direct purview, placing indirect but unmistakable pressure on Navin Ramgoolam’s leadership.

Divisive Politics vs. National Unity

Bérenger’s framing suggests that the government’s success will be defined primarily by institutional overhauls and symbolic shifts. A more grounded reading of the Mauritian context, however, suggests that voters are unlikely to judge the ADC in 2029 on whether Mauritian Kreol was introduced in Parliament. Such a move, while historically significant to some, risks reopening sensitive debates in our multi-ethnic society. If Kreol were to be formally adopted, it would inevitably raise questions about the place of other ancestral languages and the potential fragmentation of parliamentary proceedings — and Mauritian society. In a country that prides itself on social harmony, such reforms must not be pursued for the sake of political posturing.

Furthermore, the public’s appetite for complex electoral reform — such as the elimination of the Best Loser System (BLS) or the introduction of a dose of Proportional Representation (PR) — remains remarkably low. The current system, while criticized by theorists, has provided Mauritius with decades of predictable, stable governance. To dismantle it now under the guise of “modernisation” risks creating more problems than it solves. These remain the obsessions of politicians in a quest for legacy or power; they are not the priorities of the citizen at the supermarket check-out in Vacoas or Port Louis.

The Real Mandate: Reconstruction over Rhetoric

The “New Era” articulated by Navin Ramgoolam is anchored in “systemic decoupling” — the process of freeing



state institutions from the political interference of the previous decade. There is a widespread sense of relief following the dismantling of controversial surveillance measures and the restoration of democratic norms. Yet, this phase is only the beginning.

Ultimately, the government will be judged on its economic performance: its ability to restore growth, enforce fiscal discipline, and ease cost-of-living pressures. The administration has outlined an agenda centred on stabilizing the rupee and promoting inclusive growth. This includes a commitment to fiscal consolidation, with a stated goal of reducing public debt toward a more sustainable 75% of GDP. Economists argue that measures to remove VAT on essential goods have provided some immediate relief, but the long-term challenge remains the transition toward an investment-driven model.

The strategy to diversify beyond traditional pillars like sugar and textiles — focusing on fintech, artificial intelligence, and the blue economy — is ambitious. With a target of 60% renewable energy by 2030, the government is setting a high bar for infrastructure and institutional transparency. Success in these areas is what will ultimately secure the government’s credibility with international investors and the local population alike.

Political Brinkmanship and the Labour Legacy

The most significant risk facing the ADC may not come from a weakened opposition, but from internal manoeuvring. Alliances between the Labour Party (PTR) and the MMM have historically been subject to tactical brinkmanship. By calling 2026 a ‘test’ for the police and prisons, Bérenger is playing a political game. It allows the MMM to take credit for things that go well while avoiding blame for

things that fail. However, persistent internal tension could undermine the very stability the alliance was elected to provide.

Navin Ramgoolam now governs at a moment of historical consequence. He carries forward a legacy shaped by Labour leaders who prioritized unity and social cohesion over radical disruption. The Prime Minister will need to assess reform proposals from his partners with caution. Initiatives that touch on deeply rooted sensitivities, such as the Best Loser System, require consensus, not just a parliamentary majority.

A Call for Focus

As we enter 2026, the Alliance du Changement faces a defining choice. It must decide whether to remain entangled in ideological debates over decisive ‘tests’ and symbolic language reforms, or to consolidate its historic mandate by delivering the tangible economic relief and stability the Mauritian people were promised. Will it rationalize the contracts of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to ensure they serve the public interest? Will it prioritize practical governance — improving the reliability of water supply and stabilizing the price of the consumer basket — or will it become absorbed in debates over language and electoral mechanics that hold limited relevance for the average citizen?

The “tests” identified by Paul Bérenger are real, but the grading will be done by the public. Voters will judge the government on tangible outcomes: public safety, meritocracy in employment, and the cost of living. Navin Ramgoolam must assert clear leadership and remind his partners that the historic mandate they received was one for stability and renewal. If 2026 is to be decisive, it must be decisive in delivering results, not in exposing divisions.

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A Very Warm Thank You

To all our

*Readers, Business Associates, and
Well-Wishers for their unwavering support
and goodwill throughout the year.*

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Kindly note that our office will be closed for the
end-of-year festive season starting Thursday, 1 January 2026,
and our next issue will be published on 16 January 2026.

Mauritius Times

“There is no evidence to suggest that the FCC is not acting independently”

‘Convictions depend on the complexity of the investigation and the DPP’s evaluation of the submitted files’

On 19 December 2025, Cabinet appointed former Chief Justice Bernard Sik Yuen as Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Commission. This appointment is a key element of the Government Programme 2025–2029, which seeks to modernise the Mauritian state by strengthening democracy, restoring good governance, and undertaking wide-ranging constitutional and parliamentary reforms.

The Commission is expected to propose electoral reforms and stronger protections for fundamental rights, including so-called “third-generation” rights such as access to healthcare, education, and a clean environment. To rebuild public trust, the programme also emphasises the independence of public institutions, the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act, and the strengthening of the Equal Opportunities Commission to promote meritocracy. Digital rights feature prominently. Following the revocation of mandatory SIM card registration regulations, new legislation is expected to ensure that covert surveillance is strictly limited to national security concerns. The government also plans to promote media pluralism through the introduction of private television channels and to strengthen protections for sensitive personal data. Lex examines these issues — and more — in the Qs & As that follows. Read on:

— LEX —



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* The mandate of the Constitutional Review Commission, as set out in the Government Programme 2025–2029 and reiterated in the Cabinet Decisions of 19 December 2025, is extremely broad, covering democratic institutions, fundamental rights, and governance. Given the scale of the task and the need for extensive public consultations, is it realistic to expect the Commission to complete this work conclusively within the current government’s mandate?

The intention is noble, yet the task is vast. We must wait to see how the

“In any country with a liberal economy, a black economy will inevitably flourish. A black economy — also referred to as a shadow, underground, or hidden economy — comprises economic activities that are concealed from official view. This involves unreported cash transactions, untaxed labor (such as cash-in-hand domestic work), and, in some instances, the trade of illegal goods and services like drugs or smuggling. The question remains: should we expect the Commission to address this systemic issue, or is it a separate matter of fiscal and criminal policy?”

Commission approaches its mammoth mandate. Will it be a one-man commission, or will other members be appointed? Furthermore, who will those members be?

Furthermore, I would reiterate Lex’s observation from March of this year: *‘The Mauritian Constitution, adopted in 1968, has served as the bedrock of the nation’s governance for over five decades. However, as society evolves, technology advances, and global norms shift, a critical question arises: is it time for a comprehensive re-evaluation?’*

In my view, these questions remain as pertinent as ever. We must delve into the critical aspects of Mauritius’ constitutional landscape, examining the necessity for reform, the lessons offered by international precedents, and the challenges posed by technological advancements. Moreover, we must address the ongoing debates surrounding our political and institutional structures to explore whether Mauritius is truly prepared to forge a constitutional framework fit for the 21st century.

* Since the Sachs Report (2002), followed by the Carcassonne Report (2011) and proposals made by Rama Sithanen, Mauritius has struggled to reach consensus on electoral reform. 23 years later, major questions relating to Proportional Representation (PR) and the Best Loser system remain unresolved. Is it reasonable to expect the Sik Yuen Commission to

meaningfully address issues such as seat allocation (First Past The Post with the Best Loser System versus a mixed FPTP–PR model), MP accountability (including a right of recall), and political financing legislation within the remaining term of this government?

It remains to be seen what representations will be made, by whom, and how the Commission will grapple with them. This process brings to mind Justice Sachs’ insightful opening lines in his report:

‘In a society as lively and politically literate as Mauritius, it is not surprising that the Commission for Constitutional and Electoral Reform should be inundated with submissions. Over a period of several weeks, we received more than seventy written memoranda and heard oral representations during more than fifty sessions.’

The historical precedent set by Justice Sachs highlights the high level of civic engagement we can expect — and which the current Commission must now prepare to manage.

* Many citizens want to know how these high-level reforms will affect their daily lives. Should we expect the Commission go beyond institutional redesign and recommend enforceable rights — such as allowing citizens to take legal action against the state when minimum standards in health-

“Would the Commission consider making such requirements (provide affordable services and minimum standards in healthcare, as well as in education and environmental protection) a constitutional duty for businesses? This may, however, go too far, as private clinics and private enterprises should retain the freedom to run their businesses. However, while this might be seen as excessive by some, greater accountability in the private sector could be justified in the public interest...”

care, education, or environmental protection are not met?

It is difficult to speculate further, as the Commission’s terms of reference have not yet been clearly defined beyond broad government policy. It is worth noting that Mauritius is a signatory to several key international conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

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'Greater accountability in the private sector could be justified in the public interest'

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Despite these commitments, many of the rights enshrined in these international treaties are not explicitly reflected in the Mauritian Constitution. A comprehensive study is needed to explore how these protections can be formally incorporated. For instance, the right to privacy is not explicitly stated. Furthermore, our current legal framework regarding discrimination remains limited in scope; while the rights of women and children are protected through various pieces of legislation, they are not constitutionally entrenched.

*** We often hear about exaggerated health claims by private clinics. Is there also not a case for requiring the private sector to provide affordable services and minimum standards in healthcare, as well as in education and environmental protection?**

Would the Commission consider making such requirements a constitutional duty for businesses? This may, however, go too far, as private clinics and private enterprises should retain the freedom to run their businesses. However, while this might be seen as excessive by some, greater accountability in the private sector could be justified in the public interest.

*** Under the previous government, several high-profile arrests were made under the ICT Act for vague offences such as "annoyance," which were widely perceived as politically motivated. These cases sparked public backlash and renewed concerns about the misuse of cyber laws. To what extent can the Sik Yuen Commission prioritise reforming the ICT Act, removing ambiguous provisions, and aligning cyber legislation with international human rights standards while still addressing legitimate national**

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security concerns?

The Supreme Court has already struck down certain vague provisions within the ICT Act. While it is not for me to predict exactly how the Commission will approach its mandate, it will presumably review the sections pertaining to Freedom of Expression. This is vital to ensure that the ICT Act is no longer subject to abuse and that rigorous scrutiny is applied before any individual is deprived of their liberty.

* * *

'The depenalisation of cannabis carries significant legal and social implications'

*** Beyond constitutional reform, corruption remains a major concern. Although the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) is handling numerous cases inherited from the previous regime, it is still unclear whether these investigations will result in convictions that can withstand judicial scrutiny. How do you assess the current effectiveness and independence of the FCC?**

To date, there is no evidence to suggest that the FCC is not acting independently. Whether investigations will ultimately result in convictions depends on their inherent complexity and how the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) evaluates the completed files submitted to him.

It is important to remember that the investigation of financial crimes is exceptionally intricate, often involving significant international ramifications.

*** The black economy in Mauritius is widely believed to be extensive and deeply entrenched, often reinforcing corruption. Do we currently have adequate laws and institutions to tackle the scale of the black economy? Is enforcement capacity sufficient? Or do gaps in oversight and accountability continue to allow illicit economic activity to flourish?**

In any country with a liberal economy, a black economy will inevitably flourish. A black economy — also referred to as a shadow, underground, or hidden economy — comprises economic activities that are concealed from official view. This involves unreported cash transactions, untaxed labor (such as cash-in-hand domestic work), and, in some instances, the trade of illegal goods and services like drugs or smuggling.

Such an economy exists in all nations,



Pic - amoghavarshaaskas.in

operating outside government oversight, regulations, and tax systems. Consequently, no tax revenue is generated, which ultimately hinders the provision of government services and infrastructure.

The question remains: should we expect the Commission to address this systemic issue, or is it a separate matter of fiscal and criminal policy?

*** The widespread availability of synthetic drugs across towns and villages is a growing national concern. While policing efforts may have intensified, there is doubt that repression alone can resolve the crisis. Should Mauritius move towards a broader public-health-based approach to drug policy, including harm reduction strategies and the possible depenalization of cannabis?**

The depenalisation of cannabis carries significant legal and social implications, necessitating a shift in policing strategies and law enforcement priorities. Beyond the potential for increased tax revenue and the reduction of social stigma, depenalisation can fundamentally transform the criminal justice landscape.

However, these benefits must be weighed against critical public health concerns, such as the risk of increased adolescent use and the general potential for higher consumption rates. Consequently, the transition requires a robust regulatory framework designed to mitigate harm while ensuring public safety.

*** In a Westminster-style parliamentary system, a Minister without Portfolio has no independent constitutional authority to set the government's agenda or challenge the Prime Minister's prerogatives. Such conflicts are resolved politically, not legally, and often end in discipline, dismissal, or**

resignation. Do you see a risk of this kind of constitutional tension arising in the current context?

A Minister without Portfolio occupies a senior cabinet position but does not oversee a specific government department. Instead, they focus on strategic, cross-cutting roles — such as coordinating major policies, balancing cabinet power, managing internal party issues, or overseeing ad-hoc projects. This arrangement grants the individual a ministerial salary and voting rights within the Cabinet, with their duties defined by the Prime Minister's requirements rather than by statute.

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In the case of a Deputy Prime Minister holding no specific portfolio, the management of their business and conduct remains a matter for them and the Prime Minister to decide. It is not expected that the Commission will establish specific guidelines for such an arrangement.



Anil Madan

The Certainty of Uncertainty

“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose”

Here we are near the end of another year and, unless humanity does something utterly stupid in a day or two, we will enter 2026 not entirely unscathed but having survived despite ourselves.

Let me begin by saying that the most significant event of 2026 coming up is the 250th anniversary of the founding of America. For the first time in human history, a nation was established on the idea that all men are created equal, and that the governments are formed — **with the consent of the governed** — to secure to them their unalienable rights. This is to say that power flows from the people up, and not from the sovereign down. That proposition has been tested as the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the President is immune from liability for official acts and, effectively, above the law, a top-down government, if you will.

The year 2026 will begin with the latest retest of the proposition which Abraham Lincoln, speaking at Gettysburg, said had been tested by the Civil War.

The ramifications for the world at large are enormous. Many scholars and observers assert that Republics last, on average, 250-300 years. Most of the world is governed without the consent of the governed. To be sure, elections are held, but just try running for office in China, Russia, Pakistan, Turkey, Belarus, or any number of countries, without the consent of the ruling government. (Parenthetically, I pause to note that I am cognizant of being on the American bandwagon. In a *Washington Post* column, Robin Givhan observed: “Patriotism is like the love that a parent has for a child; nationalism is akin to believing that one’s child can do no wrong.”)

America has much to offer the world. America has admittedly made mistakes. Yet America remains — if only we will let it — a force for good in the world. The President’s new National Security Strategy suggests that America will retrench in 2026. Is the world better and safer with or without America? A taste of Chinese dominance might provide the answer.

What my inner Nostradamus predicts

As we look forward to 2026, my inner Nostradamus tells me that whereas vaticination is entertaining, prophecy is a precarious undertaking. So, what will happen in:

• **Ukraine** — As I write this, Putin has accused Ukraine of targeting one of his rural residences. Ukraine vehemently denies this and calls it a fabrication. Trump says he’s very upset about it after Putin complained about the attack. Strange, that a man who sent 500 drones into Ukraine the previous

evening should complain that they might try to fight back. Alas, this sort of thing will continue in 2026.

• **Taiwan** — Will China ease its pressure on Taiwan or perhaps go the other way and attack the island nation? China just announced a major live-fire drill around Taiwan. This may be nothing more than outrage over an \$11 billion arms sale the US agreed with Taiwan. The new National Security Strategy states that Taiwan is vital to US interests. So, let us not concede too much here.

• **Gaza** — Trump announced that reconstruction will start soon. The only reasonable prediction I can make here is that Saudi Arabia will get on board. The business opportunity is just too big. And Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) will find a way to declare that Hamas’ only exit to peace is to renounce violence. MBS in the role of a modern-day Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. Who’d have thought it?

• **Sudan** — Unfortunately this misery-drenched corner of Africa seems destined to remain so drenched and miserable. The palpable tragedy here is that there is no recognizable benefit to any third country, no matter which of the main protagonists prevails.

• **Venezuela** — Rumours and reports have suggested that Maduro is negotiating an exit. His days are numbered.

• **Iran** — President Trump just announced that he supports Israeli attacks on Iran’s missile rebuilding program and that if Iran tries to reconstitute its nuclear program, he will attack again. Iranian President Pezeshkian says that Iran is at full-scale war with the US, Israel, and Europe. Although some Western media outlets tried to cast this as a declaration of war, it really was the lament of the victim. Expect the US and Europe to ratchet up the pressure on Iran. Runaway inflation and the falling value of the Iranian currency trigger protests that may well lead to the end of the regime.

• **North Korea** — Kim Jong Un remains an enigma. On the one hand, he has demonstrated that having nuclear capability gives a country cred. On the other hand, he has not found a way to leverage that for the benefit of the North Korean citizenry. But then, the welfare of his people was never his cause.

The truth is that what remains constant is man’s appetite for shortening the life of his fellow man. Through centuries of existence and conflict, humans have not learned, or don’t seem to care, that it is not necessary for any of us to be a catalyst to hasten the demise of the “other.” We seem to believe that differences in our skin colour, or the shapes of our eyes compel such



action. If that is not enough, we come to believe that our religious faith compels us to eliminate those who worship different gods.

Hence “plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.”

This means roughly that when inflation hits and you buy two items for \$2 each, you get no change from a \$5 bill no matter which items you choose because 2+2 now equals 5. The rate of inflation may come down, but

prices remain high. This is because no one charges less than what the market pays, willingly or otherwise. So, I predict with some confidence that the great gulf in wealth between the haves and have-nots around the world will only widen. More of the available income that most people have will be dedicated to survival, not to acquisition. The few nations that have capital, notably China and the US will control the supply chains of the world. The US is now dangerously close to losing control, not so much because its virtually unlimited borrowing capacity is lost, but because China controls the supply of strategic resources that the US needs for its survival and as well, the supply of manufactured goods that Americans use every day. China’s control of global manufacturing makes it the indispensable factor in America’s consumer economy, with the notable exception of food.

This tells me that 2026 will be a year of profound changes in the US-China relationship. We already saw the beginnings of this play out when President Trump announced punitive tariffs on China which quietly responded with a ban on export of rare earth minerals to the US.

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The Certainty of Uncertainty

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose"

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In short order, there was a de facto truce: America's tariffs were lowered or put on hold and bans on technology exports to China began to ease.

AI's Promise

The promise of AI is enormous. But the part that makes the promise worthwhile is the harnessing of immense processing power that allows us to analyze vast databases, and perform calculations and simulations at rapid speed that mere humans cannot replicate. The promise of automating menial and repetitive jobs is obvious. But AI opens avenues, for example, to find new therapeutic drugs and possibly eliminating arduous clinical trials by virtual testing, for innovations in the use of materials, in new designs, and for using the power of the Internet to transfer knowledge and skills.

The promises of enhancing efficiency, eliminating or minimizing human error, detection of diseases early and hopefully in time for therapeutic intervention, and more to mimic and enhance human creativity, are immense. 2026 will be a year of exponential advances in the adoption of AI-based solutions. But we will also come to learn that the databases used by computers include fiction and information that is incorrect. We will learn that machines, like humans, are prone to fantasy and prevarication. We will learn that we trust machines at our peril, just as we trust politicians at our peril.

The US's National Security Strategy

The National Security Strategy suggests a more



"The promises of enhancing efficiency, eliminating or minimizing human error, detection of diseases early and hopefully in time for therapeutic intervention, and more to mimic and enhance human creativity, are immense. 2026 will be a year of exponential advances in the adoption of AI-based solutions. But we will also come to learn that the databases used by computers include fiction and information that is incorrect. We will learn that machines, like humans, are prone to fantasy and prevarication. We will learn that we trust machines at our peril, just as we trust politicians at our peril..."

aggressive America with respect to both its sphere of influence, which it defines as the Western Hemisphere, and as well the shipping lanes from Taiwan to the second island chain. The idea that China does not conduct itself in accord with the so-called "rules-based international order" is an entrenched part of the NSS.

The statement in the NSS that: "We will also maintain our longstanding declaratory policy on Taiwan, meaning that the United States does not support any unilateral change to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait," suggests no backing down. This is based on not only on Taiwan's dominance of semiconductor production, but mostly because Taiwan provides direct access to the Second Island Chain. The NSS declares that a related security challenge is the potential for any competitor to control the South China Sea. This could allow a potentially hostile power to impose a toll system over one of the world's most vital lanes of commerce or — worse — to close and reopen it at will. Clearly this is a reference to China.

What remains to be seen in 2026 is whether the US will find rapprochement with Europe or continue to treat its European allies as wayward children risking civilizational erasure. The NSS suggests that the solution to Europe's political turmoil is through election of right-wing party candidates. The goal here may be no more than the fostering of more stringent immigration controls. The adoption of such policies would ameliorate criticism of the Trump administration's tough policies on immigration.

Ironically, amid all this distancing, the US will welcome the world to the FIFA World Cup. Perhaps the point is simply to kick the ball down the road. As I said, *plus ça change...*

Happy New Year!

Cheerz...
Bwana

— THE —

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The Choice for 2026 and Beyond

Mauritius faces a stark choice: a decade of stagnation or a new era of accelerated growth. Success requires the political courage to abandon the status quo



Sameer Sharma

As the new government of Mauritius moves beyond its first year in power, the nation finds itself at a pivotal juncture. The economic indicators for 2025 paint a picture of fragile equilibrium, masking deeper structural vulnerabilities that threaten to cap the island's potential. With growth projected at a modest 3.2% — persistently below the estimated potential of 3.5% — and inflation presenting a distorted façade of control, the Mauritian economy is running on idle.

Headline inflation may hover around 4%, but the more telling core inflation measure, stripping out volatile food and energy, remains stubbornly above 6.6%. This, coupled with producer price inflation near 6.9%, signals entrenched cost-push pressures. The central bank's relatively dovish stance, while understandable given the supply-side nature of this inflation, underscores the limits of monetary policy in the absence of complementary structural action.

Beneath these macro figures lies a more disconcerting reality. The government's focus on maintaining

the rupee's stability has resulted in a foreign exchange market that is dysfunctional, illiquid, and dislocated. The official spot rate exists in a state of artificial equilibrium, divorced from the true offshore rate above Rs 49/USD, where genuine supply and demand meet. This dislocation reflects a fundamental lack of capital markets sophistication within policy circles and a central bank, the Bank of Mauritius (BoM), whose credibility is undermined by a balance sheet bloated with overvalued, illiquid assets. The result is a market that "never lies": domestic capital continues to seek refuge overseas (over USD 4bn in foreign holdings), foreign portfolio investment flees an unimpressive local bourse, and the critical engine of private investment sputters.

The government's immediate political economy is dominated by averting a Moody's downgrade. However, with growth lacklustre, the debt-to-GDP ratio's improvement is largely an inflationary mirage. Should this ratio deteriorate towards 90% on any real-term reassessment, a downgrade would be inevitable, triggering capital flight, forcing monetary tightening, and imposing harsh austerity — a vicious cycle Mauritius

has thus far avoided but remains acutely vulnerable to.

The much-touted Vision 2050 and nascent AI ambitions risk becoming expensive distractions if not grounded in realism and open collaboration. Attempts to build purely sovereign AI infrastructure, as seen with Mauritius Telecom's compute grid proposal, ignore the hybrid efficiencies of global cloud partners and the nation's own chequered history in executing complex infrastructure projects. Underpinning all these challenges is an economic structure dominated by oligopolies — both in the private sector, where family-owned conglomerates often exhibit rent-seeking behaviours, and in the public sector, where inefficient State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) serve as bastions of political patronage rather than productivity.

Without a profound shift in policy thinking and execution, Mauritius is condemned to a "new normal" of mediocre growth, insufficient to elevate living standards meaningfully or to graduate to high-income status. The following analysis outlines the necessary course corrections.

I. Diagnosing the Core Dysfunctions: Markets, Competition, and State Intervention

A. The Capital Markets Conundrum

The development of deep, liquid, and credible capital markets is non-negotiable for an aspiring financial centre and a mature economy. Mauritius is failing on all fronts due to a philosophy of control over facilitation.

Foreign Exchange Market: The mandated 90bps bid-ask spread limit is a textbook example of misguided intervention. Spreads reflect liquidity risk, counterparty risk, and market-making costs. Artificially capping them disincentivizes dealers from providing liquidity, exacerbating the very illiquidity and dislocation policymakers seek to avoid. The rule is inconsistently enforced, leading to a plethora of unofficial rates. The solution is not more control, but a decisive move towards a market-determined exchange rate.

A managed, technical adjustment to better reflect the offshore equilibrium (closer to Rs 49/USD) would be a start, followed by the abolition of the spread limit. True



“World Bank reports consistently highlight the concentrated, import-dependent nature of the Mauritian economy. The Competition Commission exists but it seems to lack the mandate, resources, and political backing to effectively dismantle anti-competitive structures. In many sectors, from imports to retail, incentives to collude are high, stifling innovation, keeping consumer prices elevated, and creating barriers for dynamic small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Enhancing the Commission's powers, ensuring its independence, and imposing stringent penalties for anti-competitive behaviour is a prerequisite for a more dynamic, fair, and productive private sector...”

rupee stability will come from attracting foreign investment through sound policy, not from suppressing a price signal.

Equity and Bond Markets: The Stock Exchange of Mauritius remains anaemic, plagued by high fees, low liquidity, and a narrow investor base. Strategic partnerships with larger exchanges like the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) could provide the technological upgrade and access to international liquidity needed.

More critically, the local government bond market is fragmented and inaccessible. A clear roadmap to Euroclearability is essential to attract foreign institutional investors. This requires consolidating debt issuance into larger, benchmark bonds and developing a functional interbank repo market, with the BoM acting as a catalyst for liquidity in its nascent stages.

B. The Pension System: A Crisis of sustainability and Governance

The government's move to align the pensionable age with the retirement age, while framed as a necessary measure for fiscal sustainability, highlights a deeper, more systemic failure within the nation's retirement savings architecture. The debate on parametric reforms aside, the fundamental issue lies in the abysmal performance and governance of the pension funds themselves. Both defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) schemes suffer from archaic investment strategies, poor governance, and a lack of sophistication. Their portfolios

are chronically over-invested in low-yielding local bonds and illiquid local equities, a strategy driven more by regulatory inertia and a captive domestic audience than by prudent fiduciary duty. This home bias condemns pensioners to sub-par returns, exacerbating the very sustainability crisis the government seeks to address.

The Choice for 2026 and Beyond

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The root causes are twofold. First, the restrictive foreign exchange regime and lack of FX flexibility actively hamper the ability of fund managers to build properly diversified global portfolios, forcing them into an overcrowded local pool. Second, and more critically, the pension funds lack the modern systems, processes, and specialized personnel required for dynamic investment in global alternatives — such as private equity, infrastructure, and real estate — which are essential for generating necessary risk-adjusted returns. Consequently, pension reform is more than a social policy; it is a critical capital market imperative.

To secure the future of Mauritian retirees, the state must liberalize FX access for institutional investors, mandate professional governance standards for pension boards, and incentivize the outsourcing of asset management to internationally qualified firms. Retirement security depends on global expertise, ensuring savings are not trapped within a shallow local market.

C. The Judicial Bottleneck: Where Proceduralism Strangles Justice and Business

While judicial independence is a cornerstone of Mauritius's democracy, its effectiveness is crippled by an archaic, overly procedural, and slow-moving system. Justice delayed is indeed justice denied, and in the economic sphere, this translates directly into suppressed entrepreneurship, entrenched oligopoly power, and a higher cost of doing business. The management of cases is poor, with matters dragging on for years.

This creates a profoundly uneven playing field: a well-resourced conglomerate can easily outlast a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) in a civil dispute, using procedural delays as a strategic weapon. The SME, facing existential cash flow constraints, is often forced to settle unfairly or abandon its claim altogether. This not only denies individual justice but also stifles competitive discipline, allowing inefficient or predatory incumbents to operate with impunity. For an economy needing dynamism, this is a critical failure.

Reform must be bold and modelled on global best practices from common law peers. Singapore offers a masterclass in judicial efficiency; the establishment of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) and a streamlined, technology-driven Supreme Court feature strict case management timelines, active 'docket judges' who shepherd cases to conclusion, and the widespread use of pre-trial conferences to narrow issues.

Similarly, the UK's Business and Property Courts operate on these principles, utilizing specialized judges and fixed



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schedules for disclosure and trial. Mauritius must adopt these models by creating a dedicated, fast-track Commercial Division with mandatory case completion KPIs (e.g., 18 months for standard commercial suits). This must be supported by the full digitalization of court filings and processes. The measurable outcome will be a dramatic improvement in contract enforcement rankings, directly boosting investor confidence and domestic business formation.

D. The Competition Deficit

World Bank reports consistently highlight the concentrated, import-dependent nature of the Mauritian economy. The Competition Commission exists but it seems to lack the mandate, resources, and political backing to effectively dismantle anti-competitive structures. In many sectors, from imports to retail, incentives to collude are high, stifling innovation, keeping consumer prices elevated, and creating bar-

riers for dynamic small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Enhancing the Commission's powers, ensuring its independence, and imposing stringent penalties for anti-competitive behaviour is a prerequisite for a more dynamic, fair, and productive private sector.

E. The SOE Albatross and the Accountability Vacuum

The single most impactful reform for unleashing growth is the transformation of the State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) sector. SOEs in ports, aviation, utilities, and waste management are typically overstaffed, underproductive, and resistant to innovation. They crowd out private investment, distort markets through implicit subsidies, and remain a persistent drain on the fiscus.

The solution is a structured, transparent privatization program where the state becomes a minority shareholder (e.g., 25%) post-restructuring, subjecting these entities to full market discipline. This would unlock capital, improve service quality, and liberate the government from managing businesses it is ill-equipped to run.

Crucially, for all remaining SOEs and public institutions — from Air Mauritius to the Central Water Authority — governance must be revolutionized. Each must operate with clear, published Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) tied to efficiency, service delivery, and financial sustainability. The compensation of leadership and boards must be radically restructured, with a significant majority of variable pay linked directly to the achievement of these KPIs. The current culture of guaranteed high remuneration, regardless of performance, fosters complacency. This model of performance-based accountability must extend across the public sector, signalling a definitive break from the patronage-based model of the past.

Sameer Sharma

☞ Cont. on page 9



“The single most impactful reform for unleashing growth is the transformation of the State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) sector. SOEs in ports, aviation, utilities, and waste management are typically overstaffed, underproductive, and resistant to innovation... From Air Mauritius to the Central Water Authority — governance must be revolutionized. Each must operate with clear, published Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) tied to efficiency, service delivery, and financial sustainability. The compensation of leadership and boards must be radically restructured, with a significant majority of variable pay linked directly to the achievement of these KPIs...”

The Choice for 2026 and Beyond

II. A Blueprint for Structural Reform: From Land to AI

A. Fiscal Revolution: Land Value Taxation and Decentralization

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Mauritius requires a tax system that incentivizes production, investment, and efficient land use, rather than perpetuating hoarding and speculation. The introduction of a **Land Value Tax (LVT)** would be transformative.

- **How it Works:** LVT taxes the unimproved value of land alone, excluding the value of buildings, machinery, or other investments on it. This critical distinction punishes idle speculation and rewards development.
- **Impact:** By increasing the holding cost of vacant or underutilized land, LVT compels owners to either develop the land to generate income or sell it to someone who will. This would dramatically increase the supply of land for productive use, lowering costs for housing and business expansion. Agricultural land confirmed for active local production could be exempted, while high-value development land would carry a higher tax burden, aligning with optimal land use planning.
- **Decentralization Synergy:** The revenue from LVT should be primarily managed at the municipal and district council levels. This decentralizes fiscal power, fostering local accountability. Communities would directly benefit from funds used for local infrastructure, services, and contracts — bolstering local SMEs, from plumbing firms to IT services. This creates a virtuous cycle of local investment and empowerment.

B. Catalyzing the Private Sector: SME Finance and FDI Attraction

Half of Mauritian SMEs operate at a subsistence level, lacking the sophistication and capital to scale. Beyond traditional bank lending, Mauritius must develop a vibrant venture capital and private equity ecosystem, with targeted funds for tech, green innovation, and export-oriented services. This requires regulatory sandboxes, favourable tax treatment for long-term risk capital, and efforts to connect local entrepreneurs with regional and global investors.

To attract high-quality, non-real estate FDI, Mauritius must move from a discretionary, relationship-based system to a rules-based, transparent one. Licenses, approvals, and public procurement must be digitized and automated. The principle should be “compliance grants access,” not “connections grant contracts.” This reduces corruption, increases efficiency, and signals to the world that Mauritius is a serious, modern business jurisdiction. This must be coupled with a more open immigration policy for high-skilled talent, injecting new ideas and competition into the ecosystem.

C. Strategic Recalibration: AI and Central Bank Credibility

The AI strategy must pivot from sovereign isolation to hybrid pragmatism. The vision of Mauritius Telecom building a “sovereign compute grid” and becoming a disaster recovery hub for Africa is ambitious but appears detached from financial and operational reality. There is

no published, credible business plan detailing how this multi-billion-rupee capital expenditure will be funded without massive state subsidy or a dilutive capital raise. Given the track record of infrastructure delays and cost overruns, a go-it-alone approach is excessively risky.

A hybrid model, leveraging secure cloud partnerships (AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud) for non-sensitive workloads and larger-scale processing, while maintaining sovereign infrastructure for core government data, offers cost-effectiveness, scalability, and access to cutting-edge innovation. Techniques like federated learning, Homomorphic Encryption, and confidential computing can ensure data security in hybrid environments.

The focus should be on attracting FDI into **green power generation** to sustainably feed both national demand and potential data centres, while partnering with global tech leaders for compute capacity. For Mauritius Telecom to be a credible player in this space, it likely requires further privatization to bring in capital and expertise, transforming it from a state utility into a competitive, market-driven technology partner.

Finally, the Bank of Mauritius must regain its credibility. This begins with an independent forensic audit of its holdings in companies like AHL Ltd. and its portfolio of “other assets.” Appointing an internationally experienced fund manager to maximize value from these non-core holdings is essential. The Bank’s leadership and advisory circles need an infusion of professionals with deep capital markets experience, moving beyond theoretical economics to the practicalities of managing a modern financial system in a globalized world.

The Choice for 2026 and Beyond

Mauritius stands on the brink of a decade of stagnation or a new era of accelerated, inclusive growth. The path forward is not a mystery, but it requires political courage to break with the reflexes of the past. The current team’s adherence to controlled markets, tolerance of oligopolies, and management of a bloated, unaccountable state sector is yielding predictably mediocre results.

The agenda for 2026 must be bold and unambiguous:

1. Liberalize and deepen financial markets, starting with FX and bond market reforms, and concurrently modernize the pension fund sector to act as a sophisticated domestic investor.
2. Overhaul the judiciary with a fast-track commercial division, adopting Singaporean-style case management to make contract enforcement swift and credible.
3. Empower the Competition Commission and break the stranglehold of rent-seeking structures.
4. Privatize and revitalize SOEs under a new governance model of strict KPIs and performance-based compensation.
5. Enact a fiscal revolution with Land Value Taxation and meaningful decentralization.
6. Champion a rules-based, digital state to attract productive FDI and nurture SMEs.
7. Adopt pragmatic, hybrid strategies for technologies like AI, based on credible financing and partnership models.
8. Restore institutional credibility across public institutions through transparency, performance-based governance, and expertise.

This is not merely an economic programme; it is a philosophical shift towards more economic freedom, less distortive government, and genuine equal opportunity.



Pic - facebook

“Half of Mauritian SMEs operate at a subsistence level, lacking the sophistication and capital to scale. Beyond traditional bank lending, Mauritius must develop a vibrant venture capital and private equity ecosystem, with targeted funds for tech, green innovation, and export-oriented services. This requires regulatory sandboxes, favourable tax treatment for long-term risk capital, and efforts to connect local entrepreneurs with regional and global investors...”

The ideas of the past have run their course. For Mauritius to reach the next level, it must embrace the discipline and dynamism of the market, empower its people and municipalities, ensure swift and fair justice, and confidently engage with the world.

The time for course correction is now. The alternative is a gradual decline into economic irrelevance, where stability becomes synonymous with stagnation.

Sameer Sharma



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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

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

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Gen Z, Straw Hats, Scrolls, and the Ballot Box

In the spirit of Plato's dialogues — where timeless questions meet the anxieties of the present — this playful exchange imagines Socrates in conversation with Cephalus as they confront a very modern phenomenon: the rise of Gen Z-led protests across the globe. Set somewhere between ancient Athens and the comment section of social media, the dialogue uses humour and gentle irony to explore how youthful activism, digital coordination, and political upheaval challenge long-held assumptions about authority, leadership, and civic responsibility.

Plutonix

Setting: In a sunlit Athenian portico where marble columns meet dropped Wi-Fi signals, and the ancient art of questioning struggles bravely against an unstable internet connection.

Socrates: Good morning, Cephalus! I see you frowning at that glowing tablet as if it were a Delphic oracle that refuses to speak plainly. What troubles you?

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates, it troubles me greatly. The youths have discovered politics again.

Socrates: Discovered it? As one discovers a lost sandal?

Cephalus: Worse. They have *remixed* it. They protest without leaders, coordinate without town criers, and wear straw hats with skulls upon them. I do not know whether to fear them or ask them for technical support.

Socrates: Let us inquire together, then. You say they protest — what do they protest for?

Cephalus: Everything, it seems. Corruption, climate, debt, wetlands, electricity, water, social media bans, governments themselves — sometimes all before lunch.

Socrates: And are these protests effective, or are they merely loud, like a chorus of cicadas — those loud summer insects, famous for their constant buzzing — in summer?

Cephalus: Effective to a terrifying degree. In Bangladesh, students chased away a Prime Minister of fifteen years. In Nepal, they forced out another, replacing him with an interim government led by a former Chief Justice — a *woman*, no less! In Madagascar, the president fled into exile. Even Kenya's youth made the government tear up a finance bill like a bad tragedy.

Socrates: You speak as if Zeus himself had handed smartphones to the youth.

Cephalus: Smartphones, yes — and TikTok, Discord, and Instagram. No leaders to arrest, no heads to cut off. The hydra has learned digital marketing.

Socrates: Tell me, Cephalus, is a movement without leaders truly leaderless? Or have the leaders merely learned to hide among the comments?

Cephalus: That is precisely my confusion. When I was young, revolutions had pamphlets. Now they have memes. When I look for a manifesto, I find a dancing teenager explaining corruption in fifteen seconds.

Socrates: And is that explanation false?

Cephalus: Annoyingly, no.

Socrates: Then perhaps the youths have discovered a new form of rhetoric — one that fits the attention span of an impatient city.

Cephalus: If so, it is a dangerous rhetoric. They use an anime flag — *One Piece*, they call it — as a symbol of rebellion which they used in Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Pirates! In my day, pirates were criminals, not political philosophers.

Socrates: But pirates, Cephalus, also rejected empires, questioned authority, and shared the spoils more equally than many respectable governments.

Cephalus: Socrates, please do not defend pirates.

Socrates: I defend inquiry, not piracy. Tell me: if a symbol unites youths in Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines against what they call "oppressive systems," is the problem the symbol — or the systems?

Cephalus: You always do this. I complain, and you turn my complaint into a mirror.

Socrates: A polished mirror, I hope. Now, you said these protests have reshaped the world in 2025. What do you fear will happen next?

Cephalus: That they will move from the streets to the ballot box. Imagine it, Socrates: people who learned politics on TikTok now writing laws.

Socrates: And did you learn politics from wiser sources?

Cephalus: From elders.

Socrates: And were all elders wise?

Cephalus: ...No.

Socrates: Then perhaps the question is not *where* one learns politics, but *whether* one learns it well.

Cephalus: Very clever. But consider Mauritius. We have not had governments toppled by dancing protests. Yet our youths now argue endlessly online about wetlands, transparency, and meritocracy. They want "a seat at the table."

Socrates: Do you begrudge them the chair?

Cephalus: I worry they will rearrange the furniture.

Socrates: Furniture, like constitutions, occasionally needs rearranging to avoid collapse. You mentioned 2026. What is foretold for that year?

Cephalus: Elections everywhere — Nepal, Peru, Morocco. Gen Z candidates in record numbers. Former protestors becom-



Clockwise from top left: Gen Z protests in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and Madagascar. Pic - New York Times

ing ministers. Imagine chanting in the street one year and negotiating budgets the next.

Socrates: Is that not the very test of justice? To move from shouting "This is wrong!" to asking "What should replace it?"

Cephalus: Ah, but there lies the problem. These movements are leaderless. When it is time to write policy, who holds the pen?

Socrates: Perhaps many hands, each correcting the other.

Cephalus: Or smudging the ink until nothing is legible.

Socrates: That is a fair concern. Tell me, Cephalus, do governments ever smear their own ink?

Cephalus: Constantly.

Socrates: Then the youths face not a unique problem, but a familiar one. Yet you also mentioned something more radical — debt strikes and climate lawsuits.

Cephalus: Yes! They claim the debts and environmental damage of previous generations are an "illegal burden" placed upon them. They speak as if time itself were a corrupt accountant.

Socrates: An interesting argument. If a father spends recklessly and leaves his child a mountain of debt, do we praise the inheritance?

Cephalus: No, but neither do we usually sue the father's ghost.

Socrates: Perhaps the youths are less interested in haunting than in preventing repetition. If they protest debt, what do they value?

Cephalus: Sustainability, I suppose.

Socrates: And if they protest climate destruction?

Cephalus: Survival.

Socrates: These seem reasonable concerns for mortals.

Cephalus: You make them sound noble. Still, I cannot shake the feeling that something is upside down. The young teach, the

old scroll. The flag of rebellion comes from a cartoon. Revolutions organize on apps designed for cat videos.

Socrates: Cephalus, when I was young, elders complained that writing itself would ruin memory. Now you complain that short videos will ruin politics. Perhaps every age believes the next one communicates incorrectly.

Cephalus: Are you saying I should simply accept this "Gen Z Activist Year" as fate?

Socrates: Not fate — participation. The youths demand accountability, meritocracy, and transparency. These are not youthful vices; they are neglected virtues.

Cephalus: And what of disinformation? Governments will weaponise social media, you know. Lies travel faster than truth.

Socrates: Lies have always been swift; only their sandals have changed. The task of philosophy — and citizenship — is to slow down, question, and examine. Perhaps Gen Z's greatest test in 2026 will be whether they can doubt their own feeds.

Cephalus: That would indeed be revolutionary.

Socrates: So, Cephalus, let us conclude. Are the Gen Z protests merely chaos, or are they a painful birth of a new political form?

Cephalus: After speaking with you, I reluctantly admit they may be both.

Socrates: As all births are — messy, loud, and full of alarming fluids.

Cephalus: Socrates!

Socrates: Forgive me. Even philosophers must be humorous. Now, shall we watch this TikTok you keep scowling at?

Cephalus: Very well. But if I start wearing a straw hat, promise me an intervention.

Socrates: I promise only to ask you why — and whether the skull means justice or merely good branding.

They lean over the glowing screen together, the old and the young meeting not in the streets, but in questions.



Nandini Bhautoo

After the Age of Certainty: Rebuilding Meaning in a World of Difference

Our challenge is not a lack of ideas, but the ethical courage to prioritize and integrate them into a coherent vision for society

Modernity is often treated as a recent condition, but its foundations are old. When Descartes declared *cogito, ergo sum* - "I think, therefore I am" - he did more than establish a philosophical principle. He relocated authority. Truth was no longer grounded in tradition, revelation, or inherited cosmology, but in the rational human subject. The mind became the measure of the world.

This shift made modern science, secular governance, and individual autonomy possible. By the eighteenth century, it acquired moral force through the Enlightenment injunction *Sapere Aude* - dare to know. Reason was not merely a tool; it was a duty. Combined with the technological revolution of the printing press, which allowed ideas to circulate, stabilize, and scale, this rational turn shaped national identities, political movements, and collective consciousness over centuries. By any serious reckoning, modernity is at least four hundred years old.

Yet modernity was never a seamless triumph. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, its internal contradictions had become visible. Rapid industrialization, urban expansion, and technological acceleration dissolved older social bonds faster than new ones could form. The result was a profound experience of fragmentation. Modernist art and literature - Ezra Pound's fractured poetry, Kafka's alienated protagonists, Joyce's disjointed temporalities - did not merely aestheticise chaos; they testified to it. Reason had reorganized the world, but it had not made it whole.

By the 1960s, this tension erupted into open rebellion. From Paris to Los Angeles, a

generation questioned not only political authority but the very legitimacy of Enlightenment rationalism as a civilisational centre. Music became the medium of revolt, fuelling movements against war, segregation, bureaucratic control, and the corporatisation of life. What was being challenged was the assumption that there could be a single, universal framework - moral, epistemic, or cultural - through which all human experience must pass.

The aftermath was an explosion into multiplicity. Postmodernism dismantled grand narratives. Postcolonialism exposed the violence hidden within universalism. Feminist and subaltern perspectives insisted that lived experience itself was a source of knowledge. Voices long excluded claimed the right to speak, to define, to exist on their own terms. This was not a trivial gain. It was the result of centuries of struggle against erasure.

And yet, we now live amid the unresolved consequences of that victory.

In theory, the democratisation of expression promised liberation. In practice, it has produced a world of parallel, non-relational ideologies - coexisting without dialogue, coherence, or shared criteria of judgment. Old social, familial, and symbolic structures have weakened or disappeared, but no new integrative frameworks have fully emerged. As Antonio Gramsci warned, the interregnum is a dangerous time: "the old is dying and the new cannot be born." It is in such moments that societies experience confusion, cynicism, and exhaustion.

The problem is not plurality itself. The problem is plurality without relation.

Contemporary culture has largely conflated equality with equivalence. All voices are treated as equally valid, but no shared standards exist to evaluate meaning, consequence, or coherence. Judgment is feared as oppression; discernment is dismissed as elitism. The result is not genuine pluralism but moral paralysis. When every idea is untouchable, wisdom and pathology occupy the same plane. Freedom collapses into noise.

The task ahead, then, is not merely to multiply voices, but to forge symbolic narratives capable of coalescing collective vision and aspiration. Without such narratives, pluralism remains centrifugal -- energetic, expressive, and ultimately directionless. Frameworks such as the recently launched Vision 2050 consultation process carry genuine potential, but only if participation is



"As we enter the year of the Fire Horse in 2026, one may hope that its symbolism of decisive movement helps steer our many aspirations toward action, responsibility, and shared purpose..." Pic - SinoCultural.com

substantive rather than procedural, and if citizen voices are not absorbed into pre-existing administrative templates.

The challenge today is not a lack of ideas. On the contrary, if we go by the aspiration expressed by people from all walks of life, our society today is saturated with proposals - on food security, improving the state of education and student formation, maximizing the impact of healthcare, ensuring technological capability, welfare optimisation, and heightening the impact of the service economy. The real difficulty lies in prioritisation, sequencing, and ethical integration: deciding what must come first, what can wait, and what kind of society these choices quietly presuppose. Economic imperatives cannot be disentangled from ethical ones, nor policy from the symbolic meanings it generates.

This is where institutions face their deepest test. Structural reform is not a matter of technical upgrading; it is a far more difficult transformation of mindset. It requires confronting the inertia of habit, the comfort of routine, and the bureaucratic cultures that reward compliance over comprehension.

There is a tale told that Nazi Germany triumphed in its monstrosity because its bureaucrats had learnt tunnel vision - never questioning what preceded or followed their specific tasks in the long chain of events. The burden which our administrative process has become with its heavy red tape and the indifference of a substantial proportion of public officials about their role in the larger picture risks becoming one of the major hurdles in our modernization drive.

When responsibility becomes narrowly parcelled, when success is measured solely by pleasing immediate hierarchies, and when individuals are discouraged from grasping the wider consequences of their actions, meaning drains out of collective life.

Administration continues but thought recedes.

History shows that societies rarely collapse from a lack of intelligence; they collapse from the normalization of thoughtlessness - when systems function efficiently while purpose evaporates, and when ideas remain trapped at the level of abstraction, never translated into lived reality.

"When responsibility becomes narrowly parcelled, when success is measured solely by pleasing immediate hierarchies, and when individuals are discouraged from grasping the wider consequences of their actions, meaning drains out of collective life. Administration continues but thought recedes. History shows that societies rarely collapse from a lack of intelligence; they collapse from the normalization of thoughtlessness - when systems function efficiently while purpose evaporates..."

If pluralism is to mature rather than fragment, this is the moment to pull back and re-evaluate. Not to silence difference, but to ask how difference can be oriented toward shared futures. Otherwise, freedom risks remaining expressive but ineffective - rich in discourse, poor in consequence, and forever suspended between aspiration and fulfilment. Maybe we need to learn to dream about the future, through words so that they can translate to action.

As we enter the year of the Fire Horse in 2026, one may hope that its symbolism of decisive movement helps steer our many aspirations toward action, responsibility, and shared purpose.

"The challenge today is not a lack of ideas. On the contrary, if we go by the aspiration expressed by people from all walks of life, our society today is saturated with proposals - on food security, improving the state of education and student formation, maximizing the impact of healthcare, ensuring technological capability, welfare optimisation, and heightening the impact of the service economy. The real difficulty lies in prioritisation, sequencing, and ethical integration: deciding what must come first, what can wait, and what kind of society these choices quietly presuppose..."

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Oil prices rise as tensions flare in Yemen, peace hopes dented in Ukraine. Pic - CNA

Geopolitical tensions reignite oil rally: Brent nears \$62

Oil prices climbed nearly 2% on Monday as escalating conflicts in Yemen and a diplomatic setback in Ukraine disrupted market expectations of a "peace dividend."

Brent crude futures rose \$1 to \$61.64 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) climbed to \$57.84. This reversal comes after prices slumped last week on hopes that the Russia-Ukraine war might be nearing a resolution.

Two Fronts of Instability

The market's optimism was dampened by two major developments:

- **Middle East Escalation:** Fresh instability in Yemen's Hadramout province, including Saudi airstrikes against separatist forces, has revived fears of regional supply disruptions.

- **Diplomatic Friction in Russia:** Moscow accused Ukraine of a drone strike on President Putin's residence, threatening to withdraw from peace talks. Ukraine dismissed the claim as a "false justification" for further Russian strikes. This tension cooled recent optimism following "positive" discussions between U.S. President Donald Trump and both Ukrainian and Russian leadership.

Supply Outlook

Analysts at UBS suggest \$60 remains a "soft floor" for Brent, supported by strong Chinese imports and an expected slowdown in non-OPEC supply growth by mid-2026. Meanwhile, traders are awaiting delayed U.S. inventory data, with forecasts suggesting a drop in crude stockpiles.

'We'll knock the hell out': Donald Trump's big warning to Iran over nuclear ambitions



U.S. WARNS IRAN

US President Donald Trump held a press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Pic - Mirror Now

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned that the United States would strike Iran if it attempts to rebuild its nuclear programme, saying he is concerned by reports suggesting Tehran is moving to restore its capabilities. "We'll knock the hell out of them, but hopefully that's not happening," he said.

"Iran may be behaving badly; it hasn't been confirmed, but if it is confirmed, consequences may be more powerful than last time," Trump said alongside Israel President Benjamin Netanyahu.

Talking about reports of Iran rebuilding weapons, Trump said that they are not using the sites which were destroyed earlier this year, but possibly using different sites.

The Republican President also affirmed support for Israel in strikes if Iran continued with its ballistic missile program, which Netanyahu highlighted earlier this year as an "existential" threat.

The remarks came as Trump has long vowed to curb Iran's nuclear capabilities, under which the US launched massive strikes earlier this year on its key nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan.

Trump claimed the strikes had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear ambitions, a claim Iran said was exaggerated, reports Hindustan Times.

Trump also suggested that Tehran wants to make a deal, calling it a "smart" move. "They wish they had made that deal. So I think again, they should make a deal," Trump said further.

He further added that "Iran should have made the deal last time," stressing that he gave the country an option which they refused.

US President Trump hosted his Israeli counterpart in Florida on Monday for crucial talks about moving to the next stage of the Gaza truce plan. Trump played down the reports of tensions with Netanyahu, saying, "he can be very difficult."

Earlier, Israel's intelligence chief accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons and using them against Tel Aviv, Bloomberg reported. "Iran has not abandoned its ambition to destroy the State of Israel," David Barnea, the head of Mossad, reportedly said in a speech.

Across the Globe

African currencies outperform

African currencies were among the world's best performing in 2025, driven by soaring commodity prices and rising economic stability. South Africa's rand is on track for its biggest annual jump in 16 years, as policy reforms compounded with a weakening dollar drew investors to Africa's biggest economy.

Meanwhile, soaring metal prices -- gold, silver, and copper have all reached record highs this year -- have boosted the currencies of the Democratic Republic of



A man counts Nigerian naira notes in a market place as people struggle with the economic hardship and cashflow problems ahead of Nigeria's Presidential elections. Pic - Reuters

Congo, Ghana, Zambia, and other major African metal producers. The commodities boom has in turn boosted sub-Saharan African growth prospects, as benefits spill over to the broader economy, while likely easing the fiscal strain on increasingly debt-burdened nations.

US, Ukraine differ on guarantees

The US reportedly offered Ukraine a 15-year security guarantee, far less than the half-century backing sought by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as he looks to ward off future Russian aggression. Kyiv's ask comes after it dropped its demand to join NATO as part of a ceasefire deal currently being discussed, and is among a number of reasons why a breakthrough in negotiations looks unlikely despite positive rhetoric from Washington.

Moscow on Monday accused Kyiv of attacking one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's residences, an allegation Zelenskyy dismissed as "typical Russian lies" aimed at giving the Kremlin an excuse to continue its onslaught of Ukraine.

Iran protests over flailing economy

Iranians clashed with police in Tehran for a second day in protests over the country's collapsing economy, intensifying pressure on the authorities as US President Donald Trump threatened renewed strikes against the country. Security forces fired tear gas on demonstrators angered by a plummeting currency, skyrocketing inflation, and worsening public services.

Official media warned of "cells of unrest," Radio Free Europe reported, though Iran's president urged his government to listen to protesters' "legitimate demands." The domestic unrest came with Trump telling reporters that the US would again attack Iran were it to be found rebuilding its nuclear program, after Washington briefly lent its military backing to an Israeli offensive on Iranian sites in June.

Rolex bets on used watch market



Rolex watch. Pic - Business Insider Africa

Rolex is expanding its presence in the second-hand market for its watches -- though it doesn't expect to make any more money doing so. The Swiss company sells about 1.2 million new timepieces a year, and there's a waitlist for them, so pre-owned models can cost more than new ones, reports Reuters.

The \$25 billion annual trade in used Swiss watches, however, is perennially threatened by abundant counterfeits, so Rolex is partnering with independent retailers -- who perform the leg-work and reap all the profits -- to weed out fakes. "The message from Rolex probably may not be one other luxury brands want to hear," The Wall Street Journal wrote, but such arrangements may become "an unavoidable part of protecting their brand image."

Across the Globe

England will ban boiling lobsters alive

Boiling lobsters alive will be banned in England under new animal welfare rules. The change follows a report that argued that cephalopod molluscs, such as squid and octopus, and decapod crustaceans like crabs do not simply respond to damage but feel pain as mammals do, and should be protected.

Other countries, including Norway, Switzerland, and New Zealand, have instituted protections for complex invertebrates. England will also make other changes to animal welfare policy, tightening laws on hunting, battery farming, and shock collars. More humane methods of killing lobsters pre-boiling include a sharp knife through the head, electrical stunning, or freezing.



The UK government has announced plans to ban the practice of boiling lobsters alive. Pic - Threads

Wikipedia turns 25

Wikipedia has become more, not less, trusted in recent decades, one of its founders argued, and should be a model for restoring trust in other institutions. The online encyclopedia turns 25 in January, and has gone from being "a punchline about the unreliability of online information to the factual foundation of the web," The Verge wrote.

During that time, trust in government, media, and business has fallen, surveys have found. Jimmy Wales said Wikipedia's commitment to transparency -- you can see how its decisions are made -- and to political neutrality has been key to bucking that trend. The media, he said, often "isn't representative of broader segments of society and isn't listening to problems that people are having."

AI disrupts emerging economies



Role of AI and emerging technologies. Pic - The Economic Times

As well as disrupting the professional trajectories of early-career workers, AI could interfere with the development of emerging economies, analysis suggested. Developing countries follow a predictable pathway, a researcher wrote in *AI Pathways*, moving from low-skilled agrarian economies, via cheap manufacturing, to higher-value services and technology.

The second stage exploits poorer countries' relatively lower wages: Companies reduce labour costs 98% by paying a developing-world worker \$3 a day instead of an American \$150 a day. But if AI automates many of the jobs that developing countries provide, and does so just as cheaply, that rung on the ladder will be weakened.

Chatbots are expected to take over many call centre and data-labelling jobs that developing countries provide.

Beijing: US is hurting China-India ties

Beijing accused the US of trying to jeopardize easing tensions between China and India in a bid to establish "military hegemony." A Chinese official said Thursday that a recent Pentagon report "sows discord between China and other countries" by suggesting Beijing could use its recently improved relations with India to prevent Washington from deepening ties to New Delhi.

Last year, China and India defused a years long standoff over their disputed border, and their leaders met this August during the Indian prime minister's first visit to China in seven years. Beijing maintains the situation at the border "is generally stable." Still, India is massively ramping up its military infrastructure there to deter China in a potential future conflict, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Most-viewed AI slop YouTube channel earns \$4.25 million a year: Study claims

A new study on AI-slop and brainrot videos on YouTube claimed that the most-viewed channel on the platform is based in India, which earns approximately \$4,251,500 annually. The channel, which only serves AI-generated content, has 2.07 billion views.

The study, conducted by video-editing company Kapwing, surveyed 15,000 of the world's most popular YouTube channels and found that 278 of them consist entirely of AI-generated content. The study analysed the top 100 channels in every country, reports Hindustan Times.

The study found that "the AI slop channel with the most views is India's Bandar Apna Dost."

The bio of the channel reads, "Welcome to 'Bandar Apna Dost' -- a unique blend of fun, emotion, and ultra-realistic storytelling through the life of Boltu Bandar! Here, you'll find short cinematic video featuring a realistic monkey in hilarious, dramatic, and heart-touching human-style situations."

At the time of writing this article, the channel had over 2.76 million subscribers with 619 videos. According to the study, the channel has "estimated annual earnings of \$4,251,500."

What did social media say?

An individual posted, "The average dude wakes up in the morning and goes to work for a measly \$50,000 per year when they could just be living in India and making AI slop videos." Another added, "AI Slop is only going to get worse before it gets better, as more people mess around with these tools."

A third commented, "Gotta respect the hustle, can't lie." A fourth wrote, "AI slop printing 4.25m proves attention beats taste every single time."

Kapwing started a new YouTube account to judge the occurrence of AI slop or brainrot videos in the first 500 videos that appeared on the feed. The study said "a total of 104 (21%) of the first 500 videos were AI-generated, and 165 (33%) of those 500 videos were brainrot."

Russia claims Ukraine attacked Putin's residence, Zelensky slams 'lies'

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that Ukraine had attempted to strike President Vladimir Putin's state residence in Russia's Novgorod region, warning that the alleged attack would alter Moscow's negotiating stance, according to Interfax.

Volodymyr Zelensky dismissed Russia's allegations of an attack on President Putin's residence, calling the claims "lies."

'Reckless and state terrorism': Russian Foreign Minister

Lavrov said Ukraine launched 91 long-range drones at the presidential residence over December 28-29, calling the action "reckless" and vowing it would not go unanswered, reports Hindustan Times.

The drones were all destroyed by Russian air defences, Lavrov said.

He added that the attack amounted to "state terrorism."

It was not immediately known whether Putin was at the residence at the time of the alleged attack.

He said targets had already been identified for retaliatory strikes by Russia's armed forces.

Lavrov added that the alleged attack occurred amid discussions on a possible Ukrainian peace deal and said that while Russia would remain engaged in negotiations, Moscow's position would be reassessed.

Zelensky rejected the accusation as

false, saying Russia was laying the groundwork for strikes on government buildings in Kyiv.

Zelensky's response

"Russia is at it again, using dangerous statements to undermine all achievements of our shared diplomatic efforts with President Trump's team. We keep working together to bring peace closer,"

This alleged "residence strike" story is a complete fabrication intended to justify additional attacks against Ukraine, including Kyiv, as well as Russia's own refusal to take necessary steps to end the war. Typical Russian lies. Furthermore, the Russians have already targeted Kyiv in the past, including the Cabinet of Ministers building.

Ukraine does not take steps that can undermine diplomacy. To the contrary, Russia always takes such steps. This is one of many differences between us.

It is critical that the world doesn't stay silent now. We cannot allow Russia to undermine the work on achieving a lasting peace," Zelensky wrote on X.

Peace plan under review after alleged attack

Vladimir Putin told Donald Trump on Monday that Moscow would reassess its stance in peace talks following what Russia described as a Ukrainian drone attack on a Russian presidential residence, the Kremlin said.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah



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From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 326

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 25 November, 1960

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

Editorial

Dr Dupré and Hindi



* * *

Hon Dr Willy Dupré is known in the Legislative Council for his independent way of thinking. He sometimes flout even the party discipline. We have seen with what vehemence he objected to the increase of the salaries of Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) and ministers when that question was being debated in the Council last year. He was indeed going against a policy adopted by the Ministers of his party. He informed the House that he would relinquish the increase to the Treasury. And he was apparently very serious about it. Whether he kept his word or not, that is another question. He and his conscience knows. But this time he did not take part in the debate when that question once more cropped up, though many people would have liked to see him objecting to the increase.

What we want to prove is that Dr Dupré is a man of independent thinking. But at times his thoughts run wild, his conscious mind is overpowered by his subconscious mind.

On Tuesday last, we had a display of his characteristic independent way of thinking. While vehemently criticising the Central Information Office and its director, he told the House that once the CIO sent him a Hindi booklet nicely printed on glossy paper which he threw in the wastepaper basket. Why did he throw it in the wastepaper basket? Can we know whether Hindi considered so repugnant a language that a publication written in it should suffer humiliation at the hands of a member of the Legislative Council — particularly a member of the Labour Party, who enjoys the support of the Hindi-speaking public?

* * *

The Indians and their languages — Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu, etc. — have suffered worse humiliations in this country. But things have changed now. Even the Church is encouraging Indo-Christians to wear Indian dress and to learn their mother tongue. The Parti Mauricien, which has made a name for its anti-Indian feelings, finds it respectable to get its president, Mr Devienne, address public meetings in Hindi. Dr Dupré is an old and experienced man, who has known a bit of the world. He should know that when contempt is poured upon a language or a culture, it does not actually belittle the worth of that language.

We simply say that Dr Dupré has shown a lack of good taste in throwing a publication into the wastepaper basket simply because that publication is in Hindi. Are there no Hindus in his constituency? He could well have sent it to his constituents who know Hindi. But alas! He may have forgotten his Hindi-speaking constituents and on this count he deserves to be forgiven. Shortness of memory is a chronic disease with certain politicians.

Dr Dupré is fortunate in having shown scorn and contempt for something Indian. Indians are used to forget and to forgive. They have been doing so for millennia now. There is no harm in forgiving an old doctor who is in the evening of his life. Dr Millien left the Labour Party a few years ago and only last week Mr Lucien Pouzet, OBE went over to the Parti Mauricien. Dr Millien is now in political wilderness and Mr Pouzet is no doubt feeling the difference between socialism and the undefined theology of the Parti Mauricien. But nothing is known of the future of Dr Dupré. Anyhow, if he stands at the next general election, thousands of Hindi-speaking people will vote for him because it is part of their culture to forgive both the enlightened and the ignorant.

* * *

Incidentally it is again as unfortunate as deplorable to note the personal attacks Dr Dupré levelled against Mr Hazareesingh, Director of the CIO.

We do not defend Mr Hazareesingh because he is a Hindu and in this very column we have on many previous occasions criticized his Department. We agree with Dr Ramgoolam when he says that the CIO is not giving full satisfaction to the country, but this does not in any way justify the ill-mannered attacks on the personality of Mr Hazareesingh.

Dr Dupré and the leaders of the Parti Mauricien may not like Mr Hazareesingh personally, but they must not allow their private prejudices to interfere with public affairs. After all, they have no guarantee that their own faces are universally liked.

That much said, we wish to assure Mr Hazareesingh and his staff that we shall stand by them whenever they are subjected to unwarranted attacks. But we cannot help reminding them that there is a general feeling that the CIO is not delivering

the goods as was expected. Who is

responsible? Mr Hazareesingh or the Colonial Secretary, who is the Minister in charge? This is a matter which needs urgent clarification and the sooner it is clarified, the better it will be for Mr Hazareesingh and public interest.

Even if it is necessary the budget of the CIO must be doubled provided of course it successfully puts across to the people what the Government is doing. Information service is considered to be an important concomitant of democracy: its existence is amply justified but our local CIO must improve its services so as to justify its existence. Mr Hazareesingh has the chance of his life to belie his opponents. He must not miss it. Mr Vickers, the Colonial Secretary, must reorient the policy of the CIO. In the rural areas there is gross ignorance of what is being done by the Government; there is also the continuous misrepresentations by the Opposition. All this have to be eradicated and the CIO was created to that very purpose.

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Doctor Dolittle

Academic Adam Rochussen completed his PhD from Cambridge University earlier this year. "Getting the most elite degree from one of the most elite universities in the world should drive some sense of accomplishment," he writes. But it didn't: It "was one of the easiest things I have ever done, especially relative to how it is perceived." That might sound arrogant, he says, but that's not what he means. He argues that "getting a PhD actually doesn't require particularly high intellect nor does it require particularly hard work." Getting admitted to his PhD required a mid-



Pic - x.com/AdamRochussen/status

dling undergraduate degree and some funding; once in the system, it involved very little actual work. "It is almost impossible to fail a PhD," Rochussen says. "An analysis of over 26,000 PhD candidates across 14 UK universities found that only 3.3% of students failed," and almost all of them were still granted the lesser MPhil

award. That's not the whole story--many quit enroute--but very few actually fail. Doing a PhD is, for many people, the easy, low-agency option, Rochussen says: "In my experience, the smartest undergrads go for the more competitive fields," working for tech startups or law firms, while PhDs are for those who want to stay in the cosy environment of university.



A growing number of US citizens are dying alone, as demographic changes mean that families are smaller and more dispersed. There are no recorded statistics on who is present at death, but other numbers can offer clues: More than 15 million people aged 55 or older have no spouse or biological children; nearly 2 million have no family members at all. Other older adults become isolated through ill health, and up to 25% are not in regular contact

with others. "We've always seen patients who were essentially by themselves" at the end of life, one hospice worker told The Washington Post. "But they weren't as common as they are now."

The price of everything

Some things have become much cheaper. A transistor cost a dollar in 1965; now it costs a fraction of a millionth of a cent. But we don't, as a result, spend less on transistors. Instead we put them in lightbulbs or disposable shopping tags. The phenomenon of spending more on things even as they get cheaper is called Jevons paradox. In contrast, medicine, live music, childcare, and other things involving human time have become much more expensive, because it still takes an hour to look after a kid for an hour, and if someone could make \$30 in that time doing online marketing, they won't accept much less than that. This phenomenon is called Baumol's cost disease. The tech writer Alex Danco notes in a16z's Substack that these two phenomena are intrinsically linked: As society pours its resources into one area, it pushes up the costs in other areas, because it gives workers lucrative options and, in the end, makes society richer. The result is that these days, if you knock a hole in your wall, "it's probably cheaper to buy a flatscreen TV and stick it in front of the hole, (than to hire) a handyman to fix your drywall."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

A grounding week focused on organisation and realistic planning. Career matters stabilise as you refine details and close pending issues. Finances require restraint but improve through careful management. Relationships benefit from calm, honest dialogue. Health improves with routine and rest.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 14, 21, 27, 36
Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

Progress comes through discipline and patience. Work responsibilities increase, but recognition follows sustained effort. Financial decisions should be conservative. Family duties may demand time. Avoid overworking; balance is essential.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 11, 18, 25, 34
Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

Ideas flow freely, but practical application is key. Collaborative efforts succeed if roles are clearly defined. Financial surprises are manageable. Social connections bring useful insights. Focus on mental clarity and rest.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 13, 20, 29, 38
Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

An introspective week encouraging emotional clarity. Creative pursuits flourish quietly. Financial matters stabilise through careful planning. Relationships deepen through empathy rather than words. Protect your energy levels.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 16, 22, 30, 39
Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

Momentum builds, but patience is required. Professional opportunities emerge midweek. Avoid impulsive spending. Personal relationships benefit from compromise. Physical activity helps release tension.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 17, 24, 31, 40
Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

Steady progress defines the week. Work matters improve through consistency. Financial planning favours long-term security. Domestic harmony increases with practical support. Focus on

comfort and health routines.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 19, 26, 33, 37
Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

Communication is highlighted. Clarify misunderstandings at work and home. Financial gains come through information or networking. Avoid scattering energy. Mental focus improves toward the weekend.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 15, 23, 28, 35
Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

Emotional stability returns as priorities become clearer. Career matters require diplomacy. Finances improve through cautious decisions. Family connections bring reassurance. Rest and emotional balance are vital.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 14, 21, 32, 38
Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Leadership is tested through responsibility rather than authority. Professional recognition grows slowly. Avoid financial risks. Relationships benefit from generosity and patience. Maintain physical balance.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 18, 24, 29, 36
Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

A productive week for organisation and problem-solving. Work efficiency improves noticeably. Financial order brings peace of mind. Relationships thrive on small, thoughtful gestures. Watch stress levels.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 11, 16, 25, 31, 40
Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Balance returns through thoughtful choices. Career negotiations move forward. Financial moderation is advised. Emotional clarity strengthens partnerships. Creative outlets bring relaxation.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 20, 27, 34, 39
Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Focus on consolidation rather than change. Work matters stabilise after earlier uncertainty. Financial planning is favoured. Personal relationships deepen through trust. Guard your energy.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 17, 22, 30, 37



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation for Bids

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

Procurement of Contract WW576W – Sewerage Project at Clairfonds, Nehru Street, Phoenix.

Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/22/2025
Open National Bidding

The Wastewater Management Authority is inviting bids from eligible and qualified bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius through the Government E-Procurement System for the Procurement of Contract WW576W - Sewerage Project at Clairfonds, Nehru Street, Phoenix.

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: WMA/IFB/2025/1757.

Bids must be submitted online on the E-Procurement System at latest by Wednesday 28 January 2026 up to 13.30 (Local Time).

Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall decrypt and re-encrypt their bids from Wednesday 28 January 2026 from 14.31 till Friday 30 January 2026 up to 13.30.

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on Friday 28 January 2026 up to 16.00.

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

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

26 December 2025

Debunking the sugar myth: Mangoes may actually lower diabetes risk

For adults at risk of diabetes, conventional wisdom often dictates shunning high-sugar foods, including many fruits. However, new research from George Mason University is challenging this long-held belief, suggesting that the problem isn't just sugar content — it's how the sugar is packaged.

Clinical nutrition researcher Raedeh Basiri led a six-month randomized controlled trial to investigate the effects of daily mango consumption on prediabetics. Despite mangos containing over 30 grams of natural sugar, the study found they offered significant protective factors compared to a lower-sugar granola bar (11 grams of sugar).

The findings, published in *Foods*, revealed that the group consuming a fresh mango daily showed:

- **Improved blood glucose control.**
- **Enhanced insulin sensitivity.**
- **Reduced body fat.**



The Whole Food Context

The core takeaway is that less sugar is not automatically healthier. Basiri emphasizes that it's the overall food

context that matters. The sugars naturally found in mangos are delivered alongside fibre, vitamins, and other nutrients that mitigate the effect of the sugar. In contrast, many low-sugar snacks or foods with added sugar lack this crucial nutritional complement and can still increase diabetes risk.

"Individuals at high risk of diabetes should not only focus on the sugar content of foods, but on how sugars are delivered," Basiri advises.

The study strongly encourages people to include whole fruits, like mango, as a practical and healthy dietary strategy for diabetes prevention. The results indicate that the complex combination of nutrients in whole foods overrides concerns about naturally occurring sugar levels, providing a more effective path to metabolic health than simply opting for highly processed, low-sugar alternatives.



Why can't we feel the Earth moving?

Would you guess that the Earth is spinning at 1,000 mph around its axis and at the same time hurtling through space on its orbit around the Sun at 67,000 mph? Here's why you don't feel all that motion.

Right now, you're zooming through space at incredible speeds. As just one of all the living creatures on Earth, you're along for the ride as our planet constantly moves in two major ways.

First, consider that the Earth spins around like a top. It's rotating around the imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole through the center of our planet. Earth completes one full rotation every 24 hours, with a speed of about 1,000 miles per hour at the equator (1,670 km/h).

While Earth is spinning on its axis, it's also traveling around the Sun. It takes a year to finish the journey — that is, to make one full revolution and wind up back where we started. Earth hurtles along its path with a whopping average speed of 67,000 miles per hour (107,000 km/h).

These speeds are way faster than any vehicle you've ever traveled in. So why aren't you dizzy or flying off into space? Why don't you even feel the Earth moving?

It's this kind of question that lit a desire in me as a child to understand the universe and our place in it. Now I have a Ph.D. in astronomy and teach college students some of the same physics principles that explain why you can't feel Earth's motion as it zips through space.

No jerks or bumps

Think about a time when you do feel motion, such as on a carousel ride at an amusement park. When it speeds up, slows down or turns quickly, your body notices because the motion isn't smooth.

In contrast, the Earth's motion is remarkably steady. It has been spinning on its axis and orbiting the Sun at nearly the same speeds for billions of years, with no sudden jolts or stops. As Earth travels

its slightly oval-shaped path around the Sun, its speed does change to be a bit faster when it's closer to the Sun and a bit slower when it's farther away. But the changes happen so gradually and smoothly that you don't feel them at all.

Imagine you're flying on an airplane that has reached cruising altitude. The engines are humming, you're soaring through the sky at hundreds of miles per hour — but everything inside feels calm and still. You can walk around, relax and forget you're traveling at all. That's because the plane, you and everything else inside it are moving at the same speed, in the same direction.

Just as passengers don't feel the plane's speed while smoothly cruising, we don't feel Earth's movement because we're traveling at the same speed as our planet. You, your chair, the trees, buildings, oceans — everything is moving together with the Earth.

There's no difference in motion for your body to detect unless Earth were to suddenly speed up, slow down or change direction — and, thankfully, that doesn't happen.

Very small ants on a very big ball

Imagine holding a huge beach ball in your hands. Picture a tiny ant crawling on the surface of that ball.

Now, think about us on Earth. We are like that ant, but the ball we're crawling on is almost 8,000 miles (almost 13,000 kilometers) wide at the equator. That's about the distance you'd travel driving from New York to Los Angeles and back to New York.

Because the Earth is so humongous, any movement feels very slow and gentle to our comparatively minuscule bodies as we stand on its surface.



The Earth's rotation makes the stars look like they're moving. Qu Yubao/Xinhua News Agency via Getty Images

Another reason you don't notice Earth's motion is that there are no nearby "landmarks" in space to act as reference points. When you're in a car on the highway, you see trees, signs or telephone poles rushing by. Those fixed points help your brain register motion. But in space, the stars are so far away that they appear completely still, even though we're moving relative to them at thousands of miles per hour.

Luckily, these high speeds don't fling us off into space thanks to gravity. Gravity is an invisible force of attraction. It pulls everything on the surface of the planet toward the Earth's center. It's like the Earth is giving us a giant, constant hug, keeping us safely grounded.

How do we know the Earth is actually moving?

Even though we don't feel the Earth moving, people long ago figured out that it really is by watching the sky carefully.

Start with day and night. The Sun appears to rise and set because Earth makes one full rotation on its axis every 24 hours. If Earth weren't spinning, one side would always face the Sun, and the other would be in darkness.

Then there are the seasons. Earth is

tilted on the axis it spins around. Over the course of its orbit of the Sun, Earth's tilt causes different parts of the planet to get more or less sunlight. That's why we have summer, winter and everything in between.

At night, stars and constellations seem to move across the sky as Earth rotates. And their positions in the sky change with the seasons. Our view of the stars changes as we move along our yearly path around the Sun. If everything stayed still, the night sky would never change.

By seeing Earth spinning and orbiting, satellites and space telescopes have confirmed what astronomers have long deduced. We may not feel it, and we can't see any obvious landmarks rushing by, but the clues are everywhere. Earth is on the move.

And it's not just Earth — the Sun itself rotates and moves around the center of our Milky Way galaxy at hundreds of thousands of miles per hour. Nothing in the universe is truly standing still. Everything is in motion, from planets and stars to galaxies themselves.

Nilakshi Veerabathina

Professor of Physics Instruction,
University of Texas at Arlington



Laughter is the Best Medicine

The Alibi

One late afternoon, U.S. Air Force officers were stunned to see a Cessna landing at their top-secret air base. They immediately impounded the plane and hauled the pilot into an interrogation room.

The pilot claimed he had taken off from Vegas, gotten lost in poor visibility, and only landed at the base because he was nearly out of fuel. The Air Force ran a full FBI background check and held him overnight for questioning. By the next morning, they were satisfied he wasn't a spy. After a stern warning that he was lucky not to be spending his life in prison, they fuelled his plane, gave him a heading for Las Vegas, and sent him on his way.

Two days later, the same Cessna appeared on the horizon. As the military police surrounded the aircraft, they noticed a second passenger in the cockpit. The pilot jumped out and yelled, "Do whatever you want to me! But my wife is in the plane and you have to tell her exactly where I was the night before last!"

* * *

The Chain of Command

Peter was in his early fifties, a recent retiree who had just started a second career. He was an excellent worker -- sharp and diligent -- but he couldn't seem to make it to the office on time. Eventually, his boss called him in for a talk.

"Peter, I love your work ethic and your results are great," the boss said, "but your constant tardiness is becoming a problem."

"I understand, boss. I'm working on it," Peter replied.

"I'm glad to hear it. But I have to ask -- I know you retired from the Army. What did they say to you when you showed up late there?"

Peter shrugged. "They usually just said, 'Good morning, General.'"

* * *

The Defiant Melody

Two soldiers were captured by enemy troops. They were buried in the sand up to their necks, just within reach of a lovely, cool stretch of water. The senior soldier whispered to his junior, "They want us to suffer from thirst while we bake in the heat, all while being teased by the water. Don't give them the satisfaction -- don't give in."

After an hour, the enemy troops -- who were sitting in the shade watching for signs of breaking -- noticed that the captured soldiers were moving their heads in time from side to side.

The enemy officer ordered one of his men to go and see what they were up to. The scout returned looking utterly confused. "Sir," he said, "they are singing."

Stunned, the officer asked, "Singing? What on earth are they singing?"

The scout replied, "They are singing, 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside!'"

* * *

The Art of Strategy

A group of Army sergeants and a group of Royal Air Force officers caught a train heading for a conference. Each officer held his own ticket, but the entire group of sergeants had bought only one ticket between them. The officers shook their heads, secretly pleased that the cocky sergeants were about to be caught and fined.

Suddenly, one of the sergeants called out, "The



ticket examiner is coming!" At once, all the sergeants squeezed into one of the toilets. The examiner checked the officers' tickets, then noticed the toilet was occupied. He knocked on the door and said, "Ticket, please." One of the sergeants slid the single ticket under the door; the examiner clipped it and merrily continued his rounds.

For the return trip, the officers decided to use the same trick. They bought only one ticket for their entire group, but they were baffled to see that the sergeants didn't buy any tickets at all.

Sometime after the train left the station, one of the sergeants announced, "The ticket examiner is coming!" Immediately, all the officers raced to the nearest toilet and locked themselves in.

The sergeants walked leisurely toward a different toilet at the other end of the carriage. Before the last sergeant stepped inside, he stopped at the toilet occupied by the officers, knocked loudly on the door, and said, "Ticket, please."

* * *

A Case of Divine Mistaken Identity

A 65-year-old woman has a heart attack and is rushed to the hospital.

While in the ICU, she has a near-death experience and sees God.

"Oh my God... is my time up?"

"No," God says. "You still have 33 years, 2 months, and 8 days to live."

The woman recovers and reflects on this revelation. With so much time left, she decides to go all out and enjoy life. She stays in the hospital for a full makeover: facelift, tummy tuck, liposuction, breast implants. She



even bleaches her teeth, dyes her hair, and gets a brand-new hairstyle.

After the final procedure, she's discharged. But while crossing the street outside the hospital, she's hit by an ambulance and killed.

Standing before God again, she protests,

"You told me I had another 33 years!"

God looks at her and says, "Sorry... I didn't recognize you."

* * *

The Rank Advantage

Two soldiers, Leroy and Jasper, were recently promoted from privates to sergeants. Celebrating at the NCO Club, Leroy was approached by a woman who whispered, "I'd love to date you, but I have gonorrhea."

Unsure, Leroy sent Jasper to check the dictionary. Jasper returned and gave him an enthusiastic "OK" sign.

Three weeks later, Leroy was miserable in the infirmary. "Jasper!" he groaned. "Why did you tell me it was okay?"

"Well," Jasper replied, pointing to their new stripes, "the dictionary said it only affects the privates -- and we're sergeants now!"



* * *

Smoking Lions

A famous lion in a zoo recently died.

To avoid upsetting visitors, the zoo dressed an employee in a lion costume to take its place.

The employee was terrified -- he had to sit among real lions all day. If they realized he wasn't one of them, he'd be lunch.

He froze as one lion slowly approached. His heart pounded.

The lion sniffed him, leaned in, and whispered, "Hey... you got any smoke?"

The man thought, *finally... even lions have vices.*

* * *

The Divine Hierarchy

A German Shepherd, a Doberman, and a cat died and went to Heaven. They faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in.

The German Shepherd said, "I believe in discipline, loyalty, and obedience to my master."

"Good," said God. "You may sit on my right side."

The Doberman said, "I believe in love, care, and the protection of my master."

"Aha! You may sit on my left," said God.

Then God looked at the cat and asked, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat replied, "I believe you are sitting in my seat."

Life's Stories

The girl nobody noticed: Sandra Cisneros

Sandra Cisneros grew up as the only daughter among six brothers in a Chicago tenement, a position that rendered her effectively invisible. In a Mexican-American household dominated by machismo, her brothers had each other, while Sandra had only solitude. This isolation was compounded by a life of constant migration; her family moved perpetually between Chicago and Mexico City, following her father's homesickness.

"I was always straddling two countries," she later reflected, "but not belonging to either culture." In Chicago, she was too Mexican; in Mexico, too American. Among her brothers, she was too quiet. However, rather than being

crushed by this displacement, Cisneros turned invisibility into a superpower. She became a watcher, noticing the women in windows and the girls on stoops -- those society overlooked because she was one of them.

At Loyola University, she found an American literary canon that prioritized white, middle-class experiences. Her professors spoke of the "human condition," yet the stories of poor, brown girls trapped between two languages were nowhere to be found. Sandra realized that if her story didn't exist in the canon, she would have to write it herself.

In 1984, she published *The House on Mango Street*. Told through vignettes, the novel follows Esperanza, a young Latina dreaming of a house of her own. Though publishers had low expectations for stories about Chicana life, the book became a phenomenon. It has sold over six million copies and remains a staple in



American classrooms, resonating with anyone who has ever felt like an outsider.

Cisneros continued to dismantle cultural silences with works like *Woman Hollering Creek* and *Caramelo*, exploring the intersection of love, violence, and generational migration. Her accolades -- including the MacArthur "Genius" Grant and the National Medal of Arts -- are immense, but her true legacy lies in the representation she provided. Because she refused to accept that her community's stories didn't matter, generations of Latina writers found permission to use their own voices.

Today, at 71, Cisneros lives in San Miguel de Allende, finally at home in the space between cultures. She proved that the girl nobody noticed could become the writer nobody could ignore, reminding us that those society makes invisible often have the most vital stories to tell.

That's Life

Women are raising sons they secretly despise

Philip Wylie exposed it in 1942... He wasn't talking about TikTok. He wasn't talking about "toxic masculinity."

Back in 1942 -- he was already warning us. He called it Momism. The rise of women who don't raise men -- they smother, sabotage, and secretly resent them. And today? It's modern truth.

1. She wants a son -- but raises a substitute husband

Wylie saw it: many women don't want sons.

They want emotional pets.

Boys raised to validate them, not to grow beyond them.

And when he becomes a man? She resents him for being what she destroyed in his father.

2. She preaches strength -- but punishes masculinity

He stands tall? She calls it aggression.

He speaks up? She calls it disrespect.

He wants to lead? She says, "You sound just like your father."

They claim to want "strong sons," but secretly despise any sign of the man they couldn't control.

3. She uses him to fight the father

Custody battles aren't about kids. They're about control.

She feeds him a script:

"Dad doesn't love you."

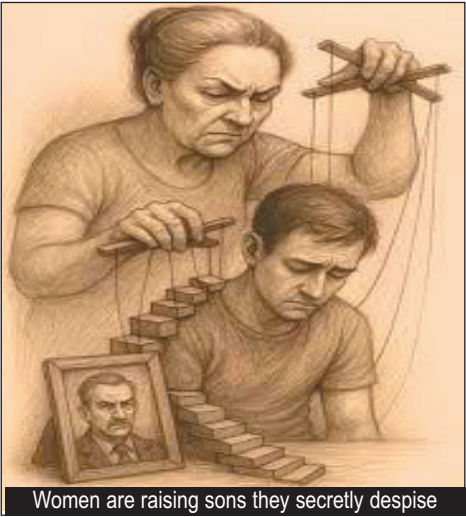
"Dad abandoned us."

"Dad's the problem."

Wylie said women weaponize their children.

In 2025? Sons aren't nurtured -- they're conscripted.

4. She trains him for approval -- not purpose



Women are raising sons they secretly despise

Every discipline? Labelled "abuse."

Every standard? Called "trauma."

So the boy grows up soft, confused, afraid of conflict.

And the same mother who raised him that way?

Despises him for being weak.

5. She secretly hates the reflection

The truth? She doesn't just hate the son.

She hates the mirror.

Every time he fails -- she sees her sabotage.

Every time he breaks -- she sees her rebellion.

She resents not who he is, but what she made him.

Final Word: Wylie exposed it in 1942 -- before Instagram, before family courts, before fatherless homes went mainstream.

Women are raising sons they secretly despise. Not because boys failed -- but because mothers refused to let them become men.

And now?

We have a generation of sons broken at home before they ever face the world.

Zat Rana

Wisdom from Africa

The hunter's silence does not mean the forest is safe. Meaning: Danger may be hidden, not gone.

You cannot shave a man's head in his absence. Meaning: Don't make decisions for others without them.

The stick in a mad man's hand should not scare a wise man. Meaning: Don't fear the threats of the irrational.

A cow does not give birth to a lion. Meaning: Character follows lineage.

A river may be quiet, but it is still deep. Meaning: Stillness can hold great strength.

No matter how sweet the banana is,

the monkey still eats other fruits. Meaning: Variety and balance are important.

When a bird flies too high, it forgets the hunter's trap. Meaning: Overconfidence can lead to downfall.

Even the moon has its dark side. Meaning: No one is perfect.

The firewood of this world is for all to gather. Meaning: Everyone has equal opportunity to succeed.

A leopard cannot wash off its spots. Meaning: True nature is difficult to hide or change.

You don't pluck fruit from a tree you didn't plant without permission. Meaning: Respect others' work and rights.

“ Nature loves courage. You make the commitment and nature will respond to that commitment by removing impossible obstacles. Dream the impossible dream and the world will not grind you under, it will lift you up.” —Terrence McKenna ”

Maturity is the ability to think, speak and act your feelings within the bounds of dignity. The measure of your maturity is how spiritual you become during the midst of your frustrations. SAMUEL ULLMAN EVERYDAYPOWER

Love and happiness inextricably combined? I wanted love stories to coincide with war stories, I wanted hope for my characters, I wanted a sense of a future. So do they. So does the reader. But perhaps I shouldn't speak for everyone when I say that love and happiness are interdependent. In my own experience, happiness came with love. Specifically, my wife. That's when my own apathy and stasis ended for good. — Said Sayrafiezadeh — AZ QUOTES

Stray Thoughts Animal Farm

“The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was

impossible to say which was which.” “Man is the only creature that consumes without producing...He sets them to work, gives back the bare minimum to prevent starvation, and keeps the rest for himself.” George Orwell

Life's what you make it

Turning the Page: 5 Ways to Prepare for the New Year

While the transition to a new year can feel like a simple change of the calendar, it is actually a powerful psychological opportunity to enact positive change and embrace a fresh start. To make the most of this transition, it is essential to move beyond vague wishes and instead focus on intentional preparation.

Before turning over a new leaf, it is vital to pause and reflect on the journey you've just completed. This introspective process helps you reconnect with your core values and identify what truly matters. Self-reflection acts as a compass; it provides the motivation needed for a new start by acknowledging how far you've come while identifying the hurdles that held you back.

1. Reflect on the Past Year

Before diving into the "new," spend some time with the "old." Ask yourself: *What went well? Where did I struggle? What did I learn about myself?* Gaining this self-awareness serves as the essential bedrock for setting meaningful intentions. It allows you to move forward not just with speed, but with direction.

2. Set Realistic Goals and Intentions

While the surge of January motivation is powerful, it is often fleeting. To make your resolutions stick, utilize the



SMART framework — ensure your goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound. For students and professionals alike, creating a vision board or keeping a journal can help visually track progress and keep these intentions top-of-mind throughout the year.

3. Declutter and Organise

A cluttered environment often leads to a cluttered mind. Use this transition period to declutter both your physical and mental spaces. Donate items you no longer use, organize your workspace, and streamline your daily routines. Clearing out the old physical "noise" creates a sense of focus and makes room for the new opportunities waiting for you in the coming months.

4. Cultivate Healthy Habits

Health and wellness are staples of New Year's resolutions for a reason: they are the fuel for all other successes. Focus on small, sustainable changes — such as improving sleep hygiene, incorporating nutritious foods, or practicing mindfulness. These habits aren't just about physical fitness; they are the foundation for excelling in your career, staying focused in your studies, and maintaining a positive outlook.

5. Foster Connections and Community

No one reaches their goals in a vacuum. The support of friends, family, and mentors is a crucial component of well-being. As you prepare for the year ahead, nurture your existing relationships and seek out new ones by joining clubs or professional organizations that align with your interests. A supportive network provides the accountability and encouragement necessary to stay on track when challenges arise.

Bottom Line

Preparing for the New Year is about more than just a date on the calendar — it is an opportunity to realign your life with your aspirations. By taking the time to assess your experiences, declutter your environment, and build a community of support, you can enter the upcoming year with a profound sense of purpose and optimism.

Hangover Recovery: How to Feel Better Fast

Waking up with a hangover often involves a familiar mix of nausea, headache, fatigue, and a parched mouth. While there is no instant cure, understanding why you feel this way can help you manage the discomfort.

Alcohol impacts several body systems at once, triggering an inflammatory immune response that leads to headaches and fatigue, while its diuretic effect causes dehydration and physical weakness.

It also increases stomach acid and slows digestion — the primary culprits behind nausea — and can leave you feeling shaky or dizzy by dropping your blood sugar levels.

Furthermore, alcohol disrupts deep sleep cycles and contains toxins called congeners, which are more prevalent in darker spirits like bourbon and are known to worsen the severity of a hangover.

Quick Relief

Hangovers typically peak a few hours after you stop drinking and can last anywhere from 8 to 24 hours. To find quick relief, you should focus on hydrating slowly with water or electrolyte-rich fluids and allowing your body to rest so it can clear toxins.

Eating simple carbohydrates like toast, crackers, or bananas can stabilize your blood sugar, while ginger tea or mild fruits are excellent for soothing an upset stomach.

For pain relief, over-the-counter anti-inflammatories like ibuprofen are effective, but you should strictly **avoid** acetaminophen until the alcohol has completely cleared your system to protect your liver.

While a small amount of caffeine might help with alertness, use it cautiously, as too much can



worsen dehydration and headaches.

It is also important to avoid common misconceptions about recovery. Drinking more alcohol, often called "hair of the dog," only prolongs the recovery process, and smoking while drinking has been shown to increase the severity of the next day's symptoms.

Additionally, many supplements marketed as "cures" lack scientific evidence to support their claims.

Ultimately, the best defence is prevention: know your limits, eat a meal before drinking, alternate your cocktails with water, and choose lighter-coloured spirits.

While hydration and rest make the wait easier, hangovers simply take time to pass, proving that moderation remains the fastest cure.

Next Time: Prevention Tips

Eat first: A full stomach slows down alcohol absorption.

The 1-for-1 Rule: Drink one glass of water for every alcoholic beverage.

Go Light: Clear liquors (vodka, gin) generally have fewer "congeners" than dark liquors (bourbon, brandy), often leading to milder hangovers.

The Bottom Line: Time is the only true cure. Be kind to your body, stay hydrated, and rest up!

Relationships

How Exposure to Societal Violence Affects Children's Mental Health

Children living in societies plagued by widespread violence are at high risk of developing severe behavioural and emotional problems, according to a US study focused on the mental health of youth in Juarez, Mexico. The study, led by paediatric researcher Marie Leiner at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centre-El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso), suggests that exposure to mass murders and acts of terror — such as kidnappings, bombings, and decapitations — negatively impacts children's psychological well-being.

The Study and Findings

The research compared the mental health of children living in relatively safer El Paso, Texas, with children residing in its neighbouring city, Juarez, which was experiencing extreme drug violence in 2010.

By analyzing data collected from both groups, Leiner found that the prevalence of specific mental health issues was significantly higher in children living in Juarez.

• **Mental Health Issues** were **three times higher** in children living in Juarez compared to those in El Paso.

• **Specific issues** observed at high rates included:

* Depression

- * Aggression
- * Anxiety
- * Withdrawal
- * Attention Deficit Disorder

Leiner emphasized the stark difference in the children's exposure. While children in El Paso weren't unaffected by violence generally, they did not face pervasive violence in their neighbourhoods, attend funerals for murdered family members, or learn that their friends' families had been killed, as was the case for many children in Juarez.

Understanding the Impact

The study, published in the journal *Salud Mental*, assumes that children in Juarez were indirectly exposed to the extreme drug violence, even if their families were not directly asked about personal experiences. This indirect, yet constant, exposure to terror and tragedy across the community is enough to deeply scar a developing mind.

The findings highlight a critical public health concern: chronic exposure to high-level societal violence has a profound and debilitating effect on children, dramatically increasing their risk for serious behavioural and emotional problems. This underscores the urgent need for mental health support in communities affected by large-scale conflict and violence.

BollyBytes

The Hottest and Unofficial Couples who Ruled 2025

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



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



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

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

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

the 'will they/won't they' debate alive among their loyal followers.

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



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

Suhana Khan and Agastya Nanda: Another pair emerging from *The Archies*, Suhana and Agastya have been a consistently speculated couple. They made multiple appearances together, including one New York event where separate photos taken with singer Teshar inadvertently

sparked joint headlines. Their close friendship has kept them in the forefront of Bollywood gossip since their debut film.



Ananya Panday and Walker Blanco: Following her reported split from Aditya Roy Kapur, Ananya was most often linked to former model Walker Blanco starting in mid-2024. Neither Ananya nor Walker has made an official announcement. However, their frequent interactions and shared moments strongly suggest a connection deeper than mere friendship, maintaining intense public curiosity.

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

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

Bollywood at the crossroads: How 2025 recalibrated Hindi cinema

At the start of 2025, Bollywood was surrounded by doubt. Trade chatter, social media debates and everyday conversations repeated the same line: "Only South Indian films are working now." Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam cinema dominated headlines with scale, stars and confident storytelling, while Hindi cinema appeared unsure of its direction.

Yet, by December, the box office told a very different story. Bollywood had not collapsed — it had quietly recalibrated.

Rather than one dominant formula, 2025 became a year of **range**. Historical epics, war films, courtroom dramas, romances, comedies and small-budget surprises all found space. The lesson was clear: success no longer depended on superstardom alone, but on conviction and content.



Big Films That Rebuilt Confidence

If one film restored Bollywood's swagger, it was *Chhaava*. Vicky Kaushal's portrayal of Sambhaji Maharaj struck a chord, combining scale with emotional weight. Produced on a budget of approximately **MUR 765 million**, the film went on to gross about **MUR 4.14 billion worldwide**, decisively proving that ambitious historical storytelling still commands mass audiences.

Dhurandhar followed with grit and intensity. Ranveer Singh's plunge into a dark underworld drama, supported by strong direction and seasoned performances, delivered solid returns. Made for around **MUR 1.28 billion**, the film earned nearly **MUR 3.78 billion worldwide**, reinforcing faith in bold, content-led spectacle.

Meanwhile, *Saiyaara* reminded the industry that romance still works when it feels honest. Without excessive noise or visual gimmicks, the film connected emotionally — particularly with younger audiences — showing that love stories remain commercially viable when rooted in authenticity.

When scale fell short

Not every big-budget project found equal success. *War 2*, despite its scale and star power, struggled to sustain momentum. Mounted at an estimated **MUR 2.04 billion**, the film underperformed relative to expectations, reinforcing the idea that spectacle alone cannot substitute for narrative depth.

Similarly, Salman Khan's *Sikandar* failed to ignite the usual mass appeal, suggesting that even the biggest stars must now adapt to evolving audience tastes and storytelling standards.

Content-driven wins and quiet strength

Some of the year's most meaningful successes came from mid-budget and smaller films. *Sitaare Zameen Par* demonstrated that empathy-driven storytelling can still resonate powerfully at the box office, while *Raid 2* and *Jolly LLB 3* confirmed that sequels work best when they respect their original spirit.



Smaller surprises such as *Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat*, produced for roughly **MUR 153 million**, delivered outsized returns and strong word-of-mouth. These films highlighted Bollywood's quiet strength: modest budgets paired with clear ideas and emotional conviction.

What changed forever

2025 ultimately proved that Bollywood does not need to mimic South Indian cinema, nor rely solely on megastars. Its resilience lies in **variety, emotional honesty and trust in storytelling**. Hindi cinema was never out of the race — it was simply finding its footing again.



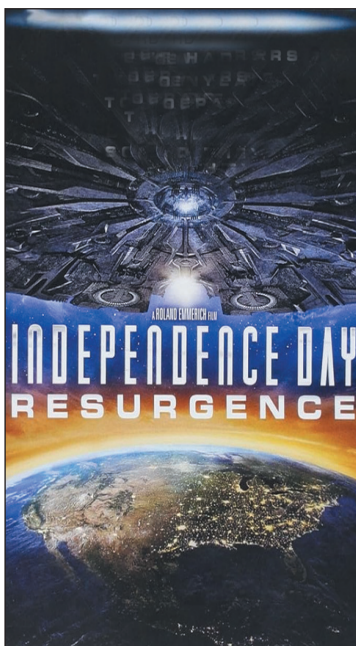
Vendredi 2 Janvier - 20.15



Samedi 3 Janvier - 20.15



Dimanche 4 Janvier -20.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 2 janvier

MBC 1

05.10 Tele: Living To Love
08.36 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.02 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Chasing Mavericks
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
13.24 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Asintado
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: The Devil Wears Prada
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Magazine
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Mission: Cross
21.54 Tele: Mademoiselle
22.44 Tele: Happily Ever After
22.58 Mag: Video Killed The Radio..
23.30 Le Journal

MBC 2

08.50 Local: Anou Ale Li Tipik
11.12 Local: Sur La Piste De La Crecerelle
11.40 Local: Couleur Marine
12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
12.57 Le Journee Sous Le Regard
13.07 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
14.15 Anou Ale Li Tipik Avec Le Groupe Hibiscus
15.31 Local: La Grande Finale
17.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.25 Local: Sur Prise
19.43 Local: Retrovizer
20.00 Local: Festival Kreol 2025
20.15 Bonne Annee Avec Les Zilwa
21.15 Local: La Grande Finale
23.30 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard

MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
08.32 D.Anime: Paap O Meter
09.00 MBC Production
10.42 Serie
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Henna
Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Zeba
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.43 Serial: Mithai
16.45 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.30 MBC Production
20.15 Serial: Tenali Rama
20.38 Serial: Porus
21.20 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.05 Serial: Mere Sai
22.50 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
23.12 Serial: Radha Mohan
23.33 MBC Production

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.00 Film: The Secret Kingdom
08.31 D.Anime: Jungle Book
08.55 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie
09.10 D.Anime: Les Enquetes De Maelys
11.00 Film: Kung Fu Panda
13.30 Film: L'Impermeable Magique
15.00 Film: Ferdinand
16.43 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
17.06 Serial: Dance Academy
17.31 Serial: The Athena
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
18.30 Doc: Great Barrier Reef
19.16 Mag: Travel
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.49 Doc: Odd Neighbours
20.52 Tele: Asintado
21.41 Doc: Galapagos
22.33 Doc: When Night Falls In...

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Total Siyapaa
Cast: Ali Zafar, Yami Gautam, Anupam Kher, Kirron Kher
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
20.55 Anupamaa
21.30 Pyar Ka Phela Adhyaya
21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Total Siyapaa
Cast: Ali Zafar, Yami Gautam, Anupam Kher, Kirron Kher

samedi 3 janvier

03.46 Serial: Heartland
05.11 Tele: Living To Love
06.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
07.20 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
08.19 Serial: Blue Lights
09.17 Serial: Heartland
09.57 Serial: Hawaii
10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.56 Doc: BRGRS
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: All The Flowers
14.53 Doc: Quotes By Famous...
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Mission: Cross
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Jurassic World
Cast: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Nick Robinson
22.20 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
23.11 Tele: Terra Nostra

06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
07.40 Local: Retrovizer
07.27 Local: Sur Prise
08.45 Bonne Annee Avec Les Zilwa
09.45 Local: J'ai Faim
10.29 Local: Prodiक्सion Alimenter
11.01 Local: La Grande Finale
13.16 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.43 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.46 Local: Retrovizer
15.18 Local: Tous Egaux
16.05 Local: Sur La Piste De La...
18.15 Tele: Entre Justice Et...
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.46 Moments Forts De L'Histoire
20.15 Local: Let's Sing For 2026
21.15 Elle Est Si Belle La Vie Avec Robert Duverge Et Son Groupe
22.03 Ce Soir On Slam Programme Special Dans Le Cadre De La Journee Internationale ...

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.34 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Mohammad Rafi Ki Yaad...
10.33 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.31 Mohammad Rafi Ki Yaad...
14.00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Film: Yeh Vaada Raha
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor
18.07 Live: Samachar
18.37 Puranya Pakwan
19.05 Local: Tribute To Pankaj...
20.00 Jalsa Ke Raat Bhojpuri Boys
21.00 Film: 1921
23.31 Puranya Pakwan
23.57 Tribute To Pankaj Udhass...
00.53 Jalsa Ke Raat Bhojpuri Boys
01.49 Film: 1921
Cast: Karan Kundra, Zarine Khan

06.46 Film: M. Popper Et Ses Pingouins
08.16 Mush Mush And The Mushables
08.39 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier
08.53 Film: Le Tigre Qui S'Invita Pur Le Thé
10.42 Serial: Prefects
11.08 Film: Les Chiens A L'Opéra
12.45 Film: The Adventures Of Peanut And Pig
14.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
14.13 Film: Charlotte Aux Fraises Et La Bete Des Marais
14.55 D.Anime: Caillou
16.43 Serial: The Athena
17.10 74th Miss Universe Pageant
19.30 Mag: Business Africa
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Doc: Odd Neighbours
21.00 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinariam

08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.10 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.10 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Blue
With: Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Lara Dutta
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.22 Crime Patrol

dimanche 4 janvier

04.02 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions
06.01 Film: Jurassic World
08.00 Serial: Hawai 5-0
08.42 Film: The Day After Tomorrow
10.39 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Suavage
12.34 Film: The Holiday
14.50 Doc: Not About Music
15.23 Film: For The Love Of The Game
17.38 Doc: Not About Music
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Independence Day
22.28 Serial: S.W.A.T.
23.10 Tele: Terra Nostra
23.40 Le Journal

06.26 Local: Coin Jardin
08.37 Local: Science Quest 2025
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
13.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
14.30 Local: Saver Kiltirel
15.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.49 Local: Boisson Detox
17.00 Local: En Attendant 2026
18.15 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.35 Local: En Toute Intimite
20.00 Local: Festival Kreol 2025
21.15 Local: La Grande Finale
23.15 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.34 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.39 Local: Coin Jardin
23.53 Local: Inspirasion
00.19 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
00.35 Rodrig: Nu Lakwizin
00.57 Festival Kreol 2025

05.00 Magazine
06.59 Serie
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.26 MBC Production
10.31 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Dostana
Cast: John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 MBC Production
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
18.32 MBC Production
20.30 Serial: Porus
20.15 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.13 Serial: Crime Patrol
21.58 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
23.00 Serie

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
06.46 Film: Polly Pocket
09.00 Film: Rio 2
11.05 Film: Gnomeo Et Juliet
13.30 Film: Sinbad: La Legende...
14.52 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.04 Film: Caillou: Aventure...
15.46 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.56 Charlotte Aux Fraises
16.06 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
16.17 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
16.22 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
16.32 Snoopy Dans L'Espace
18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
18.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Doc: Great Barrier Reef
21.45 Film: What To Expect When You're Expecting
23.33 Doc: By Train To Hudson Bay

00.28 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.22 Udaariyaan
04.16 Anupamaa
06.45 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
08.00 Dhruv Tara
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Jigra
Cast: Alia Bhatt
21.00 Mahabharat
22.00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
23.02 Dhruv Tara

lundi 5 janvier

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

09.10 Local: En Toute Intimite
09.30 Local: Clin D'Oeil
10.36 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
12.06 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.50 La Grande Finale
16.09 Local: Dance Mix
18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Bruel Apres Son Concert
20.45 Local: Tous Egaux
21.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol
23.20 Local: Metie
23.31 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou
23.51 Local: En Toute Intimite
00.19 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
00.44 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel

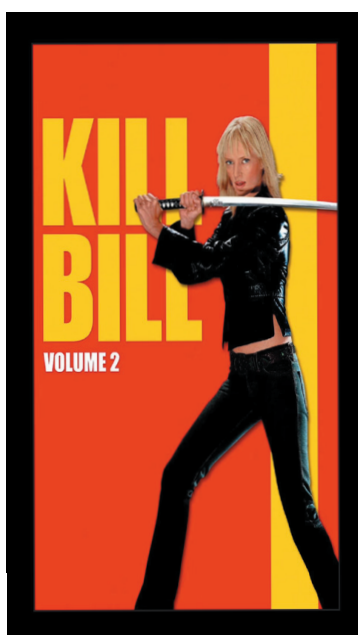
05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
07.00 Local: Best Songs
08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
08.53 Tribute To Pankaj Udhass
09.50 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Zamana
15.00 Samachar
16.00 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
19.59 Local: Darshan
20.06 Local: Swasthalabh Topic
20.33 Dharm Yoddha Garub
21.00 Film: Arbhanganini
Cast: Raj Kumar, Meena Kumari
23.21 Mere Sai
00.05 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.27 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein

06.00 Mag: Eye On Sadc
07.00 Film: Mina, Mission Rebelle
08.34 D.Anime: Mush Mush and...
10.38 Serial: Prefects
11.05 Film: A.R.I.
12.35 Doc: Great Barrier Reef
13.30 Film: Les Ritournelles De La Chouette
14.19 Film: Percy Et Ses Amis
14.41 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
14.53 Film: A Merry Friggin' Christmas
16.23 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
16.46 D.Anime: Dance Academy
17.10 Serial: The Athena
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.00 Doc: Top Dive Sites
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.51 Tele: Asintado
21.40 Film: The Maze Runner

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Luck
Cast: Imran Khan
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.00 Anupamaa
21.30 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya



Mardi 6 Janvier - 21.10



Mercredi 7 Janvier - 15.30



Mercredi 7 Janvier - 21.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 6 janvier

MBC 1

04.27 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.30 Film: The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid
11.32 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle
13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.15 Tele: Asintado
15.30 Film: Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Local: Star Wars Veterans
21.10 Film: Kill Bill: Vol.2
23.00 Tele: Mademoiselle

MBC 2

09.10 Bruel Apres Son Concert
10.41 Local: Mangeons Veg
11.52 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point
12.11 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
13.02 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.34 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
14.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
15.01 Local: Point Culture
16.41 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.03 MBC Production
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
19.40 Local: En Forme
20.00 Local: Percy Yip Tong
20.15 Couture For A Cause De...
22.15 Local: Le Moris Du Rire 3...
22.37 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.24 Local: Point Culture

MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
08.31 D.Anime: Paap O Meter
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Badaltey Rishtey
Cast: Jeetendra, Rishi Kapoor, Reena Roy
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sajjanwa Bhai Ho Gail...
15.40 Serial: Dharam Patni
16.55 Dharam Patni
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
20.34 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Aah
Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis
23.17 Serial: Mere Sai
00.02 Wagle Ki Duniya

MBC 5

07.00 Film: Les Chiens A L'Opéra
08.15 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
09.03 Film: Spies In Disguise
11.00 Film: Caillou
11.43 Film: Charlotte Aux Fraise
13.30 Film: The Biggest Slime
14.57 Film: Rio
16.33 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
16.53 Serial: Dance Academy
17.18 Serial: The Athena
18.00 Mag: REV
18.30 Mag: Shift
18.42 Doc: Greatest Love Stories
19.00 Mag: Made In Germany
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.53 Tele: Asintado
21.38 Mag: Initiative Africa
22.08 Doc: Going Beyond
23.00 Mag: Euromaxx
23.26 Doc: An Open Ear To Refugees

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.25 Film: Jeet
Starring: Salman Khan And Karishma Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.29 Shrimad Ramayan
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.04 Dhruv Tara
22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.04 Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Jeet
Starring: Salman Khan And Karishma Kapoor

mercredi 7 janvier

06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
07.29 Serial: Under Pressure
08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
08.33 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.30 Film: Mission: Cross
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: Skyscraper
17.34 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Magazine
19.30 Journal & La Météo
20.14 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T.
21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle
22.37 Tele: Happily Ever After

09.10 Couture For A Cause De...
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.01 Sinfoni Zetwal Christmas
12.07 Local: Couleur Marine
12.33 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
13.02 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.23 Couture For A Cause De...
15.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
17.03 Local: Music Tour 2025
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.30 Rodrig Spor
20.15 Extraits Du Festival Sagam
21.01 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
21.28 Local: Toc Toc Doc
21.39 Local: Strictly Sugar 2025
22.46 Local: Agir Ensemble
23.13 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.33 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.38 Local: Clin D'Oeil
23.52 Spectacle Présenté Par Les Eleves De Cavendish...

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
06.59 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
08.06 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
08.38 D.Anime: Paap O Meter
09.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol
10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Dharam Sankat
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.47 Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Banane Ke Gammat
20.07 Local: Kaam Daam
20.20 Local: Virasat
20.35 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.07 Film: Maar Deb Goli Kehu Na Boli
23.13 Mere Sai
23.56 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.18 Banane Ke Gammat

07.00 Film: Ferdinand
08.44 D.Anime: Les Enquetes De...
09.05 Film: Sinbad
10.49 Film: L'Arche Magique
12.17 Mag: REV
12.43 Mag: Shift
13.30 Film: Les Ours Boonie
15.07 Film: Beethoven Sauve Noël
16.37 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
17.00 Serial: So Awkward
17.28 Mag: N*Gen
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.30 Mag: The Dip
19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled
19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.52 Tele: Asintado
21.41 Film: Red
Cast: Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman
23.26 Mag: Close Up

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Fool N Final
Starring: Sunny Deol And Shahid 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 Anupamaa
21.28 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.05 Dhruv Tara
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.00 Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Fool N Final
Starring: Sunny Deol And Shahid Kapoor

jeudi 8 janvier

05.45 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
08.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
08.23 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.15 Film: For The Love Of The Game
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: Red
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: MBC Cinema
22.40 Tele: Mademoiselle
23.25 Tele: Happily Ever After
23.47 Le Journal

09.15 Local: Agir Ensemble
10.51 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
11.30 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Local: Passerelles
12.24 La Journee Sous Le Regard
12.55 Extraits Du Festival Sagam
14.24 Local: Toc Toc Doc
15.42 Local: Agir Ensemble
16.45 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.25 Local: Itinerer Moris
20.00 Local: En Forme
20.45 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.40 Local: Festival Du Vivant
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem
23.34 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises
23.57 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 D.Anime: Guru Aur Bhole
08.33 D.Anime: Paap O Meter
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
12.00 Film: Balika Badhu
Cast: Sachin Pigaonkar, Rajni Sharma
15.00 Samachar
15.22 Sajjanwa Bhai Ho Gail...
15.40 Na Umpa Ki Seema Ho
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Amrit Vani
20.29 Serial: Tenali Rama
21.02 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.23 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
21.44 Serial: Mere Sai
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.52 Local: Amrit Vani

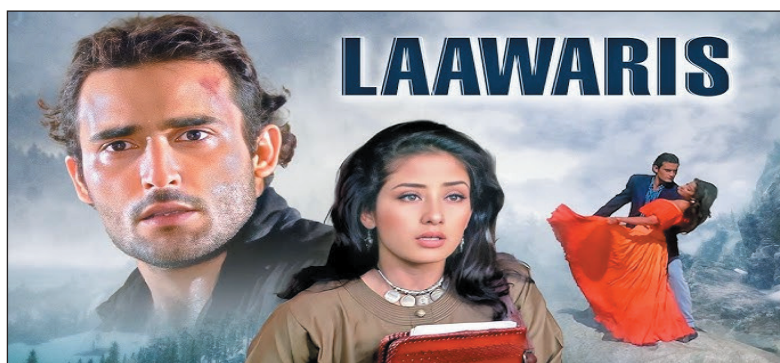
06.50 Japan Video Topics
08.23 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
09.07 Film: The Adventures Of Peanut And Pig
10.46 Film: Georges, Le Petit Curieux
12.54 Mag: Arts Unveiled
13.30 Film: C.I.Ape
15.00 Film: Rio 2
16.26 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
16.49 Serial: So Awkward
17.15 Mag: N*Gen
18.00 Mag: Eco India
19.00 Doc: The Plant Wonder Of...
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Tele: Asintado
21.40 Serial: Columbo
22.51 Doc: Smart New World
00.16 Doc: Stolen Soul

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.31 Film: Lawaaris
Stars: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.02 Anupamaa
21.34 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.05 Serial: Mahabharat
23.31 Film: Lawaaris
Stars: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff



Jeudi 1 Janvier - 15.30

Stars: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff



Mercredi 7 Janvier - 15.30

Stars: Sunny Deol, Shahid Kapoor





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

La Belle et les Bêtes

Le secteur agricole se rebelle, fourches pointées vers les autorités, contre la décision d'abattre les bovins contaminés par la maladie en France. Leur colère se mesure en termes de chiffre d'affaires, loin d'être motivée par une question d'éthique. Quant à la jeune génération, fan de Greta Thunberg et adepte d'écologie à ses heures perdues, elle continue à affluer vers les fast-foods McDonald's en toute bonne conscience.

La pollution de la planète par l'élevage bovin et la déforestation pour créer des pâturages, où les aliments contre-nature servis au bétail sont aussi nocifs pour la santé des consommateurs, est bien documentée. La consommation de viande bovine a diminué au cours de la dernière décennie, semblerait-il. L'image des vaches poussées vers la folie par une alimentation dénaturée, abattues par milliers et évacuées par tractopelles lors de la crise de la vache folle en Angleterre, refait surface à chaque crise bovine. Encore heureux que les Gaulois «réfractaires», submergés par une montée d'adrénaline, nous épargnent une scène macabre de décapitation des vaches devant le portail des mairies.

Exploitée, éreintée, épuisée et vidée, la planète Terre n'a plus les ressources pour nourrir des milliards d'habitants. Une démographie incontrôlée est néfaste pour l'environnement, mais l'économie souffre d'un vieillissement de la population et d'un faible taux de natalité, qui ne produit pas assez de bras et de cerveaux pour soutenir une croissance économique gourmande et qui a besoin de consommateurs pour s'épanouir. Il est interdit de pointer du doigt les pays à croissance démographique élevée qui envoient leurs habitants là où l'herbe est plus verte, tandis que certains pays gardent le silence sur le taux de naissance supérieur promu délibérément dans un but de domination au sein de leur société respective. Prise dans cette machine infernale, l'humanité est comme un serpent qui se mord la queue en permanence, et le progrès, condamné à innover sans relâche, fait figure de malédiction.

Et si l'Intelligence Artificielle imitait les humains?

L'Intelligence Artificielle (IA) est sur toutes les lèvres et dans tous les débats, avec la Chine et les États-Unis en tête, pendant que la France débat sans cesse de la réforme des retraites et change de Premier ministre tous les trois mois, et que Maurice brandit la réforme électorale comme une panacée à tous les maux avec, en prime pour combler le vide des débats, la promotion du kreol, arme de



Pic - Instagram

“Manifestement, Brigitte Bardot ne voulait pas être réduite à sa beauté plastique. Toutefois, il fallait quand même avoir un caractère bien trempé pour tout «plaquer»! Alors que d'autres intellectuelles peinaient à faire entendre leur voix à travers des écrits et des discours, elle a incarné par son physique, sa liberté de ton, ses convictions et sa vie privée les aspirations des féministes de l'époque et a inspiré un nombre incalculable de femmes...”

destruction incontestable du Quotient Intellectuel mauricien ! À chacun ses priorités et ses bêtises.

Jusqu'ici, les humains ont modelé l'environnement et la nature à leur guise et ont hiérarchisé les animaux selon leur utilité. On ne sait si les robots prendront le contrôle de tout et infligeront à l'avenir aux hommes le même traitement prédateur subi par les animaux. Bah ! Quelle idée alarmiste!

Brigitte Bardot et la défense des animaux

C'est le décès d'une icône du cinéma français qui ramène la cause animale sur le devant de la scène. Au sommet de sa gloire à 39 ans, Brigitte Bardot, star mondialement adulée pour sa beauté, tourna le dos à la célébrité, à la vie glamour, aux paillettes et vêtements de marque, sacs en cuir et manteaux en fourrure, pour se consacrer à la protection et à la défense des animaux pendant cinquante ans, soit un demi-siècle.

Il y a nul doute qu'elle s'était fait exploiter dans un milieu dominé par les hommes, acceptant de se dénuder partiellement, de prendre des poses aguichantes et... des claques. Son image a été cultivée pour nourrir les fantasmes des adolescents et des hommes. Si les rôles qu'on lui fit jouer n'avaient rien d'extraordinaire, c'est surtout sa beauté portée à l'écran qui tétanisait tout le

monde. Les femmes l'aimaient pour son apparence de Vénus, tandis que la jalousie féminine lui enviait sa beauté et sa liberté à une époque où tout écart vis-à-vis des conventions n'était pas accueilli avec bienveillance.

Le mythe construit autour de sa personne et la traque des paparazzi, qu'elle qualifia de «barbarie», lui rendirent la vie «insupportable». En plus d'avoir été érigée en emblème de la beauté blonde et française, Bardot avait des convictions et une forte personnalité, contrairement à d'autres stars.

Manifestement, elle ne voulait pas être réduite à sa beauté plastique. Toutefois, il fallait quand même avoir un caractère bien trempé pour tout «plaquer»! Alors que d'autres intellectuelles peinaient à faire entendre leur voix à travers des écrits et des discours, Brigitte Bardot a incarné par son physique, sa liberté de ton, ses convictions et sa vie privée les aspirations des féministes de l'époque et a inspiré un nombre incalculable de femmes.

Malgré son désir de mener sa vie comme elle l'entendait et son soutien à l'avortement, elle reconnaissait le rôle protecteur de l'homme dans la vie des femmes. Idée qui susciterait une crise d'urticaire aux adeptes d'un féminisme dévoyé incarné par le mouvement «MeToo» et consorts, alimenté par la haine des hommes de nos jours.

C'est aussi avec humilité que la star déclarait qu'elle ne se trouvait pas spécialement belle. En revanche, elle pensait que la beauté était importante pour les femmes, que certaines femmes négligeaient leur apparence, et que la beauté ne servait à rien chez les idiots. Tel était le franc-parler de Bardot, sans filtre, sans fard, sans verser dans la complaisance. Ce qui la distingue aussi, c'est qu'elle rejette toute idée de légende construite autour d'elle, alors que d'autres auraient continué à profiter des projecteurs quitte à maintenir une illusion.

Brigitte Bardot reste une militante iconique de la défense des plus faibles, les sans-voix: les animaux. C'est pour cela que tous ceux qui aiment le cinéma éprouvent de la tristesse à sa disparition. Les grandes stars sont les envoyées du Ciel; elles viennent, elles brillent et elles s'éteignent.

Nous les remercions pour la transcendance et la joie qu'elles apportent à ceux qui les contemplent sur le grand écran. De nos jours, ce sont encore les photos de Brigitte Bardot et d'Alain Delon affichées sur les abris de bus à Paris qui transportent le public au-delà des étoiles. Pardi!

Tree of Knowledge

Being Present at Work



When you decide to bring your full presence to work, you may find that the entire experience is filled with new energy and life

Being present at work begins before we even go to our place of employment. It starts with our intention to bring consciousness into everything we do, including those activities we do for money. Whether you are an assistant who files papers all day, a custodian who cleans the local high school, or a nurse caring for children, there is much to be gained by fully engaging in the tasks at hand. When you decide to bring your presence into your work activities, you may find that the entire experience of working is filled with new energy and life.



Pic - staffarabia.com

Sometimes, we believe that when we step through the doors of our workplace, we cease being ourselves and start being someone else's employee. Though our employer may depend on us to perform certain tasks, the truth is that we never stop being ourselves. The commitment to being a conscious, empowered person of integrity doesn't stop and start with a time clock. Our decision to be present for our own lives is what weaves together all of our experiences from the moment we wake up, throughout our entire workday, and to the moment we turn off the lights at night.

Before leaving for work today, you can clear your energy and choose to step out with your best foot forward. Setting an intention in the morning can even help you stay present as your day unfolds. You might decide to find joy in every activity, complete all of your projects on time, or be truly helpful to your coworkers. By being fully present, you will begin to radiate, and people may begin to notice. They may even want to follow your lead. Whether you run a company or hold a sign outside a deli, do it with pride and be the best you can be.

Daily Om