

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Leadership is the art of giving people a platform for spreading ideas that work. — Seth Godin

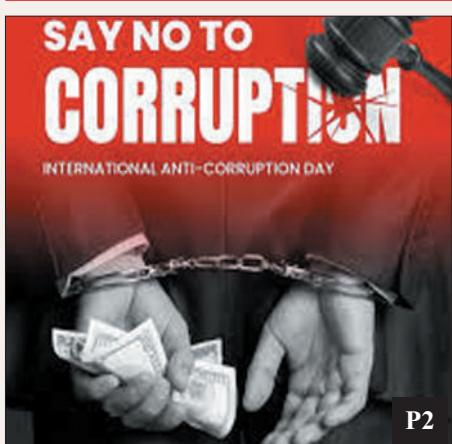
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After CPI 2025: Rebuilding Trust in the Fight Against Corruption

On 10 February, the annual verdict of Transparency International fell with unusual severity for the Republic of Mauritius. In the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), the country scored 48 out of 100 — slipping below the symbolic threshold of 50 and recording its lowest level since the adoption of the current methodology.

The ranking tells an equally sobering story. From 56th place globally in 2024, Mauritius now stands at 61st. On the African continent, it has lost its place on the podium, overtaken by the Seychelles (24th globally), Botswana and Cape Verde. For a jurisdiction long marketed as a stable, rules-based financial centre, the optics are troubling.

Yet before succumbing to alarmism, Mauritius must confront a more nuanced and uncomfortable question: does this score reflect a genuine increase in corruption, or is it the by-product of a more aggressive assault on impunity?

A Decade of Gradual Erosion

The decline cannot be dismissed as a statistical accident. In the 2012 Corruption Perceptions Index, Mauritius stood at 57. The slide to 48 in 2025 marks a steady erosion of perceived governance standards over more than a decade. Observers have pointed to persistent weaknesses in areas such as political party financing, transparency in public procurement, and the protection of whistleblowers.

Perception does not measure proven wrongdoing. It reflects how investors, risk analysts and other experts judge the integrity of public institutions. When they sense a lack of transparency in high-level decision-making, confidence declines — even if no crime has been established.

The Detection Paradox

The year 2025 was dominated by the aggressive activism of the new Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), which replaced the former Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The FCC has reopened dormant files, launched high-profile arrests, and triggered what many have described as a media “tsunami” of financial scandals.

Here lies the detection paradox. When an anti-corruption agency intensifies its activity, it inevitably exposes misconduct that may previously have been buried. To international observers surveyed by Transparency International, the sudden visibility of wrongdoing can create the impression of a system riddled with corruption — even if the reality is that the state has finally begun cleaning its stables.

Several cases have shaped this perception. In February 2025, the arrest of a former Prime Minister in what the press dubbed the “suitcase scandal” sent shockwaves through the political class. Allegations of money laundering involving approximately Rs 114 million in cash and luxury items projected an image of systemic rot at the apex of power.

Simultaneously, the public sector was rattled by renewed scrutiny of procurement procedures during the pandemic, notably in the so-called Molnupiravir affair. Questions surrounding emergency tendering processes and the manage-

ment of health funds fuelled suspicions that safeguards at the highest executive level had been circumvented or neutralised.

On the land and financial front, the Eco Deer Park — or “Stag Party” — affair highlighted allegations of bribery linked to the allocation of 350 arpents of State land at Grand Bassin. The symbolism was powerful: the potential undervaluation of national assets in favour of private interests. Other cases have also drawn the attention of the FCC and placed them under public scrutiny, reinforcing the perception of corruption across different sectors of the country.

Even operational successes have contributed to the negative perception. In August 2025, the dismantling of drug-related money-laundering networks — including the seizure of 22 luxury vehicles — was undeniably a law-enforcement victory. Yet it simultaneously reinforced the unsettling notion that such criminal structures had flourished for years under insufficient institutional oversight during the ICAC era.

In short, visibility has a cost. When scandals erupt in rapid succession, they dominate headlines, shape narratives, and imprint themselves on international perception indices.

Independence: The Missing Pillar?

If the FCC’s activism explains part of the CPI decline, structural concerns explain the rest. Transparency International has repeatedly emphasised the importance of institutional independence. In Mauritius, the concentration of powers in the hands of the FCC’s Director General — appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister — remains a central point of friction.

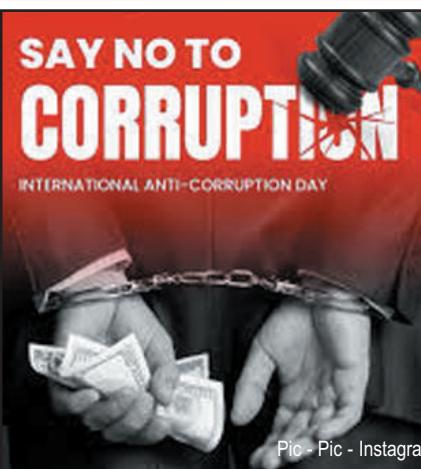
Perception hinges not only on the number of arrests, but on the perceived fairness and impartiality of prosecutions. As long as anti-corruption enforcement can be portrayed — fairly or unfairly — as susceptible to political instrumentalisation, doubts will persist.

The credibility of any anti-corruption framework depends on the conviction that justice is neither selective nor strategic. A justice system perceived as operating at “two speeds” erodes confidence more deeply than inaction.

Reform and Recalibration in 2026

Conscious of the reputational stakes, the government has responded in early 2026 with a series of legislative and regulatory reforms.

First, the activation of the Operations Review Committee (ORC), composed of former senior members of the judiciary, aims to provide independent oversight of FCC decisions. If genuinely empowered, this body could serve as a critical buffer against accusations of political interference.



Pic - Pic - Instagram

Second, new corporate liability guidelines now impose unprecedented obligations on private companies. Under reforms introduced in January 2026, firms may face fines of up to Rs 20 million for acts of active corruption committed by employees, unless adequate compliance mechanisms are demonstrably in place. This shift places the private sector squarely within the integrity equation.

Third, Mauritius has strengthened international cooperation, signing memoranda of understanding with organisations such as the Basel Institute on Governance. By importing technical expertise and aligning with global best practices, the authorities seek to reinforce the jurisdiction’s credibility.

Meanwhile, the FCC (Amendment) Act 2025 has enhanced operational capabilities, including the possibility of joint investigations with the police under Article 58A. This integrated approach is designed to dismantle sophisticated money-laundering networks and drug cartels with greater efficiency.

The strategy is thus dual in nature: robust enforcement on one hand, structural reassurance on the other.

From Scandal to Systemic Change

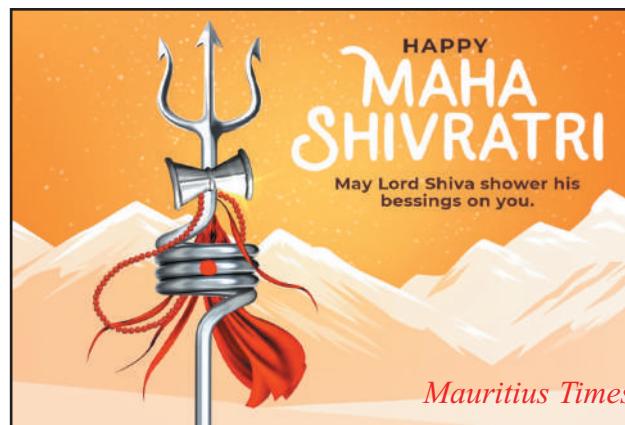
Mauritius now stands at a crossroads. A score of 48 is not merely a statistical setback; it is a reputational alarm bell. The country’s comparative advantage has long rested on political stability, predictable regulation and the rule of law. Erosion in perceived integrity threatens not only rankings but investment flows and diplomatic standing.

Yet the CPI decline could also represent a transitional phase. If 2025 was the year of exposure — a year when dormant scandals surfaced in rapid succession — 2026 must become the year of consolidation. The “tsunami” of investigations must translate into consistent prosecutions, transparent trials and reasoned judgments.

Above all, institutional independence must move from aspiration to demonstrable reality. The ORC must function as more than a symbolic safeguard; it must visibly scrutinise decisions and command public trust.

In the long term, Mauritius will need to address structural lacunae that have persisted for years: robust legislation on access to information, comprehensive reform of political party financing, and stronger statutory protection for whistleblowers. Without these foundational pillars, enforcement alone will not suffice.

The detection paradox teaches a difficult lesson. Cleaning house is messy. Dust clouds rise before the air clears. For a period, the very act of confronting corruption may amplify perceptions of decay. But transparency, if sustained and impartial, ultimately rebuilds credibility.



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We Celebrate HSC Laureates. But Who Celebrates the Rest?

The issue is not that we celebrate excellence. The issue is how narrowly we define it

U. Dasin

Every year, Mauritius pauses for one of its most cherished national rituals: the proclamation of HSC laureates. It is a beautiful moment. Families cry. Schools celebrate. The nation feels proud. And rightly so. Excellence deserves recognition.

Each year also brings stories that remind us why this ceremony matters so deeply. Stories of resilience, hardship, and extraordinary determination. This year, one particularly moving example was that of Shaivi Boodhun of Loreto College Quatre Bornes - orphaned at the age of 12, raised by her grandmother, and now a laureate at 18. Stories like hers reaffirm one of our deepest national beliefs: that education can transform lives.

And yet, once the applause fades, an uncomfortable question quietly remains: what about everyone else? Every year, roughly 40 to 50 students are elevated to national prominence. Yet more than 10,000 young Mauritians sit for the same HSC examinations. Around 70 to 75 percent will pass. Many will have strong results. Some will miss the laureate cut-off by only a handful of marks. But once the national celebration ends, most of them will step into a very different reality - one marked by what might be called a quiet prestige gap. The issue is not that we celebrate excellence. The issue is how narrowly we define it.

Mauritius has long suffered from what could be described as academic tunnel vision. Our national narrative still instinctively celebrates the doctor and the lawyer. But what of the software architect building exportable digital systems? The sustainable farmer innovating food security? The digital artist working in a global creative economy? When these paths remain absent from our national rituals of recognition, we risk sending an unintended message to thousands of young people: your talent matters, but it matters less.

This becomes painfully visible in scenarios many Mauritian families quietly recognise. Imagine three sisters sitting for the HSC in the same year. One becomes a laureate. The other two do not. In an affluent family, all three might still access overseas education. In a middle-class or lower middle-class family, however, divergence can quickly become life-defining. One daughter is celebrated, funded, and globally mobile. The others may enter labour markets where upward mobility is slow and

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uncertain. Their effort is not less real. Their dreams are not less valid. But opportunity is not equally distributed.

This is where the debate around brain drain becomes too simplistic. Perhaps a more accurate frame is brain circulation. Many high-performing Mauritians abroad do not remain overseas out of disloyalty, but because the structural incentives are difficult to ignore. In specialised fields such as biotechnology or artificial intelligence, salaries abroad can be four to six times higher than local equivalents, even as the cost of living in Mauritius continues to rise. The question, therefore, is not how to stop young Mauritians from leaving, but how to make returning a rational and attractive choice.

One possibility would be to think more ambitiously about national talent itself. Imagine a National Talent Registry that does not simply track laureates, but maps high-performing Mauritians across the world. Imagine pairing that with research grants, relocation incentives, or industry leadership opportunities designed to help returning professionals build local ecosystems. Brain drain could become strategic talent circulation.

The conversation must also move beyond government alone. If Mauritius truly believes in meritocracy, then excellence must be democratised socially, not only recognised officially. The private sector has a critical role to play. Why, for example, do many top firms wait for the State to identify laureates before offering scholarships? Why not create social mobility scholarships aimed at students who demonstrate exceptional resilience, disci-

pline, and potential - even if they are not at the very top of the national ranking lists?

Ultimately, education policy alone cannot resolve these tensions. Mauritius must confront deeper structural questions about who controls economic opportunity, how privilege reproduces itself across generations, and how open elite professional networks truly are. For those familiar with the country's social history, inter-generational privilege - often linked to class and also racialised histories - is not theoretical. It is lived reality. And structural change in this domain is, by nature, slow. Mauritius today lives with a paradox. We celebrate education as the great equaliser, yet structural inequalities remain deeply embedded. We produce brilliant young people, yet many must leave to fully realise their potential.

If the country wants to retain talent in the long term, reform must be broader than scholarships. It must include building world-class tertiary and research ecosystems locally, recognising technical, vocational, and creative excellence as national assets, encouraging private sector co-investment in social mobility, and actively creating pathways for diaspora talent to return and build industries at home.

Until then, the annual ritual will continue. We will celebrate our brightest, and we should. But quietly, year after year, many of those bright young Mauritians will build their futures elsewhere - not because they want to leave, but because they feel they must.

Proximity as Risk: What the Epstein Files Teach Us About Institutional Integrity

In light of the ongoing disclosures known as the “Epstein Files,” a number of respected figures in both the US and Europe have stepped down from prominent positions following the release of documents revealing regular and sustained email correspondence with Jeffrey Epstein — an American financier and convicted sex offender who was later accused of operating a large-scale sex-trafficking network involving minors and powerful associates. Several of these resignations have occurred in circumstances where the disclosed communications do not point to illegal activity or overtly improper conduct but rather suggest sustained proximity to Epstein and his wider network.

In this week's Q&As, Lex examines how Mauritian law and professional ethics assess such associations, the resulting reputational damage or institutional responses, and the line between criminal liability and ethical or governance accountability.

LEX

* In several recent cases linked to the “Epstein Files,” high-profile figures have resigned despite the absence of evidence of illegal activity. Does this suggest that, in practice, the “fit and proper person” test for public officials and company directors can take precedence over the principle of “innocent until proven guilty”?

The presumption of “innocent until proven guilty” is a core principle of criminal law, protecting individuals from state punishment unless guilt is proven beyond reasonable doubt. It concerns criminal liability only.

The “fit and proper person” test for public officials and company directors is a regulatory mechanism designed to ensure that individuals in positions of influence possess the integrity, competence, and financial soundness necessary to discharge their duties, safeguard institutional stability, maintain public trust, and uphold high standards of conduct.

* Is this the reason why the Bank of Mauritius, in fulfilling its mandate to regulate and supervise the banking sector, places significant emphasis on the “fit and proper” test when assessing candidates for the position of CEO of private commercial banks in order to safeguard the interests of depositors — even if the application of that test occasionally leads to unintended outcomes?

Assessing candidates for the position of CEO of private commercial banks is a critical regulatory function, primarily aimed at safeguarding depositors' interests and maintaining financial stability. This assessment is often conducted through a rigorous “fit and proper person” test.

Even if the application of this test is stringent, it is essential to ensure that those leading financial institutions possess the necessary integrity, competence, and financial soundness to manage risks effectively.

* Can the “problematic proximity” of a politician, senior public official, or company director to a criminal network reasonably be regarded as sufficient grounds for a government or corporate body to seek or compel their resignation,

and integrity of the House as a whole.

Importantly, “reputational damage” does not require proof of criminal wrongdoing. The threshold is often whether the conduct creates a reasonable perception that an official's judgment may be influenced, or that institutional integrity is at risk.

* French prosecutors are reportedly using unsealed U.S. documents to investigate Jack Lang for tax fraud linked to Jeffrey Epstein's offshore network. This raises a critical legal question: would evidence from the “Epstein Files” be admissible in a Mauritian court if a local national were implicated in similar money laundering or misconduct?

Yes, the “problematic proximity” of a politician, senior public official, or company director to a criminal network may reasonably be regarded as sufficient grounds to seek or compel their resignation. However, such action is complex and context-dependent, and generally rests on the mitigation of reputational, legal, and institutional risk rather than on the existence of a criminal conviction.



with a view to safeguarding institutional integrity and preventing political or reputational damage?

While proximity does not equate to proven criminal guilt, it is often treated as a significant risk factor that may justify removal in order to protect the integrity of a government, public office, or corporate body.

* How do international codes of conduct — such as the UK Ministerial Code or the EU Transparency Rules — define “reputational damage,” and at what point can a private friendship or association amount to a professional breach of duty or contract?

International codes of conduct generally frame “reputational damage” as conduct that undermines public confidence in the integrity, impartiality, and proper functioning of public institutions. For example, the UK Ministerial Code emphasises that ministers must uphold the highest standards of propriety and avoid conflicts of interest, both actual and perceived, that could compromise trust in government. Similarly, the Code of Conduct for Members of the House of Commons prohibits behaviour that would cause significant damage to the reputation

informal norms, and expectations of propriety to regulate the behaviour of ministers and public officials.

* In a Mauritian context, would comparable allegations — if supported by documentary disclosures of a similar nature — justify the resignation or removal of a minister, Member of Parliament, or senior public official, even before the conclusion of any criminal proceedings? What legal, constitutional, or ethical considerations would need to come into play for such action to occur?

Good governance in Mauritius is grounded in accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law, supported by institutions mandated to investigate corruption and financial crime. While allegations alone do not automatically require removal from office, credible evidence of serious misconduct may generate constitutional and political pressure for a minister or public official to resign or step aside in order to preserve public confidence and the integrity of governmental processes.

As a general principle, unethical conduct may warrant the resignation of a minister or public official, particularly where it undermines public confidence or impairs the proper discharge of official duties.

* It would seem that Mauritian criminal law, rooted in the Criminal Code and common-law principles, does not criminalise association per se. Liability generally requires knowledge, and participation or intent in an unlawful act. And mere correspondence or proximity, without evidence of facilitation or complicity, is insufficient to establish criminal responsibility. Is that correct?

Under the Mauritian Criminal Code and its related statutes, the legal framework distinguishes between mere association and criminal conspiracy or organization. Liability attaches only to the latter, specifically when there is a proven intent to commit distinct criminal acts.

What this means is that mere association with a person who later turns out to be involved in wrongdoing is not, by itself, a crime. Criminal responsibility normally requires some combination of knowledge, intent, and participation (or assistance).

* Can employers or appointing authorities lawfully terminate employment or compel a resignation based on reputational risk stemming from an employee's lawful private associations? Furthermore, how do courts determine if such actions are reasonable, proportionate, and fair?

While employers may seek to mitigate reputational damage, such actions are generally only lawful if there is a demonstrable, substantial, and direct link between the private association and a detrimental impact on the employer's business or the employee's ability to perform their role.

Courts evaluate the fairness of these measures by applying a “reasonableness” test — specifically examining whether the decision falls within the “band of reasonable responses” available to a prudent employer under those circumstances.

Cont. on page 5

Proximity as Risk: What the Epstein Files Teach Us About Institutional Integrity

Cont. from page 4

* How do professional codes of ethics in Mauritius (covering law, finance, academia, and the public service) distinguish between the “appearance of impropriety” and actual wrongdoing? Furthermore, can ethical breaches occur when conduct is lawful but nonetheless damages institutional credibility?

The “appearance of impropriety” and “actual wrongdoing” represent two distinct thresholds in Mauritian ethical and legal scrutiny. While actual wrongdoing requires proof of a specific, prohibited act, the appearance of impropriety focuses on public perception and whether a reasonable, informed person might suspect a conflict of interest.

In Mauritius, codes of ethics — such as the *Code of Ethics for Public Officers* — explicitly state that officers must not bring the service into disrepute through their private activities. Thus, an ethical breach can indeed arise from lawful conduct if it objectively undermines public trust.

* Regarding disclosure, does Mauritius mandate that professionals or politicians reveal relationships that could later be perceived as conflicts of interest?

Yes, Mauritius has established significant, legally mandated disclosure obligations and ethical standards for public officials — including politicians and civil servants — as well as private sector professionals such as directors. These mandates require the disclosure of relationships, interests, or situations that could be perceived as conflicts of interest and are primarily aimed at upholding institutional integrity and preventing corruption.

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Vijay Makhan

Chagos, International Law, and the Perils of Political Nostalgia

As the UK Parliament resumes consideration of the Chagos agreement, shifting political postures in London and Washington expose a deeper question: will international law and historical redress prevail over nostalgia and procedural obstruction?

The debate surrounding the UK-Mauritius agreement on the Chagos Archipelago has entered a new and revealing phase. With Donald Trump having publicly reverted to a supportive posture — describing the agreement as the best deal Prime Minister Keir Starmer could realistically obtain — the external strategic objections that briefly dominated the discourse have largely receded. What remains is a test not of law or security, but of political judgment within the United Kingdom.

The agreement itself has not changed. Its essential architecture is clear and balanced: Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is restored, while the continued operation of the Diego Garcia military base is expressly provided for. This was not a reckless concession but the outcome of prolonged negotiation, reflecting a belated acceptance that colonial-era shenanigans cannot be maintained indefinitely without eroding legal credibility and moral authority.

For Mauritius, the Chagos issue has never been episodic or opportunistic. It has been pursued with consistency and restraint across decades, governments, and diplomatic arenas — at the United Nations, within the Organisation of African Unity and later the African Union, through the Non-Aligned Movement, and in sustained bilateral engagement with the United Kingdom. That long arc of persistence is precisely what gives Mauritius credibility today — and exposes the fragility of claims that the agreement is sudden, impulsive, or ideologically driven.

Washington's renewed endorsement is particularly instructive. Diego Garcia remains central to Western strategic posture in the Indian Ocean, and nothing in the agreement alters that reality. The argument that legality undermines security is no longer persuasive; it belongs to an earlier and increasingly untenable mode of reasoning.

Attention has therefore returned to the UK Parliament, where the agreement is once again under consideration. Parliamentary scrutiny is legitimate and necessary. But there is an important distinction between scrutiny and obstruction. The current legislative "ping-pong" between the House of Commons and the House of Lords risks blurring that line, particularly where delay appears driven less by identifiable defects in the agreement than by ideological resistance to its underlying premise.

The House of Lords performs an important revising function within the UK's constitutional architecture. It does not, however, possess a democratic mandate to indefinitely impede a foreign policy decision that has been negotiated by the executive, signed, and broadly welcomed by international partners. When procedure is used to substitute political preference for executive responsibility, constitutional balance gives way to institutional overreach.



“The Chagos agreement does not represent capitulation. It represents closure — closure grounded in law, tempered by strategic realism, and responsive to the demands of historical justice. With external objections receding and the legal foundations unshaken, the remaining obstacles are political rather than principled. As the parliamentary process resumes in the United Kingdom, the choice is clear: to allow nostalgia to masquerade as sovereignty, or to recognise that strength in the twenty-first century lies not in clinging to imperial residues, but in having the courage to correct them...” - Pic - Telegraph.co.uk

Much of the opposition has been articulated through the lens of concern for citizens of Chagossian origin. Their displacement and suffering are beyond dispute, and their voices deserve unwavering respect. Yet the debate has too often been shaped by selective amplification. It remains an established reality that the majority of Chagossians residing in Mauritius and Seychelles support the current agreement, viewing it as a long-delayed pathway toward recognition, reparative measures, and closure. While the opposition mobilized among sections of the UK-based diaspora may hold legitimate perspectives, those views cannot reasonably be treated as singularly representative of the entire community.

A rights-based discourse loses coherence when proximity to Westminster outweighs proximity to the historical injustice itself.

It is in this context that the posture of certain UK political figures warrants reflection. Individuals such as Priti Patel, Kemi Badenoch, and the notably itinerant Andrew Rosindell, now aligned with Reform after crossing from the Conservative benches, are entitled to their political positions. But entitlement does not confer insulation from historical judgment.

There are moments when political actors must decide whether they wish to be remembered as custodians of continuity or as agents of correction. The tide of international law on Chagos is neither transient nor fashionable; it has been cumulative and sustained. To manoeuvre against it now — particularly when the agreement offers a rare opportunity to address a manifest colonial injustice — risks consigning such opposition to the wrong side of history.

There is little dignity in basking in the afterglow of imperial nostalgia when the modern international order has already rendered its verdict.

The Chagos agreement does not represent capitulation. It represents closure — closure grounded in law, tempered by strategic realism, and responsive to the demands of historical justice. With external objections receding and the legal foundations unshaken, the remaining obstacles are political rather than principled.

As the parliamentary process resumes in the United Kingdom, the choice is clear: to allow nostalgia to masquerade as sovereignty, or to recognise that strength in the twenty-first century lies not in clinging to imperial residues, but in having the courage to correct them.



A photograph of a young woman with a backpack and suitcase standing next to an open car trunk, smiling with her parents. The scene is set outdoors with palm trees and a house in the background.

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Par A. Bartleby

Le mardi 10 février 2026 restera une journée de contrastes pour le système éducatif mauricien. Si la proclamation des 49 lauréats de la cuvée 2025 du Higher School Certificate (HSC) a été célébrée avec la ferveur habituelle dans les collèges de prestige, l'analyse détaillée des chiffres révèle des zones d'ombre inquiétantes. Entre baisse de performance dans les matières critiques et interrogations sur les nouveaux critères d'accès au Grade 12, l'élite scolaire brille, mais le socle académique semble vaciller.

Une réussite quantitative sans éclat qualitatif

Du côté de la direction des établissements secondaires, on estime que les résultats de 2025 doivent être interprétés avec une grande prudence. Bien que le taux de réussite national stagne autour de **78,98 %**, la qualité des performances globales ne semble pas au rendez-vous.

Les observateurs soulignent que cette promotion était la dernière à avoir accédé au Grade 12 sous l'ancien régime, lequel exigeait l'obtention de cinq «Credits» au School Certificate (SC). Malgré ce filtre, autrefois plus rigoureux, la qualité des résultats n'a pas été à la hauteur des attentes du corps pédagogique.

À titre d'exemple, les données fournies par le *Mauritius Examinations Syndicate* (MES) confirment une tendance de fond: l'érosion du niveau dans les matières scientifiques. Des voix expertes au sein de l'administration éducative tirent la sonnette d'alarme sur la chute des performances enregistrée entre 2023 et 2025:

- **Biologie:** -6,6 points
- **Mathématiques:** -5,1 points
- **Physique:** -4,5 points

Si les filières linguistiques (français à 98,8 %) et économiques affichent une certaine stabilité, ce recul dans les matières à forte composante logique suggère un déséquilibre croissant. Pour les spécialistes du secteur, l'objectif ne doit pas se limiter à une simple promotion des élèves, mais doit impérativement viser à leur garantir les outils nécessaires pour une réussite académique et professionnelle



Les directions d'établissements nuancent les résultats de 2025: malgré un taux de réussite stagnant à 78,98 %, la qualité globale des performances demeure préoccupante. P - Adobe Stock

durable.

Historique des taux de réussite: Une volatilité marquée

Le tableau historique du MES montre une évolution sinuuse du taux de réussite en République de Maurice:

- **2006-2019:** Une stabilité relative entre 75 % et 79 %.
- **2021-2022:** Des pics exceptionnels (jusqu'à 92,25 %), marqués par des contextes post-pandémie particuliers.
- **2024-2025:** Un retour à la normale autour de 79 %, mais avec un nombre de candidats examinés en nette baisse (5 794 en 2025 contre plus de 10 000 en 2012).

Les conséquences prévisibles des nouveaux critères d'accès

L'introduction en 2025 de nouveaux critères permettant l'accès au Grade 12 avec seulement trois Credits (ou deux pour les redoublants) marque un tournant risqué pour l'édu-

cation nationale. À la lumière des données actuelles, voici les conséquences probables pour les années à venir:

1. Une chute brutale du taux de réussite en 2026-2027

Certains pédagogues prévoient déjà que le taux de réussite pourrait tomber sous la barre des 60 %. En abaissant la barrière à l'entrée, le système déplace le problème: les élèves qui auraient été réorientés vers des filières techniques se retrouvent aujourd'hui face à l'exigence académique du HSC sans avoir le socle de base nécessaire.

• Une fracture scolaire aggravée

Nous risquons de voir émerger un système à deux vitesses. D'un côté, les Académies et les «star colleges» maintiendront l'excellence pour les lauréats. De l'autre, les collèges privés et régionaux devront gérer des élèves en grande difficulté, ce qui pèsera lourdement sur leur taux de réussite global et sur le moral des enseignants.

• La dévaluation du HSC sur le marché international

Le HSC de Maurice est reconnu par Cambridge pour sa rigueur. Si la masse des candidats présente des résultats médiocres ou si les critères d'accès sont perçus comme trop permissifs par les universités étrangères, c'est la crédibilité de la signature éducative mauricienne qui pourrait être entachée.

• L'urgence de la filière alternative

La solution ne réside pas dans l'obstination académique, mais dans la valorisation des formations polytechniques. Accéder au HSC avec trois Credits est une «chance» qui risque de se transformer en impasse pour des milliers de jeunes si elle n'est pas accompagnée d'un encadrement pédagogique massif, que le système actuel n'est pas encore en mesure d'offrir à grande échelle.



Le pseudo-diagnostic de démence ou de maladie mentale est devenu l'arme de choix des détracteurs de Trump. P - The Economist

La “Trumpisation” du monde: Pourquoi le diagnostic de folie est-il un aveuglement?

Donald Trump n'est pas une anomalie psychiatrique, mais le produit rationnel d'une culture de la domination et du spectacle

Depuis le retour de Donald Trump à la Maison-Blanche, l'espace médiatique sature sous une note monochrome: «Trump est fou». Des élus démocrates au Congrès aux colonnes de *The Economist* le dépeignant en cavalier déshabillé sur un ours polaire, le pseudo-diagnostic de démence ou de maladie mentale est devenu l'arme de choix de ses détracteurs. Pourtant, cette psychologisation à outrance, loin de neutraliser le milliardaire, agit comme un écran de fumée qui masque la rationalité systémique de son action.

Le «diagnostic»: une arme rhétorique sans fondement médical

Dans une réflexion percutante, Olivier

Fournout, sociologue, sémiologue et écrivain, nous invite à dépasser les apparences du spectacle politique. Selon lui, qualifier Donald Trump de «fou» — un qualificatif devenu omniprésent dans les médias depuis janvier 2026 — constitue un effet pervers qui nous empêche de saisir la véritable nature du pouvoir en place.

La première limite de cette stratégie réside dans sa légitimité. Qualifier un chef d'État de «psychopathe» ou de «dément» sans examen clinique direct relève de la posture politique et non de la science. Lorsque des figures publiques utilisent le vocabulaire de la psychiatrie, elles pratiquent une «médicalisation» du débat qui évacue le fond du discours.

L'histoire récente prouve d'ailleurs l'in-

efficacité totale de cette rhétorique. Déjà en 2024, des collèges d'experts prédisaient son déclin cognitif ; cela ne l'a pas empêché de remporter l'élection face à Kamala Harris. Le public, parfaitement au fait de son profil, semble immunisé contre ces attaques. Pire, ces accusations nourrissent la technique de Trump: semer la controverse pour saturer l'attention, se poser en victime des «élites» et transformer le buzz en capital électoral.

La folie comme mise en scène: l'art du spectacle

Ce que beaucoup prennent pour de la divagation mentale est souvent une stratégie marketing éprouvée.

_suite en page 9

La “Trumpisation” du monde: Pourquoi le diagnostic de folie est-il un aveuglement?

_suite de la page 8

Dans ses propres ouvrages, comme *The Art of the Deal*, Trump théorise l'utilisation de la provocation pour dominer l'agenda médiatique. Sa sortie récente à Davos en janvier 2026, réclamant «un bout de glace» (le Groenland) en échange de la paix mondiale, a été traitée comme une preuve de folie.

Pourtant, cette demande installe une vision du monde très précise: celle où la terre est une marchandise, un titre de propriété que l'on échange. En traitant cela de «délire», l'opposition évite de combattre l'idéologie sous-jacente: une volonté délibérée de fragiliser la transition écologique et de réaffirmer une domination territoriale archaïque.

Trump, miroir d'une société de combat

L'erreur fondamentale consiste à voir en Trump une anomalie individuelle. En réalité, il est le produit — et le miroir — d'un système économique et culturel qui valorise la force brute et la spectacularisation. Ses méthodes ne sont pas isolées ; elles font écho à toute une littérature de management et de développement personnel qui prône la négociation «le revolver sur la tempe» ou les «stratégies de guerre» en entreprise.

Trump n'est pas «hors système»; il est l'avatar extrême d'une éthique dominante. Comme le souligne le chercheur Olivier Fournout, les structures sociales sélectionnent les psychés qui leur sont adéquates. Si Trump privilie les rapports de force, c'est parce que le monde des affaires, du divertissement et désormais de la politique qu'il a côtoyé pendant cinquante ans, l'a récompensé pour cela.

Sortir de la psychologie pour revenir à la structure

Pour contrer l'Amérique de Trump, il est impératif de se détourner du «faits divers» psychiatrique pour revenir à l'analyse structurelle. Son action n'est pas chaotique; elle suit une ligne constante:

- **Affaiblissement du multilatéralisme:** Ses attaques contre l'ONU ou l'OMS s'inscrivent dans une tradition américaine de torpiller les instances qu'ils ne contrôlent plus.
- **Rationalité instrumentale:** Trump sait reculer face à un pouvoir plus fort, comme l'a montré la menace européenne d'instruments anti-coercition.
- **Marchandisation globale:** Sa vision transforme chaque enjeu diplomatique en transaction commerciale.

En conclusion, traiter Trump de «fou» est un luxe de



Un manifestant devant le Capitole, grisé en Donald Trump portant une couronne: «Le règne fou de Donald le Terrible», Washington, le 2 septembre 2025. P - Getty Images/AFP

commentateur qui donne bonne conscience à bon compte mais ne produit aucun effet politique. Le véritable enjeu de 2026 n'est pas la santé mentale d'un homme, mais le diagnostic d'un système qui a rendu son ascension non seulement possible, mais logique. Pour combattre le «trumpisme», il faut s'attaquer à la structure sociale qui le porte, et non à l'individu qui l'incarne.



Le système de vote préférentiel est un mécanisme où l'électeur classe les candidats par ordre de priorité.

P - Human Rights Watch

Al'approche des élections de l'État d'Australie-Méridionale, prévues pour le 21 mars 2026, le débat sur le système électoral refait surface avec une vigueur inattendue. Alors que les 47 sièges de la Chambre basse seront pourvus via le vote préférentiel le même système utilisé au niveau fédéral — une frange des conservateurs australiens plaide pour un retour au mode de scrutin uninominal à un tour (dit «First Past the Post» ou FPTP). Certains observateurs politiques soulignent que l'histoire et les chiffres démontrent que le vote préférentiel demeure le système le plus juste et le plus protecteur pour la démocratie.

Un héritage conservateur aujourd'hui contesté

Il est ironique de constater que ce sont les conservateurs qui, en 1918, ont introduit le vote préférentiel en Australie. À l'époque, l'objectif était d'éviter l'éparpillement des voix entre les deux formations de droite (les Nationalistes et le Country Party), ce qui offrait des victoires indues au Parti Travailleur (Labour). L'élection partielle de Swan en 1918 en fut le déclencheur: le Labour l'avait emporté avec seulement 34,4 % des voix, alors que les deux partis conservateurs totalisaient ensemble 61 %.

Grâce à cette réforme, la coalition de droite a maintenu son emprise sur le pouvoir de 1949 à 1972. Aujourd'hui, après la victoire écrasante du Labour lors des élections fédérales de mai 2025, certains ténors de droite crient à l'injustice, affirmant que le système favorise indûment la

Le vote préférentiel: Démocratie et stabilité en Australie face aux leçons du passé

gauche. Mais qu'en est-il réellement?

Analyse des chiffres: 2025, une victoire sans équivoque

Lors du scrutin de 2025, le Labor a obtenu 34,6 % des votes de premier choix («primary votes»), contre 31,8 % pour la Coalition. Après la redistribution des préférences, le Labour a battu la Coalition par 55,2 % contre 44,8 %, raflant 94 des 150 sièges (soit 63 %).

Certes, le nombre de sièges est disproportionné par rapport au vote populaire, mais c'est une caractéristique inhérente aux systèmes uninominaux. L'analyste Kevin Bonham souligne que même avec le système FPTP (sans redistribution des préférences), le Labour aurait tout de même remporté 86 sièges contre 57 pour la Coalition, car ses voix étaient mieux réparties géographiquement. À titre de comparaison, lors des élections britanniques de 2024 (sous le régime FPTP), le Parti travailliste a remporté 63 % des sièges avec seulement 33,7 % des voix nationales. Le problème n'est donc pas le vote préférentiel, mais le découpage en circonscriptions uniques.

Pourquoi le vote préférentiel est-il supérieur?

Le système de vote préférentiel est un mécanisme où l'électeur classe les candidats par ordre de priorité. Si aucun candidat ne réunit la majorité absolue (50 % + 1 voix), le candidat le moins populaire est éliminé et ses voix sont redistribuées selon les deuxièmes choix de ses électeurs. Ce processus se répète jusqu'à l'obtention d'une majorité.

Ce système présente trois avantages majeurs par rapport au FPTP:

1. **Légitimité accrue:** L'élu final bénéficie nécessairement du soutien (direct ou par préférence) de la majorité des électeurs, et non d'une simple pluralité. En FPTP, un candidat peut être élu avec 30 % des voix contre 70 % d'électeurs qui ne voulaient absolument pas de lui.

2. **Fin du «vote utile»:** Les électeurs n'ont plus à choisir entre leur candidat de cœur (souvent un «petit» candidat) et

un vote stratégique pour faire barrage à un autre. Ils peuvent voter pour un candidat indépendant ou un Vert en premier choix, sachant que si celui-ci échoue, leur voix sera reportée sur leur second choix.

3. **Reflet de la diversité politique:** Le système permet l'émergence de tiers partis sans que ceux-ci ne jouent le rôle de «saboteurs» de leur propre camp idéologique.

Le cas emblématique de Dickson (2025)

L'élection dans la circonscription de Dickson illustre parfaitement cette supériorité. Le leader libéral Peter Dutton a obtenu plus de votes de premier choix (34,7 %) que son adversaire travailliste Ali France (33,6 %). Cependant, Ali France a finalement gagné avec 56 % des voix après redistribution. Pourquoi ? Parce qu'une immense majorité des électeurs ayant voté pour les candidats indépendants «Teal» ou les Verts préféraient France à Dutton. Sous le système FPTP, Dutton aurait gagné alors qu'une majorité claire des habitants de Dickson souhaitait un changement de cap.

Un système adaptatif

L'histoire montre que le vote préférentiel n'avantage pas systématiquement un camp. Si les Verts aident traditionnellement le Labor, des partis comme One Nation ou le Democratic Labour Party (DLP) ont, par le passé, largement favorisé la Coalition. Des sondages récents montrent d'ailleurs une poussée de One Nation qui pourrait, lors des prochaines échéances, favoriser la droite via le jeu des préférences.

Vouloir revenir au «First Past the Post», c'est vouloir réduire au silence les électeurs qui ne se reconnaissent pas dans le bipartisme traditionnel. Si les critiques de la majorité actuelle souhaitent une représentation plus exacte des forces politiques, ils devraient militer pour la représentation proportionnelle plutôt que pour un système archaïque qui gaspille les voix des citoyens. Le vote préférentiel reste l'outil le plus sophistiqué pour forger un consensus majoritaire dans une société de plus en plus pluraliste.

A. Bartleby

Multilateralism Under Assault: From Erosion to Regression

What makes the present moment particularly dangerous is not dramatic collapse, but gradual normalisation... Multilateralism is not dismantled overnight; it is hollowed out quietly, through attrition and indifference

Karma Yogi

In my previous piece, 'The Erosion of Credibility: A System Under Strain', I argued that what we are witnessing today is not merely a crisis of leadership, but a deeper weakening of institutional restraint. The consequences of that erosion do not stop at national borders. They radiate outward, unsettling an already fragile international order and accelerating a drift away from rules toward raw power.

From credibility eroded, we now confront rules abandoned.

Multilateralism was never designed to be elegant. It was designed to be necessary. Born out of the ashes of the Second World War, it reflected a hard-earned lesson: when power is left to regulate itself, catastrophe follows. The institutions created in that aftermath were meant not to deny power, but to discipline it; not to suppress national interest, but to contain it within rules that make coexistence possible.

That understanding now appears to be fading.

The Assault on Multilateralism

Across the international landscape, multilateralism is no longer questioned quietly; it is challenged openly. Commitments are treated as optional. Rules are obeyed selectively. Institutions are blamed for failures that stem less from design flaws than from deliberate political neglect. Funding is withheld, mandates are ignored, and consensus is caricatured as weakness.

This is not reform. It is disengagement.

Nowhere is this malaise more visible than in the trading system. The World Trade Organisation, once presented as the anchor of rules-based globalisation, is struggling to deliver meaningful progress. The Doha Development Round, launched in 2001 and intended to conclude within three years, has slipped quietly into oblivion. Conceived to place development at the heart of global trade, it became instead a symbol of paralysis and asymmetry. For developing countries, particularly small economies, Doha's stagnation signalled that equity could be postponed indefinitely.

For small states, this shift is not theoretical. Multilateralism has never guaranteed fairness, but it has offered voice, visibility, and a measure of protection against raw power. When rules erode, it is not the strong who feel the consequences first. It is the vulnerable.

The Fading Voice of Small States

For Small Island Developing States — and for Mauritius in particular — this regression represents a direct disservice to carefully calibrated national strategies. Multilateral frameworks have enabled SIDS to compensate for scale, defend maritime and environmental interests, and translate moral claims on climate and

mechanisms are starved of resources precisely when needs are exploding. The paradox is stark: global challenges grow more urgent as collective capacity shrinks.

The language of power has also hardened. We hear more threats, fewer negotiations. More ultimatums, less diplomacy. International relations are increasingly framed around a simple message: do what I say, not what I do. Rules apply — except when they do not. Obligations bind — except when inconvenient.

This is how might begins to masquerade as right.

What makes the present moment particularly dangerous is not dramatic collapse, but gradual normalisa-



“Multilateralism was never designed to be elegant. It was designed to be necessary. Born out of the ashes of the Second World War, it reflected a hard-earned lesson: when power is left to regulate itself, catastrophe follows. The institutions created in that aftermath were meant not to deny power, but to discipline it; not to suppress national interest, but to contain it within rules that make coexistence possible. That understanding now appears to be fading...” — Pic YouTube

development into legal and political traction.

For Mauritius, whose diplomacy has long been anchored in international law, ocean governance, peaceful dispute settlement and trade predictability, the weakening of multilateralism strikes at the core of its strategic posture. When trade rules stagnate, climate finance falters, and dispute-settlement mechanisms lose credibility, small states are left navigating an increasingly transactional world with diminished safeguards. A return to power-based bargaining is not merely unfair; it is structurally destabilising for those who rely on law rather than leverage.

Evidence of this regression is not difficult to find. Climate commitments are diluted even as climate impacts intensify. Development institutions are weakened at a time of widening inequality. Humanitarian

“For Mauritius, whose diplomacy has long been anchored in international law, ocean governance, peaceful dispute settlement and trade predictability, the weakening of multilateralism strikes at the core of its strategic posture. When trade rules stagnate, climate finance falters, and dispute-settlement mechanisms lose credibility, small states are left navigating an increasingly transactional world with diminished safeguards. A return to power-based bargaining is not merely unfair; it is structurally destabilising for those who rely on law rather than leverage...”

Each exception becomes precedent. Each bypass becomes habit. Over time, what once shocked begins to pass unnoticed. Multilateralism is not dismantled overnight; it is hollowed out quietly, through attrition and indifference.

Some will argue that this reflects necessary adjustment in a changing world. Reform is indeed needed. But reform requires engagement, not abandonment. Adaptation demands leadership, not contempt. The failure of Doha was not inevitable; it was the product of sustained unwillingness to reconcile power with responsibility.

International systems do not fail because they are imperfect; they fail because they are neglected. When institutions collapse, they are not replaced by something better. They are replaced by uncertainty, rivalry, and instability.

The erosion of credibility that begins in one capital does not remain contained. It seeps into alliances, weakens norms, and emboldens those who have long resented constraint. The current assault on multilateralism is not accidental; it is contagious.

The uncomfortable question is not whether we are returning to a world where might makes right. It is whether we are doing so incrementally, knowingly, and with remarkably little resistance — until the costs become impossible to ignore.

Multilateralism will not disappear with a bang. If it fails, it will do so with a shrug.

And history will record not that it was defeated, but that it was allowed to wither.

Across the Globe

Takaichi alters Asia power calculus



The New Japan: Navigating Nationalist Politics and Its Global Implications. Pic - NAOC

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's landslide election victory last Sunday could rewire the regional power dynamics in Asia, analysts say. With plans to boost defence spending, Japan may deepen cooperation with Southeast Asian nations seeking to counter China's maritime influence, *ThinkChina* reported.

India could also strengthen ties with a more confident Japan and reduce reliance on China. For South Korea, which has tried to maintain balanced relations with both countries, rising tensions present a challenge: "Neither China nor Japan can be easily distanced," a Korean paper wrote. Some Japanese officials remain hopeful that Beijing will seek a diplomatic off-ramp, knowing Takaichi is likely to remain in power for some time.

Takaichi's electoral victory might also clear the way for the conservative leader to refashion the country's pacifist constitution. Drafted in the 1940s during Japan's occupation by Allied forces, the constitution has long restricted its defence capabilities.

Rising tensions with China and pressure from Washington for Japan to take a greater role in its own security mean fewer policymakers are now "calling for restraint on national defence," one expert argued.

Global powers pivot toward China

A new report quantifies what many geopolitical analysts have been arguing for months: The global centre of gravity is shifting away from the US and toward China.

A Focaldata analysis of UN voting records and public opinion surveys found that world powers — particularly in Europe — are increasingly less aligned with Washington's positions. Diplomats from the fastest-growing economies are voting more frequently with China.

The findings come as Beijing seeks to strengthen economic ties with traditional US partners alienated by Trump's volatile foreign policy. The shift could accelerate. "The US pressure campaign against European liberal democracy is only just beginning," a Berlin-based expert wrote, adding that some European officials are preparing to treat Washington as an outright adversary.

Thailand rejects populism as conservative Bhumjaithai party triumphs

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's Bhumjaithai Party won its commanding 194 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives during Thailand's snap general election held on Sunday, February 8, 2026 -- but will need a coalition partner. This marks the first time in the 21st century that a conservative party has won the most seats in a general election.

Since 2001, populist parties loyal to billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra had dominated politics until he was ousted in a 2006 army coup, triggering a prolonged power struggle with the conservative royalist-military establishment.

US, China race for Pakistan influence

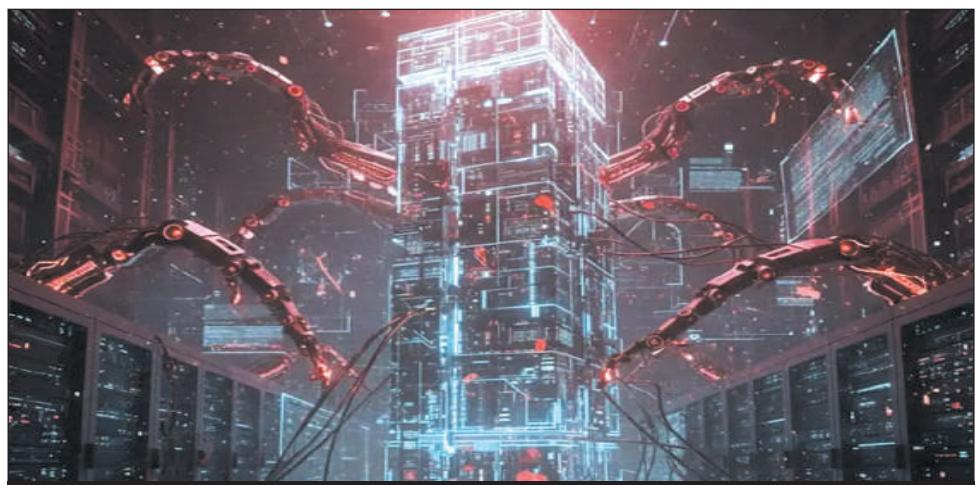
The US-China rivalry is increasingly playing out in Pakistan, where both superpowers are investing heavily. Washington plans to spend \$1.25 billion to secure critical minerals, though the targeted region has become a locus of violence: Militants attacked several towns, and the military said it killed over 200 fighters in response.

The unrest in Balochistan, where China is already a major investor, "is a test case of Pakistan's international guarantees," a former minister told The Wall Street Journal. Chinese firms are increasing their investments regardless: EV giant BYD told Nikkei it will begin assembling some vehicles in the country this year.



US, China race for influence in Pakistan. Pic - Semafor

AI will be 'much bigger than Covid', says CEO of Hyperwrite CEO



Representative image. Photograph: (AI generated image)

As we approach the final weeks of February 2026, many are reflecting on the six-year anniversary of the global shifts that defined the early 2020s. However, Matt Shumer, CEO of Hyperwrite, believes we are on the precipice of a transformation that will make previous disruptions pale in comparison.

In a viral essay titled "Something Big Is Happening," Shumer bypasses the usual "cocktail-party" optimism often found in tech circles to deliver a sobering reality check: Artificial Intelligence is no longer a future prospect — it is a present-day tidal wave.

"Bigger than Covid": A sudden rearranging

Shumer draws a haunting parallel to the 2020 pandemic. He recalls how the world shifted from "normal" to total lockdown in a mere three weeks. He warns that AI disruption won't be a slow, multi-decade transition. Instead, we are currently in the "this seems overblown" phase of a global "rearranging" that he predicts will be "much, much bigger than Covid."

Perhaps most unsettling is Shumer's admission regarding his own role. Despite being a CEO and investor who has spent six years in the space, he admits he has almost no influence over the trajectory of this technology. The future, he claims, is being shaped by a "remarkably small number" of researchers — likely fewer than a few hundred — at firms like OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google DeepMind.

To illustrate the speed of advancement, Shumer shares his personal experience as a technical leader. Only a few months ago, he was "going back and forth" with AI to edit code and technical projects. Today, he is effectively obsolete in that capacity.

"I just describe the outcome and leave," Shumer writes. "I tell the AI what I want, walk away from my computer for four hours, and come back... it's done better than I would have done it myself."

This personal obsolescence serves as a warning for the broader workforce.

Shumer echoes Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's prediction that AI will eliminate 50% of entry-level white-collar jobs.

The end of the "convenient gap"

Unlike previous industrial or digital revolutions, AI does not leave an obvious place for displaced workers to go.

• **The Industrial Revolution:** Workers moved from farms to factories.

• **The Internet Revolution:** Retail workers moved into logistics or services.

• **The AI Revolution:** Because AI is a "general substitute for cognitive work," it improves at everything simultaneously.

Whether it is legal work, medical analysis, software engineering, or journalism, AI is no longer just processing data; it is displaying "judgment" and "taste." Shumer warns that whatever you choose to retrain for, the AI is likely improving at that skill even faster than you are.

How to prepare: Three vital steps

Shumer clarifies that his intent isn't to induce helplessness, but to urge immediate adaptation. He suggests three primary ways to prepare for the "disorienting" two to five years ahead:

1. **Be early:** The single biggest advantage is understanding and using the technology before it becomes a requirement for survival.

2. **Lose the ego:** Don't dismiss the technology because it feels threatening or "fake." Use it seriously, not just as a glorified search engine.

3. **Financial resilience:** Shumer advises getting your "financial house in order." If your industry faces disruption within the next year, basic financial stability is more critical now than ever before.

Shumer concludes with a chilling reminder that the richest institutions in history are committing trillions of dollars to ensure this technology succeeds.

"We're past the point where this is an interesting dinner conversation about the future," he writes. "The future is already here. It just hasn't knocked on your door yet. It's about to."

* Contd on page 12

North Korea's Kim Jong Un chooses teen daughter as 'successor', says Seoul's spy agency



North Korea's Kim Jong Un chooses teen daughter as successor. Pic – Saudi Gazette

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has selected his teenage daughter Kim Ju Ae as his "successor", South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) told lawmakers on Thursday. It added that it has taken a "range of circumstances" into account before making this assessment, reports HT.

Kim Ju Ae, believed to be 13, has had an "increasingly prominent public presence at official events" in the recent days, according to NIS, and has been seen alongside her father at high-profile events.

She also undertook her first known public trip abroad when she visited Beijing in September, according to BBC. Ju Ae is reportedly the only known child of Kim Jong Un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju. While the NIS believes the North Korean leader has an elder son, he has not been acknowledged or seen publicly.

Signs of Kim Ju Ae voicing opinion on certain state policies, says lawmaker

Amid the alleged revelations by NIS, South Korean lawmaker Lee Seong-kwon told reporters that Ju Ae, earlier described by the spy agency as being "trained" to take over, was now at the stage of "successor designation."

"...Signs have been detected of her voicing her opinion on certain state policies, the NIS believes she has now entered the stage of being designated as successor," BBC cited Lee as saying.

The NIS has, meanwhile, said it will keep close tabs on whether Ju Ae will be present at the North's party congress later this month. The congress, the largest political event held every five years, is where Pyongyang is expected to provide details on foreign policy, war planning and nuclear ambitions.

Signs of Ju Ae's succession in recent years

Kim Ju Ae made her first public appearance in 2022, when she was seen inspecting North Korea's latest intercontinental ballistic missile while holding her father's hand.

Since then, Ju Ae's appearances have become more frequent. Lawmaker Park Sun-won told BBC that her role during public events hinted that she had begun to provide policy input, and is also being seen as the de facto second-highest leader.

In the past months, she has been shown standing taller than her father, and walks beside him, instead of following him. Photographs published by the state media in North Korea carries symbolic weight, where the North Korean leader being positioned equally with other individuals in a frame is a rarity.

Another factor is the passing of power in North Korea, wherein the role of the head of state has been handed down the three generations of the Kim family. This is expected to be followed in the case of Kim Jong Un too.

Across the Globe

Europe woos US scientists

European efforts to poach top US scientists in the wake of the White House's cuts to research funding are paying off. Paris announced grant awards to 46 academics, with 41 relocating from the US, under its Choose France for Science initiative; eight are from Columbia University, which has lost hundreds of millions in government funding.

The EU has a comparable plan, which has also had success. Research funding applications from US-based researchers have more than doubled since President Trump's second term began. UK institutions have also seen a spike in US applications, and Beijing has been a beneficiary, too: CNN counted at least 85 scientists leaving the US for China last year, most of them Chinese-born.

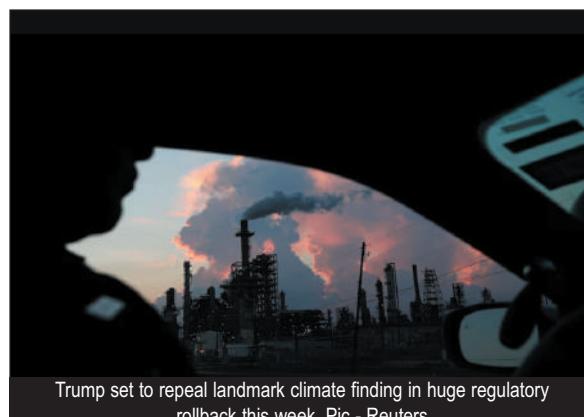


Reversing the brain drain: Can Europe successfully woo scientists amid US research cuts. Pic - France 24

UK says oat milk is not 'milk'

UK milk can no longer be called "milk" in the UK, a court ruled. A dairy industry body sued in 2023 after the Swedish manufacturer Oatly trademarked various milk-related names; the UK Supreme Court eventually said that "milk" can only refer to the stuff that is squirted out of a cow, or other mammal.

The EU previously came to similar conclusions: Legislation bans dairy-related terms such as "yogurt" or "cheese" being applied to soy or oat drinks, and "sausage," "burger," "steak," et cetera can only be used to describe real meat products. The moves may not help dairy and meat farmers' bottom lines, though: There is "little evidence of consumers accidentally purchasing plant-based products," The Grocer noted in 2023.



Trump set to repeal landmark climate finding in huge regulatory rollback this week. Pic - Reuters

US to repeal landmark climate finding

The Trump administration is expected this week to rescind a longstanding climate finding that underpins all greenhouse gas regulations, marking the most far-reaching rollback of climate policy in Trump's two terms. The "endangerment finding" — a 2009 scientific conclusion that greenhouse gases are worsening environmental disasters — provides the legal basis for US authorities to regulate those gases. Withdrawing it has long been a priority for lawyers in Trump's orbit and could pave the way to scrap emissions limits

for vehicles and power plants. The change could also prompt states to pursue their own regulations, creating new compliance headaches for companies, Semafor's climate and energy editor wrote.

China's AI race is now an all-out war

China's AI industry is preparing for what may be its most pivotal week of the year, marked by flashy promotions and consumer giveaways. Tech giants Alibaba, Baidu, and ByteDance plan to release new versions of their flagship AI models around the Lunar New Year, spending heavily to attract users with milk tea vouchers, cash handouts, and even robots. While these companies have long competed in e-commerce and short videos, the fight over AI dominance is being likened to the "Battle of Midway" — a turning point in the bigger war," a Chinese tech analyst wrote: "Once lost, they might lose the entire future."

Republicans vote against Canada tariffs

US lawmakers voted to block President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canada in a rare, bipartisan move, albeit one that is likely to be symbolic. Trump threatened Republicans who backed the effort, but six still joined with Democrats in supporting the measure.

Though Trump is likely to veto the resolution, assuming it passes the Senate, the vote underscores growing GOP frustration with the president's trade policy and broader leadership: Multiple conservative lawmakers have criticized Trump's sharing of a video depicting his predecessor Barack Obama as an ape, and the Justice Department's prosecution of the Federal Reserve chair. "With the [midterm] election nine months away and economic issues looming large, some House Republicans are becoming increasingly uneasy about defending Trump's tariffs," Axios noted.

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From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 327

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 2 December, 1960



Peter Ibbotson

As I showed in a recent article, the great expansion in educational facilities in Mauritius has taken place since the rise of the Labour Party to a dominant place in the Legislative Council. Guiding the destiny of Mauritian education over the last ten years have been two outstanding Labour leaders: first, Dr Ramgoolam as Liaison Officer, then Mr Beejadur as Minister of Education. Both brought to their task a real love of education, and the desire to ensure that every child had a square educational deal and a fair chance all during his school life. For both Dr Ramgoolam and Mr Beejadur, only the best is good enough for their departments; it is instructive, therefore, to examine the educational records of other colonies besides Mauritius to see how Mauritius compares, educationally, with the others.

Some time ago I was able, thanks to a UNESCO report, to demonstrate the difference between Mauritius and its sister-isle of Reunion as far as educational facilities and opportunities were concerned. In this comparison, Reunion came off very badly. Thanks to the Colonial Office, it is possible to compare the educational provision in every colony; this comparison, too, shows that Mauritius is one of the most advanced colonies, educationally speaking.

Primary education is not yet compulsory in Mauritius; it is compulsory in fact, in only six colonial territories: Bermuda, Dominica, Gibraltar, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, St Kitts-Nevis and Tonga. There are, however, another six territories where all, or almost all, children of primary school age do in fact attend school; and Mauritius is one of these.

The other five are Bahamas, British Guiana, British Honduras, Brunei, and Malta. In Antigua, Barbados, Fiji, Montserrat, St Lucia, St Vincent, Seychelles, Trinidad and the Virgin Islands, over 90 per cent of the children of primary school age attend school; the actual percentages ranging from 99 in St Vincent down to 91 in Seychelles and Trinidad.

The lowest attendances are found in Sierra Leone and Gambia where less than one child in five of primary school age is enrolled at school.

The high primary school enrolments are in most cases accompanied by high secondary school enrolments as well. Only Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda and Malta have secondary school enrolments (expressed as percentages of those of secondary school age) higher than Mauritius; those colonies, such as Brunei and Tonga, where high primary school enrolments are accompanied by low school enrolments are territories where the provision of secondary education is a new thing and is being expanded.

The West Indian territories, of course, have high primary school enrolments, and their secondary school provision is topped by

• *Self-trust is the essence of heroism. — Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Educational Comparisons

facilities for higher education at the University College of the West Indies, whereas students from Mauritius have to go to Great Britain, India, Ireland or France for their higher education at university level. It is undeniable that the establishment of the University College of the West Indies has given a great impetus to the development of secondary education there; and the development of secondary education has helped also the development of primary education.

Many people in Mauritius — and I share their belief — believe that the establishment of a University College of Mauritius, with arts, science and medical faculties (the science faculty to include tropical agriculture), would do nothing but good for the further development of education in Mauritius.

The table which follows shows the estimated percentage of children of school age who in 1959 were attending schools in each colony. The first column refers to primary schools; the second column to secondary schools. I have arranged the colonies in descending order of percentage primary school enrolment.

Colony	Primary %	Secondary %
Bermuda	Compulsory	55.00
Dominica	"	18.00
Gilbert & Ellice Is.	"	0.50
Gibraltar	"	27.00
St. Kitts-Nevis	"	17.00
Tonga	"	6.00
Bahamas	100	18.00
British Guiana	100	25.00
British Honduras	100	15.00
Brunei	100	11.00
MAURITIUS	100	29.00
Malta	100	36.00
St. Vincent	99	9.00
Barbados	96	36.00
Antigua	95	31.00
Montserrat	95	10.00
St. Lucia	95	8.00
Virgin Is.	95	10.00
Fiji	91	23.00
Seychelles	91	18.00
Trinidad	91	14.00
Jamaica	82	6.00
Grenada	78	14.00
Sarawak	68	6.00
North Borneo	67	8.00
Solomon Is.	66	—
Hong Kong	60	12.00
Northern Rhodesia	60	2.00
Nyasaland	60	1.20
Kenya	56	3.00
Uganda	45	2.10
Aden	33	20.00
Zanzibar	31	4.40
Tanganyika	27	1.60
Sierra Leone	18	2.80
Gambia	13	2.50

It should be noted that the figures for Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland refer to African enrolment only.

Some years ago, when universal adult suffrage for Mauritius was being discussed, M. Koenig said that he didn't favour it until the standard of education had been raised. The same sort of argument is now being adduced against self-government for Mauritius. It is, however, abundantly clear from the figures given above that educationally there is nothing against internal self-government for Mauritius.

Already the island has a higher percentage school enrolment than many colonies who have achieved or have been promised self-government. Educationally, Mauritius leads Jamaica, Trinidad and Sierra Leone; why should Mauritius, therefore, lag behind them politically and constitutionally?



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Note:

In the absence of candidates possessing the Certificate of Primary Education, consideration will be given to candidates who show proof of being literate.

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- (iii) have a clean police record; and
- (iv) have knowledge of masonry/plumbing and carpentry works.

Candidates should produce written evidence of knowledge claimed.

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NOTE TO APPLICANTS:

1. **AGE LIMIT:** Candidates unless already employed in the public service or in parastatal organisations should not have reached their 65th birthday by the closing date for the submission of applications.
2. Applicant should possess and submit all certificates/ qualifications/ testimonials at the time of application.
3. The onus for the submission of equivalence of qualification (if applicable) from the relevant authorities rests on the candidate.
4. The title of the post applied should be clearly marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
5. Application letters received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.
6. Selected candidates will be required to submit a Certificate of Character to the CWA within 3 months of joining office.
7. Non-submission of information/documents at time of application may entail disqualification of the applicant.
8. Incomplete, inadequate or inaccurate filling of the Application Form may entail elimination of the applicant.

CLOSING DATE: Applications should reach the CWA not later than 14.00 hrs on 25 February 2026.

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Date: 11 February 2026



Dr Shravan Nosib

Crown, Commerce, and Chains: Human Bondage under Britain's and France's Monarchies

"Evil destroys even itself" — Aristotle

On the docks of Liverpool and Nantes in the late eighteenth century, bales of raw cotton were unloaded from ships that had crossed the Atlantic, their holds heavy not only with fibre but with the invisible weight of empire. That cotton would be spun into cloth in Manchester and Rouen, sold across Europe and Asia, and celebrated as the fabric of modernity. Yet behind this story of industrial triumph lay a political architecture built and sustained by two of Europe's most powerful institutions: the British and French monarchies.

The history of slavery and cotton is often told through the lives of plantation owners, merchants, and enslaved people themselves. Less frequently examined is the role of the state — specifically the crown — in transforming forced labour into a pillar of imperial wealth and national power.

The Royal Blueprint for Empire

By the seventeenth century, overseas trade had become a matter of statecraft rather than private adventure. In Britain, King Charles II granted a royal charter to the Royal African Company in 1672, effectively placing the English slave trade under royal patronage. Members of the royal family and political elite invested in the company, which transported tens of thousands of enslaved Africans to the Americas.

France pursued a similarly centralized model. Under Louis XIV, colonial expansion was tightly bound to the authority of the crown. State-backed trading companies and royal administrators governed plantation economies in the Caribbean, especially in Saint-Domingue, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. These colonies became engines of wealth, fuelling both metropolitan industry and royal revenue.

In both empires, the monarchy did not merely permit slavery but also structured, regulated, and protected it. Brutal and inhuman force was often used to enforce this barbaric exploitation.

Cotton and Industrial Greed

The late eighteenth century marked a turning point. Britain's Industrial Revolution transformed cotton from a secondary crop into a global commodity. Steam-powered mills in Lancashire demanded unprecedented quantities of raw fibre, while French manufacturers expanded their own textile industries to compete in European and Mediterranean markets.

Plantations across the Atlantic — especially in the southern United States — answered this demand. Although these cotton fields lay beyond direct British and French rule, they were deeply embedded in European financial systems. British, French, and American banks extended credit, insurers underwrote shipments, and merchants — often operating through imperial trade networks — controlled the flow of goods. Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, BNCI, J.P. Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, Wells Fargo were at the forefront of this merciless economic exploitation.

The wealth generated by this system did not stop at factory gates. Customs duties, port fees, and colonial profits flowed into national treasuries, strengthening monarchies at home and funding imperial ambitions abroad.

Royal Decree

One of the most enduring legacies of monarchy in the age of slavery was legal authority.

In 1685, Louis XIV issued the Code Noir, a royal decree that defined the legal status of enslaved people in French colonies. It classified them as property, regulated their treatment, and formalized slavery as an institution of the state. Though often framed as a civilizing code, its primary function

was to secure plantation economies under the authority of the crown.

Britain took a less centralized approach, relying on colonial assemblies and common law traditions. Yet these systems operated under royal sovereignty. Property rights in human beings were recognized and enforced in courts that ultimately answered to the crown.

Slavery was not an informal practice in both empires. It was a legal condition upheld by sovereign power.

The Empire's Armed Hand and the Black Spartacus

Military forces sustained what law legitimized. British and French navies protected shipping lanes that connected Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia. Colonial troops and militias suppressed revolts and guarded plantations, ensuring that the flow of cotton and other commodities remained uninterrupted. The notorious East India Company, while trading in Opium under the cover of tea and spices, was a major player in the slave trade between India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Africa and colonizer Britain.

At the centre of this system's greatest rupture stood the indomitable "Black Spartacus" Toussaint Louverture, a former slave who transformed a fragmented uprising into a disciplined revolutionary movement that would shake the foundations of the European empire. A skilled military strategist and political thinker, Louverture navigated the shifting rivalries of France, Britain, and Spain, forging an army capable of defeating professional European forces. By 1801, he had effectively made Saint-Domingue autonomous, abolishing slavery and drafting a constitution that challenged the very premise of colonial monarchy.

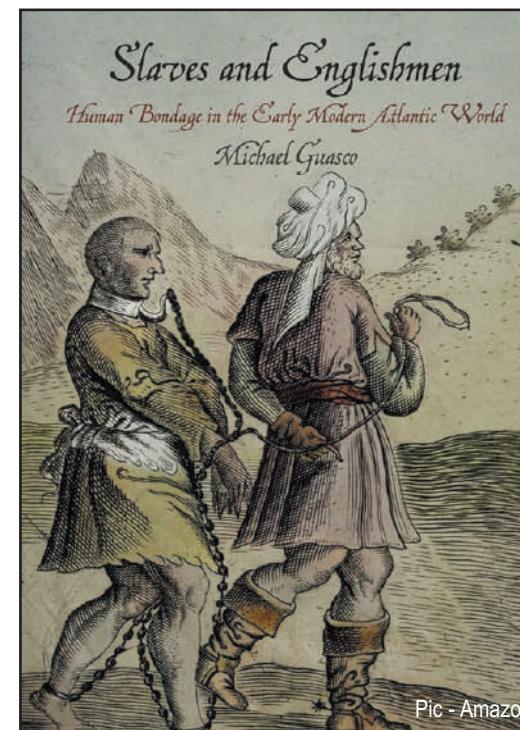
Although he was eventually captured and died in a French prison, his leadership changed Atlantic history. The Haitian Revolution not only destroyed France's most lucrative colony but also sent a powerful message across the enslaved world: that imperial power, even when backed by crowns and cannons, could be overturned by organized resistance. Louverture literally single-handedly dealt a death blow to this barbaric exploitation of humans by humans.

Pax Paradox: Enforcers as Abolitionists

By the early nineteenth century, the political wind had changed, paving the way for a paradigm shift in this harrowing narrative. William Wilberforce delivered his first abolition speech to the British Parliament in 1789 and continued doing so annually thereafter until 1807. The bill was ultimately passed in the same year, just days before his death. Britain abolished the transatlantic slave trade in 1807 and slavery itself in 1833. France followed permanently in 1848 after briefly reinstating slavery under Napoleon. The Second World War broke the final fetters of colonizers and paved the way for the emancipation of former colonies.

Yet emancipation carried a bitter irony. In Britain, the state compensated slave owners for the loss of their "property," transferring vast sums of public money to former beneficiaries of the system. The formerly enslaved received nothing.

The crowns that had helped build the architecture of slavery now presided over its dismantling, even as the economic and social hierarchies it created remained largely intact.



It is not surprising, therefore, that economic slavery persists to this day under a well-grounded framework and foundation.

Reparations: The Runnymede Trust

In September 2025, the Runnymede Trust published a report proposing a blueprint for reparative justice. It recommends a formal apology by King Charles as "a welcome, symbolic first step" towards reparative and proactive reconciliation and the possibility of embracing an ethic of respect, compassion and prosperity without exploitation. The report emphasizes that "Reparations is not about exacting collective punishment or confessions of guilt - a Crown apology should only be offered if there is an accompanying government promise to engage with the systemic work

that needs to be done to see how the legacies of slavery have coded our economic and financial infrastructures, and to genuinely commit to their reform and transformation."

It is hoped that CHOGM, planned for later this year in Antigua and Barbuda, will formally address this crime against humanity and set the stage for reparation and reconciliation. The ball is in King Charles's court.

A Global Legacy

Today, the legacies of cotton, slavery, and monarchy are the subject of renewed debate. Across Britain and France, museums, royal collections, and historic estates face growing scrutiny over how much of their wealth is derived from colonial exploitation. Caribbean nations and advocacy groups call for reparations, while historians uncover the financial ties linking royal institutions to plantation economies.

The legacy of slavery and colonialism lives on in the Windrush and Grenfell scandals, in police killings in the US, joint enterprise prosecutions and more.

Cotton, once celebrated as a symbol of progress, now stands as a reminder of how modern prosperity was stitched together with political power and forced labour.

Crime against humanity

The story of slavery and cotton is not only a tale of markets and merchants. It is a story of states and sovereigns — of royal charters that legalized human trafficking, laws issued in the name of kings, and imperial power that turned distant fields into pillars of European wealth.

Canadian scholar Adam Jones characterized the deaths of millions of Africans during the Atlantic slave trade as genocide, describing it as "one of the worst holocausts in human history". To examine this history is not merely to revisit the past. It is to confront how national institutions, not just individuals, shaped one of the most consequential systems of exploitation in the modern world.

Humanity should not forget the brutal lessons of such horrendous violence. We can only be human together, dixit Desmond Tutu.

References: Wikipedia; Archives of Slavery in North America; The Guardian series on Cotton Capital; Black Spartacus: Sudheer Hazareesingh

A New Era for Healthcare

JSS Academy Inaugurates School of Medicine in Mauritius



Un a landmark event that bridges the gap between academic excellence and national health security, the JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius (JSSAHERM) officially inaugurated its JSS School of Medicine on Wednesday 4 February 2026.

The ceremony, held just days ago, marks a pivotal moment in the country's journey toward becoming an education and wellness hub. The launch was attended by a prestigious Mauritian officials and Indian dignitaries, underscoring the "deeply rooted" partnership between the two nations.

A Vision of Excellence and Compassion

The President of the Republic of Mauritius, Dharam Gokhool headlined the event, describing the inauguration as far more than a simple academic achievement. According to the President, the school represents the laying of a "strong foundation for healthcare excellence" and a critical step in developing the nation's human capital.

The spiritual and visionary backbone of the institute was

represented by H.H. Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Desikendra Mahaswamiji, Chancellor of JSSAHERM. In his address, he reminded the inaugural cohort that medical education is a "sacred responsibility." He traced the lineage of this project back to 2002, noting it was inspired by the vision of former Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to bind India and Mauritius through the power of education.

Addressing National Health Priorities

The introduction of the MBBS programme comes at a crucial time for the region. Regarding health infrastructure, Hon Anil Bachoo, Minister of Health and Wellness, noted that the school is a strategic investment in a workforce capable of tackling non-communicable diseases. Simultaneously, this initiative bolsters Mauritius' regional hub status, as Hon Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, Minister of Tertiary Education, emphasized that JSSAHERM's commitment to international benchmarking aligns perfectly with the national goal of becoming a regional education powerhouse.

The High Commissioner of India, Shri Anurag

Srivastava, reaffirmed India's continued support for student mobility and educational collaboration, noting that Mauritius is rapidly emerging as a destination of choice for international students.

Roadmap to 2035: Beyond the Classroom

A highlight of the ceremony was the official release of "JSSAHERM Mauritius Vision 2035: From Medical Education to a Global Knowledge, Wellness & Innovation Hub." This strategic roadmap outlines the university's evolution into a "model island-nation university," focusing on:

- Innovation:** Nurturing medical researchers and global healers.

- Affordability:** Providing globally relevant education that remains accessible.

- Holistic Growth:** Shifting from a traditional medical school to a centre for wellness and innovation.

"The setting up of the JSS Medical School is poised to be a game-changer," stated Dr Praveen Mohadeb, CEO and Vice-Chancellor of JSSAHERM, during his welcome address.

A Symbolic Beginning

The event opened with the stirring notes of the national anthems of both Mauritius and India, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The unveiling of the inaugural plaque served as a formal start to an institution dedicated to producing doctors who are not only competent but ethical and compassionate.

With the support of JSS Mahavidyapeetha, Mysuru, and a dedicated local leadership team, the JSS School of Medicine stands as a testament to what can be achieved when two nations share a singular focus: the betterment of humanity through education and healing.

Renewable Energy

Powering the Future: Qair and MCB Unite for Hybrid Solar Project in Balaclava

As Mauritius accelerates its journey toward a greener, more self-reliant power grid, a significant new milestone has been reached in the North. Qair, a global leader in independent renewable energy, and the Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd (MCB) have officially signed a financing agreement for Stor'Sun III, a cutting-edge hybrid renewable energy project set to redefine the island's energy landscape.

With an investment exceeding MUR 380 million, this initiative represents a sophisticated leap forward in national energy security. Located in Balaclava, Stor'Sun III is not a typical solar farm; it is an innovative hybrid system that combines a 16.7 MW photovoltaic solar plant with a massive 42.5 MW battery energy storage system (BESS).

Solving the Intermittency Challenge

One of the primary hurdles for renewable energy in island nations is intermittency—the fact that solar power is only generated when the sun shines. Stor'Sun III addresses this directly. By integrating advanced battery storage, the facility can store excess energy captured during the day and discharge it into the national grid for up to 12 hours daily.

This capability ensures grid stability during peak demand periods and provides a reliable, clean electricity supply even after sunset. Supported by a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Central Electricity Board (CEB),

the project guarantees long-term affordability and security for Mauritian households.

A Partnership for Decarbonisation

The collaboration highlights the synergy between technical expertise and financial leadership. Olivier Gaering, Indian Ocean Regional Director at Qair, noted that this financing reinforces the momentum built by the previous Stor'Sun I and II projects. He emphasized that the partnership with MCB is vital for accelerating energy independence.

For MCB, the project is a cornerstone of their "Success Beyond Numbers" philosophy and Vision 2030 strategy. Aldo Sydonie, Head of Mauritian and Regional Corporates at MCB, stated that supporting such transformative infrastructure is essential for the country's transition away from fossil fuels.

The project has also benefited from the unique involvement of Benevolent Solar PV Farms Ltd, a local charitable organisation that provided equal funding and strategic



guidance. Construction began in late 2025, and with work progressing steadily, commissioning is scheduled for the second half of 2026.

The successful launch of Stor'Sun III serves as a definitive blueprint for the region. By merging private sector agility with the financial weight of institutions like MCB, Mauritius is proving that the transition from fossil fuel dependency to a 24/7 renewable grid is no longer a distant ambition, but a functional reality.

Why Aristotle would hate Valentine's Day – and his five steps to love

For Aristotle, the true form of love wasn't about intense passion or grand gestures on one day of the year

Valentine's Day is traditionally a time of heart-shaped balloons, overpriced roses and fully-booked restaurants. Couples kiss and hold hands, smiling selfies celebrate a day of public displays of devotion.

Why do so many of us feel such pressure to offer grand gestures, buy pricey gifts, and go through elaborate displays of affection? Presumably, to prove our love. Valentine's Day is a showy, one-day-a-year demonstration that promises to do just that.

For the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle (384-322BC), however, this approach misunderstands the nature of love. For him, the true form of love wasn't intense passion or grand gestures on one day of the year. Instead, it's a steady commitment to help your beloved grow into their best version through everyday practices of care.

Aristotle wrote extensively about love, friendship and their place in a good life. His main book on ethics, the Nicomachean Ethics (350BC) – affectionately named after his son – is a classic work on virtue and happiness.

As a keen observer of human life, Aristotle's philosophy was based on a real understanding of human beings – our emotions, needs, habits and the ways we live alongside each other. Humans are social animals, he argued, so we must live in a society and work toward a common good. More than this, we are "pairing" creatures. Coupling and sharing a life matters deeply. Interestingly, he believed this means learning to love our-



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selves, as well as others.

The five steps to love

Aristotle said we should love ourselves the most. This could sound like a celebration of narcissism, a gospel for the selfie age. But Aristotle meant that truly loving someone means loving them as another self, extending our self-love to another – a process with five parts.

First, loving yourself means desiring and promoting your own good. Do the same for your loved one. Desire and promote whatever is in their interest. Second, work for their own safety and security as you would your own. Third, self-love means enjoying your own company and taking pleasure in reminiscing about past times and looking forward to good times to come. Desire and enjoy

their company, too, in a shared life of interests, commitments and hopes.

Fourth, make sure your desires are rational, and only desire things that are part of a "fine and noble life" – a life that is virtuous, rational and filled with meaningful relationships. Fifth, openly express and experience your pains and pleasures. Consistently pursue what brings you pleasure and avoid whatever brings pain. For your beloved, recognise and share in their pains and pleasures, as if they were your own.

Love, Aristotle says, comes from the sense that the lover is "mine". If that sounds icky to a modern ear, the point isn't about ownership. When I say "my beloved is mine", I mean "we belong together in a shared life". I do not own my

finger, it belongs to my hand, which is a part of me. Likewise, I don't own my beloved, but they belong to our loving relationship, of which I, too, am part.

Love, friendship and skill

Aristotle also described lovers as friends – not any old good friends but each other's other halves. Like friends, lovers hang out, have each other's back and support one another. As lovers, they treat each other as a part of themselves. Aristotle thinks it's a big red flag if your lover doesn't care as much about your feelings and needs as their own, no matter how grand their gestures and gifts.

Love was not a passive feeling for Aristotle, but a practice requiring skill. A lover, he argues, makes themselves better for their beloved, unlike a carpenter who makes a table for himself. Loving is a practice of constant self-improvement for the sake of another person. Being a good lover means striving to be a better person, so that you and your beloved bring out the best in each other.

For Aristotle, love is not about how your Valentine makes you feel on a single night of the year. Gifts and gestures are nice, but the real proof of love is nothing you can buy. Loving another as much and as well as you love yourself is the real proof, one that takes time and practice. To quote Aristotle, "one swallow does not make spring" – nor does one magical night really show our love.

Janset Özün Çetinkaya &
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Market Consolidation

Competition Commission approves Swan-CMB merger under strict conditions

The Competition Commission has officially approved the merger between Swan Securities Ltd (SSL) and Capital Market Brokers Ltd (CMB). While the move signals further consolidation within the stockbroking sector, the approval comes with a suite of mandatory behavioural conditions designed to protect investors and maintain market integrity.

Navigating a Concentrated Market

Both SSL and CMB are prominent investment dealers licensed by the **Financial Services Commission (FSC)** and serve as key pillars of the **Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM)**. Their primary role involves the buying and selling of securities for a diverse range of local and international clients.

The Commission's assessment, led by Executive Director Mr Vipin Naugah, highlighted a growing trend of concentration in the industry. Over the past decade, several mergers have reduced the number of active



stockbroking providers. Following this transaction, the number of players will drop from seven to six.

The Executive Director initially flagged three primary risks associated with this increased concentration:

Price Hikes: Concerns that existing clients might face higher fees as pricing structures are aligned.

Worsening Terms: The potential for a "race to the bottom" regarding contractual terms and conditions for smaller clients.

Stagnation in Innovation: A fear that reduced rivalry and potential staff reductions could lower the quality of service and value-added offerings.

Safeguarding the Investor

To prevent the merger from "substantially lessening competition," SSL and CMB offered a series of binding undertakings. These commitments ensure that the benefits of the merger do not come at the expense of the consumer.

Under the approved terms, the merged

entity has committed to:

1. Price Protection: Fees for existing clients will not be increased unless legally mandated or justified by external costs.

2. Favourable Alignment: If the two firms have differing terms, the most favourable conditions will be applied to all existing clients.

3. No Retrenchment: Subject to employment laws, no staff will be let go as a direct result of the merger, preserving expertise and service capacity.

4. Client Mobility: Existing clients retain the absolute right to transfer their investments to another broker if they are unsatisfied with the new arrangement.

A balanced outlook

In his official statement, Mr Naugah noted that while the stockbroking market faces structural challenges due to its limited scale, consolidation must not undermine consumer interests. He praised the "co-operative approach" adopted by both firms and the close collaboration between the Competition Commission, the FSC, and the SEM.

With several major players still active in the market to provide competitive pressure, the Commission is confident that these safeguards will allow the merger to enhance service depth without stifling the competitive spirit of the Mauritian economy.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec): This week pushes you to focus on direction and discipline. A professional matter may require a firm decision. Avoid scattering your energy. Financially, steady planning brings stability. Relationships improve through honest conversations. Healthwise, balance rest and activity.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 18, 24, 32, 39

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan): Responsibilities increase, but so does recognition. You may receive appreciation from seniors or family elders. Keep communication clear to avoid misunderstandings.

Midweek favors financial planning. Romance may feel practical rather than dramatic. Guard against overwork.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 20, 27, 34, 40

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb): New ideas flow easily. Creative thinking helps you solve an ongoing issue. Networking brings unexpected opportunities. Avoid impulsive spending. In relationships, listen more than you speak. A short trip or change of routine refreshes your mood.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 16, 23, 31, 38

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar): Emotions run deep this week. Trust your intuition, especially in financial or partnership matters. A delayed matter begins to move forward. Avoid overcommitting to others' problems. Health improves with proper hydration and sleep.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 19, 25, 33, 37

Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr): Energy levels rise. Take initiative in professional matters but avoid unnecessary arguments. Partnerships demand compromise.

Midweek may bring unexpected expenses. Focus on fitness and structured routines to maintain momentum.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 17, 26, 30, 36

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May): Patience pays off. Financial matters stabilize, though avoid risky decisions. Work-related pressure eases by the weekend. A family conversation clears past misunderstandings. Prioritize

self-care and healthy habits.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 15, 22, 29, 35

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun): Communication is your strength this week. Important discussions bring clarity. Creative pursuits flourish. Avoid gossip or unnecessary distractions. Financial gains are modest but steady.

Balance social life with quiet reflection.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 18, 21, 28, 34

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul): Home and family matters take priority. A property or domestic issue may need attention. Emotional sensitivity is high; avoid overreacting. Professionally, progress is slow but stable. Focus on long-term goals.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 24, 31, 40

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug): Confidence returns strongly. A leadership role or public recognition is possible. Travel plans may develop suddenly. Avoid overspending on luxury. In relationships, warmth and generosity strengthen bonds.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 19, 23, 30, 38

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep): Attention to detail brings success. Organize finances and paperwork carefully. A colleague may seek your guidance. Avoid being overly critical in personal matters. Health improves through structured routines.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 11, 17, 25, 33, 39

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct): Balance is key. Career opportunities arise through partnerships. Financial discussions require fairness and clarity. Romance feels harmonious if communication remains open. Avoid procrastination midweek.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 14, 20, 27, 32, 37

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov): Intense focus helps you complete pending tasks. A hidden matter may come to light. Financial caution is advised. Trust your instincts but avoid secrecy in close relationships. Rest and relaxation are essential.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 16, 22, 29, 35

Mauritius Times

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Mauritius Times

The genetic ghost: Scientists uncover hidden type of neonatal diabetes

In a breakthrough that solves a long-standing medical mystery, an international team of researchers has identified a previously unknown form of diabetes affecting newborns. The study, led by the University of Exeter Medical School and Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), reveals how a single genetic mutation can disrupt insulin production and impact brain development simultaneously.

While most cases of neonatal diabetes — appearing within the first six months of life — have known genetic origins, a small percentage of cases remained unexplained. This discovery finally puts a name to the "ghost" in the DNA of several affected children.

The TMEM167A Connection

The investigation focused on six children who presented a unique clinical profile: early-onset diabetes accompanied by neurological challenges, including epilepsy and microcephaly (a condition where a baby's head is significantly smaller than expected).

Using advanced DNA sequencing, the team discovered that all six children shared mutations in a specific, little-known gene: TMEM167A.

"Finding the DNA changes that cause diabetes in babies gives us a unique way to find the genes that play key roles in making and secreting insulin," says Dr. Elisa



Credit: Shutterstock

de Franco of the University of Exeter.

A Look Inside the Beta Cell

To understand why this mutation was so devastating, researchers used CRISPR gene-editing to mimic the defect in stem cells, which were then grown into pancreatic beta cells. The results were telling:

- Cellular Stress:** When the TMEM167A gene is damaged, beta cells (the body's insulin factories) become overwhelmed by internal stress.

- Functional Failure:** The cells lose their ability to secrete insulin properly.

- Cell Death:** Eventually, the internal stress becomes so high that the cells undergo a programmed death, leading to a permanent rise in blood sugar.

Interestingly, the study found that while this gene is vital for insulin-producing cells and neurons, it appears less critical for other parts of the body, explaining why the symptoms are so localized to the metabolic and neurological systems.

Why This Matters for the Future

The implications of this study extend far beyond the rare cases of neonatal diabetes. With nearly 589 million people worldwide living with various forms of the disease, understanding the "stress triggers" that kill beta cells is a holy grail for researchers.

Professor Miriam Cnop of ULB noted that using stem cells to model these rare conditions provides an "extraordinary model" for testing new treatments that could eventually benefit those with more common forms of diabetes.

By pinpointing how TMEM167A maintains cell survival, scientists are now one step closer to developing therapies that can protect insulin-producing cells from failing in the first place.



How old is fire on Earth?

Wildfire has been an important part of the Earth system for more than 400 million years.



Anna.zabella/Shutterstock

For many years, scientists assumed that fire and humans were so connected that few of them gave any thought to what happened to fire before humans evolved.

Even now, after many years of research, you won't find much information in books about ancient fire. Indeed, I first started to become interested in this question of fire in the geological past more than 50 years ago, but my work was largely ignored until recently.

Your question is important today as the Earth's weather is changing quickly and we are seeing deadly wildfires around the world. Humans may have used fire for a long time but they have never been able to tame fire. The challenge for scientists at the moment is to work out which fires are caused by humans and which ones are natural. To do this, we need to understand ancient fire in the first place.

A lot of our knowledge comes from studies of charcoal found in rocks more than 350 million years old, in a period geologists call the Carboniferous Period. As I say in my book *Burning Planet: The Story of Fire Through Time*, charcoal preserves the detail of different parts of the plant charcoal is made from. If you visit a place

where there was a recent fire that burned a lot of plants, or collect some charcoal from the remains of a bonfire and look at it under a magnifying glass you may be able to see some of this amazing detail.

Over many years I, together with my students at Royal Holloway University of London, have been collecting information on ancient charcoal to help us understand fires of the past.

The key to understanding when fire appeared on Earth comes from what we call the fire triangle and I have discussed this in my small book *Fire: A Very Short Introduction*.

The first side of the triangle is fuel. Fire needs plants to burn. So we would not expect to have fire on the Earth before plants evolved. Plants first lived in the sea and started to spread on to the land around 420 million years ago. So there couldn't have been fire before then.

The second side is heat — we need heat or a spark to start the fire — and that in the ancient past would be lightning. There has always been lightning and we can see evidence of this from fused sand grains found in some ancient sediments.

Finally, we need oxygen to allow the burning process to happen, the same way we need oxygen to breathe. We know this from simple ways we might put out a fire. You can cover the flames to stop oxygen or use sand, water or other materials to cut off the oxygen from the fire. Today the air we breathe has 21% oxygen. But experiments have shown that if you reduce the level to below 17% fires will not spread.

And above 30% it would be hard to put out a fire as even wet plants can burn with that level of oxygen. That is also why no fire or smoking is allowed in hospitals where there is oxygen used for the patients.

The level of oxygen in the Earth's air has changed a lot over time. Scientists have shown that around 350-250 million years ago was a time of high levels of oxygen between 23 and 30% in the atmosphere and a lot of fire.

Evidence of the first fires was around 420 million years ago from charcoal in sedimentary rocks. But plants were small and there weren't many places on Earth where they could grow. That meant there weren't many places fire could burn. It was not until around 350 million years ago that fires started burning in lots of places and burnt in some of the first forests to grow on Earth.

Another time period of high fire was between 140 and 65 million years ago when many of our famous dinosaurs such as triceratops and tyrannosaurus were living and also when flowers first appeared. Around 40 million years ago oxygen levels in the atmosphere stabilised to modern levels. Proper tropical rain forest spread widely. This probably made fire rarer as wet rain forests don't catch alight easily.

But around 7 million years ago grasslands spread, and these were easily burned. The grass-fire cycle began. This is where regular fire kills the saplings of trees, stopping grasslands turning into forests.

It is into this fiery world that humans evolved around 1.5 million years ago.

Andrew Scott

Emeritus Professor of Geology, Royal Holloway,
University of London



The Check-Up

An 85-year-old man went to his physician for a check-up.

"So, how are you feeling?" the doctor asked.

"Better than ever," the old man replied. "I have a 20-year-old girlfriend, she's pregnant, and our baby will be born soon. So all in all, not bad, Doc!"

The doctor thought for a moment and then said, "Let me tell you a story. I once knew a man, an avid hunter. One day he went hunting and, by mistake, instead of his rifle, he took an umbrella."

"He was walking through the forest when suddenly a huge bear appeared out of nowhere and charged straight at him. The man didn't lose his head. He raised the umbrella, pressed the handle, and... the bear fell dead at his feet."

"Well, that's impossible," the old man objected. "Someone else must have shot the bear at the same time."

"Exactly," said the doctor. "That's what I'm trying to tell you."

* * *

The Traffic Stop

Police pull over a car on the highway.

Officer: "Sir, I noticed you're wearing your seatbelt. We don't just punish violations -- we also reward safe drivers. Today, you're the lucky winner of one million dollars. What do you plan to do with the money?"

Driver: "Well, now that I've got the cash, I guess I'll finally go and get my driver's licence."

The woman in the passenger seat blurts out, "Don't listen to him! When he's drunk, he says things like that all the time!"

The guy in the back seat adds, "I knew it... we were never going to get far in a stolen car."

Then a voice comes from the trunk: "So... did we make it across the border yet?"

* * *

Meals On Wheels

A cat dies and goes to heaven.

At the Pearly Gates, she is met by God, who says, "You have been a good, faithful, loyal cat all your life. I wish to reward you. Is there anything you would like to make heaven more comfortable?"

The cat thinks for a moment and replies, "Well, I spent my whole life on a farm. When it was time to sleep,

I had to curl up on a hard wooden floor. A comfortable pillow would be nice."

God smiles and says, "So you shall have one -- a nice, soft, fluffy pillow."

Several days later, a group of six mice die in an unfortunate accident. God meets them at the Pearly Gates and offers them the same choice.

The mice say, "We have spent our entire lives running -- running from cats, dogs, and humans with brooms. A pair of roller skates would be wonderful, so we wouldn't have to run anymore."

God thinks for a moment and says, "So you shall have your roller skates."

A week later, God decides to check on the cat. He finds her curled up, fast asleep, on her big fluffy pillow. Gently waking her, God asks how everything is going.

The cat stretches and purrs, "Oh, everything has been perfect. The pillow is so soft and comfortable... and I especially love the meals on wheels you've been sending me."



* * *

Why don't scientists trust atoms?
Because they make up everything.

* * *

I told my computer I needed a break.
Now it won't stop sending me KitKat ads.

* * *

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field.

* * *

Why don't eggs tell jokes?
They'd crack each other up.

* * *

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity.
It's impossible to put down.

* * *

I asked AI for life advice.
It said, "Have you tried turning yourself off and on again?"

* * *

I joined a gym for motivation.
Now I just pay monthly to feel guilty.

* * *

I updated my password again.
Now even I don't know who I am.

* * *

I eat healthy during the week.
Weekends don't count.

* * *

My fitness watch says I slept well.
I don't remember agreeing.

* * *

The Forgetful Professor

A professor was lecturing on memory loss.

Suddenly he stopped, looked around, and asked, "Does anyone know why I'm standing here?"

A student raised his hand and said, "Sir, you're teaching a class."

The professor smiled and replied, "Good. Then I haven't forgotten everything."

* * *

The Smart Parrot

A man walked into a pet shop and saw a parrot priced at \$10,000.

Shocked, he asked, "Why is that parrot so expensive?"

The owner said, "It can speak five languages and gives legal advice."

The man pointed to another parrot priced at \$20,000 and asked why it was double the price.

"That one," said the owner, "knows everything the first one knows... and is his lawyer."

* * *

The Honest Kid

A teacher asked her class, "If I give you two cats and another two cats, how many cats do you have?"

A little boy replied, "Five."

The teacher said, "Think carefully."

The boy answered, "I did. I already have one cat at home."

* * *

The Wedding Speech

At a wedding, the best man raised his glass and said, "To the bride: beautiful and intelligent.

To the groom: intelligent enough to know he married up."

* * *

Higher Perches, Higher Prices

A guy enters a pet shop. "Hi, I want to buy a parrot - how much are those on the bottom shelf?"

"Ten pounds each," says the owner.

"Not bad. How much are those on the middle shelf?"

"Twenty pounds each," says the owner.

"Not bad at all. But how much are those on the top shelf?"

"Thirty pounds," says the owner.

"That's strange. Why is that?" says the guy.

"Ahh, that's because those are on higher perches," replies the owner.

* * *

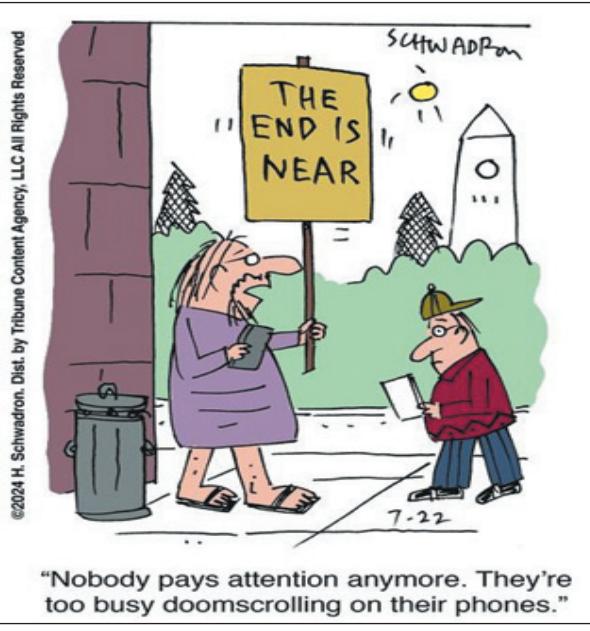
The Real Value of Money

Money can't buy you true love. It does, however, place you in a good bargaining position.

* * *

When Cash Becomes King

These days, money is used when all your credit cards are maxed out.



The Moment We Stop Performing

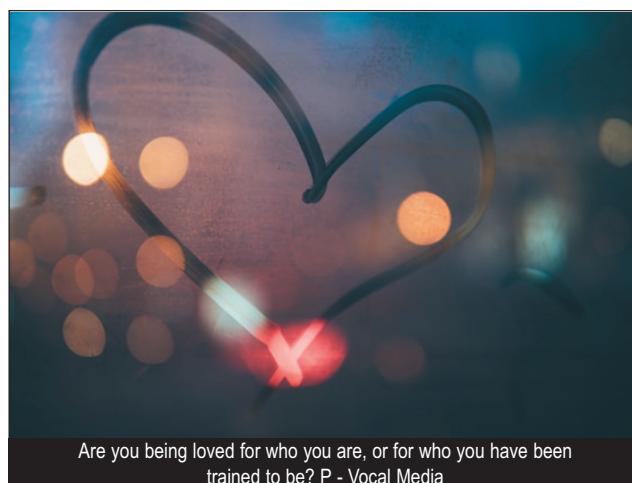
The discomfort of outgrowing the role you were loved for

One of the strangest forms of growth is not learning who you are. It is realizing that the version of you people loved most was also the version that kept you smallest.

We rarely talk about this, but many relationships are built around roles. The responsible one. The easygoing one. The listener. The helper. The one who never causes trouble. These roles can feel like love, because they bring approval, stability, and belonging. People come to trust us in that shape. They know what to expect. They feel safe around the version of us that does not surprise them.

But then something changes.

You begin to need different things. You start setting boundaries. You stop laughing at what used to hurt. You become less available, less agreeable, less eager to



Are you being loved for who you are, or for who you have been trained to be? P - Vocal Media

prove your worth. Not because you are becoming cold, but because you are becoming honest. And that is where the discomfort begins.

Because growth does not only free you. It also disrupts the story others have been telling about you.

When people are used to you being the calm one,

your anger feels like betrayal. When they are used to you being the strong one, your tiredness feels like weakness. When they are used to you being the generous one, your limits feel like selfishness. Sometimes the moment you change, you discover that what others loved was not only you, but the convenience of you.

This is why outgrowing a role can feel lonely. You are still the same person, but you are no longer performing the part that kept everyone comfortable. And the painful truth is that not everyone will celebrate your growth. Some will miss the old you, not because you were happier, but because you were easier to handle.

The real question becomes: are you being loved for who you are, or for who you have been trained to be?

Outgrowing a role does not mean rejecting the past. It means refusing to live inside it forever. It means allowing yourself to evolve, even if it confuses people, even if it costs you some approval, even if it forces you to be misunderstood for a while.

Because sometimes the most painful part of becoming yourself is watching who prefers you when you were smaller.

Life's Stories

The Legacy of Grace: Letters Between Presidents

On January 20, 2009, while 1.8 million people watched Barack Obama take the presidential oath on the West Front of the Capitol, a quieter moment was unfolding inside the White House. Departing President George W. Bush had left a handwritten letter in the Resolute Desk drawer, continuing a tradition his father had started sixteen years earlier—one of America's most graceful expressions of democratic respect.

On January 20, 1993, George H.W. Bush, stung by his loss to Bill Clinton just weeks after the Gulf War had given him an 89% approval rating, could have left the White House bitter. Instead, he wrote words that Clinton later said he carried in his wallet during his darkest days:

"You will be our President when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well. Your success now is our country's success. I am rooting hard for you."

Clinton was so moved that he wept. Their relationship blossomed into one of the most unlikely friendships in American history. The man who defeated Bush became



President George W. Bush meets with former Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Jimmy Carter and President-Elect Barack Obama in the Oval Office of the White House. Pic Wikimedia

so close to the family that Bush's sons called Clinton their "brother from another mother." When the elder Bush passed away on November 30, 2018, Clinton delivered a tearful eulogy, saying, *"He was the father I never had."*

That single act of grace in 1993 created an unbroken chain: Clinton left a generous letter for George W. Bush in 2001, who left one for Obama in 2009, who left one for Trump in 2017, who left one for Biden in 2021.

Thirty-two years of presidents choosing dignity over bitterness—proving that the most powerful legacy is not policy, but how we treat those who come after us.

The Quiet Conditions of Love

If you want to be embraced: maintain good hygiene, dress well, and smell pleasant. Care for yourself to create a welcoming atmosphere.

If you want to be trusted: keep confidences, show empathy, and avoid judgment.

If you want intimacy: stay faithful, prioritize emotional and physical connection, and build a healthy sex life.

If you want to be heard: communicate openly and honestly.

If you want to be spoken to: listen attentively, value your partner's words and feelings.

If you want forgiveness: apologize sincerely and take responsibility.

If you want to be remembered: be kind, empathetic, and compassionate.

If you want to be understood: share your hopes, fears, and dreams openly.

If you want to be kissed: maintain good oral hygiene and show affection.

If you want to be fought for: be someone worth

fighting for through strong values and character.

If you want calls: be approachable, share your number, and stay responsive.

If you want dates: make time, prioritize quality moments, and create shared experiences.

If you want love blessed by God: follow spiritual principles and respect each other's beliefs.

If you want freedom: respect boundaries and uphold mutual trust.

If you want to be believed: live truthfully and transparently.

If you want to be admired: cultivate empathy, character, and self-growth.

If you want to be chosen: stand out by being authentic and embracing your uniqueness.

If you want someone strong for you: allow yourself to be vulnerable and trust your partner's support.

If you want help: share your struggles openly and ask for it.

Remember: Marriage is about building strong family relationships. The above 'conditions' are timeless principles to nurture and sustain love.

Stray Thoughts

Asking for help isn't a white flag

It is often in our nature to believe that "strong" means carrying the weight alone, without making a sound. We naturally tend to treat our limits like failures and our exhaustion like a secret that needs to be kept.

But often, the heaviest thing we ever carry is the pride that tells us we aren't allowed to be human.

Asking for help isn't a white flag. It isn't a sign that you've reached the end of your rope, it's the moment you decide that your story is worth continuing, even if you can't turn the page by yourself right now.

True bravery isn't found in the absence of struggle. It's found in the honesty of admitting when the world has become a bit too heavy to hold. It's not the end of your strength; it's the beginning of your resilience.

Philo Thoughts



A Guide to Gaslighting in Relationships

With Valentine's Day just around the corner (February 14), conversations often turn toward love and connection. However, a healthy relationship requires more than just romance; it requires a foundation of truth and mutual respect. One of the most insidious barriers to that foundation is gaslighting.

Psychotherapist Jeremy Bergen, MS, LCPC, defines gaslighting as a malicious form of emotional abuse. "It's a tactic one partner uses in an effort to exert power over, gain control over, and inflict emotional damage on the other," Bergen explains.

The red flags: How to spot the shift

Because gaslighting is designed to make you doubt your own mind, it can be incredibly difficult to identify. Bergen highlights several key warning signs:

- **Challenging Your Reality:** A gaslighter will persistently claim that what you saw, heard, or felt didn't actually happen.
- **Blatant, Manipulative Lying:** These aren't "white lies"; they are calculated deceptions designed to keep you off-balance.
- **Targeted Insecurity:** They often harp on your spe-



cific vulnerabilities to break down your self-esteem, making you feel dependent on their "version" of the truth.

- **Social Isolation:** By creating conflict between you and your loved ones, they ensure they are the only voice you hear, allowing them to control the narrative of your life.

The "why" behind the behaviour

Why would someone treat a partner this way? Bergen notes that while reasons vary, they usually fall into three

psychological patterns:

1. **Dependency:** They believe making you feel "crazy" or incapable is the only way to keep you from leaving.
2. **Self-Validation:** Controlling others provides them with a false sense of security or worth.
3. **Pure Power:** Some individuals simply derive pleasure from the act of dominance and psychological manipulation.

Protecting yourself: The next steps

If you suspect you are being gaslit, Bergen offers a counterintuitive piece of advice: Do not confront the gaslighter about the gaslighting. Because their goal is to maintain control, they will simply use the confrontation as another opportunity to tell you that your perception is wrong.

Instead, take these steps to reclaim your autonomy:

First, create space. Reconnect with the world outside the relationship. Call friends, visit family, and engage in hobbies that remind you of who you are.

Second, trust your gut. Make a firm internal commitment that your thoughts and feelings are valid. No one else is allowed to "re-narrate" your life for you.

Third, seek professional support. A therapist can provide an objective "reality check" and help you navigate a safe exit or healing process.

Men's Health

Debunking the Myths: 5 things people get wrong about Prostate Cancer

When it comes to prostate cancer, misinformation can be just as damaging as the disease itself. Misconceptions often lead to delayed screenings or unnecessary anxiety, preventing men from making the best decisions for their health.

World Cancer Day (February 4) is a perfect time to clear the air. Here is the truth behind five of the most common myths surrounding prostate cancer.

Myth 1: Surgery means the end of intimacy and bladder control.

The Fact: Modern surgical techniques, such as nerve-sparing surgery, are designed to protect the delicate nerves responsible for erections. While recovery can take several months — and younger men often heal more quickly — sexual function can frequently be restored through medications or devices. Similarly, while some urine leakage may occur post-surgery, it is typically temporary; most men regain full bladder control within a year.

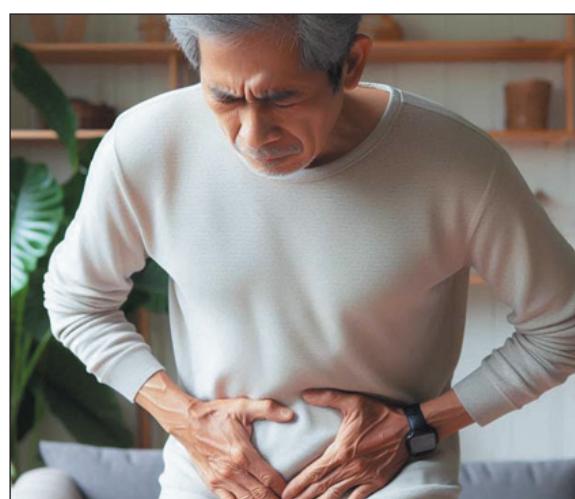
Myth 2: It is strictly an "old man's" disease.

The Fact: While age is a major factor, it isn't the only one. Though rare in men under 40, those with a family history (a father or brother with the disease) are at a significantly higher risk. Early conversations with a doctor about your specific risk profile are essential for determining the right screening schedule.

Myth 3: You must start treatment the moment you are diagnosed.

The Fact: Prostate cancer is often slow-growing. Depending on the stage of the cancer and your overall health, a doctor may recommend Active Surveillance. This involves monitoring the cancer closely without immediate surgery or radiation. For many, treatment is a collaborative, ongoing decision rather than an immediate emergency.

Myth 4: A high PSA score always equals



cancer.

The Fact: An elevated Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) level can be caused by many things, including inflammation (prostatitis) or an enlarged prostate (BPH). A high score is a "check engine light," not a final diagnosis. Doctors look at PSA trends over time and use secondary tests to confirm if cancer is actually present.

Myth 5: A diagnosis is a death sentence.

The Fact: Most men diagnosed with prostate cancer do not die from it. Because many forms of the disease are slow-moving and highly treatable when caught early, survival rates remain very high. In many cases, men live long, full lives and eventually die of unrelated causes.

Understanding the Big Picture

Education is the best tool for health management. By moving past these fears, men can approach screenings with confidence and work with their medical teams to find a balanced path forward.

Being Mum & Dad

Keep Your Cool: Strategies to Stop the Yelling Cycle

In the heat of a parenting moment, yelling often feels like the only release valve for frustration. As Brittany Kelly points out for HuffPost, kids are experts at pushing buttons, and when parents are overwhelmed, a raised voice feels like the quickest way to regain control.

However, while yelling is often the easiest reaction, it's rarely the most effective. With Random Acts of Kindness Day coming up on February 17, it's a great time to practice extending that same patience and kindness to ourselves and our children. Here are six ways to diffuse your anger before it turns into a shout.

Immediate De-escalation

- **Walk Away:** If the kids are safe, physically remove yourself from the room. Stepping outside or into another space breaks the "trigger" cycle and prevents an immediate explosion.

- **Breathe Through It:** Once you've stepped away, take several deep, intentional breaths. This physiological shift helps lower your heart rate and signals to your brain that you aren't in a "fight or flight" situation.

Gain Perspective

- **Talk it Out:** Call a friend, your spouse, or a parent. Narrating the situation out loud often makes the problem feel smaller and helps you realize if you might be overreacting due to stress from other areas of life.

- **Process Clearly:** Once your head is clear, decide on the discipline. Logic rarely works when you're mid-yell; wait until you are calm to determine if a punishment is necessary or how to handle the behaviour.

Change the Energy

- **Lean Into the Chaos:** It sounds counterintuitive, but if the house is a mess and everyone is screaming, try joining them in a positive way. Have a 5-minute dance party or a tickle fight. Physical play releases endorphins that can instantly dissolve anger.

- **The "Reset" Button:** If the day is simply too much, stop everything. Abandon the chores, turn on a movie, and snuggle. Sometimes "checking out" of the stress and "checking in" with your kids is the best way to save your sanity.

Breaking the habit of yelling takes time and practice. By choosing one of these methods next time you feel your temper rising, you're building a calmer, more connected home environment.

From Family Choices to Fierce Villains and New-Age Romance: Bollywood's Many Faces

In 2025 Bollywood's headlines reflected an industry in flux -- balancing legacy and reinvention, personal choices and public spectacle, subtle performances and unapologetic charm. From Madhuri Dixit's refreshingly grounded reflections on family and fame, to a striking redefinition of on-screen villainy, and the glossy optimism of a new romantic pairing, the past year revealed cinema's many emotional registers.



Madhuri Dixit: Life Beyond the Bollywood Spotlight

In a candid interview this month, Madhuri Dixit revisited one of the most surprising decisions of her career: stepping away from peak stardom to move to the United States after marrying Dr Sriram Nene in 1999. At a time when she ruled

the Hindi film industry, Dixit chose anonymity, family life and quiet routine over constant visibility.

Settling in Denver, she embraced everyday freedoms -- taking her children to parks, skiing, and living without security or recognition. For Dixit, the move was not a sacrifice but a fulfilment of a deeply personal dream: marriage, children and a grounded life away from the frenzy of fame.

That distance also shaped her sons' worldviews. Her younger son, Ryan, now studying STEM in college, is "not interested in the Bollywood circus at all," while elder son Arin, who recently graduated, works at Apple on technology projects including noise-cancellation research. Though Arin briefly flirted with the idea of films, his true passion lies in music and computer science -- a reminder that legacy does not have to dictate destiny.

Villains Reimagined: Quiet Menace Takes Centre Stage

If heroes dominated the box office, villains defined Bollywood's artistic evolution in 2025. The era of exaggerated laughs and theatrical evil gave way to restraint, silence and psychological threat.

Akshaye Khanna's chilling turn in



Dhurandhar stood out for its minimalism -- a performance driven by stillness rather than noise. Arjun Rampal, unrecognisable as a slow-burning antagonist in the same film, shed his lover-boy image for something far more unsettling. Riteish Deshmukh surprised audiences in *Raid 2* with a controlled, manipulative villain who relied on power rather than brute force.

Jaideep Ahlawat (*Jewel Thief: The Heist Begins*) and Nawazuddin Siddiqui (*Thamma*) further blurred the lines between morality and menace, portraying antagonists shaped by ambition, intellect and inner conflict. Together, these performances proved that modern Bollywood villains no longer shout -- they unsettle.

Love, Lightness and a Rom-Com Revival

At the opposite end of the emotional spectrum, Kartik Aaryan and Ananya

Panday brought breezy optimism to Dubai while promoting their new rom-com *Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri*. With infectious chemistry and early-2000s nostalgia, the pair spoke openly about love, heartbreak and emotional honesty.



Rejecting cynicism, both actors championed "meeting halfway" in relationships and taking love seriously -- a sentiment echoed in their film's tone. For Ananya, it marked a confident step into full-fledged romantic territory; for Kartik, it reaffirmed his ease in the genre that made him a star.

A Year of Contrast and Confidence

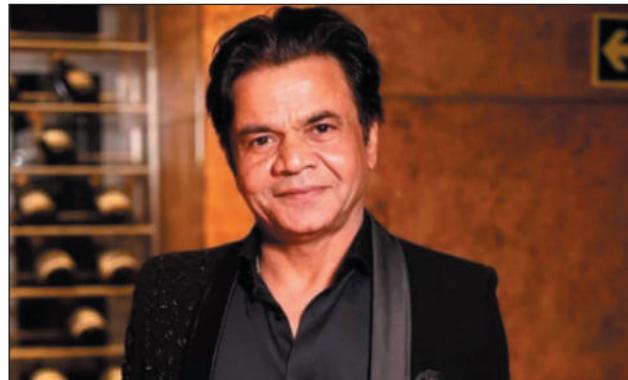
Taken together, these stories capture Bollywood in 2025: reflective yet forward-looking, quieter yet confident. Whether choosing life beyond fame, redefining cinematic evil, or rediscovering romance, the industry continues to evolve -- not by abandoning its past, but by reshaping it with greater honesty and depth.

BollyBytes

Bollywood rallies behind Rajpal Yadav amid legal crisis

Radha Yadav, wife of veteran actor-comedian Rajpal Yadav, has publicly expressed her gratitude to the Hindi film industry for their overwhelming support following the actor's surrender at Delhi's Tihar Jail. Yadav surrendered on February 5, 2026, after the Delhi High Court rejected his plea for more time to settle a long-standing debt of nearly Rs 9 crore stemming from a 2010 loan for his directorial debut, *Ata Pata Laapata*.

Despite the actor's earlier comments that he felt "alone" in his struggle, the fraternity has stepped up as his bail hearing approached on February 12. Prominent figures including Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn, and Varun Dhawan have reportedly reached out to provide moral



and financial backing.

Sonu Sood made a particularly notable gesture by signing Yadav for an upcoming project and providing the signing amount as an advance to maintain the actor's "dignity." Other contributors include Mika Singh, who pledged Rs 1.1 million, and music producer Rao Inderjeet Singh Yadav, who reportedly offered significant financial aid.

Aamir Khan praises new generation; names potential successors

In a recent conversation with *Variety India*, superstar Aamir Khan addressed the ongoing debate regarding the "end of the superstar era." While many fans consider the "three Khans" to be the last of their kind, Aamir offered a more modest perspective, stating that "nobody is indispensable" and every generation finds its own icons.

Aamir specifically lauded Ahaan Panday for his performance in the hit film *Saiyaara*, noting that new talent will always



rise to touch people's hearts. He also referenced the viral post-credit scene in *Pathaan* where Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan joked about not leaving the industry to "kids."

Aamir noted that today's younger actors have already "answered with their work," specifically naming Vicky Kaushal (*Chhaava*), Ranbir Kapoor (*Animal*), and Ranveer Singh (*Dhurandhar*) as performers capable of giving the veterans "a run for their money."

Shahid Kapoor shares painful teenage love story on Kapil Sharma's show

During a promotional appearance for his upcoming romantic thriller *O Romeo*, Shahid Kapoor revealed a literal "scar" from his past. Speaking on *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, the actor confessed that as a teenager, he once carved his crush's name into his arm using a compass. The romantic gesture took a turn for the worse when the wound became septic, which Shahid joked was proof that "love literally hurts."



The episode, featuring co-stars Triptii Dimri and Avinash Tiwary alongside director Vishal Bhardwaj, was filled with banter about modern romance and DMs. Triptii admitted she never wrote love letters but enjoyed reading the many she received, while Shahid quipped that his wife, Mira Rajput, always knows what's happening in his social media inbox. *O Romeo*, inspired by the novel *Mafia Queens of Mumbai*, is set to hit theaters on February 13, 2026.



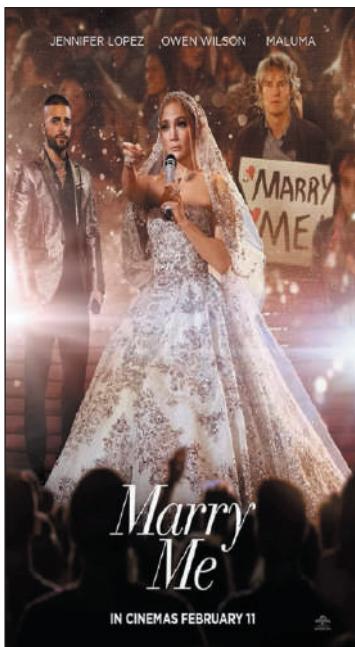
Vendredi 13 Février - 20.10



Samedi 14 Février - 21.15



Dimanche 15 Février - 20.10



Programme TV



SERIAL

**MBC 1**

06.16 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie
 08.36 Telenovela
 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
 09.30 Film: Brooklyn
 Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Emory Cohen
 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
 12.00 Le Journal
 12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle
 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
 14.10 Tele: Asintado
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.25 Film: The Holiday
 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
 18.00 Samachar
 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
 19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
 19.30 Le Journal
 20.10 Film: Tune In For Love
 22.15 Tele: Mademoiselle
 23.05 Tele: Happily Ever After

MBC 2

09.48 Local: Le Mag
 10.41 Local Production
 11.00 Local: Saveurs Plus
 11.30 Local: Glvar Dantan
 12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 13.29 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
 15.00 Emotion En Avant Plan
 15.51 Local: Paroles Agricoles
 16.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 17.01 Local: La Sosiete
 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
 19.00 Jurnal Kreol
 19.25 Local: Sur Prise
 20.00 Maha Shivratrie 2026
 22.03 Local: La Sosiete
 22.29 Local: Glvar Dantan
 23.00 Jurnal Kreol
 23.20 Local: En Forme
 23.33 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
 23.58 Local: Encounter

MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
 08.00 Local: Amrit Vani
 10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
 11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
 12.00 Film: Pati Patni Aur Woh
 Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Vidya Sinha
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
 15.51 Serial: Mithai
 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
 18.00 Samachar
 18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
 18.57 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali
 19.54 Local: Tenali Rama
 20.30 Serial: Porus
 21.18 Serial: Crime Patrol
 22.04 Serial: Mere Sai
 22.52 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
 23.13 Local: Mati Ke Mol
 23.39 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali

Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Let's Make It Tasty
 07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today
 09.26 Doc: Shades Of Shame
 11.21 Mag: Eco India
 12.07 Mag: Transforming Business
 12.49 Mag: Tomorrow Today
 13.15 The Illusion Of Abundance
 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang
 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
 15.32 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails
 15.46 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
 16.05 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
 16.29 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger
 16.40 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
 17.02 Serial: The Avatars
 17.23 Doc: Pasteca
 17.38 Mag: Shift
 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
 18.26 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
 19.00 Other: Student Support...
 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
 15.30 Film: Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan
 Cast: Saif Ali Khan And Twinkle Khanna
 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
 20.25 Shrimad Ramayan
 20.55 Anupamaa
 21.25 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
 23.30 Film: Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan
 Cast: Saif Ali Khan And Twinkle Khanna

vendredi 13 février

samedi 14 février

dimanche 15 février

lundi 16 février

MBC 1

03.32 Serial: Heartland
 04.19 Serial: Belgravia
 05.09 Tele: Living To Love
 06.30 Serial: Under Pressure
 07.16 Serial: Nautilus
 08.05 Serial: Blue Lights
 09.10 Serial: Heartland
 09.55 Serial: Belgravia
 10.41 Your Love Is My Fortune
 11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
 12.00 Le Journal
 12.30 Tele: All The Flowers
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.30 Film: La Planete Des Singes
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
 19.30 Le Journal
 21.05 Film: Tout Sauf Toi
 21.53 Serial: Nautilus
 22.46 Tele: Terra Nostra
 23.37 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux
 06.45 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
 08.21 Local: Retrovizer
 09.30 Local: La Sosiete
 10.30 Local: J'ai Faim
 11.00 Local: Music Tour 2026
 12.00 Local: Arsis No 220
 13.05 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
 15.05 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
 15.31 Local: J'ai Faim
 18.05 Tele: Wildflower
 19.00 Jurnal Kreol
 20.00 Maha Shivratrie 2026
 20.15 Special Valentine's
 22.30 Local: Glvar Dantan
 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 23.03 Jurnal Kreol
 23.23 Local: Tous Egaux
 23.38 Local: Saver Kiltirel
 23.58 Local: Palette
 00.31 Local: Metie

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
 08.34 Local: Abhyas Yog
 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
 12.22 Local: Mati Ke Mol
 12.47 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali
 14.00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
 15.00 Samachar
 15.30 Film: Rama Teri Ganga Maili
 Cast: Rajeev Kapoor, Mandakini
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 22.13 Film: Aap Mujhe Achhe
 Lagne Lage
 Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Ameesha Patel
 01.13 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 01.39 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali
 02.39 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
 02.54 Shiv Bhajans

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 08.52 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali
 12.00 Film: Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai
 Cast: Padmini, Raj Kapoor, Pran
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 15.47 Local: Shiv Bhajans
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Local: Shiva The Universe
 19.20 Special Programme On
 Maha Shivratrie
 20.31 Serial: Porus
 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
 21.40 Serial: Crime Patrol
 22.42 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
 22.59 Local: Shiva The Universe
 23.48 Special Programme On
 Maha Shivratrie

02.12 Film: Tout Sauf Toi
 04.22 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...
 05.10 Tele: Living To Love
 06.30 Film: Tout Sauf Toi
 08.10 Serial: Belgravia
 09.06 Film: Joe Kidd
 10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune
 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
 12.34 Film: Just Married
 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.30 Film: Tout Sauf Toi
 17.21 Doc: Healing Gardens
 17.52 Doc: Pasteca
 18.00 Samachar
 18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane
 19.30 Le Journal
 20.10 Film: Marry Me
 22.00 Serial: S.W.A.T.
 22.39 Terra Nostra

08.40 Local: Profil
 08.56 Local: Etre A Ganga Talao
 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
 12.00 Local: Love Frequency
 14.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
 14.24 Local: Generations
 15.00 Local: La Sosiete
 16.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
 17.19 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 18.00 Tele: Wildflower
 19.00 Jurnal Kreol
 20.00 Local: Les Klips
 21.00 Local: Final Konkour Slam
 Organise Par Le Centre
 Nelson Mandela
 22.32 Local: Clin D'oeil
 23.09 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 23.16 Jurnal Kreol Rediffusion
 23.40 Local: Coin Jardin
 23.47 Sur La Piste Du Parakeet

08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 08.52 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali
 12.00 Film: Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai
 Cast: Padmini, Raj Kapoor, Pran
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 15.47 Local: Shiv Bhajans
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Local: Shiva The Universe
 19.20 Special Programme On
 Maha Shivratrie
 20.31 Serial: Porus
 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
 21.40 Serial: Crime Patrol
 22.42 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
 22.59 Local: Shiva The Universe
 23.48 Special Programme On
 Maha Shivratrie

04.26 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
 04.47 Tele: Living To Love
 06.16 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
 06.58 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...
 07.46 Tele: All The Flowers
 08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
 08.33 Telenovela
 09.27 Film: Around The World In 80...
 11.33 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
 15.00 Samachar
 15.30 Serial: Columbo
 17.29 Tele: Happily Ever After
 18.00 Samachar
 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
 19.07 Live: Grand Titre
 20.55 Serial: Quantico
 21.36 Serial: Berlin Station
 22.26 Tele: Mademoiselle

09.23 Local: Saver Kiltirel
 10.02 Local: Clin D'oeil
 10.30 Local: Saver Lokal
 11.00 Local: Les Klips
 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 15.00 Local: Generations J
 15.30 Local: Saver Lokal
 15.43 Local: Saver Plus
 17.00 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
 19.00 Jurnal Kreol
 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux
 20.55 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
 21.59 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
 22.24 Local: Paroles Agricoles
 23.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard
 23.34 Local: Generations J
 00.01 C'est La Fete Du Printemps

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
 06.45 D.Anime: Akili And Me
 07.09 Film: La Famille Blaireau Renard
 08.27 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
 09.18 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
 09.42 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas
 09.58 D.Anime: Will, La Serie
 10.39 Doc: All The Answers
 13.48 Doc: Iron Butterflies
 14.41 Mag: Shift
 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang
 15.20 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
 16.28 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger
 17.04 Serial: The Avatars
 18.00 Doc: In Good Shape
 18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors
 18.56 Mag: Business Africa
 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
 20.53 Doc: Natural Wonders
 21.45 Film: Alien Vs. Predator
 23.20 Film: The Maze Runner

08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
 10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
 12.08 Udaariyaan
 14.02 Anupamaa
 16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
 17.30 Vidrohi
 18.30 Film: Ishq Vishk
 With: Shahid Kapoor

21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
 21.39 Crime Patrol

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
 08.05 Film: Le Tigre Qui S'Invita Pour Le The
 08.29 Film: Anastasia
 11.15 Film: Le Mystere Du Livre...
 13.30 Film: Rio
 15.04 Film: Caillou: Le Chevalier...
 15.46 Film: Drole D'Abeille
 17.13 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
 18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
 18.36 Doc: Brilliant Corners
 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
 21.45 Film: Around The World In 80 Days
 Cast: Jackie Chan, Steve Coogan
 23.49 Doc: Disappear
 00.31 Looking For Life On Mars
 01.14 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
 01.40 Doc: Brilliant Corners
 02.32 Mag: Arts Unveiled

04.45 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
 02.33 Udaariyaan
 04.34 Anupamaa
 06.33 Shrimad Ramayan
 08.00 Dhruv Tara
 10.05 Kundali Bhagya
 12.10 Dance Deewane
 14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya

18.30 Film: Bahubali The Beginning
 Cast: Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty

14.25 Radha Mohan
 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud

15.26 Film: Singh Saab The Great
 Starring: Sunny Deol, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj
 18.00 Samachar
 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
 19.00 Udaariyaan
 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan

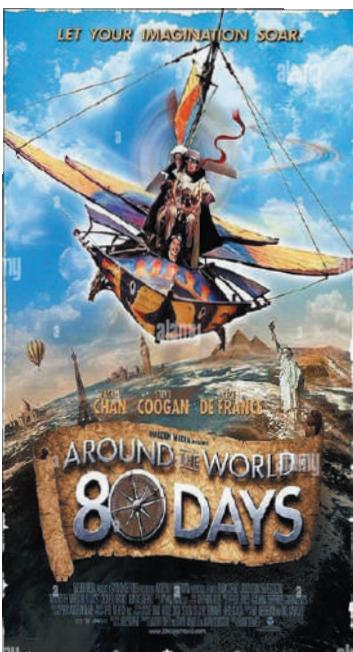


Mardi 17 Février - 20.10

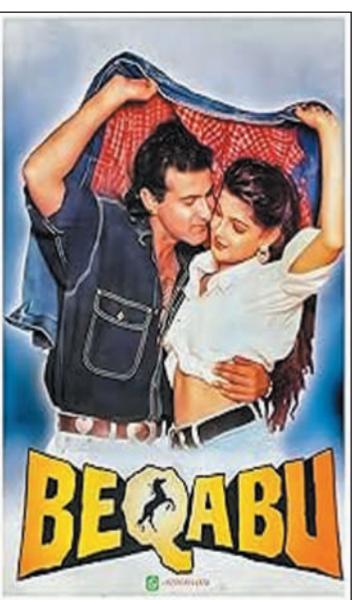
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MBC 5

Mercredi 18 Février - 21.40


MBC 16

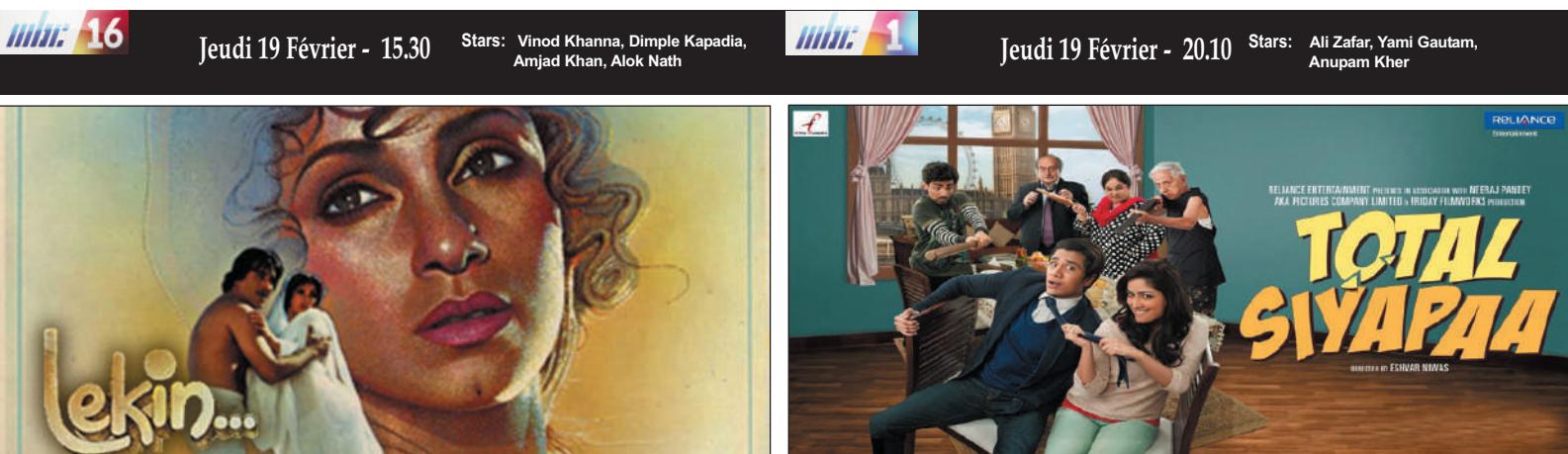
Mercredi 18 Février - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 17 février	04.25 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 04.48 Tele: Living To Love 06.16 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Die Hard 11.33 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 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Alien 3 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 21.10 Film: Taken 3 22.46 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.31 Le Journal	09.00 En Direct De L'Eglise De L'immaculée Conception Port Louis 11.00 Local: J'ai Faim 11.39 Local: Grand Titre 13.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.42 Local: La Fete Du Printemps 15.04 Local: Generations 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local: Festival Kreol 2025 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 22.05 Local: Le Mag 22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Local: Journal Rediffusion 23.22 Local: Generations J 23.51 Local: Music Tour 2026	08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shiksahein 08.27 Local: Ayush 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Deewane Huye Pagal Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Suneil Shetty 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.57 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein 19.27 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.56 Local: Prakriti 20.38 Dham Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Kasme Vaade Cast: Amitabh Bachan, Rakhee, Randheer Kapoor	07.00 Film: Les Trolls: Des Fetes... 07.54 D.Anime: Samsam 09.09 Film: Ferdinand 10.53 Film: Retour Au Temps Des... 12.20 Mag: In Good Shape 13.30 Film: Rio 2 15.08 Film: Caillou: The Bravest... 15.50 Film: Souris City 17.11 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 17.57 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Mag: REV 18.29 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 18.46 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Doc: Natural Wonders 20.53 Tele: Asintado 21.38 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.08 Doc: Going Beyond 22.58 Mag: Euromaxx 23.24 Doc: Stumbling Stones	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dham Yoddha Garud 15.25 Film: Judwaa 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 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Judwaa Starring: Salman Khan And Karishma Kapoor
mercredi 18 février	06.16 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie 08.09 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Tune In For Love 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Taken 3 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Serial: New Amsterdam 21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T. 21.45 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.35 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 Local: Cyberharcelement 10.50 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.13 Local: Le Challenge 12.01 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 12.29 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.14 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.05 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2026 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.35 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.20 Local: Encounter 22.38 Local: Grand Titre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.23 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.36 Final Konkour Slam	08.26 Sanskriti Ki Baatein 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Seeta Aur Geeta 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Sayings Radha Krishna 16.00 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Unlock The Hidden Potential 18.58 Local: Shiva Bhajanavali 19.58 Local: Virasat 20.04 Local: Kaam Daam 20.30 Serial: Dham Yoddha Garub 21.00 Film: Farz Cast: Ritesh Pandey, Mani Bhattacharya, Umesh Singh 23.26 Serial: Mere Sai 00.14 Wagle Ki Duniya	09.04 Mag: Euromaxx 09.30 Doc: Stumbling Stones 11.47 Mag: REV 12.34 Mag: Made In Germany 13.26 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.56 Doc: Going Beyond 14.46 Mag: Choices 15.00 D.Anime: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.20 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.59 D.Anime: Yetili 17.02 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 17.50 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: Unseen 18.43 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.40 Film: Around The World In 80 Days Cast: Jackie Chan, Steve Coogan	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dham Yoddha Garud 15.14 Film: Beqabu Starring: Sanjay Kapoor And Mamta Kurkani 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 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Beqabu Starring: Sanjay Kapoor And Mamta Kurkani
jeudi 19 février	06.16 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.28 Film: The Book Thief 11.36 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.11 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Serial: Asintado 15.30 Film: Around the World In 80 17.20 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: Total Siyapaa Stars: Ali Zafar, Yami Gautam, Anupam Kher 21.51 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.36 Tele: Happily Ever After 23.27 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Agir Ensemble 09.35 Final Konkour Slam 10.35 Local: Plat du Chef 11.33 Local: Grand Titre 12.07 Local: Palette 13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.31 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 16.00 Final Kon Kour Slam 17.07 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.20 Local: Le Mag 23.11 Moments Forts De L'histoire 23.43 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.56 Local: Memwar Dan Ros 00.43 Local: Tous Egaux	08.00 Local: Unlock The Hidden... 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Kagaz Ke Phool Cast: Waheeda Rehman 15.22 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.42 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 16.26 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.08 Local: Hamara Swasthya 20.09 Hunarbaaz 20.37 Tenali Rama 21.03 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.13 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.34 Serial: Mere Sai	06.25 Mag: Unseen 08.41 Doc: Soldier No1 09.23 Doc: Big Nicotine 10.58 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.53 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.19 Doc: Ageless Gardens 12.46 Mag: Close Up 13.18 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.30 Doc: A Mediterranean 15.00 Momolu Et Ses Amis 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.20 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.56 D.Anime: Yetili 16.40 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales 17.06 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 17.51 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Business Beyond 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.55 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.31 Film: Lekin Stars: Vinod Khanna, Dimple Kapadia, Amjad Khan, Alok Nath 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 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Lekin Stars: Vinod Khanna, Dimple Kapadia, Amjad Khan, Alok Nath





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

History, Language and Public Interest

Commemorations of historical events often follow a familiar pattern. A selected group of public figures take the spotlight to deliver speeches and lay flowers at monuments. When tributes are paid to the enslaved population and to the abolition of slavery, representatives of associations speak with emotion about a past that remains central to the identity and collective memory of their communities. Historians usually provide a concise overview of a period that extends over more than two centuries and culminates in 1835. Politicians, for their part, may be tempted to frame these moments in ways that resonate with their own priorities.

Televised ceremonies can sometimes leave viewers with a sense that parts of the story remain untold — spaces where further explanation and nuance might deepen public understanding. This may create the impression that complex realities are being simplified, or that broader perspectives are missing. If so, it suggests the need for continued efforts to make historical knowledge more accessible and comprehensive for the population.

There is no shortage of historians capable of compiling documentation on specific periods and producing works that, even if not part of the formal curriculum, would deserve a place in college libraries and could be recommended by teachers. Making such publications readily available in bookshops and public libraries would also benefit visitors interested in the country's past.

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A statue erected at a site that once served as a slave market in Pamplemousses portrays an enslaved person with head bowed and knee slightly bent. The sculptor chose



Pic - tripadvisor.fr

Captives brought from the African hinterland, finding themselves in an unfamiliar land before armed masters, had little opportunity to voice resistance in such a setting. A market was not a place where rebellion could easily unfold. Those who wish to highlight the spirit of revolt and the affirmation of human dignity might instead imagine memorials situated in places where resistance was organized, such as the forests or the mountains. The recent film *Ni chaînes ni maîtres*, for instance, depicts uprisings that ended with rebels being shot on the slopes of Le Morne Brabant...

to represent the vulnerability and humiliation that accompanied a system in which slave owners exercised overwhelming power. Captives brought from the African hinterland, finding themselves in an unfamiliar land before armed masters, had little opportunity to voice resistance in such a setting. A market was not a place where rebellion could easily unfold.

Those who wish to highlight the spirit of revolt and the affirmation of human dignity might instead imagine memorials situated in places where resistance was organized, such as the forests or the mountains. The recent film *Ni chaînes ni maîtres*, for instance, depicts uprisings that ended with rebels being shot on the slopes of Le Morne Brabant, and not always by their own hand. Coastal areas from which escape attempts were made might also be considered as sites of remembrance. It is widely acknowledged that such rebels can be regarded as early fighters for freedom.

At the same time, caution is needed when interpreting works of art through contemporary political lenses. Ideas and symbols drawn from twentieth-century movements may not always correspond neatly to the realities of earlier centuries. Altering or replacing monuments to fit present sensibilities risks oversimplifying a complex past. Historians and artists alike have a role to play in approaching history with balance and context.

* * *

Debate has also resurfaced around the status of Kreol, at times in the charged atmosphere of electoral campaigning. A few community leaders have called for its inclusion at Higher School Certificate level and even within university degrees. Such proposals deserve careful discussion, with space for a range of opinions to be heard in public forums.

Other former British colonies in the Caribbean — such as Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago — have vibrant local dialects that flourish in music and everyday speech, while standard English remains dominant in education and parliamentary life. In former French territories such as Martinique and Guadeloupe, French continues to structure the education system, though debates persist, particularly at primary level. These comparisons show that language policy is often shaped by historical legacies, social mobility, and practical considerations.

Kreol in Mauritius emerged within the context of the slave society and evolved over generations into a rich means of communication and cultural expression. Many people value it as part of their heritage. The question that remains is how it should coexist with international languages that open doors to higher education, diplomacy, and global exchange.

In this respect, the position expressed by Eliezer François, leader of the Mouvement Authentique Mauricien, has attracted attention. A former teacher of classical and modern literature, he has argued that while Kreol is widely spoken, proficiency in English and French remains essential for parliamentary and academic life. Whether one agrees or not, his intervention contributes to a broader and necessary conversation.

It may be helpful to move beyond slogans and approach these matters with openness, intellectual honesty, and respect for differing viewpoints. Encouraging informed debate can only strengthen democratic life and improve policy-making. Thoughtful voices, whatever their political affiliation, deserve consideration in discussions about the country's future.

Tree of Knowledge

False Beliefs



Pic - lifetrainingcounseling.org

We do not need to suffer or be in misery in this life in order to do well in the world

Many of us have a deep-seated belief that in order to do well in the world, we have to suffer and sacrifice. This commonly held idea stems from a certain mentality, inherited from ancestors who came before us and may have experienced this. Beliefs from our own past-life experiences also can make an appearance in this lifetime. This is often the way in which false beliefs take hold and don't let go, even when they are no longer relevant. We must all live our own lives, in our own time, and learn what is true for us. Very few truths prove valid for all people all the time.

Keeping our minds clear of false notions is not an easy task, as it requires us to first know our beliefs. Very often, these beliefs have settled deep in our unconscious minds where they simply sit unquestioned. Nevertheless, they have an effect on our hearts, our minds, and our reality. These beliefs act on us, creating situations and relationships that we regard as fate, when they are, in fact, simply our unconscious minds manifesting in the external world. As a result, we may not even be aware that we are carrying the burden of a poverty mentality, and we may wonder why we are not manifesting abundance, especially if we know we deserve it. If this is the case, it may be time to look deeper within to see if we can discover the obstacle inside ourselves.

In order to evolve, it is important that we examine the contents of our minds and hearts and get to the root of what we believe about reality. Generally, our concerns of the moment can be trusted to guide our inquiries. If we are not manifesting and maintaining the abundance we know we deserve, then this issue is calling us to look into the hidden corners of our psyches and root out any remaining beliefs that tell us we must suffer and sacrifice in order to do well. Our efforts will take us one more step away from this energy-sapping belief that we no longer need.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Vipassana Association

(Reg. No. 17677)

Members of the above association are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) to be held on 28th February 2026 at 14:00 at 6 Av. Des Capucines, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome address by President
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Approval of Budget for Year 2026
5. Any Other Business (A.O.B)

Madiihah Khan
Secretary

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