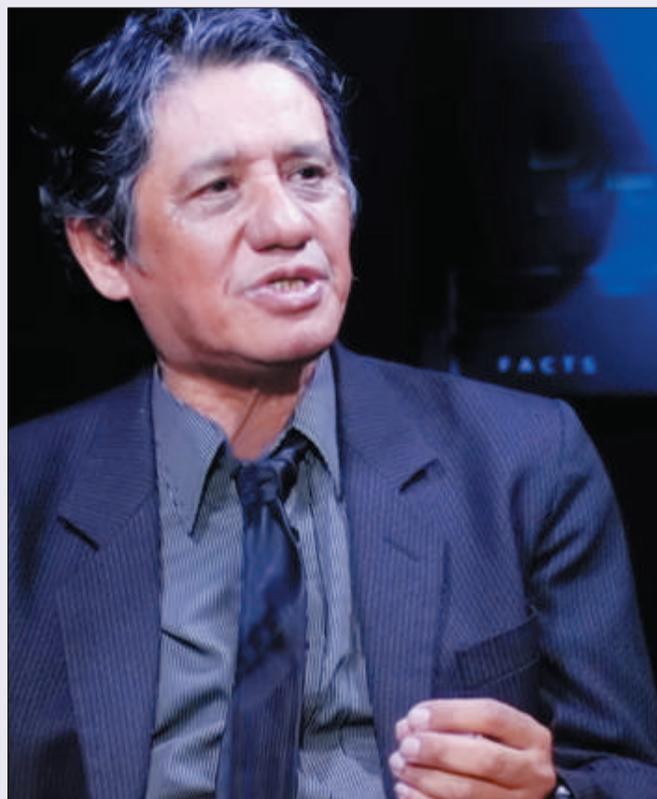


MAURITIUS TIMES

● Global interdependence today means that economic disasters in developing countries could create a backlash on developed countries. -- Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low - Historien

“C’est le PTr qui a jeté les bases du miracle économique mauricien, et cela dès les années 70”



‘En réalité, la réforme électorale pourrait susciter, au sein de l’électorat travailliste et rural, le même rejet que le projet de 2014’

P 7

Editorial

90 Years of Labour: Legacy, Loyalty, and the Road to Renewal



P 2

Opinion

Sovereignty over Chagos: A Litmus Test for the UK



Prakash Neerhoo P6

Opinion

Has the UK-Mauritius Chagos Treaty stalled?

David Snoxell P 12



U.Dasin P 3

Opinion

Public festivals and the Sound of Our Society Noise, Power, and the Struggle for Shared Space

Qs & As



LEX P4

Adrien Duval on Trial: The Role of Unauthenticated Social Media Evidence Moustass Leaks’ and the Law: Evidence, Authenticity, and Alleged Police Misconduct

Eclairages



A. Bartleby P5

L’arrestation d’Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor Un séisme pour la monarchie britannique

90 Years of Labour: Legacy, Loyalty, and the Road to Renewal

On February 23, 2026, the Mauritius Labour Party (MLP) marks a milestone that few political organisations in the world ever reach: its 90th anniversary. Since its birth in 1936, the MLP has been more than just a political party; it has been the architect of modern Mauritius. But as the party celebrates its long history, it faces an important challenge. Having 90 years of experience is a great advantage, but it can also be a burden. While this legacy gives the party deep roots and a strong reputation, it can sometimes make it harder for the organisation to move forward and adapt to a changing world.

To understand where the MLP is going, we must first look at where it began and why it has survived while so many others have withered away.

Owning the “historical shift”

In political science, the secret to a party lasting nearly a century often lies in “owning a major historical shift.” This means the party is permanently identified in the public’s mind as the primary force behind a fundamental change in society.

For the MLP, this shift was the transition from colonial servitude to Independence. Drawing inspiration from British Fabian Socialism, the party’s founders — men like Dr Maurice Curé and later Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam — didn’t enter politics for a career. They entered it to respond to a higher call. They were standing for decent living conditions for the working masses, the fair distribution of wealth between labour and capital, and universal suffrage.

By leading these charges, the MLP stopped being a mere “interest group” and became part of the nation’s founding DNA. This created a generational loyalty. For decades, grandparents passed down a “debt of gratitude” to their children, viewing the MLP not just on its daily performance, but on its “historical soul.” It was the party that gave the people their dignity.

Despite this noble start, the journey has not been without its scars. Over time, the “lofty ideas” of the 1930s were met with the “poison of communalism and casteism.” These forces were often used as tools of “divide and rule” by those who feared a united working class. Instead of a population moving as one, politics began to fracture into micro-partitions.

Parallel to this was the rise of political clientelism. Across the globe, and certainly in Mauritius, parties began to drift away from their core values. Politics became a marketplace where favours were traded for loyalty. The MLP, once a bastion of merit and service, was not immune to this trend.

Perhaps the most dangerous shift has been the excessive centralisation of power. When the final word on everything — from policy to the selection of candidates — rests solely in the hands of the leader, the party stops being a movement and starts being a vehicle for personal ambition.



“Voices of sanity” that once dominated internal debates have often been replaced by voices of praise, as members vie for the “holy grail” of an electoral ticket. This is a phenomenon that has afflicted most parties, both here and elsewhere.

Why most parties fail (and why the MLP survived)

Most political parties are “reactive.” They are founded to oppose a specific tax, a temporary crisis, an imaginary enemy, or a single unpopular leader. These are often called “vehicle parties” — they exist only to carry a specific group or individual to a single destination.

Once that leader is gone, the enemy has been vanquished (or has joined forces with them), or the tax is repealed, the party vanishes because it has no “historical anchor.” Without a deep-rooted philosophy like Fabian Socialism or a foundational achievement like the creation of the Welfare State, there is nothing to hold the structure together once the immediate anger fades.

The MLP survived because it built the very institutions it now manages — the Welfare State and the Constitution. By establishing the framework for free education, healthcare, and a robust legal system, the party didn’t just win elections; it designed the society itself. This deep institutionalisation meant that for decades, the MLP was seen as the “default” guardian of the nation’s stability. Because they laid the bricks of the modern state, they became synonymous with the system’s survival, creating a sense of trust that even the most turbulent political winds couldn’t easily blow away.

However, the party now faces the “expiration of ownership.” To a Gen Z voter in 2026, the struggle for

Independence in 1968 feels like ancient history. You cannot win an election in the digital age solely by asking for a “debt of gratitude” for things that happened sixty years ago.

The Path to 100

If the Mauritius Labour Party wants to remain a dominant force as it moves toward its centenary, it would be worthwhile for the party to consider several key ideas for internal reform.

Internal democratisation: The very party that gave Mauritius a Constitution with checks and balances must now create a similar framework for its own operations. To effectively avoid the public perception that it operates only for the self-interest of its officials, the MLP must open its doors to merit-based talent, allowing young professionals to rise through the ranks based on their skills and vision rather than relying on “dynastic” and other connections.

Furthermore, the party needs to decentralise power to ensure that the leadership remains consistently accountable to its grassroots base. This shift would encourage healthy dissent and bring back the “voices of sanity” that once defined the party’s intellectual depth, allowing for a robust debate on the party’s future direction rather than a reliance on top-down mandates.

Digital and Youth Engagement: The party must also modernize its approach through digital and youth engagement, recognizing that in 2026, the “Independence generation” is no longer the primary voting bloc. To remain relevant, the MLP must translate its ideological roots into the language of the modern world by tackling the digital economy and finding ways to protect workers in an age of AI and automation. Furthermore, it must champion the fight against climate change to ensure a small island nation can survive rising tides, while simultaneously using new technology to increase transparency and make the government more accountable to its people.

Furthermore, while the “social safety net” remains the MLP’s greatest strength, it must evolve. The challenges of 2026 are not the challenges of 1936. A relevant Labour Party must offer concrete solutions for an ageing population, food security, and the integration of AI into the workforce.

A Second Chance for a New Century

The Mauritius Labour Party has a proven track record of transformation. It was the architect of the country’s greatest historical successes, from the right to vote to the dawn of Independence. But in politics, a “moral lease” on power is not a permanent title deed; it must be renewed by every generation.

The future of the party depends on whether it can live up to the collective responsibility envisioned by its founders in 1936. If the MLP can convincingly democratise itself and pivot toward the concerns of a new generation, it may find that the people of Mauritius are willing to give it an honest chance to lead the country for many decades ahead.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
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Editor: M. Ramlallah

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Public festivals and the Sound of Our Society

Noise, Power, and the Struggle for Shared Space

U. Dasin

In the past week, we have witnessed — sometimes participated in, sometimes been overwhelmed by — the vibrant expressions of faith during the pilgrimage to Grand Bassin in the days leading up to Maha Shivaratri. The pilgrimage itself is steeped in history and struggle. A well-known story tells of a dream that led seven friends to explore the island's challenging landscape, trekking from the North to the Midlands and discovering the lake in its pristine beauty. It is a tale of determination, courage, and faith in difficult times, and it remains inspiring.

Today, however, the atmosphere at Grand Bassin can feel very different. The site can sometimes seem crowded and noisy, with loud devotional songs and numerous food stalls competing for attention. This sensory intensity can make quiet reflection and introspection — central purposes of pilgrimage — more difficult. It is understandable that devotional music accompanies pilgrims on long treks, but at times the overall effect can feel overwhelming.

During the pilgrimage, one also notices that traffic rules

are often stretched, as drivers navigate crowded roads and large crowds. This is not unique to the festival; it reflects broader patterns of public behaviour seen throughout the year. The high visibility of the pilgrimage simply makes it more noticeable. While these challenges are real, they can also be seen as opportunities to reflect on personal discipline and the collective responsibility of all communities in public spaces.

The deeper issue is a broader and persistent culture of incivility that affects the country throughout the year. Public space is frequently occupied through noise and disregard for others: shopping centres amplify music under the assumption that volume stimulates consumption; residential neighbourhoods endure weekend parties that spill into the night; some drivers transform roads into stages for self-assertion, with music blaring from their vehicles at all hours.

The government has begun addressing certain aspects of this problem, particularly road rage. Yet legislation alone can only act as a deterrent. It may penalise speeding, running traffic lights, or aggressive driving, but it cannot by itself cultivate civic consciousness. The

bullying of more vulnerable drivers reveals a deeper issue: an ingrained sense of entitlement in some segments of male identity, across communities, that assumes ownership of space. This entitlement manifests in everyday monopolisation of roads and public areas, accompanied by a lack of awareness of how such behaviour intimidates or marginalises others.

“Legislation alone can only act as a deterrent. It may penalise speeding, running traffic lights, or aggressive driving, but it cannot by itself cultivate civic consciousness. The bullying of more vulnerable drivers reveals a deeper issue: an ingrained sense of entitlement in some segments of male identity, across communities, that assumes ownership of space. This entitlement manifests in everyday monopolisation of roads and public areas, accompanied by a lack of awareness of how such behaviour intimidates or marginalises others...”

The problem, therefore, is not confined to one community, one festival, or one musical genre. It is structural and cultural. Men and women, young and old, across communities participate in varying degrees in this erosion of civility. Yet the heightened visibility of the Maha Shivaratri pilgrimage makes one category — young Hindu males — stand out. They risk becoming emblematic, in the eyes of outsiders, of all that is wrong. This selective focus conveniently deflects the self-scrutiny required across communities. What is seen during the pilgrimage is, in many ways, only the visible concentration of behaviours that occur year-round in different forms.

There is also a paradox at work in contemporary politics. Postmodern discourses rightly sought to give voice to the historically marginalised. Yet when groups who were once excluded come to occupy public space more assertively — sometimes under the shield of political correctness — the question arises: does empowerment automatically generate civic responsibility? Inclusion without a parallel cultivation of civic ethics risks reproducing the same patterns of domination it once opposed.

Change in the private sphere is complex and sensitive. The public sphere, however, offers room for gradual transformation through sustained campaigns. Institutions such as the Mauritius Film Development Corporation (MFDC), for example, could produce short, impactful videos addressing behaviour in public spaces — mirroring everyday incivility back to citizens so they can see themselves objectively. Long-term educational campaigns, beginning in schools and reinforced through media, might slowly reshape norms around noise, driving, gender respect, and shared space.

Devotional music may sustain pilgrims on long treks. Collective celebration has its place. But when volume eclipses mindfulness, and fervour overrides civic responsibility, something essential is lost. If pilgrimage is meant to refine the self, then part of that refinement must include how one inhabits public space.



Pic - BBC

“Public space is frequently occupied through noise and disregard for others: shopping centres amplify music under the assumption that volume stimulates consumption; residential neighbourhoods endure weekend parties that spill into the night; some drivers transform roads into stages for self-assertion, with music blaring from their vehicles at all hours...”

Adrien Duval on Trial: The Role of Unauthenticated Social Media Evidence

Moustass Leaks' and the Law: Evidence, Authenticity, and Alleged Police Misconduct

On September 21, 2022, a car driven by Adrien Duval collided in Ébène with a vehicle operated by a 56-year-old woman, who was seriously injured and hospitalized. Although there was early uncertainty about whether Duval or his friend, William Martin, had been driving, Duval later told police he was at the wheel.

The case became a national controversy after the release of the “Moustass Leaks,” clandestine recordings purportedly involving senior officials. The recordings are said to indicate discussions about fabricating a case, influencing the victim’s testimony, and pressuring medical staff at Wellkin Hospital to secure a conviction.

This is one of the first major cases where unauthenticated social media leaks have been officially viewed and transcribed in a court of law. The court’s eventual decision on whether to admit these as evidence of “Abuse of Process” will set a precedent for how digital leaks interact with the justice system.

LEX

* In a landmark moment on Friday, January 16, 2026, excerpts from the “Moustass Leaks” were screened in court during the trial of Adrien Duval regarding his September 2022 car accident. These recordings, which first emerged in the digital public domain, were projected before the magistrates under the intense scrutiny of both the prosecution and the defence. This case raises a fundamental legal question: on what basis can recordings, arguably obtained through illegal interception, be admitted as evidence?

The interceptions were carried out without any apparent legal authorization. The law requires prior judicial approval before any such recording may be intercepted, and even then, clear and specific justification must be established.

* If these recordings are the product of illegal wiretapping — as suggested by the Prime Minister’s statement in the Hansard on 4 February 2025 — does the public interest in exposing an alleged police conspiracy outweigh the judicial principle of excluding illegally obtained evidence?

Whether the public interest in exposing a police conspiracy outweighs the judicial principle of excluding illegally obtained evidence is a subject of intense legal debate. This involves balancing the necessity of using reliable evidence against the need to deter police misconduct and maintain the integrity of the justice system.

While some jurisdictions apply a strict exclusionary rule to protect constitutional rights, others adopt a balancing approach that weighs the gravity of the misconduct.

* Under Mauritian law, if the source of the leaks remains anonymous and cannot be cross-examined, can the recordings be admitted as substantive evidence, or do they remain mere allega-

tions without a legal foundation?

In the landmark 1996 case of *The State v. Bacha*, Justice Sik Yuen delivered a comprehensive judgment outlining the strict criteria for establishing the authenticity of tape recordings and the protocols for the reliable identification of voices.

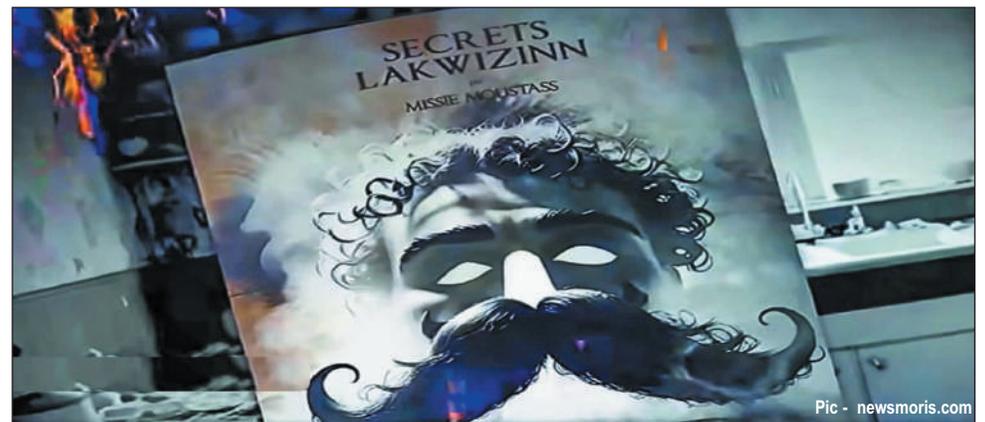
The court held that recordings may be admitted as substantive evidence only if strict conditions are satisfied. First, the recording must be proven original and unaltered — something difficult to establish where anonymous leaks lack a clear chain of custody. Second, the voices must be reliably identified, either by persons familiar with them or through expert analysis. Third, the accused has a constitutional right to challenge the evidence; if the maker or source of the recording cannot testify, the material risks being ruled inadmissible hearsay.

* Since the private transcriber, Lindsay Luckhoo, admitted he cannot certify the origin of the videos or identify the voices, how can the defence satisfy the court that these recordings are authentic and have not been digitally altered or deepfaked?

The voices on the recording must be formally identified to establish a clear link to the parties involved. Furthermore, their admissibility remains legally precarious if the recordings were obtained without proper authorization or in violation of privacy protocols.

* Without a forensic voice analysis expert, can the court legally recognize the voice of the former Commissioner of

“If a police investigation was influenced by improper instructions, later evidence may be considered “tainted” and could be inadmissible under the “fruit of the poisonous tree” rule. However, not all evidence is automatically excluded — the court will decide whether it came directly from the unlawful instructions or was gathered independently and lawfully...”



Pic - newsmoris.com

Police, or must the defence provide a higher standard of proof to link the audio to specific officials?

Yes, a court may legally recognize a voice on an illegally recorded, non-expertly analysed, or “covert” recording, but its admissibility and evidential weight depend heavily on the jurisdiction and the applicable foundational requirements. While forensic analysis is preferable, the law often permits lay opinion testimony for the purpose of voice identification.

* To what extent can an anonymous recording override a formal police investigation? Must the defence prove the recordings are 100% authentic, or only that they create reasonable doubt about the investigation’s integrity?

Anonymous tips or recordings can serve as a starting point, but in many jurisdictions, they cannot by themselves justify arrests or searches without independent, corroborating evidence.

While an anonymous recording rarely “overrides” a formal police investigation, it can still influence, challenge, or even disrupt it depending on its quality and content. Such recordings may be admitted as evidence, but they are subject to strict scrutiny concerning both authenticity and legality.

* How does producing the Hansard from February 2025 regarding phone tapping help the defence’s case? Is it intended to prove that the State knew about surveillance, or is it merely to create reasonable doubt about the integrity of the police?

Based on parliamentary debates from February 2025 (specifically in the Mauritius National Assembly), producing the Hansard record on phone tapping can help the defence by providing official, documented evidence that high-level state surveillance occurred, potentially in violation of privacy rights and legal procedures. This can support arguments that the State was aware of or complicit in the surveillance, or it can be used to raise reasonable doubt about the integrity of the police.

* If the court accepts the recordings

as credible, is the alleged police misconduct (fabricating a case) sufficient to grant a permanent stay of proceedings, or can the trial continue based on objective evidence, like the breathalyzer refusal, as the prosecution claims?

If the court finds the recordings credible and shows the police deliberately fabricated the case, it is a serious “abuse of process” and can justify permanently halting the trial.

Although a permanent stay is an exceptional remedy applied with caution, the fabrication of evidence strikes at the very core of the administration of justice, rendering a fair trial virtually impossible.

* If the police investigation was indeed shaped by the instructions — allegedly given by the former CP Dip — heard in the recordings, would all subsequent evidence be considered tainted and therefore inadmissible?

If a police investigation was influenced by improper instructions, later evidence may be considered “tainted” and could be inadmissible under the “fruit of the poisonous tree” rule. However, not all evidence is automatically excluded — the court will decide whether it came directly from the unlawful instructions or was gathered independently and lawfully.

* This is one of the first major cases where unauthenticated social-media leaks have been officially viewed and transcribed in a court of law. If such leaks are admitted as evidence of an abuse of process, does this open the door for any future defendant to halt a trial by producing anonymous digital recordings?

Admitting anonymously produced, leaked digital recordings as evidence of abuse of process does not automatically allow defendants to halt trials, but it can increase the likelihood of pre-trial challenges.

Courts generally balance the relevance of evidence against its reliability and the manner in which it was obtained. While relevant, illegally obtained evidence may be excluded if its admission would create unfair prejudice, though in extreme cases of abuse, a trial may be halted.

L'arrestation d'Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor Un séisme pour la monarchie britannique

Par A. Bartleby

Le jeudi 19 février 2026 restera gravé comme une date historique pour la couronne britannique. Pour la première fois à l'ère moderne, un membre de la famille royale — bien que dépouillé de ses titres officiels depuis octobre 2025 — a été placé en état d'arrestation. Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, le frère cadet du roi Charles III, a été appréhendé par la police de Thames Valley sur le domaine de Sandringham, marquant un tournant brutal dans l'affaire qui le lie au défunt prédateur sexuel américain, Jeffrey Epstein.

Une arrestation spectaculaire à Wood Farm

Selon les informations rapportées par la BBC et l'agence Reuters, l'opération s'est déroulée tôt dans la matinée. Six voitures de police banalisées et huit officiers en civil ont investi Wood Farm, une résidence située sur les terres de Sandringham. Andrew y résidait depuis son expulsion de Royal Lodge l'année dernière.

Cette arrestation ne concerne pas, comme on pourrait le supposer, les allégations d'agressions sexuelles portées par Virginia Giuffre (affaire réglée à l'amiable en 2022), mais porte sur des soupçons de "faute grave dans l'exercice d'une fonction publique" (*misconduct in public office*).

Le rôle de "Trade Envoy" au cœur de l'enquête

Le nœud du problème réside dans les fonctions officielles qu'Andrew a exercées entre 2001 et 2011. En tant que représentant spécial du Royaume-Uni pour le commerce et l'investissement, il avait pour mis-

sion de promouvoir les intérêts économiques britanniques à l'étranger. Or, des documents récemment déclassifiés par le ministère de la Justice des États-Unis (DoJ) suggèrent une réalité bien plus sombre.

L'enquête s'appuie sur une série d'e-mails et de messages montrant qu'Andrew aurait partagé des informations gouvernementales confidentielles et des briefings stratégiques sur plusieurs pays asiatiques avec Jeffrey Epstein. Ces échanges auraient eu lieu alors qu'Epstein était déjà un délinquant sexuel condamné. En échange de cet accès privilégié aux arcanes du pouvoir britannique, le financier américain aurait aidé Andrew et son ex-femme, Sarah Ferguson, à éponger des dettes personnelles massives.

La fin du mythe de l'immunité royale

Cette arrestation soulève des questions constitutionnelles majeures. Si le Monarque bénéficie d'une immunité souveraine absolue ("le Roi ne peut mal faire"), cette protection ne s'étend pas de manière automatique à l'ensemble de la famille. Jusqu'à présent, une certaine tradition empêchait l'arrestation d'un membre de la lignée royale dans l'enceinte d'un palais ou en présence du souverain.

Toutefois, en permettant à la police de pénétrer à Sandringham, le roi Charles III a envoyé un signal fort. Le palais de Buckingham a d'ailleurs publié un communiqué laconique mais sans équivoque : "La loi doit suivre son cours. Les autorités ont notre soutien total et sincère." Cette posture marque une rupture nette avec la protection dont Andrew semblait bénéficier sous le



En ouvrant les portes de Sandringham à la police, le roi Charles III marque une rupture avec l'ère Elizabeth II. Le message de Buckingham est clair: le prince Andrew ne bénéficie plus de protection particulière et la justice doit suivre son cours.

règne de sa mère, la reine Elizabeth II. Le fait qu'il ait été dépouillé de ses titres et honneurs militaires l'année dernière a facilité ce processus judiciaire, le plaçant désormais au rang de simple citoyen face à ses responsabilités pénales.

De nouveaux éléments accablants

Les révélations du DoJ contredisent également la défense qu'Andrew avait présentée lors de sa tristement célèbre interview à la BBC en 2019. Alors qu'il affirmait avoir rompu tout contact avec Epstein en 2010, les nouveaux dossiers indiquent que les deux hommes sont restés en communication étroite jusqu'en 2018, par l'intermédiaire de partenaires d'affaires.

Plus troublant encore, des échanges datant de 2010 montrent qu'Epstein avait demandé à Andrew de modifier les plans

d'un dîner "calme" à Buckingham Palace pour y inclure trois jeunes femmes, dont un mannequin russe. Andrew aurait donné son accord, peu de temps après qu'Epstein ait purgé une peine de prison pour sollicitation de mineure.

Un précédent historique

Pour trouver trace d'une arrestation d'une telle importance au sein de la famille royale, il faut remonter au XVIIe siècle, lorsque Charles Ier fut fait prisonnier par les forces parlementaires avant son exécution en 1649. Bien que la princesse Anne ait été poursuivie en 2002 pour un incident lié à ses chiens, elle n'avait jamais été formellement arrêtée par la police.

Quel avenir pour Andrew?

Le délit de "faute grave dans l'exercice d'une fonction publique" est une infraction sérieuse en droit anglais, passible d'une

peine d'emprisonnement. Pour les experts juridiques, comme Francesca Jackson de la Lancaster Law School, cette arrestation est un "test de force" pour la démocratie britannique. Elle prouve que le prestige de la naissance ne suffit plus à masquer des manquements à l'éthique nationale, surtout lorsque la sécurité économique ou diplomatique du pays est en jeu.

Alors que l'enquête se poursuit, l'opinion publique britannique semble largement favorable à cette transparence. Pour la monarchie, c'est une opération de survie nécessaire : sacrifier un membre "déchu" pour préserver l'intégrité de l'institution. Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, autrefois fils préféré de la Reine, se retrouve aujourd'hui face à un juge, seul avec son passé.

Les Chagos au cœur d'un bras de fer entre Londres et Washington

Le dossier des îles Chagos, que l'on pensait en voie de résolution après l'accord historique entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice, vient de prendre une tournure explosive. Ce qui n'était qu'un contentieux post-colonial s'est transformé, en ce mois de février 2026, en une crise diplomatique majeure impliquant les ambitions militaires de Donald Trump et la doctrine de sécurité nationale de Keir Starmer.

Le «Grand Virage» de Donald Trump

Le mercredi 18 février 2026, le président américain a provoqué une onde de choc en qualifiant sur *Truth Social* l'accord de rétrocession de «grosse erreur». Ce revirement est d'autant plus spectaculaire que, deux semaines auparavant, après une communication avec le Premier ministre britannique, Trump avait semblé valider le projet.

Cependant, selon des révélations du *Times* et du *Guardian*, ce changement de pied n'est pas le fruit d'une simple humeur, mais d'un chantage géopolitique. Washington aurait retiré son soutien au deal après que

Londres a refusé l'utilisation des bases de la Royal Air Force (RAF), notamment celle de Diego Garcia, pour mener des frappes préventives contre les installations nucléaires en Iran. Pour Donald Trump, l'accord de bail de 99 ans avec Maurice est désormais jugé «précaire» et indigne d'un allié stratégique.

L'Iran et le poids du droit international

Au cœur de cette discorde se trouve l'interprétation du droit international. Le gouvernement de Keir Starmer, soucieux de respecter les conventions de l'ONU, craint qu'en autorisant des frappes depuis son territoire sans mandat international clair, le Royaume-Uni ne soit tenu pour co-responsable d'un acte d'agression illégal. Un porte-parole du 10 Downing Street a d'ailleurs rappelé que la priorité reste «la sécurité régionale» et un processus politique avec



Donald Trump aurait retiré son soutien au deal après que Londres a refusé l'utilisation des bases de la Royal Air Force, notamment celle de Diego Garcia, pour mener des frappes préventives contre les installations nucléaires en Iran. P - Republic World

Téhéran, marquant une divergence nette avec la rhétorique belliqueuse de la Maison-Blanche.

☞ Suite en page 17



Sovereignty over Chagos: A Litmus Test for the UK

The UK has consistently invoked Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty to reject any land concessions to Russia in peace negotiations. Will it uphold those same principles in the case of Chagos?

Conservative parties in the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US) are using all means possible, both legal and illegal, to derail the planned transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago from the UK to Mauritius. Every time we think that the process is moving smoothly, some unexpected hurdle comes up either from the UK side or the US side, with new arguments being brought up against a bilateral treaty formalizing the transfer of sovereignty.

We should recall that bilateral negotiations between Mauritius and the UK began in late 2023, following the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which on February 25, 2019, ruled that the Chagos Archipelago should be returned to Mauritius to complete its decolonization. The United Nations General Assembly subsequently adopted Resolution 73/295, affirming the rights of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago and specifically calling for it to be returned to Mauritius by November 22, 2019. On October 4, 2024, Mauritius and the UK signed a political agreement whereby the UK would hand back the sovereignty over the Chagos to Mauritius while keeping control over the island of Diego Garcia, which hosts an American military base, under a lease agreement for 99 years, which may be renewed for a second term at the request of the lessee.

In 2025, the new UK government, headed by the Labour Party, started the legal process to transfer sovereignty by presenting a bill in Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords) titled "The Diego Garcia Military Base and the British Indian Ocean Territory Bill". The bill has gone through many rounds of debates in both houses where the Conservative parties (Tory Party and Reform Party) made all kinds of objections and proposed amend-

ments to the original text. The bill is due for another reading on February 23, 2026, in the House of Lords where the Conservative parties have a majority. It is likely that they would oppose the bill again.

They have used numerous delaying tactics in Parliament to prevent a final vote on the bill, while urging the US administration to exercise its "veto" against the planned transfer of sovereignty on national security grounds for both the UK and the US.

The latest stunt by opponents of the bill involved the landing of three British Chagossians on an island in the Chagos Archipelago in an attempt to assert ownership of the islands, which they regard as the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). It is evident that this group received financial and logistical support from Conservative forces in the UK to undertake the trip to the Chagos.

There is little doubt that the Conservative Party in the UK will do everything possible to reverse the process of decolonisation of the Chagos, which was initiated through a bilateral agreement between Mauritius and the UK. They portray the transfer of sovereignty as a "surrender" of British territory to Mauritius and conveniently describe the BIOT as a "strategic asset" in the Indian Ocean for the military defence of the West, including the US and the UK.

In doing so, they effectively disregard the ruling of the International Court of Justice, demonstrating scant regard for international law.

For its part, the US is hell-bent on keeping its control over Diego Garcia Island (hosting a military base). Initially, the US gave its consent to the transfer of sovereignty and agreed with the idea of a lease of 99 years over the island, to be renewed for another term. Lately, under pressure from



“There is little doubt that the Conservative Party in the UK will do everything possible to reverse the process of decolonisation of the Chagos, which was initiated through a bilateral agreement between Mauritius and the UK. They portray the transfer of sovereignty as a “surrender” of British territory to Mauritius and conveniently describe the BIOT as a “strategic asset” in the Indian Ocean for the military defence of the West, including the US and the UK. In doing so, they effectively disregard the ruling of the International Court of Justice, demonstrating scant regard for international law...” - Pic - aretenews.com

the UK conservatives, the US administration has changed its position to reject the idea of a lease, which it considers to be contrary to its "right of control" over Diego Garcia. Now it wants the UK to carve out Diego Garcia from the deal with Mauritius, which would jeopardize the whole principle of transfer of sovereignty.

The US administration's new position is not surprising considering that the US is engaged in a strategy to widen its sphere of influence in the world by securing control over specific countries or territories. The invasion of Venezuela on the grounds of fighting drug trafficking has turned out to be a grab of oil resources. The US has intensified the economic embargo over Cuba by depriving the island of oil shipments to hasten a regime change there. It is planning to attack Iran if there is no agreement over a nuclear deal with that country, but securing access to Iranian oil (similar to the case of Venezuela) is the hidden motive. It has not abandoned its plan to take over Greenland

(an island attached to Denmark) for "national security purposes". And the US keeps floating the idea of annexing Canada as its 51st State.

Considering the new geopolitical context in the world where the US wants to be the dominant power (consistent with its idea that might is right), the crucial question is whether the Labour government in the UK will renege on its commitments to Mauritius (as stated in a bilateral agreement) to please the US. The passing of the bill on transfer of sovereignty in Parliament will be a litmus test of its political will to respect international law. It should be noted that the UK has championed international law to support Ukraine in the war against Russia. In Europe, it is one of the most "hawkish" countries against Russia. It has consistently invoked the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Ukraine to refuse any land concession to Russia in the negotiations over a peace treaty. Will the UK apply the same principles to the case of Chagos?

“The US administration's new position is not surprising considering that the US is engaged in a strategy to widen its sphere of influence in the world by securing control over specific countries or territories. The invasion of Venezuela on the grounds of fighting drug trafficking has turned out to be a grab of oil resources. The US has intensified the economic embargo over Cuba by depriving the island of oil shipments to hasten a regime change there. It is planning to attack Iran if there is no agreement over a nuclear deal with that country, but securing access to Iranian oil (similar to the case of Venezuela) is the hidden motive. It has not abandoned its plan to take over Greenland (an island attached to Denmark) for 'national security purposes'...”

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low - Historien

“C’est le PTr qui a jeté les bases du miracle économique mauricien, et cela dès les années 70”

A l’aube de son 90^e anniversaire, le Parti Travailleiste (PTr) s’apprête à célébrer une longévité qui défie les lois de la politique traditionnelle. Alors que de nombreuses formations historiques à travers le monde s’effondrent ou disparaissent, le PTr semble non seulement résister, mais rester au cœur de l’échiquier politique national. Comment expliquer cette résilience? Est-ce le fruit d’un ancrage profond dans les fondations de l’État-providence ou celui d’une mutation pragmatique vers le libéralisme?

Pour décrypter ce parcours exceptionnel, l’historien Jocelyn Chan Low revient sur l’évolution du PTr: de ses racines ouvriéristes aux défis de la mondialisation, jusqu’aux tensions actuelles au sein de l’Alliance du Changement. Entre risques de fracture sociale, montée de la «Me Generation» et enjeux de succession, il livre un tour d’horizon sur l’avenir du paysage politique mauricien à l’horizon 2026. *nal real-estate asset,” used as a rhetorical prop to justify a renewed American expansionism — most notably the push for Greenland. Through the lens of what he terms the “Donroe Doctrine,” Shyam Bhatia argues that we are witnessing a move away from a rules-based international order toward a world where legal principles are treated as mere “risk management” and sovereignty is negotiable for the weak.*

Mauritius Times: Le Parti travailliste célèbre son 90^e anniversaire la semaine prochaine. Comment expliquer sa résilience exceptionnelle alors que d’autres partis historiques, ici comme ailleurs, ont disparu?

Jocelyn Chan Low: C’est une question très complexe qui pourrait faire l’objet d’une thèse de doctorat qui, du coup, éclairerait les ressorts de la vie politique à Maurice!

Mais, à première vue, cette résilience n’est guère surprenante parce que le premier *mass party* du pays a pu s’adapter au contexte changeant de la vie politique à Maurice tout en gardant, tant bien que mal dans les grandes lignes, certains de ses idéaux d’origine à l’instar de l’*empowerment* de la population mauricienne à travers l’extension du *Welfare State* et la démocratisation des structures politiques à travers l’élaboration et la consolidation d’un *Westminster system* à la mauricienne.

Par exemple, le parti du Dr Curé, d’Anquetil, du Pandit Sahadeo, de Guy Rozemont, entre autres, était résolument ouvriériste. Il ne faut pas oublier le rôle du PTr dans la légalisation des syndicats. Avec l’octroi du suffrage universel, le parti va migrer vers le centre pour ratisser plus large.

Conscient de la nécessité de se concilier tous les *stakeholders* afin que le processus menant à l’indépendance du pays se fasse dans un climat plus serein, le parti va tendre la main même à ceux qui l’avaient farouchement combattu. Et les mesures radicales furent mises au rancart au profit de l’élaboration progressive d’un État-providence, tout en encourageant la bourgeoisie historique à investir pour sortir le pays du marasme économique dans lequel il se trouvait.

En outre, le Parti Travailleiste au pouvoir a marqué profondément le pays par ses réalisations. Il faut ajouter que les

leaders du parti étaient en général des hommes politiques réalistes et pragmatiques, privilégiant une approche consensuelle et non conflictuelle, et n’hésitant pas à s’allier aux adversaires d’hier pour rester ou pour revenir au pouvoir, que ce soit l’IFB, le PMSD, le MSM ou le MMM.

Enfin, le PTr est devenu au fil des années une institution clé de la vie politique à Maurice. Faut-il rappeler que même en 1982, battu par un cinglant 60-0, le PTr et ses petits alliés avaient recueilli près de 30 % des votes...

*** Selon vous, quelles sont les plus grandes réussites historiques du parti qui résonnent encore dans la conscience collective mauricienne aujourd’hui?**

Il y en a beaucoup. Tout d’abord, l’indépendance du pays est, à juste titre, étroitement associée à SSR, le Père de la Nation. Il est vrai que certains de ses détracteurs insistent toujours sur le fait que SSR a «vendu Diego», mais les documents déclassifiés révèlent que c’est un raccourci qui ne tient pas la route.

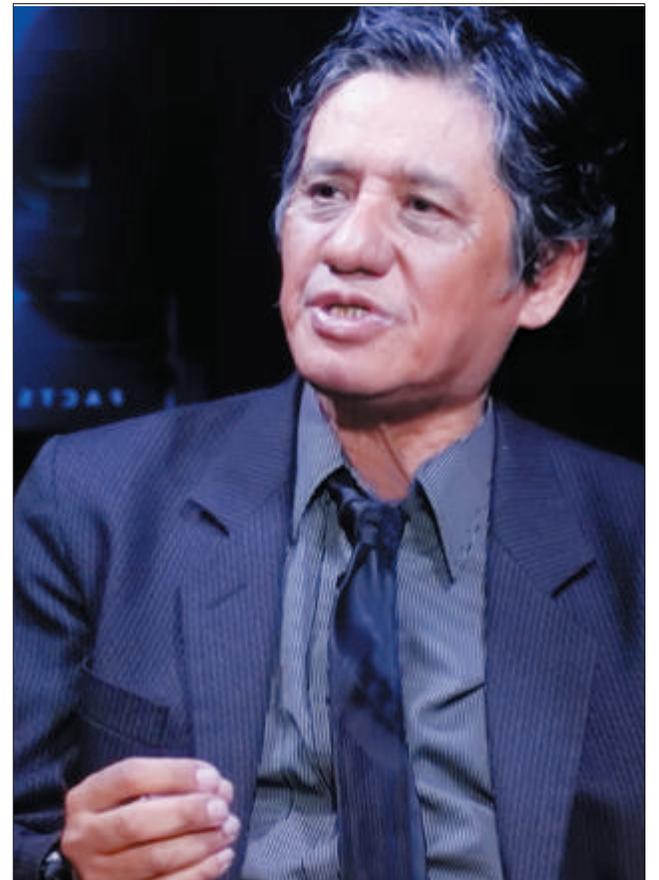
Il y a aussi et surtout la consolidation du *Welfare State* qui est la clé de voûte du «miracle mauricien».

Maurice a réussi parce que le pays est devenu l’un des rares *social democratic states* de l’hémisphère sud. Un pays multiethnique avec un tel écart de richesses entre les nantis et ceux au bas de l’échelle aurait pu sombrer dans l’instabilité et la violence politique.

Mais l’État-providence — à travers l’éducation gratuite, un système de pension universelle, la santé publique gratuite, des subsides sur des denrées de base et le gaz ménager, les tripartites, etc. — offre des possibilités de mobilité sociale pour beaucoup et empêche les démunis de sombrer dans la désespérance.

Autre grande réalisation: la diplomatie économique, notamment envers la France, ce qui fit que Maurice put rejoindre l’OCAM, premier pas vers la Convention de Yaoundé et l’accès au Marché Commun. C’est le PTr qui a jeté les bases du miracle économique mauricien, et cela dès les années 70.

Une autre réalisation clé est le maintien du système démocratique. La démocratisation n’a pas connu de «*reverse course*» comme cela a été le cas dans de nombreux pays nouvellement indépendants. Certes, il y eut l’état d’urgence, le renvoi des élections générales, la censure de la presse, l’arrestation d’opposants politiques, etc. Mais tout cela fut fait



“ Maurice a réussi parce que le pays est devenu l’un des rares *social democratic states* de l’hémisphère sud. Un pays multiethnique avec un tel écart de richesses entre les nantis et ceux au bas de l’échelle aurait pu sombrer dans l’instabilité et la violence politique. Mais l’État-providence — à travers l’éducation gratuite, un système de pension universelle, la santé publique gratuite... — offre des possibilités de mobilité sociale pour beaucoup et empêche les démunis de sombrer dans la désespérance...”

dans le strict respect de la Constitution et les élections furent tenues en 1976, après que le droit de vote fut accordé aux jeunes de 18 ans.

*** L’exercice prolongé du pouvoir, sous l’égide de Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, puis de Navin Ramgoolam, a contraint le PTr à une mutation profonde pour répondre aux impératifs de la réalpolitik et de la mondialisation. En embrassant le libéralisme économique des années 1990 et 2000, le parti a opéré un virage pragmatique, soulevant une question fondamentale: pouvait-il en être autrement?**

Depuis SSR, le PTr a été très pragmatique dans son approche des réalités économiques et sociales du pays. C’est pour cela d’ailleurs que les autorités britanniques qui, au départ, le décrivaient comme un dangereux bolchevique, virent en lui le personnage clé de la stabilité politique du pays.

“ Les leaders du parti étaient en général des hommes politiques réalistes et pragmatiques, privilégiant une approche consensuelle et non conflictuelle, et n’hésitant pas à s’allier aux adversaires d’hier pour rester ou pour revenir au pouvoir, que ce soit l’IFB, le PMSD, le MSM ou le MMM. Finalement, le PTr est devenu au fil des années une institution clé de la vie politique à Maurice...”

'Le PTr a déjà connu plusieurs transitions de leadership sans heurts majeurs.'

L'idéal serait d'élire démocratiquement le prochain leader au sein d'un parti lui-même pleinement démocratisé'

☞ Cont. from page 7

Mais le «deal» avec la bourgeoisie historique, à qui d'ailleurs SSR offrait un prix garanti pour le sucre dans le Marché Commun, avait une contrepartie: une taxe de sortie élevée sur le sucre et un *Company Tax* de plus de 60% dont les recettes serviraient à financer et à développer le *Welfare State*. L'État-providence est si ancré dans la société mauricienne que Maurice fut le seul pays au monde où les *Structural Adjustment Programmes* du FMI n'entraînent pas de réductions drastiques du *Welfare State*.

Il est vrai qu'à partir des années 1990-2000, l'économie mauricienne fut contrainte de s'adapter aux nouvelles réalités économiques mondiales telles que la fin du Protocole sucre, le démantèlement des accords multifibres et l'entrée de la Chine à l'OMC.

Il fallait à tout prix développer de nouveaux secteurs tels que le secteur financier, le BPO, et attirer des investissements étrangers. Pour attirer ces investisseurs, il fallait que le pays devienne *business friendly*, avec comme résultat un *overhaul* complet du système fiscal, ainsi qu'une refonte des lois du travail. Nul besoin de revenir sur les mesures introduites à cet effet par Rama Sithanen, notamment la réduction du *Corporate Tax* à 15%, le report de l'âge de la retraite à 65 ans, l'ouverture du pays aux étrangers, etc.

Évidemment, cette orientation pro-business avait fait grincer les dents même au sein du PTr qui, à l'époque, parlait ouvertement de «démocratiser l'économie» et critiquait les accords du CEB avec les IPPs (*Independent Power Producers*), amenant certains à écrire que le PTr tentait de doubler le MMM à gauche.

Mais au fond, tout le discours sur la démocratisation de l'économie n'était en fait qu'une question de posture. Rien de concret ne fut réellement entrepris.

* **Après 90 ans d'existence, l'identité du parti fait débat: est-il resté fidèle à sa mission originelle de défense des classes laborieuses et de justice sociale? Ou s'est-il transformé en un pilier du système, privilégiant la stabilité économique et la création d'une bourgeoisie d'État pour assurer sa survie politique?**

Les marxistes, à l'instar de feu Ram Seegobin, ont toujours maintenu que le PTr, à l'origine un parti ouvrieriste, avait été «capturé» par une bourgeoisie d'État dans les années 50 et que cette bourgeoisie avait conclu un *deal* avec la bourgeoisie historique sur un partage du pouvoir. Pour eux, cette bourgeoisie prédatrice, alimentée par le clientélisme, était à l'origine de nombreux cas de corruption.

Il est vrai que la tentation du *crony capitalism* est très présente à Maurice. Mais il est aussi vrai que tout parti politique se voit dans l'obligation de satisfaire, même en partie, les demandes du gros des électeurs qui proviennent majoritairement de la classe des travailleurs ou de la petite bourgeoisie.

Des mesures comme le transport gratuit pour les seniors et les étudiants ont joué un rôle important dans la victoire du PTr aux élections générales de 2005. Il est vrai que le PTr introduisit l'*Employment Rights Act* de 2008 avec des clauses très controversées et dénoncées par les syndicats comme un recul dans la protection des droits des travailleurs. Finalement, seule une analyse fine à la fois des lois du travail, des changements dans le régime fiscal et du bud-



“ Il y a eu certaines réformes, notamment entreprises par l'Attorney General, et il y a eu des arrestations effectuées par la FCC. Mais l'affaire Ravatomanga est toujours entourée de zones d'ombre. La population avait voté pour un renouveau des institutions. Mais Joanna Bérenger a critiqué ouvertement l'affairisme qui règne dans certains milieux proches du pouvoir...”

get social pourrait apporter une réponse objective à la question.

* **Aujourd'hui, les dirigeants du PTr — et du MMM également — ne sont plus des syndicalistes de terrain, mais souvent des professionnels (avocats, médecins, cadres financiers, comptables, etc.) issus de l'élite. Le discours du parti s'est déplacé de la «lutte des classes» vers la «démocratisation». Ce glissement traduit-il une évolution naturelle de la société mauricienne ou un éloignement progressif de ses bases populaires?**

Une étude prosopographique sur la durée du personnel politique mauricien — députés, candidats, ministres — est *long overdue* car il y a eu effectivement des changements majeurs dans le profil sociologique de ce personnel au fil des années. Il est aussi vrai qu'on ne retrouve plus d'ouvriers et très peu de syndicalistes parmi les parlementaires. Et il y a toujours un surnombre de médecins, d'avocats, et un plus grand nombre d'entrepreneurs ou de directeurs de compagnie. Cela dit, même dans les partis révolutionnaires à l'instar des Bolcheviks, les dirigeants étaient le plus souvent issus de l'intelligentsia.

D'ailleurs, une des explications des révolutions socialistes dans le Sud global est qu'elles furent le résultat d'un *trade-off* entre les classes populaires (ouvriers et paysans)

avec une élite révolutionnaire issue de l'intelligentsia urbaine.

De ce fait, c'est le bagage idéologique de ce personnel qui compte finalement. Mais, comme le disait récemment le Dr V. Bunwaree, combien parmi le personnel politique actuel du parti connaissent la lutte et les valeurs du PTr des origines?

* **Face à une jeunesse de plus en plus détachée des clivages traditionnels — ou plutôt face à la «Me Generation» qui est perçue comme plus individualiste, centrée sur elle-même et davantage préoccupée par la réussite personnelle que par les idéaux collectifs ou les institutions traditionnelles, quels défis de discours et de positionnement le PTr doit-il relever pour rester pertinent au-delà de sa base électorale historique?**

Les sondages récents révèlent un énorme décalage entre la demande de l'électorat, surtout des jeunes, et l'offre politique du personnel politique actuel, tous partis confondus.

Les jeunes aspirent à autre chose qu'à un *musical chair* entre les mêmes personnes, issus des mêmes familles qui ont dominé la scène politique depuis plus d'un demi-siècle. Ils aspirent à la nouveauté. De même, ils aspirent à la méritocratie et à ce que leur voix soit entendue.

Pour cela, il faudrait que les partis soient de vrais espaces démocratiques et non des organisations non démocratiques, non collectives, mais qui, au contraire, tournent autour d'un chef suprême. Dans ce cas, à quoi servent les ailes jeunes?

De même, quand des chefs déjà vieux s'entourent de *very old boys* à travers des nominations à des institutions clés, l'impression qui se dégage est celle d'une gérontocratie au pouvoir, alors qu'il ne manque pas de jeunes talents dans le pays.

* **Navin Ramgoolam entame un nouveau mandat à près de 79 ans. Pour une organisation politique forte de 90 ans d'existence, l'absence de relève clairement identifiée, voire d'un protocole de succession, représente-t-elle un défi aussi important que sa «mission» pour le temps présent et pour l'avenir?**

Le PTr a connu plusieurs changements de leadership au cours de son histoire sans qu'il y ait eu de grands soubresauts. Quelquefois, l'identification d'un dauphin pose plus de problèmes qu'elle n'en résout. L'idéal serait que le prochain leader soit démocratiquement élu à l'intérieur d'un parti démocratisé.

☞ Cont. on page 9

“ La question de l'abolition du *Best Loser System* pourrait ouvrir un autre front au sein d'autres composantes de l'électorat. Sans doute Bérenger a anticipé ces réactions et, de ce fait, a choisi de mettre le PM au pied du mur. Réforme, comme promis dans le manifeste électoral et le discours-programme, ou cassure de l'alliance: que fera le PM ? L'attentisme aurait été la solution, mais Bérenger a fixé le calendrier...”

‘En réalité, la réforme électorale pourrait susciter, au sein de l'électorat travailliste et rural, le même rejet que le projet de 2014’

☞ Cont. from page 8

Pour cela, il faudrait revoir complètement le fonctionnement du parti afin de promouvoir la bonne gouvernance et la démocratie. L'ancien secrétaire général du PTR, feu Joseph Tsang Man Kin, avait élaboré un projet en ce sens, mais son plan avait été mis de côté.

* **L'alliance actuelle, l'Alliance du Changement, a remporté une victoire écrasante en novembre 2024. Les relations entre le PTR et le Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) ont souvent été tumultueuses. Il ne semble pas que l'alliance de 2026 soit plus fiable que celles de 1995 ou 2014. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Les récents soubresauts, les critiques acerbes du Deputy Prime Minister Paul Bérenger envers l'action gouvernementale au cours de conférences de presse publiques, les épisodes répétés des *on/off* ont amené certains observateurs à qualifier l'Alliance du Changement comme une «alliance en sursis».

“ À Maurice, il n'y a pas de violence de classe ou contre l'État. On assiste surtout à l'augmentation de cas de violences interpersonnelles, de *road rage*, avec comme toile de fond la prolifération alarmante de la consommation de la drogue de synthèse. Mais attention! La situation peut devenir extrêmement volatile quand on touche au domaine du religieux ou du culturel... ”

Il est vrai que les deux leaders ont une conception de la gouvernance diamétralement opposée. Bérenger est connu comme un *no nonsense guy*, réputé pour sa rigueur et comme un TGV qui veut des résultats rapides, alors qu'avec NCR, c'est le règne de l'attentisme.

En outre, le MMM semble très mal à l'aise dans le rôle de «*junior partner*» de l'alliance, à la différence, par exemple, de ReA. Et il y a aussi le fait que l'opposition pourrait être un espace où le MMM pourrait se reconstruire plus facilement qu'au sein d'un gouvernement devenu extrêmement impopulaire, au point où le PM semble regretter d'avoir gagné les dernières élections générales.

* **Il paraît que le principal point de discordance pouvant potentiellement faire saborder cette alliance est la question de la réforme électorale. Voyez-vous Navin Ramgoolam faire des concessions sur cette question — ce qui pourrait aboutir à la mise en place d'une «Deuxième République», comme celle souhaitée en 2014, avec les résultats que l'on connaît?**

La Deuxième République appartient plutôt à la commission sur la réforme constitutionnelle qu'au projet de réforme électorale. Mais, dans la réalité, la réforme électorale pourrait susciter le même rejet au sein de l'électorat travailliste et de l'électorat rural en général que le projet de 2014.

De même, la question de l'abolition du *Best Loser System* pourrait ouvrir un autre front au sein d'autres composantes de l'électorat. Sans doute Bérenger a anticipé ces réactions et, de ce fait, a choisi de mettre le PM au pied du mur.

Réforme, comme promis dans le manifeste électoral et

le discours-programme, ou cassure de l'alliance: que fera le PM ? L'attentisme aurait été la solution, mais Bérenger a fixé le calendrier. D'ici la rentrée parlementaire le mois prochain, on connaîtra la réponse.

* **Au-delà des discours, la population perçoit-elle une amélioration réelle ou y a-t-il plutôt une désillusion face à la cherté de la vie et au poids de la dette publique?**

Il y a eu certaines réformes, notamment entreprises par l'Attorney General, et il y a eu des arrestations effectuées par la FCC. Mais l'affaire Ravatomanga est toujours entourée de zones d'ombre. La population avait voté pour un renouveau des institutions. Mais Joanna Bérenger a critiqué ouvertement l'affairisme qui règne dans certains milieux proches du pouvoir.

De même, le renouveau ne veut absolument pas dire une politique d'austérité, telle la fin programmée de certaines allocations sociales ou le report de la pension de vieillesse à 65 ans. La population est très déçue et très en colère, et a l'impression d'avoir été dupée. Si le *feel-good factor* ne revient pas dans le moyen terme, les résultats aux prochaines élections générales risquent d'être extrêmement catastrophiques pour les partis au pouvoir.

* **Au fait, malgré l'alternance de 2024, une certaine fatigue politique semble s'installer. Quel est, selon vous, le principal risque de fracture sociale pour Maurice en 2026?**

À Maurice, il n'y a pas de violence de classe ou contre l'État. On assiste surtout à l'augmentation de cas de violences interpersonnelles, de *road rage*, avec comme toile de fond la prolifération alarmante de la consommation de la drogue de synthèse.

Mais attention! La situation peut devenir extrêmement volatile quand on touche au domaine du religieux ou du culturel. C'est pour cela que les éditorialistes et autres personnalités des médias doivent faire très attention dans leurs commentaires sur tout ce qui touche au religieux, surtout si ces commentaires témoignent d'une méconnaissance du fait religieux.

Par exemple, l'adaptation des chants religieux au nouvel environnement techno se retrouve partout — des *hillsongs* chrétiens aux chants bouddhistes tibétains. Le recueillement, ce n'est pas uniquement le silence ou les chants grégoriens. Les messes en Afrique et en Asie du Sud-Est se font au son des tambours ou de la musique religieuse techno. De même, en Asie, les chants bouddhistes millénaires sont repris avec des accompagnements techno, que ce soit au Tibet, en Thaïlande ou en Mongolie.

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Malgré les fantasmes de certains d'une laïcité à la française, Maurice est un pays pluriethnique et pluri-religieux où la majorité de la population est issue de l'Afrique et majoritairement de l'Asie, et le vivre-ensemble repose sur la tolérance et l'acceptation des traditions issues de ces grandes civilisations.

* **En projetant le Parti Travailliste vers ses 100 ans, quelle réforme structurelle majeure devrait-il engager pour garantir la paix sociale et la prospérité du pays dans la prochaine décennie — et pour rester pertinent dans les décennies à venir?**

C'est surtout la transformation du parti en une entité démocratique et moderne où prime la bonne gouvernance dans la gestion de ses finances.

De même, le combat pour la méritocratie et contre la corruption, à travers par exemple le vote d'une législation solide sur le financement politique, doit devenir la priorité du parti.

* **La même question se pose pour le MMM, qui fêtera ses 57 ans d'existence le 12 septembre 2026. Quelle est votre opinion à ce sujet?**

Le MMM a évidemment beaucoup de soucis à se faire. Institutionnellement, en tant que *junior partner* au sein d'un gouvernement de 60-0, avec un nombre limité de députés, sa marge de manœuvre est très étroite, surtout que certains de ses ministres n'abandonneront pas leur fauteuil ministériel douillet pour que le parti, menacé aujourd'hui par l'opposition extraparlamentaire même dans ses bastions, puisse refaire sa popularité dans l'opposition face à un gouvernement devenu extrêmement impopulaire.

En outre, la question de la succession de Paul Bérenger se posera un jour ou l'autre. Parmi les candidats potentiels au leadership, Joanna Bérenger émerge du lot, mais de par son patronyme, elle aura à faire face à une campagne malsaine autour d'un supposé «deal papa-tifi». Bien qu'elle possède en fait toutes les qualités pour prendre le leadership du parti et enclencher son renouveau, elle a intérêt à s'y préparer dès maintenant pour faire face aux mauvaises langues.



Anil Madan

Is the US sending mixed signals — or is the Western Alliance divided against itself?

In February 2025, US Secretary of Defense (or of War, if you prefer) spoke at a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in Brussels, Belgium. In what Europeans viewed as an abdication of America's voluntary undertaking to be the anchor guaranteeing Europe's security, Hegseth declared: "Europe must provide the overwhelming share of future lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukraine." Calling on members of the group to meet the moment, he explained that it means that "European countries must donate more ammunition and equipment, expand their defense industrial base, and importantly, level with their citizens about the threat facing Europe."

Hegseth also said that the US would not commit troops to protect Ukraine after a peace deal with Russia.

Whereas Hegseth cast his call for Europe to do more for its own defense as a joint undertaking his words suggested that America has other plans: "Our transatlantic alliance has endured for decades, and we fully expect that it will be sustained for generations to come. But... it will require our European allies to step into the arena and take ownership of conventional security on the continent. The United States remains committed to the NATO alliance and to the defense partnership with Europe — full stop — but the United States will no longer tolerate an imbalanced relationship... which encourages dependency; rather our relationship will prioritize empowering Europe to own responsibility for its own security."

Until now, NATO has been seen as key alliance for keeping Russia at bay as it held the Soviet Union in check.

Left unsaid was whether Hegseth's reference to "conventional security" means that the US nuclear umbrella continues to protect Europe. Europeans, ever fearful of Russian aggression, did not need to be reminded that Russia is the only realistic nuclear threat to Europe. True, both France and Britain are, at least nominally, nuclear capable countries, but no one is under any illusion that they have delivery and missile systems to match Russia's capabilities.

Hegseth tried to reassure his audience: "NATO is a great alliance, the most successful defense alliance in history," he said. "But to endure for the future, partners must do far more for Europe's defense. We must make NATO great again. It begins with defense spending. It must also include reviving the trans-Atlantic defense industrial base, rapidly fielding emerging technologies, prioritizing readiness and lethality and establishing real deterrence."

But it became clear that the US no longer views European security as its primary focus as Hegseth added that "stark strategic realities" will compel the US to focus more on

other areas of the world.

The threat from within

A few days later, at the 2025 Munich Security Conference, US Vice President J.D. Vance addressed the gathering. Asserting that the Trump administration remains very concerned with European security, he expressed his belief that "we can come to a reasonable settlement between Russia and Ukraine." But he went on to say: "We also believe that it's important in the coming years for Europe to step up in a big way to provide for its own defense," and "the threat that I worry the most about vis-à-vis Europe is not Russia, it's not China, it's not any other external actor. And what I worry about is the threat from within, the retreat of Europe from some of its most fundamental values — values shared with the United States of America." That was a year ago. No reasonable settlement seems to be in sight.

As Vance sees it, European leaders are guilty of failing to halt illegal migration, running in fear from the true beliefs of their citizens, suppressing free speech, and unjustifiably cancelling elections — as seen recently in Romania.

As discordant as that note was, the overriding significance was that Vance made it clear that Ukraine is Europe's problem and the US is not serious about viewing Russian aggression as a common problem facing Europe and America. Certainly, the Europeans read it that way. And so did the Canadians.

Canada's Prime Minister Carney received a standing ovation at Davos this year when he reframed the relationship of countries he referred to as the "middle powers" to the elephants in the room. He said:

"We knew the story of the international rules-based order was partially false that the strongest would exempt themselves when convenient, that trade rules were enforced asymmetrically. And we knew that international law applied with varying rigour depending on the identity of the accused or the victim.

"This fiction was useful, and American hegemony, in particular, helped provide public goods, open sea lanes, a stable financial system, collective security and support for frameworks for resolving disputes."

So, the middle powers went along and largely avoided calling out the gaps between rhetoric and reality.

But Carney declared: "This bargain no longer works. Let me be direct. We are in the midst of a rupture, not a transition."

In an essay, *'How to Avert the Tragedy of*



6 This year, the Trump administration published the National Security Strategy. The assessment of Europe as an orphan gone astray is stark. The administration lamented the economic decline of Europe, and the document went on to state: "But this economic decline is eclipsed by the real and more stark prospect of civilizational erasure..." Pic - Vision Think-tank

Great-Power Politics' in Foreign Affairs, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz wrote:

"The United States' claim to global leadership is being challenged, perhaps even squandered. And the international order that was based on rights and rules, imperfect as it was even in its best days, no longer exists."

The prescription, Merz wrote, is that "Europe must also become a global political player with its own security policy. In Article 42.7 of the Treaty on European Union, members commit to assisting each other in the event of an armed attack. We must now spell out how we could organize this at the EU level, not as a substitute for NATO but as a self-sustaining, strong pillar of the alliance." The message is clear. Article 42.7 echoes Article 5 of the NATO charter.

Europe and civilizational erasure

This year, the Trump administration published the National Security Strategy. The assessment of Europe as an orphan gone astray is stark. The administration lamented the economic decline of Europe, and the document went on to state: "But this economic decline is eclipsed by the real and more stark prospect of civilizational erasure. The larger issues facing Europe include activities of the European Union and other transnational bodies that undermine political liberty and sovereignty, migration policies that are transforming the continent and creating strife, censorship of free speech and suppression of political opposition, cratering birthrates, and loss of national identities and self-confidence."

Here were echoes of J.D. Vance's Munich speech last year.

Finland's President, Alexander Stubb, in an interview with David Ignatius of *The Washington Post* expressed concern about whether the Trump administration has the bandwidth to focus on Ukraine which is his country's primary concern: "We have the Board of Peace, we have Ukraine, we have Gaza, we have Iran, we have Venezuela, we have Greenland. And I just hope that this doesn't take too much oxygen away from Ukraine."

Stubb has no illusions about Russia and wants to have an Arctic strategy within NATO to deter Putin. Even a peace agreement for Ukraine can be good, bad, or a compromise. "But that will then create a new scenario as well. What do you do with one million Russian soldiers? Well, a lot of them will go to the Finnish border."

Against this backdrop, President Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner conduct talks on an end to Russia's war on Ukraine, peace in Gaza and development of the strip, and a deal to terminate Iran's nuclear enrichment and possibly its missile production as well.

At the Munich Security Conference, Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke in what some press accounts have described as more conciliatory language than Vance and Hegseth used a year ago. But was it just a distinction without a difference? Rubio echoed concerns about civilizational erasure: "We want to support our allies in preserving the freedom and security of Europe, while restoring Europe's civilizational self-confidence and Western identity."

And despite saying that the US wishes to be Europe's partner, his message was clear that America's aim is to let Europe fend for itself. "We want to do it together with you, with a Europe that is proud of its heritage and of its history; with a Europe that has the spirit of creation of liberty that sent ships out into uncharted seas and birthed our civilization; with a Europe that has the means to defend itself and the will to survive."

Europeans continue to be rankled. Kaja Kallas, the European High Representative and Vice President of the European Union said simply: "Contrary to what some may say, woke, decadent Europe is not facing civilizational erasure."

From ideology to transactions

President Trump claims to have reached a deal with India to reduce tariffs and says that India has agreed not to buy additional Russian oil. This is a mixed message about indirect sanctions on Russian. Meanwhile, India has made trade deals with Canada and Europe. President Zelensky of Ukraine complains that it is unfair of President Donald Trump to publicly call on Ukraine to make concessions to Russia in peace talks as a second day of negotiations ended without a breakthrough.

Zelensky also confirmed that Kirill Dmitriev, who heads Russia's sovereign wealth fund is proposing a deal worth roughly \$12 trillion framework for large-scale economic cooperation between the US and Moscow. Is this real? Well, Russia's nominal GDP is projected to be about \$2.5 trillion in 2025.

Cheerz...
Bwana



Vijay Makhan

Leverage Over Law: Doha and the Erosion of Trade Multilateralism

When tariffs are weaponised and rules reduced to convenience, multilateralism does not merely weaken — it yields to leverage, and leverage rarely favours the smallest

The World Trade Organisation was conceived as the institutional anchor of universal trade. Its objective was straightforward: regulate global commerce through enforceable multilateral rules and reduce reliance on proliferating bilateral arrangements. Universality was meant to temper asymmetry. Predictability was meant to replace leverage.

Yet the evolution has been quite the reverse. As multilateral negotiations stalled, bilateralism multiplied. Power, not predictability, increasingly shapes outcomes.

The Doha Development Round, launched in 2001 and intended to conclude within three years, was presented as the “development round.” Its ambition was to rebalance the system in favour of equity and meaningful market access. A quarter of a century later, it has receded into diplomatic obscurity. Development was promised, paralysis prevailed.

The warning signs were visible earlier.

The failure of the Seattle and Cancún Meetings

As a Deputy Secretary General of the OAU, then Commissioner of the African Union during the transition period, I led the OAU/AU delegations to the Seattle Ministerial Conference in 1999 and to Cancún in 2003. At Seattle, procedural imbalance was impossible to ignore. Many African delegations were effectively excluded from decisive consultations while a limited group shaped the draft declaration through what became known as the “Green Room” process. Decisions affecting the many were being negotiated by the few.

It was largely at the insistence of the African constituency that the final declaration was not endorsed. Caribbean and Asian partners aligned with that position. The stand was not one of obstruction; it was a reminder that multilateralism cannot be selective in its process and still claim legitimacy in its outcome.

Cancún exposed deeper structural tensions. Agricultural subsidies continued to distort global markets, rendering meaningful market access for African producers elusive.

While developing countries were urged to liberalise, subsidised exports from advanced economies undercut competitive producers across Africa. The imbalance was measurable in both lost opportunities and constrained growth.

Simultaneously, the so-called ‘Singapore Issues’ — investment, competition policy, transparency in government procurement, and trade facilitation — were advanced despite persistent reservations among developing members which already were mired in the complexity of what was on the agenda since the beginning of the negotiations. The African Union, the ACP Group and Least Developed Countries joined forces under what became known as the G90. That coalition emerged from necessity. Cancún faltered because the asymmetry of priorities proved unsustainable.

Those experiences underscored two enduring truths: when developing states coordinate effectively, they can influence negotiating dynamics; when cohesion weakens, marginalisation resumes.

Coordination

The issue of coordination extended beyond individual ministerials. After the Singapore inaugural meeting in December 1996, I sought to secure at least observer status for the OAU — and later the AU — within the WTO framework to facilitate coherence and structured articulation of common African positions. That effort met resistance. Limited and selective access has since been granted on an *ad hoc* basis, but institutionalised participation remains constrained. Without structured coordination, leverage diminishes.

The failure of Doha must therefore be seen not merely as institutional paralysis, but as the cumulative effect of imbalance and uneven strategic alignment. Multilateralism does not automatically deliver equity; it provides the arena in which equity can be pursued — if political will and cohesion are sustained.

For Small Island Developing States — and for Mauritius

in particular — this is not abstract. Mauritius has long depended on predictable market access, enforceable commitments, and a stable trading architecture. Its economic model — services, export diversification, integration into global value chains — rests on legal certainty rather than scale.

When dispute-settlement mechanisms weaken, deterrence weakens. When development negotiations stall, structural disadvantages persist. When bilateral deals proliferate, asymmetry re-enters through differentiated leverage.

Trade without trust becomes transactional.

The global economy is entering a period of strategic fragmentation. Industrial policy is reasserted. Supply chains are reshaped by geopolitical alignment. Environmental and technological standards increasingly intersect with competitive positioning. Without an effective multilateral framework, the boundary between legitimate regulation and disguised protectionism blurs.

“The failure of Doha must be seen not merely as institutional paralysis, but as the cumulative effect of imbalance and uneven strategic alignment. Multilateralism does not automatically deliver equity; it provides the arena in which equity can be pursued — if political will and cohesion are sustained. For Small Island Developing States — and for Mauritius in particular — this is not abstract. Mauritius has long depended on predictable market access, enforceable commitments, and a stable trading architecture. Its economic model — services, export diversification, integration into global value chains — rests on legal certainty rather than scale...”

For small economies, that ambiguity carries disproportionate risk.

Bilateral agreements offer flexibility, and Mauritius has shown agility in pursuing them. But bilateralism cannot substitute for universality. It multiplies complexity, increases compliance burdens, and entrenches disparities. A functioning multilateral system, however imperfect, offers neutrality — a space where even smaller actors can invoke rules rather than depend on influence.

Fragmentation weakens leverage. Divergence dilutes bargaining power. Developing states that negotiate separately secure separate — and often inferior — outcomes. Concerted positions, consistently articulated, remain the only viable counterweight to structural asymmetry.

The Doha Round’s quiet disappearance is more than procedural drift. It signals erosion of confidence in collective rule-making. As confidence erodes, unilateral measures gain legitimacy. Retaliation replaces adjudication. Trade policy becomes an extension of strategic rivalry.

The WTO was meant to universalise trade governance. If it recedes into managed fragmentation, the balance of advantage shifts accordingly.

And in such a landscape, it is rarely the smallest who determine the terms.

When tariffs are weaponised and rules reduced to convenience, multilateralism does not merely weaken — it yields to leverage, and leverage rarely favours the smallest.

18 Feb 2026



Activists of NGO's demonstrate the Doha Round before the closing ceremony of the 7th WTO ministerial meeting in Geneva Pic - Reuters



David Snoxell
British High
Commissioner to
Mauritius, 2000-04 &
Coordinator of the
Chagos Islands APPG

Has the UK-Mauritius Chagos Treaty stalled?

An overall settlement of the long-running Chagos dispute is essential for the integrity of UK foreign policy and its respect for human rights and the rule of law

The Treaty was signed 9 months ago by both prime ministers on 22 May last year. Unlike Mauritius the UK government has been obliged to pass a bill through Parliament before it ratifies the treaty. The Diego Garcia and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill has cleared all stages in both Houses except that after Parliament returns from its recess on 23 February the Lords will consider amendments from the Commons. This process is dubbed 'ping pong' and could result in a further round if the Lords and Commons cannot agree. Once this has concluded the Bill will receive Royal Assent and become law. A date for ratification and implementation will then be agreed with Mauritius.

intention of continuing the 11 rounds of negotiations begun by the previous government. On 3 October 2024 a joint agreement was announced by the UK and Mauritian governments, just 5 weeks before the US and Mauritian elections. There was talk of getting the treaty signed before President Biden left office on 20 January 2025, but it was felt that President Trump and Prime Minister Ramgoolam should be able to review the draft treaty beforehand. This took several weeks with the result that further changes were agreed though the details have not been made public.

This prolonged delay enabled those opposed to the negotiations and the treaty (politicians, media outlets, academic and legal commentators, British Chagossians) to

rial statements. Amendments proposed in the Lords were considered by the Commons on 20 January 2026 and others from the Commons went back to the Lords on 26 January which should be considered shortly.

An overall settlement of the long-running Chagos dispute is essential for the integrity of UK foreign policy and its respect for human rights and the rule of law. This issue has dogged Britain's foreign policy and undermined our reputation and standing on the international stage for 60 years. Since 1945 the UK has been a leading exponent of international law. Compliance with UN General Assembly resolutions and rulings by the ICJ and other courts and tribunals on Chagos will restore the UK's reputation as a law-abiding nation that respects the rules-based international order.



“Those who oppose the settlement conveniently ignore five facts: first, a recent House of Lords survey has shown that the majority of Chagossians who live in Mauritius and Seychelles support the treaty; second, it is the only way resettlement can take place; third, the UK made a legally binding commitment in 1965 to return Chagos to Mauritius; fourth, the treaty is supported by the UN, Commonwealth, EU and Five Eyes Alliance; and fifth, Mauritius is not in hock with China — its closest allies are the West and India...” Pic - Z News

There have been frequent delays since 3 November 2022 when the two governments announced that “The UK and Mauritius have agreed to engage in constructive negotiations with a view to arriving at an agreement by early next year”. This was ambitious timing and took 2 years 6 months. It had been expected that there would be an agreement (treaty) in place before the three general elections in the UK (4 July 2024), the US (5 Nov 2024) and Mauritius (10 Nov 2024). Constitutional, political and practical delays on all sides slowed down the negotiations. The Bill which was started in the Commons on 15 July 2025 has already taken 8 months. It has to be said that as with all legislation nowadays, party politics are the intended cause of much of the delay in Parliament.

Within 19 days of taking office Sir Keir Starmer met PM Jugnauth in the Foreign Office on 23 July 2024 to affirm his

have the time to campaign and coordinate their opposition to the Bill and Treaty.

There has been intense scrutiny of the Bill in Parliament since it was introduced last July. In June 2025 a report of the International Agreements Committee (IAC) of the House of Lords was adopted with all-party unanimity and concluded the Treaty should be ratified. A subsequent vote in the Lords on 30 June 2025 endorsed that conclusion and rejected an Opposition motion to the contrary, paving the way for ratification.

The first reading of the Bill in the Commons was on 15 July 2025 and its third reading on 20 October. The Bill then went to the Lords where the first reading was 21 October and third reading on 7 January. There have been six major debates in both Houses, some taking up to 6 hours, as well as hundreds of Parliamentary Questions, several Urgent Questions, numerous interventions in debates and ministe-

“Many commentators vehemently criticise the Treaty as “ceding” or “surrendering” British Sovereignty, claiming that the ICJ Advisory Opinion can be ignored as non-binding and that the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea does not have jurisdiction over sovereignty disputes. In so doing they ignore the elephant in the room, namely that the customary international law of decolonisation has now crystallised, and that by ignoring territorial integrity and the right to self-determination when the Chagos Archipelago was detached in 1965, Britain forfeited its claim to sovereignty over the Islands...”

Those who oppose the settlement conveniently ignore five facts: first, a recent House of Lords survey has shown that the majority of Chagossians who live in Mauritius and Seychelles support the treaty; second, it is the only way resettlement can take place; third, the UK made a legally binding commitment in 1965 to return Chagos to Mauritius; fourth, the treaty is supported by the UN, Commonwealth, EU and Five Eyes Alliance; and fifth, Mauritius is not in hock with China — its closest allies are the West and India.

Following criticism by President Trump of the Treaty last month he and his Administration twice reconfirmed their support for it. In a third U-turn on 18 February the President contradicted the Administration. Talks between the US and Mauritius in Port Louis next week may find a way forward that they and the UK can accept.

Many commentators vehemently criticise the Treaty as “ceding” or “surrendering” British Sovereignty, claiming that the ICJ Advisory Opinion can be ignored as non-binding and that the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea does not have jurisdiction over sovereignty disputes. In so doing they ignore the elephant in the room, namely that the customary international law of decolonisation has now crystallised, and that by ignoring territorial integrity and the right to self-determination when the Chagos Archipelago was detached in 1965, Britain forfeited its claim to sovereignty over the Islands. Like it or not Chagos became part of independent Mauritius in 1968. The Treaty is Britain's acknowledgement of this reality, albeit 60 years later.

US military buildup near Iran sparks fears of strike



Iran is preparing missiles for possible retaliatory strikes on U.S. bases. Pic - The New York Times

Tensions between the United States and Iran have surged sharply this week amid a rapid and unprecedented US military buildup in the Middle East — stirring fears in governments and markets that a military strike on Iran could occur as early as this weekend.

What's happening on the US side

- US forces in the region have grown significantly. Multiple carrier strike groups — including the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and USS *Gerald R. Ford* — are now in the broader Middle East, supported by destroyers, fighter jets, drones, refueling tankers and reconnaissance aircraft. These assets place US air and naval power within striking reach of Iranian military and nuclear targets.

- According to reports, the current force posture would allow for air or precision strikes “as soon as this weekend” if a decision is ordered by President Donald Trump — though the final call has *not yet* been made.

- US officials and military planners have reportedly reviewed a range of options — including plans to target Iran’s nuclear and missile infrastructure and even high-level military and political leadership — intended to “maximize damage.”

- Official US statements maintain that diplomacy remains the preferred first option, and the White House has emphasized ongoing nuclear talks and pressure for a negotiated deal.

Despite the buildup, the US and Iran have been engaged in indirect negotiations in Geneva over Tehran’s nuclear program. White House press officials say some limited progress was made, but large gaps remain between the two sides’ demands.

US officials have warned Iran it would be “wise” to strike a deal.

Iranian officials, meanwhile, say Tehran is preparing a framework for future talks and insist they *do not want war* — though they have raised demands in response to US pressure.

Iran has not been passive:

- Military drills in the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint for global oil shipments — are underway, demonstrating Iran’s ability to threaten shipping routes if conflict escalates.

- Tehran’s leadership publicly states that while Iran does not seek war, it will defend its sovereignty and resist external pressure — suggesting a confrontation could rapidly widen if triggered.

International reactions and broader concerns

- Russia has publicly urged restraint on all sides and called for diplomatic solutions amid what it described as an “unprecedented escalation” in tensions around Iran. Moscow also repeated long-standing strategic ties with Tehran, even as it pushes for negotiation over confrontation.

- Other global observers have criticized the military buildup for risking a regional conflagration, warning that any strike on Iran could spark broader instability across the Middle East, especially if major shipping routes like the Strait of Hormuz are affected.

The current situation is highly fluid. While US and Iranian leaders maintain channels for talks, no definitive diplomatic breakthrough has been achieved and the window for escalation or de-escalation may close within days if negotiations stall or deteriorate completely.

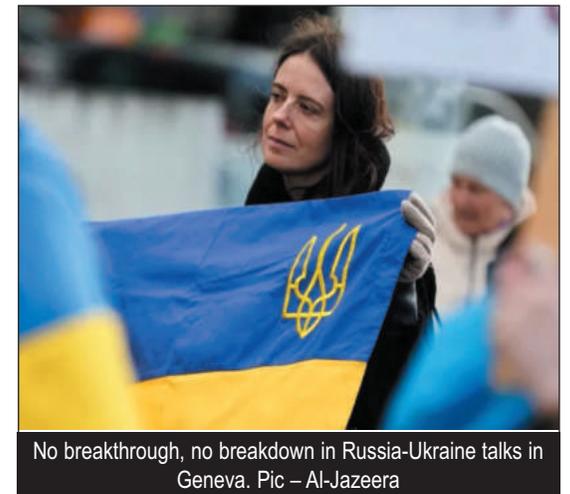
International governments and financial markets are watching closely, with some countries already issuing travel advisories or urging their citizens to leave Iran as a precaution.

Across the Globe

No breakthrough in Russia-Ukraine talks

Two days of Russia-Ukraine negotiations failed to produce major progress in ending the nearly four-year war, despite US President Donald Trump’s growing impatience.

Politico described the talks as “political theatre,” with both Kyiv and Moscow seeking to place blame on the other. The Kremlin reportedly offered Trump \$12 trillion in ceasefire deals, but *The Economist* called this “plainly hyperbole,” noting Russia’s actual resources are a fraction of that figure.



No breakthrough, no breakdown in Russia-Ukraine talks in Geneva. Pic – Al-Jazeera

US, Iran split on talks progress

The US and Iran gave conflicting accounts of nuclear talks. Tehran called negotiations “more constructive,” while US Vice President JD Vance said there was no breakthrough, and Iran ignored core US demands, such as ending uranium enrichment.

Iran’s stockpile is nearly sufficient for a nuclear weapon. Talks unfold amid tension: two US carrier groups are in the Gulf, Iran conducted live-fire exercises, and briefly closed the Strait of Hormuz. Oil prices ticked higher on investor caution.

Peru removes another president

Peruvian lawmakers ousted interim president José Jerí over undeclared meetings with Chinese businesspeople. Jerí was Peru’s eighth president in less than a decade, highlighting the country’s political instability ahead of general elections in two months.

The case underscores US-China competition in Latin America. Washington warned that Peru is ceding sovereignty by giving Beijing control of a deep-water Pacific port built by a Chinese company.

India, France deepen ties



France and India deepen strategic ties on first day of Macron’s official visit. Pic – Dunya News

India and France pledged to strengthen economic, defence, and tech ties as leaders projected stability amid global uncertainty. French President Emmanuel Macron is seeking to finalize India’s purchase of 114 French fighter jets during his visit to India this week.

The visit coincides with Europe’s effort to boost its defence industry and reduce reliance on the US, while India aims to diversify away from Russia. Macron is also attending India’s AI summit, currently being held, promoting shared regulatory frameworks as an alternative to US- and China-led models. A tech expert noted that Washington and Beijing “appear increasingly detached” from AI guardrail discussions, signalling opportunities for middle powers.

Childless Chinese face New Year nagging

Thousands of childless Chinese adults returning home for Lunar New Year face parental pressure to marry and have children. While age-old, this urgency has intensified amid China’s demographic crisis and falling birth rate.

“Every year, I hear of at least one blind date engineered by parents that collapses almost immediately,” a *Financial Times* correspondent wrote. Incentives to encourage marriages and births have not reversed trends, and Beijing may soon adopt more coercive measures, *The Washington Post* reported

Ousted South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol gets life sentence over martial law crisis

Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was found guilty of leading an insurrection and sentenced to life in prison over his 2024 martial law declaration that shocked the nation and triggered the country's most severe political crisis in decades.

The verdict marks the conclusion of one of the most consequential judicial proceedings involving a former South Korean president, with the martial law episode garnering attention as a test of the country's democratic health. The incident dredged up memories of former leader Chun Doo-Hwan, who was sentenced to death over an attempted coup in the late 1970s. Chun was ultimately pardoned.

The Seoul Central District Court handed down the guilty sentence Thursday after prosecutors sought the death penalty on grounds that Yoon posed a grave threat to the country's constitutional order, reports Bloomberg.

"Yoon's imposition of emergency martial law damaged the constitutional order by mobilizing military forces in an attempt to blockade the National Assembly," the



Ex-South Korean president Yoon found guilty of insurrection over martial law order. Pic – NBC News

court said while convicting Yoon of leading an insurrection.

Yoon arrived at the near-packed courtroom wearing a dark blue jacket and a shirt and sat impassively, and the verdict was delivered about an hour later.

Yoon, 65, was indicted last year on charges of insurrection after suspending civilian rule in early December. The short-lived decree led to his impeachment and the first arrest and indictment of a sitting South Korean president.

The former leader can appeal the ruling. Any appeal would proceed to a

higher court and could take months to resolve.

Yoon has denied any wrongdoing, saying his declaration was a desperate bid to counter what he claimed were North Korea sympathizers trying to paralyze his administration. At the final hearing in January, he said public opposition to his impeachment made him feel the "emergency alarm" he sounded had been effective.

A former top prosecutor, Yoon rose to the presidency promising to revive a Covid-hit economy and take a more hawkish stance on North Korea and China. But his political gamble upended his administration, ending his tenure and paving the way for elections. The more progressive President Lee Jae Myung swept to power in June.

"I would say that perhaps 70% or more of the public agrees that the declaration of martial law was wrong," Park Won-ho, a political science professor at Seoul

National University said by phone, before the verdict.

"Holding him accountable in some form is therefore an important step, and that may be what we are witnessing today. My sense is that once the verdict is delivered, there may be a degree of closure, and the situation could begin to settle," Park added.

The verdict may give Lee more room to focus on his policy agenda while the main opposition People Power Party grapples with the latest fallout from the martial law fiasco. Lee still needs bipartisan support as he tries to heal a divided nation and protect the export-reliant economy from President Donald Trump's tariff pressure.

"In a way, this feels like the closing of a chapter — a chapter that began on Dec. 3, 2024, when martial law was declared. Since then, we've gone through a very complicated process with many twists and turns, but now the Korean judicial system is in a position to provide an answer," Park added.

Across the Globe



Ten Years of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb: Evolution and Prospects. Pic – Jamestown Foundation

Al-Qaeda threat grows again

The threat from Al-Qaeda is increasing, Pakistan and the UN warned. A recent suicide bombing in Islamabad killed 31, with Pakistan's president saying the Taliban government in Afghanistan has created conditions "similar to or worse than" those before Sept. 11, 2001.

The Taliban previously sheltered Al-Qaeda until the US invasion in 2001, returning after the US withdrew in 2021. A UN monitoring group said Al-Qaeda and affiliates now have 25,000 recruits -- 50 times the 2001 number -- spread across the Middle East and Africa.

Southeast Asia courts digital nomads

Southeast Asian nations are courting digital nomads, who make up the highest concentration of the estimated 40 million remote workers worldwide. This workforce contributes around \$787 million annually but often works on tourist visas forbidding income, The Diplomat reported.

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam have launched remote-working visas, legalizing previously tolerated arrangements. Nomads provide

educated, young professionals to host economies, while Western workers seek affordable living. However, their influx has pushed up housing costs, as landlords convert family homes into vacation rentals.

Trump to decide on Taiwan arms sale

US President Donald Trump suggested Monday that he is discussing future Taiwan weapons sales with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, signaling a potential reversal of decades long US policy. Previous administrations, including Trump's own first term, did not consult Beijing before arms sales, leaving analysts seeking clarity on his ambiguous statement.

From Beijing's perspective, Taiwan trends are moving positively. While US lawmakers warn Taipei that the threat from China "has never been greater," some experts believe Xi is satisfied with mere momentum toward Taiwan "reunification." Meanwhile, the US is reinforcing its regional presence, deploying advanced missile systems in the Philippines to deter Chinese actions in the South China Sea.

EU finance leaders seek stronger euro

EU finance chiefs are pushing for a larger global role for the euro. The ECB is offering liquidity to other central banks, reinforcing euro diplomacy amid waning trust in the US financial system.

Proposals aim to boost the euro as an international reserve currency, though concerns remain that a stronger euro could hurt exports. Growing European unity amid US isolationism is also encouraging interest in joining the eurozone: Sweden, one of six EU members yet to adopt the currency, has seen rising public support. A move would enhance the euro's credibility, though the finance minister said it is unlikely in the near term.

Europe looks to catch up on AI

Two major moves highlight Europe's push in the AI race. French startup Mistral AI made its first acquisition, buying a Parisian AI infrastructure company to become a one-stop AI provider. Meanwhile, British AI researcher David Silver, formerly of Google DeepMind, aims to raise \$1 billion for a "superhuman intelligence" venture -- the largest-ever European seed round.

Despite excitement, Europe lags far behind Silicon Valley. Mistral's \$14 billion valuation represents just 2% of OpenAI's estimated worth.



German population set to shrink 5% by 2050. Pic - FT

Germany's population to shrink

Germany's population is projected to fall 5% by 2050, straining a pension system that already consumes a quarter of the budget.

Similar trends exist in Japan and China. While fewer workers may support more retirees, higher retirement ages and AI-driven productivity could mitigate economic impact, Financial Times notes.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

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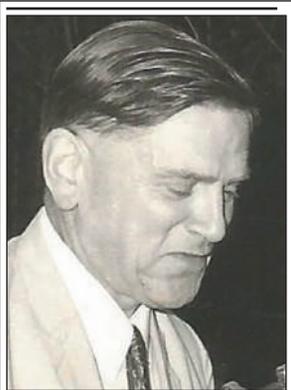
From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 327

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 16 December, 1960

• The surest test of a man's critical power is his judgment of contemporaries. — Jean de la Bruyere



Peter Ibbotson

Dr Millien's Party

The Meade Report calls for decisions to be made; and some of the decisions will be unpopular: of that there will be no doubt. No one wants to make unpopular decisions just for the fun of it, but the unpopular decisions will be forced upon the Government. At the same time, the

very fact of these unpopular decisions will be exploited to the full by the Government's opponents, who will not hesitate to put mere party advantage above the country's well-being and welfare.

So, when the Meade Report comes to be discussed and put into operation, let no one be deceived by what will undoubtedly be the facile propaganda of the Destroyers who comprise the opposition to the orderly and planned development of Mauritius. These Destroyers will stop at nothing in order to reap meretricious political advantage regardless of the country's real needs. So be warned; and beware the honeyed tongues of the glib demagogues of Vallonville and St George's Streets. Like the Sirens of old, these honeyed tongues are but traps to lure the unwary to destruction.

The latest to join the ranks of the opposition is the erstwhile Labour MLC, Dr Millien. In *Le Mauricien* he has published a veritable hotchpotch, a veritable farrago, of pseudo-political discourse. And what does it all amount to? To nothing more than dissatisfaction with the Labour Party because it isn't socialist enough; dissatisfaction also with the Parti Mauricien because it is too capitalist and because, also, Mr Koenig hasn't in the past wished to talk to Dr Millien; and with the Independent Forward Bloc because it's a one-man organisation lacking well-defined principles and relying on its leader's popularity.

So, since none of these three satisfies Dr Millien, he presumably intends to find and lead yet another political party. The principles and policies of this new party are hinted at in *Le Mauricien* on November 12. It is to be a socialist party, but Dr Millien nowhere tells us what his definition of Socialism is. He has a laissez faire attitude towards the problem of over-population: *disons que le taux de notre natalité baissera, sans avoir recours à des artifices plus ou moins heureux*. How will the fall in births come about? Apparently because of some psychological and physiological law (no details given) which history is said to show to be true.

The only way in which populations have in the past been affected by natural laws has been by periodic famines and plagues which have in many areas of the world wiped out thousands of people and prevented in a very crude way the overpopulation of those areas. Is this the physiological law to which Dr Millien refers? Is he using the grandiloquent *explication psychologique et physiologique* as a euphemism for *explication naturelle*, that is, for famine and plague?

Elsewhere Dr Millien has condemned the Government for advocating family planning instead of promoting planned emigration; whatever one might think of the former (and personally I think that in family planning lies the key to a large part of the answer to the population problem), there

is no doubt that emigration cannot, and would not ever, of itself provide the answer to overpopulation in Mauritius.

Nor does Dr Millien like the idea of development of secondary industries. Instead, he wants to see more and more land turned over to growing sugar, tea and tobacco. Not for Dr Millien the advice *que nous devons produire ceci ou cela*; his question is *qui achètera ceci ou cela au prix rémunérateur?*

Until I read Dr Millien's article, I never met or heard of anyone who questioned the need for diversification of the Mauritian economy, who questioned the need for the establishment of secondary industries in order to reduce Mauritius' reliance for prosperity on monocrop agriculture. Now, it appears, everyone is out of step except Dr Millien; he alone has been given the tablets of stone on which has been written the economic destiny of the future Mauritius. No secondary industries; no new developments; instead, back to sugar, and sugar, and even yet more sugar; with some tea and tobacco thrown in for good measure.

If this is what is written on the tablets which Dr Millien has received (on Pieter Both mountain?), then all I can say is that his mouse is indeed a ridiculous result of mountainous labour. Nothing more original than extension of tea, tobacco and sugar production! I can't see much enthusiasm for a political party based on such a programme. And perhaps Dr Millien can answer the question *qui achètera ce sucre, ce thé ou ce tabac au prix rémunérateur?*

The amount of sugar which Mauritius can sell is regulated by the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement; no one is going to grow sugar which he can't sell; so, the Agreement in effect regulates the amount of sugar which Mauritius can grow. Tobacco? The Board already has stocks in hand which are unsold, presumably because it can't find a buyer. What would the Board do with even more tobacco? Encourage people to smoke more, at the risk of contracting lung cancer? Tea? This is an estate crop; extension of tea-producing wouldn't benefit the people in the way that diversification of the agricultural economy would. But where to sell it? Can Mauritian tea be able to compete with teas grown in Ceylon or Assam or even East Africa?

In advocating extension of an existing monocultural economy, Dr Millien is alone in Mauritian political circles.

He is alone, too, in colonial political circles. Everywhere the emphasis is on development of the economies of this, that and the other colony. Colonies are indeed producing this and that; and who buys this and that? Those colonies such as Malta and Barbados and Hong-Kong and Seychelles which are promoting schemes of economic development and expansion have set up development boards part of whose activities is the promotion of export sales. They have business representatives abroad who advertise or sell their *ceci ou cela*; their development boards undertake direct sales of goods abroad; and so on.

No one sits back and waits for the world to come knocking at his door to buy *ceci ou cela*; they go out into the world and show the world what they have to offer; and they persuade the world to buy *ceci ou cela*. That is what happens, Dr Millien; and it is what will have to happen in Mauritius when the island starts developing its secondary industries and attracting new industrial development or new agricultural producers. And it provides the answer to the question, referring to the production of new crops or goods, *qui achètera ceci ou cela au prix rémunérateur*. In English; shortly and pithily, "Whoever can be persuaded that they're worth buying."

Concrete examples of development in the colonies? Here are a few of which I've not spoken before. St Kitts — A 32-acre site, part refuse dump, part playing-field and part racecourse, is to be cleared and levelled. Roads and a sea-wall will be built (it's below sea level) and water and electricity will be laid on. The area will then be used for three factories, with workers' flats and a school.

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Les Chagos au cœur d'un bras de fer entre Londres et Washington

☞ Suite de la page 5

Donald Trump, fidèle à sa doctrine transactionnelle, lie directement la possession territoriale à la puissance de frappe. Pour lui, céder la souveraineté des Chagos à Maurice revient à s'enchaîner à des contraintes légales inutiles. Dans ses messages, il a exhorté le Royaume-Uni à «rester fort face au wokisme» et à ne surtout pas «donner Diego Garcia».

Un coût financier et politique exorbitant

L'opposition britannique s'est engouffrée dans cette brèche. La secrétaire d'État aux Affaires étrangères de l'ombre, Priti Patel, et Nigel Farage ont appelé à l'abandon pur et simple du traité. Les critiques se cristallisent également sur le coût financier du deal pour louer une base dont le Royaume-Uni était jusqu'ici le «propriétaire souverain».

La députée conservatrice Alicia Kearns a accusé le gouvernement travailliste d'avoir «trompé» le public en affirmant que l'avenir de la base était menacé à court terme par les tribunaux internationaux. Selon elle, l'urgence invoquée pour justifier ce bail onéreux était factice.

Un test de survie pour Keir Starmer

La situation place le gouvernement travailliste dans une position intenable. Le projet de loi, qui devait passer devant la Chambre des Lords le 23 février 2026, semble désormais menacé de report, voire d'abandon. La ministre de la Justice, Alex Davies-Jones, maintient que l'accord est «essentiel pour la sécurité nationale», arguant qu'un vide juridique laisserait la porte ouverte à l'influence chinoise dans l'océan Indien.

Néanmoins, le secrétaire aux Affaires étrangères,



Trump appelle Starmer à conserver Diego Garcia : Washington anticipe une attaque militaire contre l'Iran. P - YouTube

David Lammy, a admis que sans le consentement total de l'allié américain, le traité pourrait ne jamais voir le jour. Le Royaume-Uni se retrouve ainsi pris en étau: d'un côté, la nécessité de se conformer aux arrêts de la Cour internationale de Justice pour restaurer sa crédibilité morale sur la scène mondiale; de l'autre, l'obligation de ne pas s'aliéner un président américain prêt à tout pour sécuriser ses pions militaires face à l'Iran.

Le sort des îles Chagos est devenu bien plus qu'une affaire de décolonisation; c'est le baromètre de la capacité de Londres à exister entre le droit international et la puissance brute de son allié transatlantique.

Le dilemme de la "relation spéciale"

L'imbricatio autour des Chagos illustre parfaitement le dilemme de la "relation spéciale" entre Londres et Washington. Voici les points clés à retenir:

L'Iran comme catalyseur de la rupture. Le refus de Starmer d'autoriser l'utilisation des bases britanniques (RAF Fairford et Diego Garcia) pour frapper l'Iran marque un tournant. En invoquant le droit international, le Royaume-Uni tente de se poser en gardien des règles

mondiales, ce qui entre en collision frontale avec la doctrine de Donald Trump. Pour le président américain, une base militaire n'a de valeur que si elle est utilisable sans restriction. Le revirement de Trump est une sanction directe contre cette autonomie stratégique britannique.

Le piège de la souveraineté. Le gouvernement travailliste est dans une position inconfortable. S'il abandonne l'accord avec Maurice pour plaire à Trump, il s'expose à des sanctions de la Cour internationale de Justice (CIJ)

et à une condamnation de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU. S'il maintient l'accord, il risque de fragiliser durablement son alliance militaire avec les États-Unis. C'est un véritable "test de stress" pour la diplomatie de Keir Starmer.

Le facteur "Chine" vs "Wokeism" Il est fascinant de voir comment chaque camp utilise une menace différente pour justifier sa position:

- **Londres** affirme que, sans accord, un vide juridique permettrait à la Chine de s'implanter via Maurice sur les îles périphériques.
- **Trump** qualifie l'accord de «Wokeism», suggérant que Londres sacrifie sa puissance militaire sur l'autel de la décolonisation et de la bien-pensance internationale.

L'avenir de Diego Garcia ne dépend plus uniquement d'un traité bilatéral, mais de l'issue du bras de fer sur le dossier iranien. Si le Royaume-Uni finit par céder aux pressions de Washington pour sauver l'accord des Chagos, il prouvera que la Realpolitik américaine prime sur le droit international.

L'Inde et Maurice: Une alliance stratégique pour une IA au service de l'humain

A lors que le *India AI Impact Summit 2026* s'achève aujourd'hui au Bharat Mandapam de New Delhi, l'événement a confirmé le statut de l'Inde comme leader incontesté d'une «troisième voie» technologique. Entre le modèle marchand américain et le modèle de contrôle chinois, l'Inde propose une IA souveraine, éthique et centrée sur le développement social.

Pour la République de Maurice, représentée au sommet par le Premier ministre Navin Ramgoolam, cette collaboration est bien plus qu'une simple entente diplomatique: c'est un levier de transformation nationale.

L'Inde: Le laboratoire mondial de l'IA Citoyenne

L'approche indienne, résumée par le slogan «AI for All», repose sur l'idée que la technologie doit d'abord servir les populations les plus vulnérables. Cette vision s'appuie sur des piliers solides que Maurice s'apprête à adopter:

L'Infrastructure Publique Numérique (DPI): À l'instar de l'India Stack, l'Inde aide Maurice à numériser ses services publics (e-judiciary, santé numérique) pour créer des bases de données structurées, carburant essentiel de l'IA.

La démocratisation linguistique (Projet Bhashini): L'Inde utilise l'IA pour briser les barrières linguistiques entre ses 22 langues officielles. Pour Maurice, cette expertise est cruciale pour adapter les outils numériques aux autres langues locales, garantissant une inclusion totale.

Le "Compute" Souverain : Avec la mission IndiaAI, New Delhi construit une puissance de calcul massive. En

s'alliant à l'Inde, Maurice accède à des ressources technologiques (GPU, serveurs) qu'un petit État insulaire ne pourrait développer seul.

Ce que Maurice peut gagner de ce sommet

La participation mauricienne au sommet de New Delhi n'est pas fortuite. Le Premier ministre a souligné que Maurice ne doit pas agir en silo face aux risques de fracture technologique. Voici les gains concrets identifiés:

1. Une Santé et une Agriculture de précision - Grâce au soutien technologique indien, Maurice prévoit d'implémenter des plateformes de diagnostic assistées par l'IA dans ses hôpitaux et de moderniser son agriculture. L'IA indienne, déjà testée dans des contextes climatiques similaires, permettra d'optimiser les rendements canniens et de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire face aux défis cycloniques.

2. Éducation et "upskilling" - L'un des enjeux majeurs est la formation. Le gouvernement indien s'est engagé à former 500 fonctionnaires mauriciens aux nouvelles technologies. L'intégration de tuteurs intelligents et de systèmes d'évaluation automatisés dans les écoles mauriciennes est également à l'étude pour personnaliser l'apprentissage.

3. Hub régional vers l'Afrique - L'Inde voit en Maurice une porte d'entrée stratégique vers le continent africain. En établissant une zone économique spécialisée dédiée à l'IA et au numérique à Maurice, les deux pays aspirent à devenir les exportateurs de solutions technologiques pour toute la région Afrique-SADC.

Le sommet d'Inde de 2026 marque la naissance d'un



Le Premier ministre et Veena Ramgoolam ont été accueillis par Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, ministre d'État du gouvernement indien, à l'AI Impact Summit. P - GIS

partenariat technologique renforcé. Pour Maurice, l'IA indienne offre une opportunité de saut qualitatif sans précédent.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite de l'article : Page 18

Sur les marchés financiers mondiaux, les décisions de l'agence de notation new-yorkaise Moody's sont suivies de près par les gouvernements européens et les institutions de la City. Une modification de sa «note» influence directement la crédibilité financière d'un État ou d'une entreprise. Mais pourquoi ces lettres et chiffres (Aaa, Aa2, Baa3...) sont-ils si cruciaux pour les institutions bancaires et les économies nationales?

Le baromètre de la confiance: La note souveraine

Pour un pays, la notation de Moody's est bien plus qu'une simple évaluation technique; c'est le reflet de sa crédibilité politique et économique.

1. Le coût de la dette

L'importance primordiale de la note réside dans le taux d'intérêt. Lorsqu'un État comme la France ou le Royaume-Uni souhaite financer ses infrastructures ou ses services publics, il emprunte sur les marchés en émettant des obligations. Plus la note Moody's est élevée (proche du Aaa), plus le risque de défaut est jugé faible. En conséquence, les investisseurs acceptent des taux d'intérêt bas.

À l'inverse, une dégradation (un *downgrade*) signale une fragilité des finances publiques ou une instabilité politique. Les marchés exigent alors une «prime de risque»: l'État doit payer plus cher pour emprunter. Pour un pays dont la dette dépasse 110 % du PIB, une hausse de seulement 0,5 % des taux peut représenter des milliards d'euros de dépenses supplémentaires, réduisant d'autant le budget alloué à l'éducation ou à la santé.

2. L'attractivité et le "Spread"

La note Moody's sert de point de référence pour comparer les pays entre eux. On parle souvent du *spread*, l'écart de taux avec l'Allemagne (référence de sécurité en Europe). Une mauvaise note élargit cet écart, signalant aux investisseurs internationaux que le pays devient une zone à risque, ce qui peut freiner les investissements directs étrangers (IDE).

L'importance des notations Moody's: Boussole des banques et des États



Pour un pays, perdre son rang chez Moody's est un aveu de faiblesse politique. Pour une banque, c'est une menace directe sur sa rentabilité et sa capacité à soutenir l'économie réelle. Pic sudquotidien.sn

Les banques: Des institutions sous haute surveillance

Si les États sont les premiers concernés, les banques sont les premières victimes — ou bénéficiaires — des décisions de Moody's.

1. Le lien ombilical avec l'État

Il existe une corrélation directe entre la note d'un pays et celle de ses banques nationales. Moody's considère souvent que la solidité d'une banque dépend de la capacité de l'État à la secourir en cas de crise systémique. Ainsi, une dégradation de la note souveraine entraîne quasi mécaniquement une baisse de la note des banques du pays. Ce fut le cas en décembre 2024, lorsque Moody's a abaissé la perspective de sept grandes banques françaises suite aux incertitudes budgétaires de Paris.

2. L'accès aux liquidités

Pour fonctionner, une banque doit elle-même emprunter de l'argent sur les marchés interbancaires. Une note dégradée par Moody's renchérit immédiatement ses coûts de financement. Pour préserver leurs

marges, les banques répercutent alors ces coûts sur leurs propres clients. Résultat: les taux des crédits immobiliers et des prêts aux entreprises augmentent, freinant ainsi la consommation et l'investissement.

3. Les seuils réglementaires

De nombreux fonds d'investissement, fonds de pension et compagnies d'assurance ont des règles internes strictes: ils n'ont le droit d'investir que dans des actifs dits de «*Investment Grade*» (catégorie investissement). Si la note de Moody's tombe en dessous d'un certain seuil (le passage en catégorie spéculative ou «*Junk Bond*»), ces fonds sont obligés de vendre massivement leurs titres, provoquant une chute brutale de la valeur de l'institution concernée.

Le secteur bancaire mauricien en 2026

Le cas de Maurice en ce mois de février 2026 illustre parfaitement cette interdépendance. Moody's a récemment confirmé la note souveraine de Maurice à Baa3, maintenant ainsi le pays dans la catégorie «*Investment Grade*», mais avec une

perspective négative en raison de l'étroitesse de l'espace budgétaire.

Cette décision a eu un écho immédiat sur les piliers financiers de l'île. Le 13 février 2026, Moody's a confirmé la note de dépôt de la Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB) à Baa3, tout en maintenant une perspective négative. L'agence souligne que si la MCB bénéficie d'une capitalisation solide et d'une diversification internationale, elle reste intrinsèquement liée à la santé économique de l'État mauricien.

De même, Absa Bank (Mauritius) voit sa note Ba1 confirmée avec une perspective négative, malgré le renforcement de sa position locale après l'acquisition des actifs de HSBC.

À l'inverse, la SBM Bank (Mauritius) parvient à maintenir une perspective stable (Ba1), portée par une résilience financière accrue.

Pour ces institutions, préserver ces notes est vital pour maintenir l'attractivité de Maurice en tant que hub financier régional face aux investisseurs étrangers.

Un rôle de «quasi-régulateur»

Au-delà de l'aspect financier, Moody's joue un rôle de régulateur de l'ombre. Ses rapports détaillés incluent des analyses sur la gouvernance, la démographie et, de plus en plus, les critères ESG (*Environnement, Social, Gouvernance*). En 2026, l'agence intègre même les risques géopolitiques, comme les tensions au Moyen-Orient ou la guerre en Ukraine, dans ses calculs.

Une note de Moody's est donc une boussole qui indique si un émetteur est un «havre de paix» ou une «zone de tempête». Pour un pays, perdre son rang chez Moody's est un aveu de faiblesse politique. Pour une banque, c'est une menace directe sur sa rentabilité et sa capacité à soutenir l'économie réelle.

A. Bartleby

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

An energetic and forward-moving week. Opportunities for travel, learning, or expansion may arise. Optimism increases, but avoid overcommitting. Financial growth is possible through careful planning. Social interactions bring inspiration and new ideas. Stay grounded while pursuing ambitions.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 19, 23, 30, 37

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

Responsibility and discipline guide your week. Long-term goals demand attention and structured planning. You may handle authority matters successfully.

Financial stability improves gradually. Personal life benefits from patience and maturity.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 10, 16, 21, 28, 35

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

Innovation and fresh ideas flow strongly. Collaborative efforts and teamwork produce results. Unexpected developments may shift plans, but adaptability helps. Social connections strengthen and bring support.

Maintain focus on priorities.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 18, 26, 31, 40

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

A sensitive and intuitive week. Creative and spiritual activities bring peace. Work may feel demanding, but persistence ensures steady progress. Avoid emotional exhaustion and focus on self-care. Positive news may arrive towards the end of the week.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 15, 22, 29, 36

Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

A week of renewed motivation and clarity. Professional matters may demand quick decisions, but your instinct will guide you well. Avoid impulsive spending and focus on long-term stability. Relationships improve through honest communication. Health remains steady if you maintain balance in routine.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 21, 28, 35

Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

Steady progress defines your week. Financial planning becomes important, and cautious choices bring

rewards. You may receive recognition for consistent effort. Family matters require patience. Emotional calm will help you navigate minor misunderstandings.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 16, 20, 27, 34

Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

Communication dominates your week. Expect news, messages, or discussions that shape future plans. Networking proves beneficial. Stay focused to avoid scattered energy. Social life becomes lively, but rest is equally necessary.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 18, 23, 30, 39

Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

A reflective and emotionally aware week. Financial or domestic matters may require attention. Trust your intuition when making personal decisions. Support from loved ones brings reassurance. Take care of your health and avoid overthinking.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 17, 22, 29, 36

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Confidence rises and leadership opportunities appear. You may take charge of an important situation.

Recognition is possible in work or social circles. Avoid ego clashes and practice diplomacy. Creativity brings

satisfaction and inner joy.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 13, 19, 26, 33

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

A productive week with strong analytical energy. Organizing tasks and refining plans will yield positive outcomes. Workload may increase, but efficiency helps you manage well. Health improves with discipline and rest.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 15, 24, 31, 38

Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Balance becomes the key theme. Relationships, partnerships, and collaborations take center stage. Diplomatic communication resolves conflicts. Financial caution is advised midweek. Creative pursuits bring emotional satisfaction.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 18, 25, 32, 40

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Transformation and focus define the week. You may reassess priorities and make strategic decisions. Professional matters show gradual progress. Keep emotions controlled in sensitive discussions. Inner strength leads to success.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 20, 27, 34, 39

Ninety Years of Nation-Building

The Mauritian Labour Party and the Making of Modern Mauritius

By Rashid Jogee

In 2026, the Mauritian Labour Party marks its 90th anniversary — a milestone that invites reflection not only on a political organisation, but on the making of a nation. Founded in 1936 by Dr Maurice Curé, the party emerged at a time when Mauritius was marked by extreme poverty, social injustice, and limited political rights. There were no natural resources to rely on, no mineral wealth to extract, and no strategic advantages beyond geography. What Mauritius possessed, however, was its people.

The Labour Party recognised early that human capital — the intelligence, resilience, and work ethic of Mauritians — would be the country's most valuable resource. Over nine decades, that conviction helped shape a transformation from colonial hardship to a diversified and resilient state.

The Birth of a Workers' Movement

When Dr Maurice Curé founded the Labour Party in 1936, Mauritius was still a British colony. The majority of the population — particularly sugar estate labourers — lived in precarious conditions. Wages were low, housing was inadequate, and political representation was restricted to a small elite.

The Labour Party was born from the urgent need to defend workers' rights. It was not simply a political club; it was a movement rooted in social justice. Inspired by global labour movements but shaped by local realities, the party sought to give a voice to the voiceless.

From its earliest days, the Labour Party advocated better wages, improved working conditions, and access to political participation. Its message resonated deeply among the working class, who saw in it the possibility of dignity and recognition.

Guy Rozemont and the Rise of Political Consciousness

Under the leadership of Guy Rozemont, the party gained momentum in the 1940s. Rozemont understood that political emancipation was inseparable from social emancipation. His charisma and organisational skill helped transform the Labour Party into a formidable force.

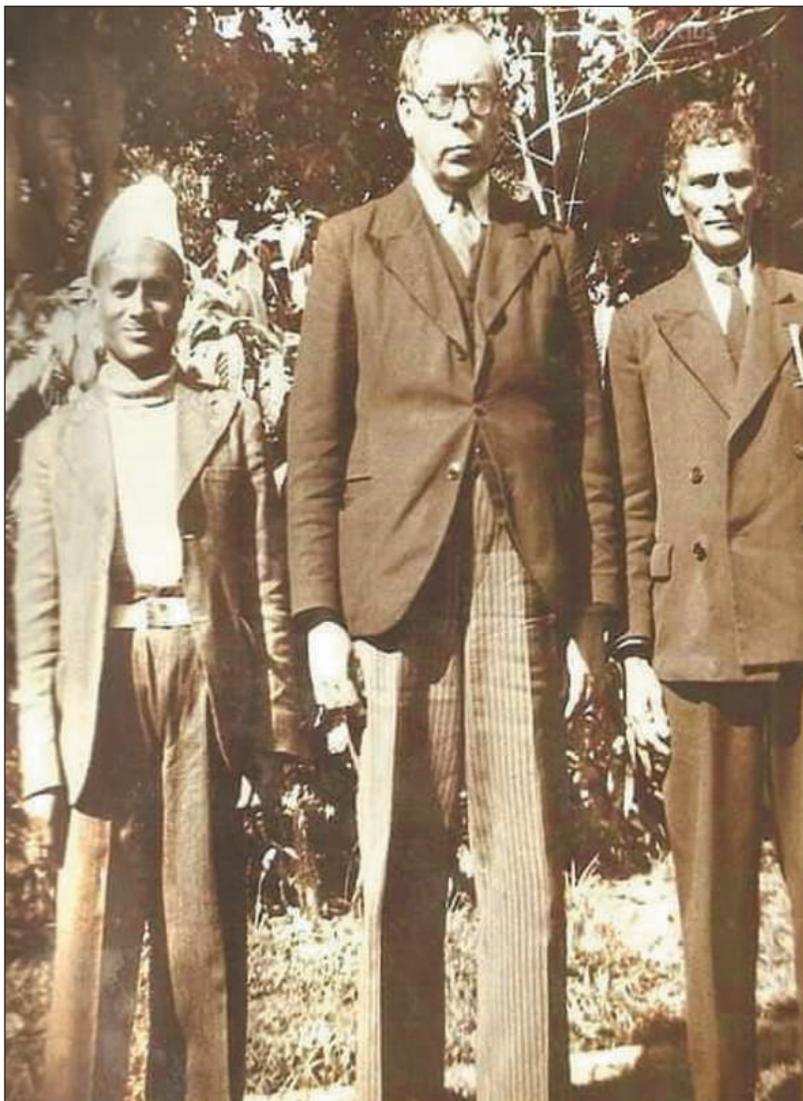
One of the party's historic achievements during this period was the expansion of suffrage. The move toward universal suffrage marked a turning point in Mauritian history. The right to vote was no longer confined to property owners and elites; it gradually extended to the broader population. Later, the voting age would be lowered to 18, reinforcing the principle that political participation belongs to all citizens.

Through these reforms, the Labour Party did not merely contest elections — it reshaped the democratic foundations of Mauritius.

SSR and the Road to Independence

The leadership of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam marked the decisive chapter in the Labour Party's nation-building mission. Facing economic fragility, ethnic tensions, and scepticism from colonial authorities, Ramgoolam championed the cause of independence with determination and prudence.

When Mauritius achieved independence in 1968, it did



Dr Maurice Curé, Emmanuel Anquetil, and Pandit Sahadeo — Pioneers of Social and Political Awakening

so without natural wealth, with high unemployment and limited infrastructure. Critics predicted instability. Some doubted the island's capacity to survive on its own.

Yet Ramgoolam's government embraced a vision centred on social investment. The strategy was clear: if Mauritius lacked natural resources, it would invest in its human resources.

Building the Welfare State

The post-independence period saw the construction of what many describe as the Mauritian welfare state. Free education and free healthcare became pillars of national policy. Schools were built across the island, widening access to learning. Hospitals and health centres expanded, ensuring medical care for all citizens regardless of income.

These measures were not acts of charity; they were investments in national development. By equipping citizens with education and healthcare, the Labour Party laid the groundwork for economic diversification and social mobility.

The impact is visible today in literacy rates, life expectancy, and the emergence of a skilled workforce capable of supporting sectors beyond sugar — including textiles,

tourism, financial services, and information technology.

Infrastructure and Modernisation

Nation-building also required physical transformation. Port and airport infrastructure was strengthened to support trade and connectivity. Telecommunications were liberalised, breaking monopolies and enabling technological progress. The opening of the airwaves to private radio stations signalled a commitment to freer expression and pluralism.

These reforms were crucial in positioning Mauritius as an open and competitive economy. They reflected a broader understanding that development is not static; it demands adaptation and modernisation.

The Human Resource Revolution

Throughout its history, the Labour Party's defining principle has been its faith in human potential. In a country without oil, minerals, or vast land, education became the ultimate equaliser. Social policies empowered generations who might otherwise have remained marginalised.

The emancipation of the labouring classes — from estate workers to skilled professionals — reshaped Mauritian society. Political inclusion, economic opportunity, and social protection created a sense of shared nationhood.

A Visible Legacy

Ninety years after its founding, the imprint of the Mauritian Labour Party can be seen across the island: in schools filled with students from diverse backgrounds; in hospitals serving rich and poor alike; in modern port facilities and expanded airports; and in

democratic institutions that safeguard the vote of every citizen.

The story of the party is inseparable from the story of Mauritius itself. It is a narrative of struggle, reform, and perseverance — a journey from colonial hardship to sovereign statehood.

As the Labour Party celebrates its 90th anniversary, the broader question is not merely what it has achieved, but what vision it will offer for the decades ahead. Its history demonstrates that nation-building is neither accidental nor inevitable. It is the result of sustained political will, social solidarity, and belief in the power of people.

Mauritius may have begun with few material resources, but through human resource development and inclusive governance, it built a nation whose development footprint is visible everywhere — a testament to ninety years of political conviction and social transformation.

The full text is available online. Please consult:
www.mauritiustimes.com

Laughter is the
Best Medicine



The Free Flight

A farmer and his wife go to a county fair. A pilot there is offering airplane rides, so the farmer asks how much it costs.

"Ten dollars for three minutes," says the pilot.

"That's expensive," replies the farmer.

The pilot thinks for a moment and says, "Alright, here's a deal: you and your wife can fly for three minutes. If you stay completely silent, it's free. If either of you makes a sound, you pay ten dollars."

"Deal," says the farmer, and they take off.

After a wild, frightening flight, the pilot lands and says, "Congratulations! You didn't make a single sound. You win."

The farmer nods and replies, "Yes... though I nearly screamed when my wife fell out of the plane."

* * *

The Duck Diagnosis

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary clinic.

As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm sorry, your duck has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "You haven't done any tests. He might just be in a coma."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around, and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador retriever.

The dog stood on its hind legs, placed its paws on the table, sniffed the duck from top to bottom, then looked at the vet and shook its head sadly.

The vet patted the dog and took it out. A few minutes later, he returned with a cat.

The cat jumped onto the table, sniffed the duck carefully, sat back, shook its head, meowed softly, and walked out.



The vet turned to the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

He typed on his computer and handed her the bill.

"\$500!" the woman cried. "Five hundred dollars just to tell me my duck is dead?"

The vet shrugged. "If you had taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20. But with the Lab report and the Cat scan, it's \$500."

* * *

The Gift That Really Counted

Four brothers left home for college to become a lawyer, a doctor, a scientist, and an entertainer. They all prospered and, in time, each gave their elderly mother a special gift.

Years later, after a Seder dinner, they discussed their gifts.

The first said, "I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "I had a \$100,000 theatre built in the house."

The third said, "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver her a Maybach S680 with a chauffeur."

The fourth said, "You know how Mama loves reading the Torah but can't see very well. I sent her a parrot that can recite the entire Torah. It took 12 rabbis 20 years to teach him, and I pledged \$100,000 a year for 20 years, but it was worth it. Mama just names the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon after, Mom sent her Thank You notes:

"Milton, the house is huge. I live in one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks so much."

"Marvin, I'm too old to travel. I stay home, get my groceries delivered, and never use the Mercedes... and the driver is a Nazi. A million thanks."

"Menachem, you gave me a theatre with Dolby sound that seats 50, but all my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing, and I'm nearly blind. Thanks anyway."

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious."

* * *

The Lunchbox Suicide Pact

Three construction workers – a German, a Frenchman, and a Dutchman – are on a break on the roof.

The German opens his lunchbox, sees currywurst, and says, "If I get currywurst again tomorrow, I'm done. I'll jump off this roof."

The Frenchman opens his lunchbox, sees a large

baguette, and says, "If I get a baguette again tomorrow, I'm jumping too."

The Dutchman opens his lunchbox, finds peanut butter on bread, and says, "Damn, peanut butter again? If I get it tomorrow, I'm jumping with you guys."

The next day, break time:

- The German sees currywurst, hesitates... then jumps.
- The Frenchman sees a baguette, hesitates... then jumps.
- The Dutchman nervously opens his lunchbox, sees peanut butter, and decides... to jump too.

A week later, at their funeral, the wives gather in sorrow.

The German wife says, "I don't understand... he loved currywurst!"

The French wife says, "I don't get it... he adored baguettes!"

The Dutch wife, crying the hardest, says, "I just don't understand... he always got up early to make his own bread!"

* * *

The Nail Mix-Up

A farmer has to go to town but is expecting the artificial insemination guy later. He takes his not-so-bright wife to the barn and says, "See this nail? That means this is the right stall. This is the cow to inseminate." Then he leaves.

When the insemination guy arrives, the wife leads him to the barn. "Here's the nail, so this is the cow," she says.

The guy asks, "What's the nail for?"

She shrugs and says, "I guess that's where you hang your pants."

* * *

Why the Volunteers Drove into the Fire

A grass fire broke out near a farm in Indiana. The local fire department couldn't handle it, so they called a volunteer unit.

The volunteers arrived in an old, beat-up fire truck and, to everyone's horror, drove straight into the flames. They jumped out, sprayed water everywhere, and quickly split the fire into two controllable parts.

The grateful farmer gave them \$1,000.

When a reporter asked the captain what they'd do with the money, he said,

"Easy. First thing -- we're fixing the brakes on that stupid truck."



Leadership isn't about being the smartest person in the room...

... it's about bringing out the best in those who are

Leading highly intelligent, talented individuals requires more than authority; it demands trust, adaptability, and a deep understanding of what truly drives them. How to Lead Smart People is not a manual filled with corporate jargon; it's a guide to mastering the delicate balance of confidence and humility, direction and autonomy, structure and flexibility.

In a world where innovation and intelligence drive success, this book reveals what it truly takes to lead those who challenge norms and think differently. Here are seven lessons that reshaped my perspective on leadership:

Ego is the enemy of effective leadership. The best



leaders don't compete with their team; they empower them. Letting go of the need to be the smartest allows others to thrive.

Smart people don't follow blindly; they follow purpose. If you want to lead intelligent minds, give them a vision they can believe in -- not just instructions to

follow.

Trust is the currency of leadership. The more autonomy and respect you offer, the more loyalty and innovation you'll receive in return.

Micromanagement stifles brilliance. Listening is more powerful than speaking. The most impactful leaders don't dominate conversations; they create spaces where ideas flow freely.

Challenge, but don't control. Smart people want to be pushed beyond their limits, but they won't tolerate being restrained. Set high expectations, then step back and let them rise.

Emotional intelligence outweighs technical expertise. Understanding personalities, motivations, and fears is more valuable than knowing every detail of the work itself.

The best leaders create other leaders. True success isn't measured by personal achievements -- it's defined by how well you equip others to lead in their own right.

Life's Lesson

Don't marry blindly

Read that again.

Marriage is not romance -- it is alignment.

It is a long-term investment in your future.

The right woman becomes your greatest ally.

The wrong one becomes your quiet collapse.

A man does not rise by accident. He rises with the right partner, habits, and vision.

Don't marry a woman who cannot build with you.

Don't marry someone who only consumes and never contributes.

Don't marry a person who limits your growth--financially, mentally, or emotionally.

Money will expose everything. Your marriage will either be a fortress or a cage.

Choose skills over selfies. Vision over vibes.

Substance over surface.

A wife should lighten your load, not increase it.

She should multiply progress, not problems.

She should walk beside you -- not wait to be carried.

To women:

Develop yourself.

Build skills.

Strengthen your mind.

Understand money.

Be an asset, not a liability.

Support, don't drain.

Create, don't destroy.

Because attraction fades.

But character compounds.

Marry for growth, alignment, discipline, and purpose--not lust, convenience, or appearance.

The wrong partner will drain your focus, finances, and emotional stability.

The right partner will sharpen your mind, expand your vision, and multiply your strength.

One choice builds an empire.

The other builds regret.

Marriage is not about feelings.

It is about results.

Choose wisely.

Your future depends on it.

Stray Thoughts

What is success?

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate the beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded!

The God within is your Spiritual Heart. Your Soul. And in that individual Soul, rests God- rests the One. Go into your soul and your heart-space which can be Awareness, Love, Compassion, etc...and just BE your heart-space. BE your Soul so that you can LOVE unconditionally.

— Ram Dass —

AZ QUOTES

A Letter from Dad

Dear Mike,

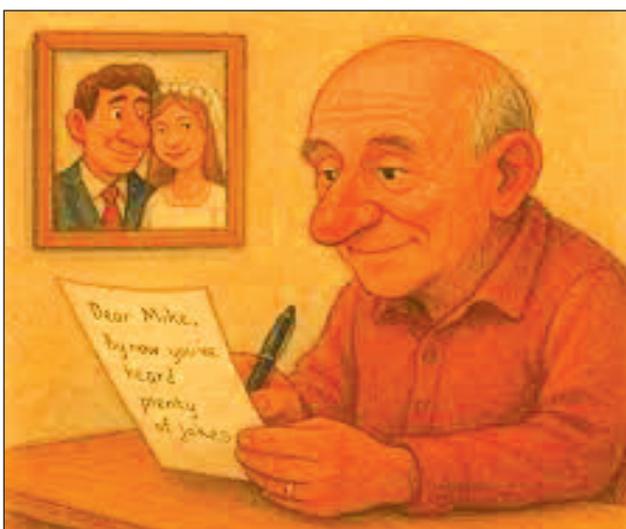
You've probably heard all the jokes from bitter or cynical people about marriage. Here's the truth: you're about to start the most important relationship in your life. It will become whatever you choose to make it.

Some men try to act tough, thinking what their wife doesn't know won't hurt her. Believe me, even without lipstick on your collar or shady excuses at 3 a.m., a wife always knows. Once that trust breaks, the magic in a relationship fades.

More often than people realize, those who say marriage doesn't work are the ones who put the least into it. It's like physics — you get out exactly what you put in. Give half, get half.

There will be moments of temptation — noticing another woman, missing your old single life. But real strength, real masculinity, is sticking with one woman your whole life. Anyone can cheat — that's easy. Staying interesting, loving, and committed through all the everyday messiness takes real character.

If you truly love her, you'll never embarrass her with flirting or make her question your whereabouts. You'll never put her in a position where another woman can give her a knowing smile, even for a second.

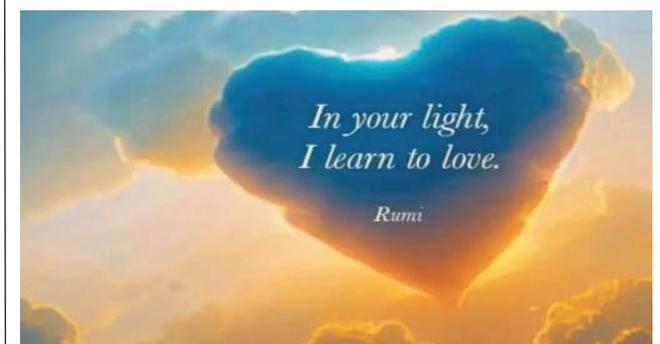


You understand what it's like to grow up in an unhappy home. Now you have the chance to build something better. There's no greater feeling than coming home after a long day to someone waiting, just to hear the sound of your footsteps.

With love,

Dad

P.S. Say "I love you" at least once a day. It really does help.



In the grand tapestry of life, we often embark on so many different journeys—some physical, some emotional, some spiritual and lets not forget the mental journey. Some of us travel to distant lands, chase ambitions, seek out new experiences, and strive to meet societal expectations. Yet, among all of these pursuits, there lies a journey of unparalleled beauty, significance and profound reward, it's the journey home to ourselves, home to our heart.

Relationships

Why Protecting Your Peace is a Medical Necessity

While healthy relationships are a cornerstone of physical longevity and emotional resilience, the inverse is also true. Consistently negative interactions can degrade the immune system and lead to chronic stress or depression. Recognizing the transition from a "difficult patch" to a toxic environment is a vital step in self-care, writes WebMD and medically reviewed by Jennifer Robinson, MD.

Identifying the Core Markers of Toxicity

No relationship is entirely devoid of conflict, but toxicity is defined by overwhelming negativity that disrupts daily life. The foundation of any healthy bond is trust — the quiet confidence that a partner or friend has your best interests at heart. When this foundation erodes, several warning signs often emerge:

- **A Persistent Lack of Trust:** In toxic dynamics, natural trust is replaced by suspicion. This often manifests as "testing" a partner's loyalty or a constant, gnawing fear that the other person is seeking a better alternative.



- **Attachment Anxiety:** While a secure relationship provides a "safe harbor," toxicity often breeds a preoccupation with rejection. This might involve obsessively monitoring a partner's availability or searching for subtle clues of betrayal.

- **The Violation of Privacy:** Healthy boundaries are frequently the first casualty of a toxic relationship. Jealousy may escalate into intrusive behaviors, such as monitoring text messages or sifting through personal

belongings.

- **The Presence of Violence:** Any form of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse is an absolute indicator of toxicity. Such behaviors are not just relationship hurdles; they are fundamental breaches of safety that require immediate intervention.

Strategies for Moving Forward

Feeling "trapped" is a common experience in these dynamics, but there are structured paths toward recovery. For some, professional intervention through couples therapy can help unpack learned behaviors and communication barriers. However, if the relationship continues to compromise your mental or physical health, ending the connection may be the most constructive path.

Moving forward requires a transition from denial to action. Experts suggest surrounding yourself with a positive support network, keeping a record of your emotional state to maintain perspective, and allowing yourself ample time to heal. Above all, safety is paramount; if a relationship involves domestic abuse, creating a safety plan with a healthcare provider or a dedicated hotline is a necessary first step.

By prioritizing your well-being over the maintenance of a harmful connection, you create the space necessary for genuine health and future happiness.

Health Watch

The Science Behind the Sound: Why Our Joints Crack and Pop

If you've ever felt a sense of unease after your knees crunched while climbing stairs or your neck popped during a stretch, you aren't alone. These sounds — often dismissed as signs of aging or "wear and tear"—are a frequent source of anxiety. However, according to Clodagh Toomey, Physiotherapist and Associate Professor, School of Allied Health, University of Limerick experts in musculoskeletal health, joint noises are a normal part of human physiology and rarely indicate a medical problem.

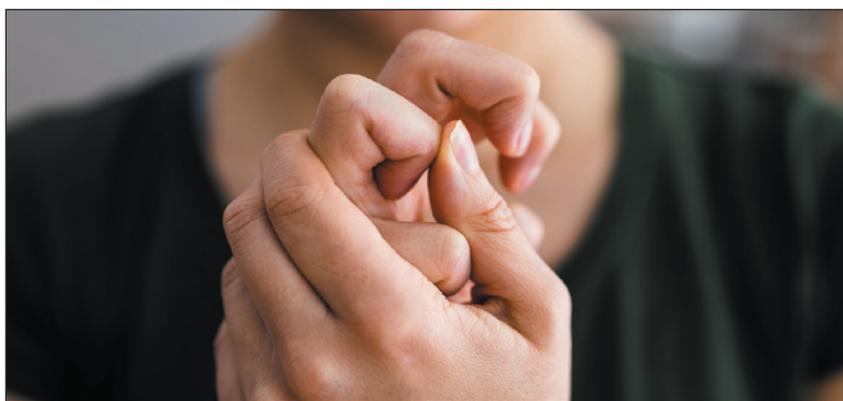
The Mechanics of the "Pop"

To understand why joints make noise, it is helpful to distinguish between different types of sounds. The most common is the "crack" or "pop" associated with knuckles, backs, and necks. This is caused by a process called cavitation.

Your joints are encased in a capsule filled with synovial fluid, which acts as a lubricant and contains dissolved gases like oxygen and nitrogen. When a joint is stretched, the internal pressure drops, causing these gases to form a tiny bubble that quickly collapses. This collapse creates the audible pop. Because it takes about 20 minutes for those gases to dissolve back into the fluid, you generally cannot "re-crack" the same joint immediately.

Grinding and Snapping

Other sounds, such as the grinding or crunching sensation known as crepitus, are particularly common in the knees. This often happens because the kneecap (patella)



moves within a groove in the thigh bone. If muscles are slightly tight or imbalanced, the kneecap may track off-center, leading to a "crunchy" sensation. Other snapping sounds are usually just tendons or ligaments sliding over bony surfaces, much like a guitar string being plucked.

Myths and Realities

One of the most persistent myths is that cracking your knuckles causes arthritis. Current research, including long-term observational studies, has found no meaningful link between habitual joint cracking and the development of osteoarthritis.

While the sound can be satisfying — triggering a reflex that briefly relaxes local muscles and increases range of motion — it is important to recognize that this relief is temporary. It does not fix underlying mechanical issues, but it also doesn't cause damage to the joint structures.

When to Seek Advice

While noise alone is typically harmless, it becomes clinically significant when accompanied by other

symptoms. You should consult a professional if your joint noise is paired with:

- Persistent pain or swelling.
- The joint "locking" or catching in place.
- A noticeable reduction in your ability to move or perform daily tasks.

Movement as Medicine

Perhaps the most significant takeaway for joint health is that noise should not be an excuse to stop moving. In fact, inactivity is far more damaging to joints than "noisy" movement. Cartilage lacks a direct blood supply and relies on the "pump" of regular compression and release to receive nutrients.

As we move through February — a month where the cold can often make joints feel stiffer — remember that exercise remains the gold standard for joint longevity. Whether your joints crack, pop, or remain silent, staying active ensures they stay lubricated and strong.

Shree Vishwanath Mandir of Vallée Des Prêtres

Reg. No. 184 – Founded 1924

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given to all members that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shree Vishwanath Mandir of Vallée des Prêtres will be held on Sunday 8 March 2026 at 09:30 hrs at the seat of the Mandir.

AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of the minutes of proceedings of the last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report for the financial year 2025
5. Auditors' Report and approval of the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2025
6. Approval of Budget Estimates for the year 2026
7. Selection/Election of fifteen (15) Executive Members
8. Appointment of two (2) Auditors

Compliant members wishing to stand as candidates for the Selection/Election of the Executive Committee 2026–2027 are requested to submit their application in writing to the Secretary of the Mandir at the address mentioned below, not later than 18:00 hrs on Monday 2 March 2026.

Candidates wishing to use any emblem, whether individually or as a group, must clearly mention same in their application.

In the event that no quorum is reached, the Annual General Meeting will be postponed to Sunday 15 March 2026, at the same time and place, and with the same agenda.

Amick Teeluckdharry
Secretary

BollyBytes

Sanjay Dutt celebrates 18 years of marriage with Maanayata

Actor Sanjay Dutt celebrated his 18th wedding anniversary on February 11, 2026, by penning an emotional tribute to his wife, Maanayata. In a social media post featuring rare family photos, the *Munna Bhai* star called Maanayata his "rock," thanking her for picking him up whenever he fell and standing by him through his most turbulent legal and health battles.

Maanayata reciprocated the sentiment with a nostalgic reel, highlighting their journey from their 2008 wedding to raising their twins, Shahraan and Iqra. She



specifically mentioned a favourite memory of the couple riding a scooter through the streets of Budapest.



"He's a Dad": Abhishek Bachchan defends Amitabh's praise on his 50th birthday

As Abhishek Bachchan celebrates his 50th birthday today, the actor is reflecting on a quarter-century in the lime-

light — a journey marked by both the heavy shadow of his father's legacy and the sting of public failure.

In a candid interaction with E Times, Abhishek addressed the constant criticism he faces, admitting that failing publicly on a "week-to-week basis" can make anyone cynical. However, he remains steadfast in his refusal to become bitter.

A significant portion of the conversation centered on his father, Amitabh Bachchan, whose frequent social media praise for Abhishek often draws trolling. "For some reason, we think, 'Oh no, he's not allowed to be human,' but he is," Abhishek stated, reminding critics that behind the "superstar" persona is simply a father and a grandfather.

While the actor has faced a string of box-office disappointments lately, including *Be Happy* and *I Want to Talk*, he is looking ahead to a massive career shift with Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film, *King*.

Yami Gautam wraps "significant" cameo in *Dhurandhar 2*



Following the massive 1000-crore success of Aditya Dhar's *Dhurandhar* in 2025, the sequel, *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, is officially adding more star power. Sources have confirmed that Yami Gautam has joined the cast for a special cameo and has already wrapped her four-day shoot.

While the recently released teaser for the sequel received mixed reviews — with some fans complaining it felt like a recycled montage — insiders insist that Yami's role is not merely ornamental. Her character reportedly carries "narrative significance" within the high-octane action world led by Ranveer Singh.

Fresh off her acclaimed performance in *Haq*, Yami's inclusion is expected to bring emotional weight to the franchise. Fans won't have to wait long to see the results; the film is scheduled for a theatrical release on March 19.

Kareena Kapoor once called Akshaye Khanna "perfect Hollywood material"

As fans continue to obsess over Akshaye Khanna's magnetic screen presence in *Dhurandhar* — particularly his viral entry dance to the song *Fa9la* — an old video featuring co-star Kareena Kapoor has resurfaced, revealing her long-standing admiration for the actor, reports Hindustan Times.

The video shows Kareena candidly admitting that she was "mad" about Akshaye Khanna during her school days and praised him as an artist fit for international cinema.

Kareena's teenage crush: "Girls were crazy about him"

The revelation was made during the promotional tour for their 2004 romantic comedy, *Hulchul*. While discussing the experience of working with Akshaye, Kareena cheerfully confessed her teenage infatuation with the star.

She admitted to watching his debut film, *Himalaya Putra*, countless times: "I have watched *Himalaya Putra* at least 20 times because at that time I was in school and Akshaye Khanna was the latest heart-throb. *Toh ladkiyanunkepeechepagalhi*



and usmein main bhithi (Girls were crazy about him, and one of them was me too)."

Kareena vividly recalled the fan frenzy: "It was like 'Akshaye Khanna I am a bachelor, I am a bachelor, My God Akshaye Khanna', so it was like that. So I have always liked Akshaye."

Beyond his charm, Kareena lauded Akshaye's acting calibre, stating: "He is so cute, adorable and such a good human being. He is such a wonderful actor; he is the right person to go to Hollywood because his performances are mind-blowing."

Arjun Kapoor opens up on "lonely battle" with trauma, failure, and health

Arjun Kapoor's career has been a study in resilience, and today the actor is being more transparent than ever about the toll that fame has taken. Born into Bollywood royalty but plagued by personal tragedy, Kapoor recently spoke about losing his mother, Mona Shourie, just weeks before his 2012 debut.

In a deeply personal reflection, Kapoor revealed how he used food as an "emotional refuge" following his parents' split and how he has struggled with Hashimoto's disease — an autoimmune condition — since age 30.

Despite a string of recent box-office failures like *The Lady Killer* and *Kuttey*, Kapoor credits the team of *Singham Again* for saving him from a dark phase of depression. "I have not taken a single penny from my father since *Ishaqzaade*," he noted, pushing back against the "privileged" label often attached to him. Though his latest release, *Meri Husband Ki Biwi*, failed to ignite the box office, Kapoor remains defiant: "I've taken the punches before, I'll take them again & still rise."



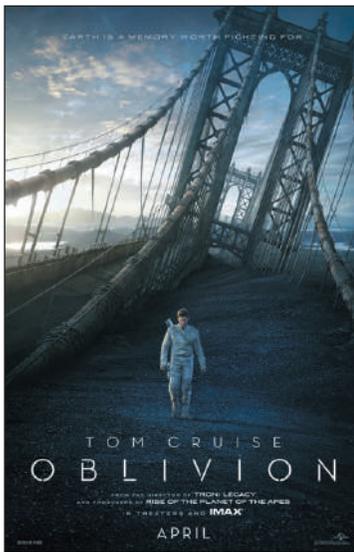
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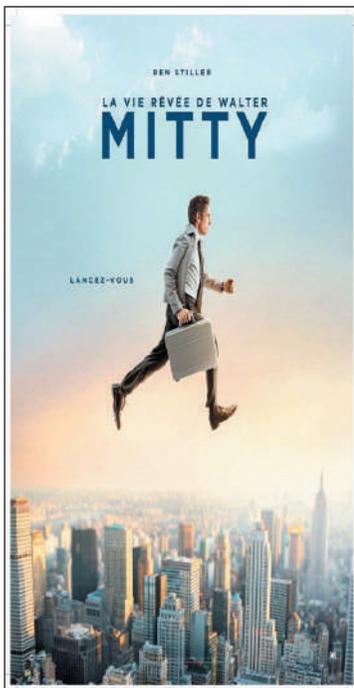
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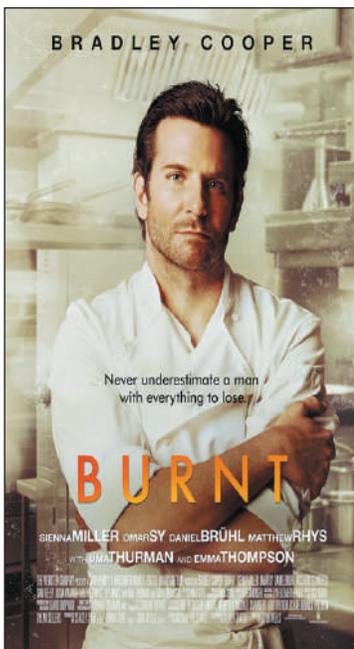
Vendredi 20 Février - 20.10



Samedi 21 Février - 21.15



Dimanche 22 Février -20.10

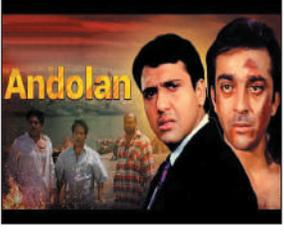


Programme TV



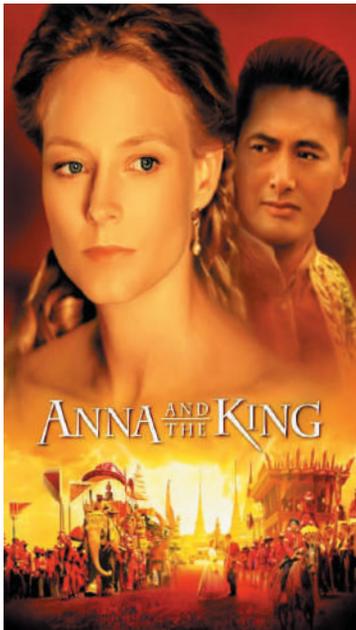
SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 20 février	06.16 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie 08.04 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 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: Kingsman 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: Oblivion 22.15 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.05 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.48 Local: Proze Dime 10.10 Local: Le Mag 11.00 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.23 Local: Glwar Dantan 12.17 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.48 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 15.17 Emotion En Avant Plan 15.51 Local: Paroles Agricoles 16.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.01 Local: La Sosiete 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.25 Local: Sur Prise 20.00 Belle Et Mysterieuse 21.38 Local: La Sosiete 22.34 Local: Proze Dime 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: En Forme 23.33 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 23.53 Local: Nos Aines	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: Rivaaj Starring: Farida Jalal, Sanjeev Kumar, Mehmood Jr., Mala 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: Yeh Shaam Mastani... 19.54 Local: Khel Khiladi 21.00 Serial: Porus 21.42 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.26 Serial: Mere Sai 23.15 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.36 Local: Mati Ke Mol 00.02 Yeh Shaam Mastani Trubute..	06.25 Mag: Let's Make It Tasty 07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.26 Doc: Prosperity Without... 11.08 Mag: Eco India 12.07 Doc: The Kanazawa Railway 12.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.30 Doc: The Omnivore 15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 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: Espoirs Secrets 17.50 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 18.26 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 19.00 Other: Student Support... 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Bachke Rehna Re Baba Cast: Rekha Paresh Rawal, Mallika Sherawat Satish Shah 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: Bachke Rehna Re Baba Cast: Rekha Paresh Rawal, Mallika Sherawat Satish Shah
samedi 21 février	03.32 Serial: Heartland 04.28 Serial: Belgravia 05.13 Tele: Living To Love 06.30 Serial: Under Pressure 07.16 Serial: Nautilus 08.10 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 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: L'Affrontement 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane 19.30 Le Journal 21.05 Film: La Vie Revee De Walter Mitty 21.53 Serial: Nautilus 22.46 Tele: Terra Nostra	06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux 06.45 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 08.15 Local: Retrovizier 09.00 Local: La Sosiete 10.30 Local: J'ai Faim 11.00 Local: Upclose And Personal 12.00 Local: Arxiv: Reperages 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 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.30 Local: Music Tour 2026 21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite 23.17 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.21 Zournal Kreol 23.41 Local: Tous Egaux 23.54 Local: Saver Kiltirel 00.19 Local: Palette 00.45 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: Khel Khiladi 14.00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Shaktiman Cast: Ajay Devgn, Mukesh Khanna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 22.13 Film: Marjaawan Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Tara Sutaria 23.08 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.34 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 23.49 Udaan Ki Kahani 01.30 Film: Marjaawan	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 06.45 D.Anime: Akili And Me 07.09 Film: La Famille Blaireau Renard 08.32 Film: A.R.I. 09.58 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 10.39 Doc: All The Answers 11.15 Doc: La Mediterranee... 13.48 Doc: Iron Butterflies 14.41 Mag: Shift 15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 15.14 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.24 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 16.39 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 17.12 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 18.00 Doc: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 18.56 Mag: Initiative Africa 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.53 Doc: Flavours 21.45 Film: Alien: Covenant 23.45 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: Andolan With: Govinda, Sanjay Dutt  21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.39 Crime Patrol
dimanche 22 février	02.12 Film: Alien 04.22 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois... 05.10 Tele: Living To Love 06.30 Film: La Vie Revee De Walter... 08.10 Serial: Belgravia 09.06 Film: The Hired Hand 10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 12.34 Film: Breaking In 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: La Vie Revee De Walter... 17.21 Doc: Not About Music 17.52 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Burnt 21.55 Serial: S.W.A.T. 22.33 Terra Nostra	08.40 Local: Profil 08.45 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.30 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Emotion En Avant Plan 13.53 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 14.22 Le Dossier De La Redaction 15.11 Local: Coin Jardin 15.26 Local: Saver Kiltirel 16.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Wildflower 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.30 Local: Les Klips 21.30 Local: Music Tour 2025 22.32 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.09 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.16 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Coin Jardin 23.33 Le Vieil Homme Et La Mer... 23.59 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan 08.52 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 12.00 Film: Ankhon Dekhi Cast: Sanjay Mishra, Seema Pahwa 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan 15.47 Local: Udaan Ki Kahani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 19.20 Anurakti Indo-Sri Lankan... 20.31 Serial: Porus 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.40 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.42 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 22.59 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 23.21 Local: Anurakti Indo-Sri Lankan Classical Dance Programme	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 08.19 D.Anime: Dex And The Hum... 08.29 Film: M. Popper Et Ses Pin... 10.00 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 11.15 Mag: In Good Shape 13.56 Doc: Legendary Giants 15.04 D.Anime: Momulu Et Ses Ami 15.46 D.Anime: Paddles! 17.13 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 18.00 Mag: Rev Special 18.36 Doc: Brilliant Corners 19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.45 Film: Last Knights Cast: Clive Owen, Morgan Freeman 23.39 Doc: Saving Our Soil 01.14 Mag: Rev Special 01.28 Mag: Travel 01.40 Doc: Brilliant Corners 02.33 Mag: Arts Unveiled	00.45 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: Jab Pyar Kisi Se Hota Hai Cast: Salman Khan, Twinkle Khanna
lundi 23 février	04.34 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 04.57 Tele: Lying Heart 05.47 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.13 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois... 08.01 Tele: All The Flowers 08.24 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.15 Tele: La Desalmada 09.45 Film: Burnt 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 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 21.00 Serial: Berlin Station 21.55 Tele: Mademoiselle	09.10 Local: Nu Rasinn 10.02 Local: Clin D'Oeil 10.45 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 11.00 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 15.22 Local: Fam Model 15.35 Local: Metie 16.09 Local: Les Klips 17.00 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Zournal 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 Rodrig: Kot Nou 00.01 Local: En Toute Intimite	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Local: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Shakka Cast: Jeetendra Simple, Kapadia 15.00 Samachar 15.51 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 18.57 Hindi Sahitya 19.30 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Sunghursh Cast: Dilip Kumar, Vyjayanthimala 22.54 Mere Sai 23.42 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners 07.18 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.48 Doc: La Mediterranee... 09.20 Doc: Children Of Peace 10.18 Doc: Trapped By Debt 11.42 Doc: REV Special 12.12 Doc: Brilliant Corners 13.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled 15.00 Serial: Momolu Et Ses Amis 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.36 D.Anime: Paddles! 16.00 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 16.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix 16.24 D.Anime: Le Rythme De La... 17.52 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: Eye On Sadc 18.31 Mag: Choices 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 Live: News 20.53 Tele: Asintado 21.40 Film: Out Of Africa	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud  15.26 Film: Always Kabhi Kabhi Starring: Ali Fazal, Giselli Monteiro, Harsh Nagar, Zoa Morani, and Satyajeet Dubey 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



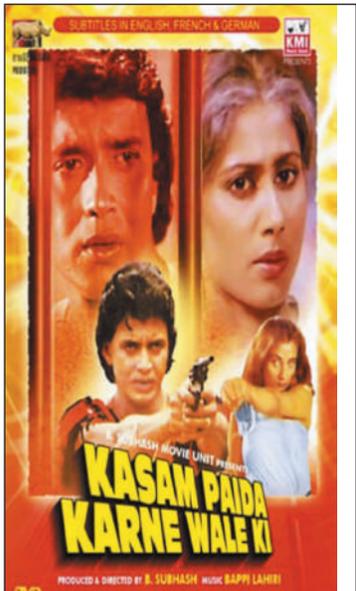
Mardi 24 Février - 20.10



Mercredi 25 Février - 21.40



Mercredi 25 Février - 15.00



Programme TV



mardi 24 février

MBC 1

04.25 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
04.48 Tele: Lying Heart
05.30 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Night School
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
15.30 Film: Alien, La Resurrection
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: Anna And The King
23.32 Tele: Mademoiselle
00.17 Le Journal

MBC 2

09.00 Local: Africa Consortium Fashion Show
11.00 Local: Tous Egaux
11.35 Local: Grand Titre
13.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.00 Local: Feminin Pluriel
15.04 Local: Fee Main
15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.49 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: Metie
20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrög
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
22.05 Local: Le Mag
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion
23.22 Local: Sur Prise
23.33 Local: Sacred Steps

MBC 3

08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
08.27 Local: Hindi Sahitya
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Khoj
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Ravi Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
16.00 Serial: Dharam Patni
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
18.31 Rangmanch Ki Awaaz
19.27 Local: Puranya Pakwan
19.56 Local: Prakriti
20.38 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Aatish
Cast: Jeetendra, Neetu Singh

MBC 5

07.00 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.46 Doc: Holy Surf!
09.09 Doc: The Listener
10.47 Doc: Diet For Your Body Type
12.38 Mag: In Good Shape
13.34 Doc: The Listener
15.08 D.Anime: Momulu Et Ses Ami
15.48 D.Anime: Paddles!
17.11 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
17.57 Doc: Little Gourmet
18.00 Mag: REV
18.26 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: Business Africa
22.08 Doc: Land Of Metals
22.58 Mag: Euromaxx
23.22 Doc: Voluntary Taxes

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Banjaran
Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Gulshan Grover, Raza Murad
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: Banjaran
Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Gulshan Grover, Raza Murad

mercredi 25 février

06.20 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie
08.06 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: The Great Northfield...
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: Invincible: Le Chemin...
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: Priorite Sante
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.00 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
16.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.03 Local: Sacred Steps
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
21.13 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.39 Local: Les Kliips
22.38 Local: Grand Titre
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur
23.23 Local: Clin D'Oeil
23.36 Local: Music Tour 2025

08.26 Prakriti
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Ek Phool Do Mali
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Sayings Radha Krishna
16.00 Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Darshan With Rohini
18.58 Local: Kala
19.58 Local: Virasat
20.04 Local: Kaam Daam
20.30 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garub
21.00 Film: Jamai Raja
Cast: Kajal Yadav Ram Tiwari Sangeeta Yadav
23.26 Serial: Mere Sai
00.14 Wagle Ki Duniya

09.04 Mag: Euromaxx
09.30 Doc: Voluntary Taxes...
11.47 Mag: Made In Germany
12.44 Mag: Business Africa
13.10 Doc: Land Of Metals
14.06 Mag: Euromaxx
14.46 Mag: Japan Video Topics
15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
15.19 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.24 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.59 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
17.02 Serial: Zig's Space Rangers
17.40 Doc: Little Gourmet
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.30 Mag: Travel
18.43 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
21.40 Film: Burnt
Cast: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.14 Film: Kasam Paida Karne Wale Ki
Starring: Mithun Chakraborty
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.02 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
21.00 Anupama
21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
22.05 Dhruv Tara
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.00 Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Kasam Paida Karne Wale Ki
Starring: Mithun Chakraborty

jeudi 26 février

06.16 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.28 Film: Murder On The Orient...
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: Burnt
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: Hasee Toh Phasee
Stars: Parineeti Chopra, Sidharth Malhotra, Adah Sharma
22.24 Tele: Mademoiselle
23.09 Tele: Happily Ever After
23.32 Le Journal

09.10 Local: Agir Ensemble
09.35 Local: Music Tour 2025
10.35 Local: Plat du Chef
11.51 Local: Grand Titre
12.11 Local: Palette
13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
15.41 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
16.00 Local: Saver Lokal
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 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem
23.37 Local: Memwar Dan Ros
00.25 Local: Tous Egaux

08.00 Local: Darshan With Rohini
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Bazaar
Cast: Farooq Shaikh, Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah
15.22 Sajjanwa 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: Yatra
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: Travel
08.37 Doc: Ammunition From The...
09.49 Doc: Iran From Above In...
11.02 Mag: Afrimaxx
11.53 Mag: Arts Unveiled
12.19 Doc: Ageless Gardens
12.46 Mag: Close Up
13.18 Mag: Focus On Europe
14.09 Doc: Europe Revealed...
15.00 Momolu Et Ses Amis
15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots...
15.24 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.56 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
16.36 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
17.06 Serial: Zig's Space Rangers
17.40 Doc: Little Gourmet
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.43 Mag: Transforming Business
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.55 Tele: Asintado

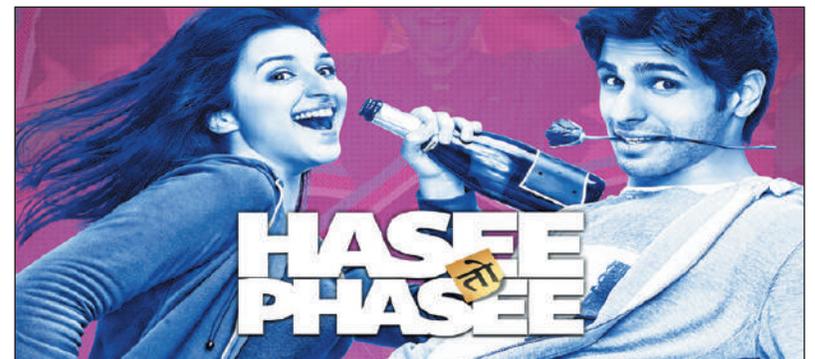
14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.10 Film: Hum Dono
Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.02 Anupama
21.34 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.05 Serial: Mahabharat
23.31 Film: Hum Dono
Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar



Jeudi 26 Février - 15.30 Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar



Jeudi 26 Février - 20.10 Stars: Parineeti Chopra, Sidharth Malhotra, Adah Sharma





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Gen Z: Tour d'horizon

Jeunesse en fête: c'est l'image que l'écran de la télévision nationale a répandue dans tous les foyers récemment. D'ordinaire, nous assistons à de brefs aperçus de conférences où décideurs et têtes pensantes élaborent de grands projets devant un parterre d'invités à l'air grave — ceux-là mêmes sur lesquels repose le destin du pays. Outil béni, la télécommande permet de zapper ces scènes monotones et ennuyeuses à mourir.

Les scènes de liesse que procure une réussite en tête de liste apportent un rayon de soleil sur l'écran national. Elles sont l'expression d'une fierté collective: spontanéité, soulagement, récompense d'efforts assidus... Le tout est exprimé avec une gratitude ancrée dans les valeurs mauriciennes envers les enseignants, les parents — qui tiennent à partager la gloire sur la photo souvenir — et, bien sûr, envers le divin.



Génération Z: un mouvement de contestation exacerbé par l'effet miroir des réseaux sociaux.
P - bruxellesdevie.com

En dehors de ces «têtes couronnées», il y a tous les autres qui repartent avec le document attestant de leur réussite, contents et libérés de ce rite de passage à l'âge adulte, prêts à se frayer un chemin. Pour ne pas trop jouer la carte de l'élite, c'est une jeune fille issue de la filière technologique d'un collège «non étoilé» que la MBC a choisi d'honorer sur son plateau, distinguée par son élégance langagière et son expression «mari contente».

Quant à la gestion de conflits à coups de poing ou de cutter à la sortie des classes, il serait utile d'en faire une analyse sociologique: quel est le profil des auteurs et quel type d'établissements fréquentent-ils? Pour l'instant, ils font figure d'enfants de cœur si on les compare aux mineurs de certains pays développés en Europe. Là-bas, on traite de «nouveaux barbares», souvent issus de cultures étrangères, ces jeunes armés de couteaux où élèves et enseignants font les frais d'un trop-plein de testostérone et d'explosions de colère.

La Gen Z fait la une de l'actualité internationale depuis l'an dernier, offrant un panorama aussi varié que les pays où elle occupe l'espace médiatique. Désespérée par un horizon obscurci par un chômage vertigineux et des inégalités criantes, la jeune génération du Sri Lanka a déferlé dans les rues pour faire tomber les puissants. Elle fut suivie par celle du Népal, où la pauvreté face à l'étalage insolent de richesse de la classe dirigeante a provoqué une révolte massive. Même scénario au Bangladesh, surpeuplé de jeunes révol-

tés contre un appareil d'État perçu comme répressif.

Au Maroc, excédés par des cas de décès liés à la négligence médicale, les jeunes ont crié leur indignation; les meneurs attendent aujourd'hui leur procès en prison. Dans cette société vieillissante, la Gen Z ne représente que 17 % de la population.

Message reçu : le gouvernement a inscrit au budget une hausse de 16 % pour l'éducation et la santé. Plus près de chez nous, c'est Madagascar qui clôt ce cycle avec les résultats que l'on sait. Ces pays ne jouissent ni d'un *Welfare State*, ni d'un niveau de vie comparable à celui de Maurice.

Remontons le temps.

En 2011, l'immolation d'un jeune homme désespéré devant le Parlement à Tunis mit le feu aux poudres, déclenchant une révolte qui donna des sueurs froides aux régimes autoritaires.

En 2015, c'est un Syrien de 17 ans, inspiré par la chute de Khadafi, qui griffonna sur le mur de son lycée: «*Your turn now, Doctor*» (le président Assad étant ophtalmologue). S'ensuivirent des arrestations et une guerre civile dévastatrice. Plus tard, en 2019, Alger vit sa jeunesse manifester chaque vendredi jusqu'au confinement lié au Covid.

Autres pays, autres aspirations. Certains s'inventent un nouveau prolétariat qui emprunte au digital le racolage au clic. Ce concept globalisant présente, en réalité, des visages hétérogènes. Une partie de la Gen Z, du Soudan au Mali, soutient des souverainistes en uniforme ou des populistes religieux. Ainsi, être né entre 1997 et 2012, cela ne protège pas forcément ces «natifs du numérique» de l'égarément.

Il y a pire. Sur les campus de New York, Londres ou Paris, une partie de la Gen Z profite de la liberté d'expression pour scander le slogan génocidaire «*From the river to the sea*», réclamant ni plus ni moins que la disparition d'un pays et l'extermination de son peuple.

En France, une partie de la jeunesse est biberonnée d'une idéologie mortifère, résidu d'un communisme où Lénine, Staline ou Trotsky prônaient la violence. C'est le triste spectacle que les jeunes gardes de LFI offrent dans leur délire devant l'université de Science Politique à Lyon.

Aujourd'hui, c'est en Iran que se déroule une scène apocalyptique : des milliers de jeunes y sont massacrés à l'arme lourde pour avoir osé se rebeller contre un pouvoir dictatorial. Comble du cynisme, le régime les a coupés du monde numérique pour perpétrer ce massacre à huis clos.

Pourtant, c'est aussi en Iran que l'on assiste au courage inouï d'un peuple face à l'oppression. À mains nues, ils continuent le combat par le seul moyen qu'il leur reste: l'insurrection. Ce mouvement de la Gen Z iranienne, assoiffée de liberté, a le potentiel de redessiner l'équilibre régional et de promouvoir la stabilité au-delà du Moyen-Orient.

Entre incertitudes économiques dans les petits États insulaires, endoctrinement toxique dans les pays avancés et soif de dignité sous les régimes répressifs, la Gen Z est une entité à plusieurs têtes, orientées vers des directions radicalement opposées.

“La Gen Z fait la une de l'actualité internationale depuis l'an dernier, offrant un panorama aussi varié que les pays où elle occupe l'espace médiatique. Désespérée par un horizon obscurci par un chômage vertigineux et des inégalités criantes, la jeune génération du Sri Lanka a déferlé dans les rues pour faire tomber les puissants. Elle fut suivie par celle du Népal, où la pauvreté face à l'étalage insolent de richesse de la classe dirigeante a provoqué une révolte massive. Même scénario au Bangladesh, surpeuplé de jeunes révoltés contre un appareil d'État perçu comme répressif...”

Tree of Knowledge

Finding Peace Within



Pic - oprahdaily.com

If we are to have true peace in the world, we must first find it within ourselves.

Most people agree that a more peaceful world would be an ideal situation for all living creatures. However, we often seem stumped on how to bring this ideal situation into being. If we are to have true peace in this world, each one of us must find it in ourselves first. If we don't like ourselves, for example, we probably won't like those around us. If we are in a constant state of inner conflict, then we will probably manifest conflict in the world. If we have fighting within our families, there can be no peace in the world. We must shine the light of inquiry on our internal struggles because this is the only place we can really create change.

When we begin to look inside ourselves for the meaning of peace, we will start to understand why it has always been so difficult to come by. We also will gain more compassion toward the many people in the world who find themselves caught up in conflicts both personal and universal. We may have an experience of peace that we can call up in ourselves to remind us of what we want to create, but since we are human, we also will feel the pull in the opposite direction — the desire to defend ourselves, to keep what we feel belongs to us, and to protect our loved ones and our cherished ideals. This awareness is important because we cannot truly know peace until we understand the many tendencies and passions that threaten our ability to find it. Peace includes all of our primal energy, much of which has been expressed in ways that contradict peace.

Being at peace with ourselves is not about denying or rejecting any part of ourselves. On the contrary, in order to be at peace, we must be willing and able to hold ourselves, in all our complexity, in a full embrace that excludes nothing. This is perhaps the most difficult part for many of us because we want so much to disown the negative aspects of our humanity. Ironically, though, true peace begins with a willingness to take responsibility for our humanity so that we might ultimately transform it in the light of our love.

Daily Om

Assemblée Générale Annuelle AVIS EST DONNÉ PAR LES PRÉSENTES

que l'Association "Gents Club 41 Number Seven", enregistrée sous le numéro 16355 en vertu de la Loi sur l'Enregistrement des Associations, tiendra son Assemblée Générale Annuelle (AGA) conformément aux dispositions de l'article 28(1) de ladite loi, le samedi 14 mars 2026 à Labourdonnais, Mapou, à 18h00.

Ordre du jour :

1. Mot de bienvenue du Président
 2. Lecture et adoption du procès-verbal de la dernière AGA
 3. Présentation du rapport annuel
 4. Présentation et adoption des comptes audités
 5. Élection des membres du Bureau
 6. Nomination de l'Auditeur
 7. Divers
 8. Remerciements
- La présence de tous les membres est vivement souhaitée et appréciée.

Le Secrétaire