

MAURITIUS TIMES

•The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been. – Henry Kissinger

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing

"People want Justice. Justice in every aspect of a human being's life ...

...that was precisely what the Labour of 1936 was about"



'Until non-toxic leadership becomes viral, we will fall short on the ambition of living in a strong, prosperous nation'

P 9

Eclairages

Privilèges ou service public?

La remise en question des retraites politiques au Sri Lanka



A. Bartleby P6

Editorial



P 2

Pic - thetimes.com

The Chagos Deal International Law Confronts the Law of the Strongest

Opinion



Prakash Neerohoo P 3

Politique commerciale des États-Unis Le judiciaire met un frein au pouvoir présidentiel

Qs & As



LEX P5

Child Abuse: When Schools Wait Examining Institutional Liability in the Face of Allegations

Opinion

Erratic Power in a Fragile Order

In a fragile order, erratic power does not project strength. It transmits uncertainty. And uncertainty, in an increasingly militarised Indian Ocean, is a risk multiplier

Karma Yogi P 8

The Chagos Archipelago dossier, which was widely believed to be on a clear path toward a historic and legally sound resolution, has just suffered a brutal setback. This is not merely a technical glitch in Westminster's legislative machinery; it is a head-on collision between two world orders. On one side stands the world of norms and international standards, championed by Mauritius and backed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the United Nations. On the other is the world of "realpolitik" and the "law of the strongest," embodied by the return of Donald Trump's transactional and security-heavy doctrine.

As of late February 2026, the Chagos issue is no longer just a matter of dismantling a colonial vestige. It has become the epicentre of a geopolitical shockwave where principles of sovereignty are being eclipsed by military imperatives and budgetary uncertainties.

The Washington Shockwave

The freezing of the British legislative process — triggered after Donald Trump labelled the May 2025 agreement "stupid" — marks a dangerous turning point. For London, the priority is no longer settling a moral debt to Mauritius or adhering to international law; it is avoiding a rift with a U.S. administration that is currently weighing strikes against Iran and intensifying its confrontation with China.

The lobbying efforts of British Conservative figures like Priti Patel in Washington illustrate this shift. By framing the deal as a "surrender" to an "ally of China," opponents have successfully rebranded a decolonisation issue as a threat to Western national security. For Keir Starmer's government, this legislative pause is a quiet admission: British sovereignty over the archipelago may be legally contested, but its military utility remains under a de facto American protectorate.

Mauritius Under High Tension: The Budgetary Peril

In Mauritius, the unease goes far beyond diplomatic frustration. For the government, the stakes are now immediate and fiscal. The first instalment of financial compensation linked to the Chagos Deal — approximately Rs 10 billion — had apparently already been factored into the 2025-26 budgetary projections. This sum represented 4.5% of estimated current revenue, a vital pillar for containing a projected deficit of 4.9% of GDP.

The potential disappearance of this payment is more than a small adjustment; it marks an important change. Without these funds, the deficit could mechanically climb toward 6.2%. With structural spending on the rise — including pension reforms and the upcoming 2027 PRB implementation — and rating agencies like Moody's watching fiscal discipline closely, the treaty's uncertainty has become a systemic risk for the Mauritian economy.

The lesson is clear: reliance on an uncertain diplomatic calendar has increased Mauritius's exposure to US domestic political changes. Between the US Supreme Court's challenges to tariff authority and the looming expiration of AGOA, Mauritius finds its financial resilience tested by variables far beyond its control.

The "Plan B" Strategy: Ramgoolam's Options

Faced with what can only be described as "powerplay blackmail," Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam is attempting to project a stance of defiant serenity. "Do not think we do not have options," he declared during the 90th anniversary of the Labour Party (PTR). But what are these real options?

The Mauritian government is likely exploring three primary avenues:

The International Legal Front: If the UK formally abandons the treaty, Mauritius could demand immediate and colossal compensation. Whitehall sources suggest the

The Chagos Deal International Law Confronts the Law of the Strongest



bill could reach tens of billions of pounds. Mauritius would likely move beyond seeking a 99-year lease and instead pursue damages for "continuous illegal occupation," backed by a decade of favourable international jurisprudence.

Regional Diplomatic Pressure: Mauritius can activate the African Union and the Pelindaba Treaty. By denouncing the unauthorized use of its territory for war operations, Port Louis can diplomatically isolate London and Washington within the Global South.

The Strategic Pivot: By deepening security ties with India or hinting at expanded economic cooperation with other powers on the outer islands, Mauritius reminds the Anglo-American alliance that it possesses its own strategic depth.

Law vs. Might: An Uneven Battle?

The freeze on the treaty's ratification serves as a stark reminder: in the current international system, law is a powerful tool for delegitimising an opponent, but it is rarely enough to coerce a superpower. Diego Garcia is now the stage for a reconfiguration where the politics of force and emotion take precedence over the diplomacy of treaties.

However, the United Kingdom is playing a high-stakes game. A failure of the treaty would not mean a return to the status quo. It would leave London in a state of permanent international illegality, facing the risk of diplomatic sanctions and a financial liability that British taxpayers can ill afford. For Starmer, ceding to Trump today may mean paying billions tomorrow for a colony that no one — save for the American military — wants to manage.

For Mauritius, this is a defining moment. The "historic victory" of May 2025 is now facing its harshest reality check. The government must manage the diplomatic caution required to maintain relations with Washington and the legal firmness needed to protect its sovereignty and finances.

This crisis shows that a nation cannot depend solely on external windfalls; it needs strong internal foundations to face geopolitical challenges. The Chagos Deal is no longer just about decolonisation; it is the ultimate test of international law's ability to survive in a world that seems intent on burying it. Mauritius has the law on its side, but it must now demonstrate the strategic intelligence to turn that law into a political reality that even the most powerful cannot ignore.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor: M. Ramlallah

This paper has been produced with the assistance of

K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally & Kersley Ramsamy

28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),
Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301 / Tel/Fax: 212 1313
mtimes@intnet.mu; www.mauritiustimes.com;
facebook.com/mauritius.times



Prakash Neerohoo

Politique commerciale des États-Unis

Le judiciaire met un frein au pouvoir présidentiel

Les tarifs douaniers généralisés n'ont pas de fondement légal ni de rationalité économique

Le monde du commerce international a connu un développement inattendu, mais positif, la semaine dernière avec un jugement livré le 20 février 2026 par la plus haute instance judiciaire américaine sur les tarifs douaniers sur les importations. En effet, le jugement de la Cour suprême américaine (par six voix contre trois) déclarant illégale l'imposition des tarifs généralisés par les États-Unis sur les importations en provenance d'autres pays est un développement significatif à plus d'un titre. Ce jugement a des implications profondes sur les plans constitutionnel, juridique et économique. Il fera jurisprudence au chapitre de la politique commerciale dans les démocraties libérales fondées sur l'État de droit et la séparation des pouvoirs.

Autorité légale

Sur le plan constitutionnel, le jugement affirme que le président américain n'a pas l'autorité légale sous la loi [International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 1977 (IEEPA)] d'imposer des tarifs d'urgence (*emergency tariffs*) contre certains pays (Canada, Mexique, Chine) pour endiguer une prétendue «menace à la sécurité nationale» ou des tarifs réciproques sur les partenaires commerciaux des États-Unis pour corriger un déséquilibre commercial quelconque avec eux.

Dans son jugement, la Cour suprême écrit : "IEEPA does not authorize the President to impose tariffs." Le chef juge John Roberts souligne que les rédacteurs de la Constitution "did not vest any part of the taxing power in the Executive Branch".

Cette autorité appartient au Congrès américain (soit le Parlement suprême du pays) qui, seul, a le pouvoir d'introduire des tarifs douaniers et des taxes, comme prévu dans la Constitution. Le président avait outrepassé le Congrès pour imposer des tarifs douaniers généralisés sur d'autres pays par voie d'ordonnance exécutive. C'était un abus de pouvoir évident.

Cependant, après la décision de la Cour suprême, le président Trump ne s'est pas avoué vaincu. Il a immédiatement annoncé un tarif douanier global de 10% sous l'article 122 de la *Trade Act* de 1974, avec effet à compter du 24 février pour remplacer les tarifs douaniers décrétés illégaux. Le 21 février 2026, il annonça que ce taux allait passer à 15%, mais l'agence douanière fédérale (*US Customs and Border Protection Agency*) n'a pas encore mis en vigueur cette hausse de 5%. Cette loi lui permet d'imposer des tarifs douaniers jusqu'à 15% pour une durée ne dépassant pas 150 jours, et ce, sans l'approbation du Congrès, afin de s'occuper de «larges déficits dans la balance des paiements» et des «problèmes fondamentaux dans les paiements internationaux».

L'ordonnance sur le tarif douanier global de 10% a invoqué un déficit commercial de \$ 1,2 trillion, soit un déficit du compte courant de la balance des paiements équivalant à 4% du PIB. Toutefois, des économistes ont souligné que les États-Unis n'avaient pas de crise de balance des paiements,



“Sur le plan juridique, la Cour suprême, par sa décision, a affirmé l'indépendance du judiciaire par rapport à l'Exécutif, conformément à l'esprit de la séparation des pouvoirs. En effet, cette décision a surpris agréablement le public parce que, depuis un an, la Cour suprême entérinait systématiquement les décisions présidentielles qui furent contestées devant les cours de justice par des parties lésées. Par exemple, la Cour suprême avait accordé au président l'immunité contre toute poursuite dans l'exercice de ses fonctions...” Pic - tradingview.com

ce qui rend le nouveau tarif douanier de 10% sujet à une contestation légale.

Sursaut du judiciaire

Sur le plan juridique, la Cour suprême, par sa décision, a affirmé l'indépendance du judiciaire par rapport à l'Exécutif, conformément à l'esprit de la séparation des pouvoirs. En effet, cette décision a surpris agréablement le public parce que, depuis un an, la Cour suprême entérinait systématiquement les décisions présidentielles qui furent contestées devant les cours de justice par des parties lésées. Par exemple, la Cour suprême avait accordé au président l'immunité contre toute poursuite dans l'exercice de ses fonctions (*SC 2024 Decision in Trump v. United States*).

Beaucoup de gens avaient perdu l'espoir d'un sursaut du judiciaire face aux dérives autoritaires du pouvoir. Ce jugement vient mettre un frein à l'exercice d'un pouvoir absolu par un président qui ne tient pas compte de l'opinion des représentants élus du Congrès. Il faut souligner que la Chambre des Représentants du Congrès a récemment voté, par 219 contre 211 voix, une motion réclamant la suppression des tarifs douaniers sur le Canada, frappé d'un tarif douanier général de 35% et de tarifs sectoriels de 50%. Mais cette motion n'avait pas de force légale sans le consentement du Sénat (à majorité républicaine) et l'approbation du président. De toute façon, le jugement de la Cour suprême a rendu caduque cette motion.

Rationalité économique

Sur le plan économique, le fondement légal de la décision de la Cour suprême renforce la position de ceux qui ont toujours soutenu que les tarifs douaniers généralisés (imposés sans discrimination sur tous les pays à des taux variant de 15% à 50%) n'ont pas de rationalité économique. Par leur

impact global, ils entravent le libre-échange entre les nations dans la mesure où celles-ci, pour se protéger, s'engagent dans des tarifs réciproques sur leurs importations. Il faut faire une distinction entre les tarifs douaniers sectoriels et les tarifs douaniers généralisés.

Tarifs généralisés

Les tarifs douaniers généralisés visent à percevoir une taxe sur les importations pour augmenter les revenus de l'État. Aux États-Unis, les tarifs douaniers généralisés ont rapporté 175 milliards de dollars (soit \$1,300 par ménage) en un an selon une estimation.

L'administration américaine compte dépenser ce pactole pour financer des baisses d'impôts pour les sociétés.

Puisque ces tarifs douaniers sont une taxe payée par les consommateurs américains, certaines voix s'élèvent pour réclamer un remboursement des taxes perçues.

Trois sénateurs démocrates au Sénat vont présenter, lundi le 2 mars 2026, un projet de loi demandant que les autorités douanières (*US Customs and Border Protection Agency*) remboursent les taxes perçues illégalement auprès des importateurs dans un délai de 180 jours suivant l'adoption du projet. Puisque les importateurs ont répercuté les tarifs sur leurs prix aux grossistes et détaillants, ce sont les consommateurs américains qui ont payé les pots cassés à travers une inflation des prix.

Les tarifs douaniers généralisés ont été aussi utilisés à des fins politiques contre les pays qui ne courbent pas l'échine devant les États-Unis. Par exemple, les États-Unis avaient menacé certains pays européens d'un tarif douanier de 10% s'ils s'opposaient à l'annexion du Groenland. Ils ont menacé l'Inde d'un tarif douanier de 25% si elle continuait à importer du pétrole de la Russie. Il paraît que l'Inde ait réduit ses importations de pétrole russe pour sauvegarder les chances d'un accord de libre-échange avec les États-Unis.

Tarifs sectoriels

Les tarifs douaniers sectoriels servent à protéger des industries naissantes ou stratégiques d'un pays contre la concurrence des importations bon marché. Par exemple, l'Inde impose des tarifs sur les importations agricoles pour protéger ses agriculteurs locaux.

Les associations d'agriculteurs en Inde ont exprimé la crainte que l'accord de libre-échange avec l'Union européenne (déjà conclu) et celui avec les États-Unis (accord en cours de finalisation avec des tarifs douaniers de 18% sur les exportations indiennes) ne provoquent une invasion du marché indien par des produits importés bon marché, ce qui mettrait en péril la viabilité de l'agriculture indienne.

A la place des tarifs douaniers, certains pays imposent des barrières non-tarifaires (quota d'importation) pour protéger leurs industries locales. Le Canada, par exemple, protège son industrie laitière par des barrières non-tarifaires en vue d'assurer l'auto-suffisance en produits laitiers. C'est l'une des pommes de discorde avec les États-Unis dans le cadre de la renégociation de l'accord de libre-échange tripartite (*Canada United States Mexico Agreement - CUSMA*). Les États-Unis insistent sur l'ouverture du marché laitier canadien aux importations, ce que le Canada refuse de faire pour préserver son système de gestion de l'offre fondé sur des prix garantis aux fermiers.

En sus des tarifs douaniers généralisés, les États-Unis utilisent aussi des tarifs douaniers sectoriels sous d'autres lois (notamment, les articles 122 et 301 de la *Trade Act* de 1974 et l'article 232 de la *Trade Expansion Act* de 1962) contre les pays qui ont un surplus commercial avec eux, et ce, pour apparemment protéger des «industries spécifiques».

● Suite en page 4



“Tous les pays qui ont conclu un accord de libre-échange avec les États-Unis récemment ont dû lui faire des concessions en contrepartie d’une baisse de tarifs douaniers... Quelles concessions Maurice fera-t-elle pour échapper au tarif douanier de 10% ou même de garder sa place dans une future AGOA? Est-ce que les États-Unis exigeront le droit d’occuper et de contrôler la base de Diego Garcia aux Chagos dans le cadre de cette entente, au lieu de louer l’île via un bail de 100 ans? L’idée d’une concession par bail à long terme ne semble plus plaire aux États-Unis. Maurice devrait jouer ses cartes diplomatiques avec prudence tout en se fondant sur la loi internationale...” Pic - thehabarinetwork.com

Le judiciaire met un frein au pouvoir présidentiel

● Suite de la page 3

Le jugement de la Cour suprême ne couvre pas ces tarifs douaniers sectoriels. Par exemple, le Canada a été frappé par des tarifs douaniers sectoriels en sus d’un tarif douanier général de 35% sur les produits non couverts par l’accord CUSMA sous la loi IEEPA. Ces tarifs douaniers sectoriels sur les exportations canadiennes sont: 25% sur les véhicules, 50% sur l’acier, le cuivre et l’aluminium, et 35% sur le bois.

Le nouveau tarif douanier global de 10% épargnera les produits canadiens déjà exemptés de droits de douane, soit ceux qui sont conformes à la règle d’origine sous le CUSMA, mais les tarifs douaniers sectoriels posent un problème de compétitivité énorme à l’industrie automobile, l’industrie de l’acier et de l’aluminium et l’industrie du bois, lesquelles qui emploient une grosse main-d’œuvre.

Le Canada pense que les tarifs douaniers sectoriels vont à l’encontre de l’esprit de l’accord de libre-échange CUSMA. Les États-Unis ont menacé d’annuler cet accord si le Canada répond à leurs tarifs douaniers sectoriels par des tarifs réciproques sur les produits américains.

Le cas de Maurice

Aucun pays n’échappera au tarif global de 10% ou 15%, y compris Maurice. Le pays bénéficie d’une dérogation aux tarifs douaniers sur ses exportations (en particulier les produits textiles et d’habillement) aux États-Unis sous l’Africa

Growth and Opportunity Act, 2000 (AGOA), qui fut étendue jusqu’au 31 décembre 2026 en attendant la renégociation de l’accord avec 32 pays africains. Le tarif douanier global de 10% remet en question cet accès affranchi de droits de douane au marché américain.

Tous les pays qui ont conclu un accord de libre-échange avec les États-Unis récemment (Corée du Sud, Japon, Taiwan, Royaume Uni, Union Européenne) ont dû lui faire des concessions en contrepartie d’une baisse de tarifs douaniers, notamment un engagement d’investir aux États-Unis ou un engagement d’acheter davantage de produits américains.

Quelles concessions Maurice fera-t-elle pour échapper au tarif douanier de 10% ou même de garder sa place dans une future AGOA? Des discussions bilatérales avaient été lancées sur un «partenariat économique et de sécurité» avec les États-Unis, mais elles ont été suspendues dans le contexte de la controverse sur la rétrocession de l’archipel des Chagos à Maurice.

Est-ce que les États-Unis exigeront le droit d’occuper et de contrôler la base de Diego Garcia aux Chagos dans le cadre de cette entente, au lieu de louer l’île via un bail de 100 ans? L’idée d’une concession par bail à long terme ne semble plus plaire aux États-Unis. Maurice devrait jouer ses cartes diplomatiques avec prudence tout en se fondant sur la loi internationale.

Prakash Neerhoo

Forum

Leadership, Law and Legacy: Why Britain Must Honour the Chagos Settlement

The debate surrounding the Chagos settlement is no longer simply about geopolitics. It is about Britain’s identity as a nation governed by law — and whether its word in international affairs remains dependable.

The agreement concluded between the United Kingdom and Mauritius was designed to resolve a decades-long sovereignty dispute while safeguarding Britain’s strategic interests at Diego Garcia through a long-term lease arrangement reportedly valued at approximately £3.5 billion over 99 years. It is a structured and legally engineered compromise: sovereignty recognised, security preserved, stability ensured.

That is not weakness. It is statesmanship anchored in legal realism.

Under the leadership of Keir Starmer — a former Director of Public Prosecutions and a lawyer shaped by the discipline of human rights law — Britain approached this issue through negotiation rather than nostalgia, through legal principle rather than political theatre. A human rights lawyer understands a fundamental truth: international disputes rooted in decolonisation cannot be wished away. They must be resolved within the framework of international law, not inflamed for domestic applause.

The alternative now amplified by certain voices — including Nigel Farage and elements of the hard right — is to treat the agreement as disposable, subject to domestic political winds or external pressure. That approach may generate headlines. It does not generate credibility. Nor does it strengthen Britain’s strategic posture.

Treaties are binding instruments governed by the principle of *pacta sunt servanda* — agreements must be kept. A unilateral withdrawal outside lawful grounds would not simply be politically controversial; it would engage state responsibility under international law. It could expose the United Kingdom to claims for compensation, damages and enduring reputational harm.

The financial implications are not abstract. Repudiating a structured settlement of this magnitude could trigger claims for the present value of agreed payments, reliance losses, consequential damages, interest and legal costs. International tribunals assess breach not by rhetoric, but by measurable loss. In an era of fiscal constraint, the possibility of billions in compensation cannot be brushed aside.

International law is not toothless. Enforcement operates through judicial and diplomatic mechanisms, including proceedings before the International Court of Justice and scrutiny within the United Nations system. Arbitration clauses, doctrines of state responsibility, countermea-



“Sir Keir Starmer’s legal background is not incidental — it is central. Human rights law is grounded in continuity, restraint and fidelity to obligation. It recognises that commitments transcend political cycles and that the authority of a state derives as much from its reliability as from its power. Britain’s strength has never rested solely on strategic assets. It rests on credibility — on the assurance that when Britain signs an agreement, it honours it...” Pic - Financial Times

sures and reputational consequences form part of a structured architecture of accountability. Modern enforcement is institutional and consequential.

For a country that positions itself as a champion of the rules-based international order, selective compliance would amount to self-inflicted damage. One cannot demand adherence to international law from others while treating one’s own obligations as politically negotiable.

The Chagos question has already been subject to sustained international legal scrutiny and diplomatic engagement. The settlement was crafted precisely to close that chapter while maintaining operational continuity for defence purposes. To unravel it now would reopen settled disputes and reintroduce uncertainty where stability has been carefully constructed.

Meanwhile, those who seek to manufacture confrontation through symbolic gestures or theatrical interventions risk becoming footnotes in a larger story — remembered not for strengthening Britain’s position, but for attempting to exploit a complex legal issue for short-term political mileage. History is rarely kind to political theatrics masquerading as principle.

Sir Keir Starmer’s legal background is not incidental — it is central. Human rights law is grounded in continuity, restraint and fidelity to obligation. It recognises that commitments transcend political cycles and that the authority of a state derives as much from its reliability as from its power.

Britain’s strength has never rested solely on strategic assets. It rests on credibility — on the assurance that when Britain signs an agreement, it honours it.

Wisdom must prevail. Law must prevail. And in the end, the treaty will be signed — not as an act of concession, but as an affirmation that mature democracies resolve disputes through law, not through noise.

Principled leadership endures. Political stunts do not.

Mauradio

Child Abuse: When Schools Wait

Examining Institutional Liability in the Face of Allegations

A Junior School in Plaines Wilhems recently became the focus of intense public scrutiny following a series of allegations involving a music teacher. Tensions reached a breaking point when parents confronted the school's management over what many have characterized as a "cover-up" and a failure to protect students.

The controversy centres on a timeline that dates back to July 2025, involving serious accusations of abuse, harassment, and grooming brought forward by former students. Despite these detailed claims, the school management has admitted to a "delayed reporting" to the civil authorities, having initially prioritized internal investigations led by private legal counsel over statutory obligations. This Q&A examines the school's response, the legal implications under the Children's Act, and the steps being taken by the authorities to address this sensitive crisis.

LEX

* In your legal view, did the school's delay in formally reporting the alleged abuse to the police or relevant child protection authorities — from the first written complaint in August 2025 until February 2026 — constitute a breach of the Children's Act 2020, and what are the potential criminal and civil liabilities for the institution and the individuals involved?

Under the Children's Act 2020, Mauritius enforces a mandatory reporting framework for child protection. Section 14 (1) stipulates that any person — and specifically professionals such as medical practitioners, educators, or school staff — who believes on reasonable grounds that a child has been, or is likely to be, ill-treated, neglected, or harmed, must immediately report the matter to the Child Development Unit (CDU) or the police. Furthermore, the Act explicitly prohibits all forms of corporal punishment in any setting, including schools and homes, classifying it as a criminal offence under Section 13.

* It would appear that the law does not limit reporting obligations to cases where an allegation is fully substantiated; rather, it applies as soon as there are 'reasonable grounds to believe' that harm has occurred or may occur. If this is indeed the case, would the detailed complaints received by the school in July and August 2025 have met that legal threshold for mandatory reporting?

It is a fundamental principle of criminal law that the threshold for reporting an offence — or for an arrest — is reasonable suspicion, not the 'proof beyond reasonable doubt' required for a conviction in a court of law. Reasonable suspicion is defined as a set of facts or circumstances that would lead an ordinary, prudent person to believe that an offence has been, is being, or is likely to be committed.

* The school has allegedly suggested that because the complainants were adults at the time of reporting, it was not obliged to refer the matter immediately to

authorities. From a legal standpoint, does the fact that complainants are now adults negate the mandatory reporting duty where the alleged conduct involves minors at the time the acts are said to have occurred?

The child, now an adult, made a report only after reaching the age of majority. In the absence of a report by the child at the time of the alleged incident, there was no basis on which the school could act. School staff are mandated reporters, with a legal obligation to immediately report suspected child abuse, neglect, or disclosures to the relevant authorities (e.g., child protective services or the police). This duty is direct and personal and is typically triggered by a "reasonable belief" of harm rather than by absolute proof.

* Criminal investigations involving allegations of abuse against minors are typically conducted by police and specialised investigators to preserve evidence and protect the rights of all parties. Is there any legal basis under Mauritian law for a school to conduct an "internal investigation" into potential criminal conduct involving minors prior to reporting to authorities, and could such internal fact-finding interfere with or prejudice a subsequent criminal investigation?

Child abuse is a very serious offence. A school or any other person in contact with a child must report the matter without delay to the Permanent Secretary of the relevant Ministry.

In cases of child abuse, the law removes any discretion from the institution. There is no room for a "hush-hush" policy or private mediation when the safety of children — past, present, or future — is at stake.

* Are there specific legal norms or case law in Mauritius that govern who can interview or take statements from victims or alleged victims who were minors at the time of the alleged abuse once a matter is reported to the police, and does a private lawyer retained by the school fall outside these norms?

A criminal investigation shall be conducted where a matter is referred to the Police. The Police shall interview a child in the presence, and with the consent, of the child's parent or, in the absence of a parent, any other person having parental authority over the child. Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that consent from a parent may increase the risk of harm to the child or to another person, the Police shall interview the child in the presence of an authorised officer.

An interview may take place at an educational institution, a hospital, a police sta-

placement order, a Magistrate of the Protection Division of the Children's Court may make ancillary orders, including:

-- Parenting aide orders, providing assistance as determined by the authorised officer.

-- Supervision orders, placing the child, the parent, or both under the supervision of an authorised officer for a specified duration.

Other orders, such as:

-- Medical examination and urgent treatment for the child.

-- Professional counselling, mediation, family group conferences, or other problem-solving interventions for the child or parent.

-- Professional assessments of the child, parent, or any other person involved.

-- Limiting or prohibiting access to or contact with the child, including by a parent who has caused harm.

* From your perspective as an independent lawyer, what legal or regulatory reforms, training requirements, or institutional safeguards should be mandated or strengthened in Mauritian educational law to ensure that other schools comply fully with child protection obligations?

There is no need for further action. The Children Act, the Child Protection Act, the Ombudsperson Act, the National Rights Commission, and the Criminal Law already include several measures that schools and other authorities are required to comply with.

* What is the role of the Ministry of Education, the Ombudsperson for Children, and other oversight bodies in monitoring compliance with statutory reporting duties and safeguarding protocols, and how might these authorities intervene or sanction a school that has failed in its legal duties?

The Ministry of Education in Mauritius protects children by enforcing compulsory education and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and free learning environment. It supports vulnerable students, implements security protocols in schools, and partners with the Child Development Unit (CDU) to report abuse and promote student well-being.

The Ombudsperson for Children shall:

(a) ensure that the rights, needs, and interests of children are fully considered by public bodies, private authorities, individuals, and associations;

(b) promote the rights and best interests of children, including through investigations.

Both the Ministry and the Ombudsperson have the authority to initiate investigations and report matters to the police. In cases involving a school or kindergarten, the institution may be closed, and the owners can face severe sanctions.



tion, or any other place that may, in the circumstances, be suitable for the child. Where a child is present at an educational institution, the person in charge of the institution shall, upon request from the Police or an authorised officer, allow them to meet with and interview the child.

* What potential civil liabilities might the school face (e.g., for negligence, breach of statutory duty, or damages) if it is determined that the delay in reporting increased risk to current or future students, or allowed continued access by the accused to children?

Schools and their staff, as mandated reporters, may face serious legal consequences for failing to report suspected child abuse, including potential criminal charges (misdemeanours or felonies), fines, and civil liability for negligence. Failure to act may also result in termination of employment, loss of professional licensure, and liability for any continued abuse of the child.

* What mechanisms exist within the Act or related statutes (including the Criminal Code) for enforcement or sanction of institutional failures to protect children, and how might these be activated in a case like this?

Following an emergency protection or

Privilèges ou service public? La remise en question des retraites politiques au Sri Lanka

Par A. Bartleby

Le 17 février 2026 marquera un tournant historique dans la gouvernance du Sri Lanka. Dans un geste radical visant à assainir les finances publiques et à répondre à l'indignation populaire, le parlement sri-lankais a voté en faveur de l'abolition pure et simple des pensions pour tous les législateurs et leurs conjoints survivants.

Cette décision, portée par le gouvernement de gauche du président Anura Kumara Disanayake, replace au centre du débat international une question épineuse: les élus doivent-ils bénéficier de régimes de retraite d'exception?

Le séisme sri-lankais: Du bungalow à la loi

La suppression de la loi sur les pensions parlementaires, vieille de 49 ans, ne s'est pas faite dans un vide politique. Elle est le point culminant d'une confrontation entre la nouvelle administration et l'ancienne garde, symbolisée par l'ex-président Mahinda Rajapaksa. Le refus de ce dernier de quitter une résidence d'État a servi de catalyseur à une remise en question globale des privilèges.

Le ministre de la Justice, Harsana Nanayakkara, a résumé le sentiment général lors du vote: «Quand les gens voient la qualité des débats, ils ne pensent pas que les députés méritent une pension.»

Avec 154 voix contre 2, le Sri Lanka a mis fin à un système où cinq ans de mandat suffisaient pour obtenir une rente à vie, alors que les fonctionnaires ordinaires, eux, doivent accomplir dix ans de service.

Le modèle démocratique en question

Si le Sri Lanka a opté pour la "manière forte", la plupart des démocraties occidentales maintiennent des systèmes de retraite pour leurs élus, tout en les réformant en profondeur. Traditionnellement, ces pensions reposaient sur des régimes à prestations définies (garanties par l'État). Aujourd'hui, des pays comme le Royaume-Uni, l'Australie ou le Canada migrent vers des régimes à cotisations définies, calqués sur le secteur privé.

Les trois piliers de la justification

Pourquoi maintenir ces pensions? Les arguments classiques sont au nombre de trois :

- 1. L'attractivité du talent:** Éviter que des professionnels qualifiés ne fuient la vie publique pour ne pas sacrifier leur sécurité financière à long terme.
- 2. La lutte contre la corruption:** Offrir une sécurité après le mandat pour réduire la tentation d'accumuler des richesses illicites durant l'exercice du pouvoir. C'est d'ailleurs l'argument de l'opposition sri-lankaise, menée par Sajith Premadasa, qui craint que la paupérisation des élus ne favorise les pots-de-vin.
- 3. La précarité politique:** Contrairement à la fonction publique, une carrière parlementaire peut s'arrêter brutalement tous les quatre ou cinq ans, rendant difficile la réinsertion professionnelle tardive.

L'éthique du «cumul retraite-indemnité» (double dipping)

L'un des points les plus contestés reste celui des députés réélus qui perçoivent déjà une pension pour leurs mandats précédents. Est-il éthique de toucher une retraite tout en recevant un salaire de la même institution?

Dans une perspective de confiance publique, cette pratique est de plus en plus perçue comme un abus de confiance. Elle crée une caste politique déconnectée de la



À Maurice, le régime des retraites parlementaires (National Assembly Act) suscite un vif débat sur l'équité, alors que l'âge de la retraite universelle (BRP) transite vers 65 ans. P - Free Press Journal

réalité économique des citoyens. Pour contrer cela, plusieurs nations ont instauré des règles d'écrêtement ou de suspension:

- **En Australie et au Canada:** Dès qu'un ancien député est réélu, sa pension est immédiatement suspendue. Il redevient un cotisant actif plutôt qu'un bénéficiaire.
- **Au Royaume-Uni:** Le principe de l'abattement s'applique. Si un ancien élu occupe un nouveau poste public, sa pension est réduite de sorte que le total (salaire + pension) ne dépasse pas son ancien salaire de député.

À Maurice, le régime de retraite des parlementaires est régi par la *National Assembly (Retiring Allowances) Act*. Ce système, bien que spécifique, n'échappe pas aux critiques sur l'équité, particulièrement dans un contexte où l'âge de la retraite universelle (BRP) est en pleine transition vers 65 ans.

Pour être éligible à une pension, un député doit avoir accompli un «service qualifiant» d'au moins deux mandats (souvent interprété comme environ 7 à 9 ans de service effectif). Contrairement au régime général, la pension peut être versée dès la fin du mandat, pourvu que le bénéficiaire ait atteint l'âge requis (souvent 55 ou 60 ans selon les réformes). Le montant est calculé sur la base des derniers émoluments, avec un taux accéléré par rapport aux fonctionnaires.

Le législateur justifie ces avantages par la nature précaire du mandat politique. L'argument est qu'un député abandonne souvent sa carrière professionnelle pour servir la nation et mérite une sécurité financière immédiate après son départ, d'autant plus qu'il n'a pas de garantie de réemploi. C'est aussi un rempart théorique contre la corruption.

Le «double dipping» à la mauricienne

Le cas des députés réélus est strictement encadré par

l'article 7 de la loi:

- **Suspension:** Si un ancien député retourne au Parlement, le versement de sa pension cesse immédiatement durant toute la période où il reçoit un salaire législatif.
- **Exception de différence:** Si, par hasard, le montant de sa pension acquise était supérieur à son nouveau salaire, il ne percevrait que la différence.

Ainsi, Maurice évite le cumul pur (salaire + pension), mais le débat reste vif sur la générosité de ces rentes par rapport au citoyen moyen qui voit son âge de départ à la retraite repoussé.

Une tendance mondiale à la sobriété

Quels que soient les différents modèles adoptés dans divers pays, le cas sri-lankais illustre une impatience croissante des peuples face aux avantages perçus comme excessifs. Avant même les pensions, le gouvernement Disanayake avait déjà supprimé des milliers de gardes du corps, des flottes de véhicules de luxe et des budgets de rénovation de résidences coloniales (certaines ayant coûté jusqu'à 2,6 millions de dollars en fonds publics).

L'éthique moderne tend vers une harmonisation: la pension ne doit plus être un privilège royal attaché à la fonction, mais une compensation différée, strictement encadrée. Le consensus qui émerge dans les pays de l'OCDE est clair: on peut être soit un contributeur au système, soit un bénéficiaire, mais jamais les deux simultanément.

Le vote du Sri Lanka pourrait faire jurisprudence dans d'autres pays en crise économique. Il pose une question fondamentale sur la nature du mandat législatif: est-ce un service rendu à la nation ou une carrière protégée? Alors que les démocraties cherchent à restaurer leur légitimité, la transparence et la fin du cumul financier semblent devenir les conditions *sine qua non* de la paix sociale.

☞ Suite de l'article : Page 7

Chagos: Le duel entre la «realpolitik» de Starmer et l'offensive populiste de Farage et Patel

L'archipel des Chagos est devenu, en ce début d'année 2026, le nouveau champ de bataille d'une droite britannique en quête de symboles nationaux à défendre. Au cœur de cette tempête, deux figures de proue du conservatisme et du populisme, Priti Patel et Nigel Farage, mènent une guérilla acharnée contre l'accord de rétrocession à Maurice. Face à eux, le Premier ministre Keir Starmer tente de maintenir le cap d'un traité qu'il juge juridiquement inévitable.

Nigel Farage: Le tribun des stunts médiatiques

Le leader de *Reform UK* a démontré, une nouvelle fois, son génie pour la mise en scène politique en transformant un dossier diplomatique complexe en une aventure digne d'un roman d'époque. En se projetant aux Maldives pour tenter de briser ce qu'il appelle le «blocus» de l'île du Coin, Farage ne cherche pas tant à résoudre un conflit de souveraineté qu'à créer une image: celle du dernier défenseur de l'Empire face à un 10, Downing Street qu'il juge démissionnaire.

Une rhétorique de combat: Ses arguments ne s'adressent pas aux juristes internationaux, mais à l'électorat britannique nostalgique et inquiet. En qualifiant l'accord de «reddition», née d'une «culpabilité post-coloniale», il touche une corde sensible du nationalisme anglais.

Sa proposition iconoclaste de «vendre» les îles aux États-Unis est un coup de billard à trois bandes: elle flatte l'allié américain (et particulièrement Donald Trump), dénigre Maurice en la présentant comme une juridiction instable, et place Keir Starmer dans la position inconfortable de celui qui «donne» ce qui pourrait être monétisé.

Pour Farage, les Chagos sont le terrain idéal pour importer la rhétorique MAGA et affaiblir la stature de «statesman» que Starmer tente de construire.

Priti Patel: Le lobbying transatlantique

Si Farage occupe le terrain médiatique et maritime, Priti Patel investit les couloirs feutrés du pouvoir à Washington. Son opposition n'est pas un simple désaccord de circonstance; c'est un combat identitaire et idéologique profond.

L'argumentaire sécuritaire: Patel utilise la fibre géopolitique pour effrayer ses interlocuteurs américains. En agitant le spectre d'une Maurice «alliée de la Chine», elle tente de transformer un dossier de décolonisation en une menace directe pour la sécurité nationale de l'Occident. Pour elle, le bail de 99 ans sur Diego Garcia n'est qu'un chiffon de papier face à l'appétit stratégique de Pékin dans l'océan Indien.

Un paradoxe identitaire: L'aspect le plus fascinant de son engagement réside

dans son histoire personnelle. Fille de la diaspora gujaratie, ayant fui les persécutions en Ouganda, elle incarne cette réussite immigrée qui s'est assimilée par l'adhésion la plus stricte aux valeurs conservatrices et impériales.

En se montrant «plus royaliste que le roi» sur les Chagos, elle réaffirme sa position de gardienne intransigeante de la souveraineté britannique. Son agenda est clair: être celle qui empêchera Keir Starmer, l'ancien procureur legaliste, de démanteler ce qu'il reste de la projection de puissance britannique dans le monde.

Keir Starmer: Le juriste face aux idéologues

Face à cette offensive, Keir Starmer oppose la rigueur de son passé d'ancien Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP). Pour lui, le dossier Chagos n'est pas une affaire d'émotion, mais de droit international.

Starmer sait que le Royaume-Uni n'a plus de perspective réaliste de succès devant les instances internationales après l'avis consultatif de la Cour internationale de Justice.

Sa motivation est pragmatique: sécuriser juridiquement la présence de la base de Diego Garcia pour le prochain siècle. Là où Patel et Farage voient une trahison, Starmer voit une nécessité stratégique pour éviter que le Royaume-Uni ne devienne un «État paria» aux yeux de l'ONU.

Cependant, la situation est critique pour Keir Starmer. À l'approche des élections locales (municipales) du 7 mai 2026, le dossier des Chagos est devenu un symbole de la fragilité de son leadership. Voici pourquoi ce traité pourrait peser lourd sur son avenir politique:

Un timing électoral périlleux

Les élections locales de mai 2026 seront le premier grand test électoral pour le Parti Travailleuse depuis son arrivée au pouvoir. Historiquement, ces scrutins servent de «vote sanction» pour le gouverne-



Tandis que Priti Patel s'érige en gardienne intransigeante de la souveraineté britannique, Nigel Farage se met en scène comme l'ultime défenseur de l'Empire face à un 10 Downing Street jugé démissionnaire. P - Pic - Daily Express

ment en place.

Avec une cote de popularité en chute libre (atteignant parfois des niveaux proches de ceux de Liz Truss selon certains sondages), Starmer ne peut se permettre d'être perçu comme «faible» sur la scène internationale juste avant que les électeurs ne se rendent aux urnes.

Un piège populiste

Le «deal» des Chagos offre une plateforme idéale aux adversaires de Starmer:

- Nigel Farage utilise ses «stunts» médiatiques aux Maldives pour accuser Starmer de brader la souveraineté britannique, un thème qui résonne fortement auprès de l'électorat populaire et patriotique.
- Priti Patel mène un lobbying intense à Washington, s'alignant sur les critiques de Donald Trump. Le fait que le président américain ait qualifié l'accord de «terrible erreur» place Starmer dans une position intenable. S'il persiste, il risque de froisser l'allié américain; s'il recule, il confirme les accusations de manque de jugement portées par l'opposition.
- Face à ce front commun, Keir Starmer

parie sur la solidité du droit. Là où Patel et Farage jouent sur l'émotion et la peur, Starmer mise sur la clôture d'un litige qui épuise les ressources diplomatiques du pays. Reste à savoir si la logique légale du Premier ministre saura résister à la tempête populiste qui souffle désormais des deux côtés de l'Atlantique.

La «révolte des Lords» et la pause forcée

En janvier 2026, le gouvernement a subi plusieurs défaites humiliantes à la Chambre des Lords concernant ce traité. Les pairs ont exigé:

- un référendum parmi les Chagossiens;
- une plus grande transparence sur les coûts (estimés à plus de 100 millions de livres sterling par an)

Face à cette résistance et à l'hostilité de la Maison-Blanche de Trump, le gouvernement avait été contraint de mettre le processus législatif en «pause», suite aux premières critiques de Trump contre le «deal» Maurice-Royaume-Uni sur les Chagos. De tels reculs sont généralement perçus comme des signes de vulnérabilité.

Bien qu'il dispose d'une large majorité parlementaire, Starmer fait face à des tensions internes. Certains députés travaillistes craignent que l'accumulation de controverses (Chagos, nominations polémiques comme celle de Peter Mandelson, impopularité record) ne conduise à un désastre en mai 2026.

Le «Chagos Deal» n'est pas seulement un dossier diplomatique, c'est devenu le test ultime de sa capacité à gouverner. S'il échoue à naviguer entre les exigences du droit international et la pression populiste de Farage et Patel, les élections de mai pourraient bien marquer le début de la fin de son mandat.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite de l'article: Page 17



Sir Keir Starmer oppose la rigueur légale au populisme émotionnel de Patel et de Farage pour clore un différend diplomatique devenu intenable. P - NBC News

Erratic Power in a Fragile Order

In a fragile order, erratic power does not project strength. It transmits uncertainty. And uncertainty, in an increasingly militarised Indian Ocean, is a risk multiplier

By Karma Yogi

The world is not merely turbulent; it is sliding toward strategic disorder. When the leading power governs by improvisation, instability pervades.

Under Donald Trump's second term, one feature has become unmistakable: there are no permanent friends or allies, only temporary alignments and negotiable positions. Diplomacy is framed as transaction. Alliances are recalculated. **Commitments are reversible.** What Franklin D. Roosevelt once imagined — a system anchored in institutions, rules and long-term responsibility — appears increasingly dispensable.

The treatment of allies and adversaries alike follows the same script: public rebuke, abrupt reversal, conditional endorsement. Strategic partners are admonished in one breath and courted in the next. Adversaries are threatened and then unexpectedly engaged. To wit, the announced visit of Trump to China at the end of March. Unpredictability has been elevated to governing style.

Even domestic institutions have not been spared. When the United States Supreme Court signaled the anti-constitutionality of executive tariff authority, the response was not sober recalibration but visible irritation and rhetorical defiance. Tariffs — once defended as instruments of economic leverage — were recast as matters of executive prerogative. When judicial constraint is treated as obstruction, the signal extends beyond domestic politics. In international affairs, such messages travel quickly. Financial markets respond with volatility and higher borrowing costs. Governments move to shield their economies from abrupt policy shifts. Allies, unsure of long-term reliability, begin reducing strategic dependence and widening their security options.

Chagos: Misplaced Perception

The Chagos Agreement between the United Kingdom and Mauritius illustrates this drift with particular clarity. A matter grounded in sovereignty, international law and strategic continuity has, since Trump's return to office, been reframed in overtly tactical terms. At moments, the arrangement has been tolerated for reasons of stability of the



“Under Donald Trump's second term, one feature has become unmistakable: there are no permanent friends or allies, only temporary alignments and negotiable positions. Diplomacy is framed as transaction. Alliances are recalculated. Commitments are reversible. What Franklin D. Roosevelt once imagined — a system anchored in institutions, rules and long-term responsibility — appears increasingly dispensable. The treatment of allies and adversaries alike follows the same script: public rebuke, abrupt reversal, conditional endorsement...” — Pic - Mint

base; at others, it has been denounced as weakness. The oscillation suggests less principled reassessment than instrumentalisation.

Yet it must be stated plainly: recent push-and-pull episodes surrounding the Chagos issue may give the superficial impression that the matter is slipping away from Mauritius. **That perception is misplaced.**

The legal position is **not** ambiguous. The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice affirmed that the decolonisation of Mauritius was **not** lawfully completed and that the United Kingdom's continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago is contrary to international law. The subsequent resolution of the United Nations General Assembly reinforced that finding and called for the completion of decolonisation: **sovereignty over the Chagos, including Diego Garcia, rests with Mauritius.**

The US: A Tenant

The United States is not a sovereign

actor there; it operates as a tenant pursuant to arrangements concluded with the administering power. The United Kingdom's position has been found inconsistent with the law of decolonisation as articulated by the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Political manoeuvres may generate headlines. They do not alter jurisprudence.

What volatility can do, however, is delay compliance. And delay carries cost. When powerful states appear to treat international law as negotiable and law-based advisory opinions as expendable, the erosion is not confined to one territory. It touches the credibility of the broader order they once claimed to defend.

Third World War? Not Yet!

We are not yet in a Third World War. But we are living through the convergence of theatres whose interactions are increasingly systemic:

- The Russia-Ukraine war reshapes European security architecture.
- Iran remains a flashpoint, intersecting with Gulf and Indian Ocean maritime security.
- Gaza reverberates far beyond its geography.
- Yemen affects Red Sea shipping and global trade flows.
- Strategic rivalry with China deepens across technology, supply chains and maritime presence.

These are no longer isolated crises. They form a pattern of competitive escalation.

Chokepoints

The Indian Ocean is increasingly central to this dynamic. It connects the energy arteries of the Gulf, the manufacturing hubs of East Asia and the markets of Africa and Europe. Bab el-Mandeb, Hormuz and Malacca are chokepoints whose disruption reverberates globally. Naval deployments intensify. Access agreements multiply. Undersea cables and port infrastructure acquire strategic salience.

For Mauritius, the implications are immediate. The Chagos issue sits at the intersection of sovereignty, maritime security and great-power rivalry. A destabilised Gulf affects shipping costs and insurance premiums. Escalation in the Red Sea alters trade routes. Increased militarisation heightens risks across the region, compounded by the erratic power of the principal security actor in this theatre.

Erosion of Prestige and Moral Authority

A great power can survive policy errors. It cannot indefinitely survive the loss of credibility. When credibility erodes, relationships become transactional, and consent is replaced by coercion. And when coercion becomes routine, conflict becomes more probable.

By the time the present administration concludes its term, the most consequential loss may not be territorial or military. It will surely be the steady erosion of prestige and moral authority that once enabled the United States to lead through legitimacy rather than pressure.

If tariffs are weaponised, treaties rendered provisional, alliances treated as conditional and institutions dismissed as expendable, then multilateralism simply weakens. It is the smaller states that pay the price.

In a fragile order, erratic power does not project strength. It transmits uncertainty. And uncertainty, in an increasingly militarised Indian Ocean, is a risk multiplier.

Beware of the unforgiving verdict of History!

24 February 2026

“Recent push-and-pull episodes surrounding the Chagos issue may give the superficial impression that the matter is slipping away from Mauritius. That perception is misplaced. The legal position is not ambiguous. The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice affirmed that the decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed and that the United Kingdom's continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago is contrary to international law...”

Nita Deerpalsing



Mauritius Times: As the Mauritius Labour Party marks its 90th anniversary this week, it offers a timely opportunity to reflect on its trajectory. Founded on the bedrock of workers' rights and democratic socialism, how does the party measure up to those ideals today?

Indeed the 90th anniversary of the MLP is a significant milestone not only for the party itself but even more so for the country. Because let us not forget that the fight against oppression — led by Anquetil, Rozemont, etc., — leading up to 1936 when the party was founded is the very root of the tree that Mauritius is today.

There is no doubt that the courage of conviction in the face of powerful oppressors should still remain an immense source of inspiration and a solid compass for action for anyone in politics today for the right reasons.

You will note that although Dr Maurice Cure was one of the founding members of the MLP in 1936, I chose to put the spotlight more on Messrs Emmanuel Anquetil and Guy Rozemont. This is because historical documents clearly show that Dr Cure was not that consistent in his convictions. Before founding the MLP, he was part of a movement to ask for retrocession of Mauritius to... the French! After having been with the MLP for a while, he eventually reneged the convictions he had when he founded the party to end up forming a group to stand against the Independence movement.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about this period of our History can tune in to the YouTube channel "dearMoris" (<https://www.youtube.com/@dearMoris>) where I have uploaded a series of podcasts with Mr Bashir Khan. Mr Khan is a Mauritian living in London and has spent over 40 years collecting over 44,000 pages of documents from British archives.

Mr Khan's collection is impressive as it covers so many details of British Intelligence documents of the time detailing the actions of people like Rozemont, Anquetil and others. These documents also contain minutes of meetings regarding the whole Diego/Chagos issue. It is a treasure trove of information, and I am very happy that Mr Khan agreed to eagerly collaborate on this project to make our History

"People want Justice. Justice in every aspect of a human being's life..."

...that was precisely what the Labour of 1936 was about"

This week, the Mauritius Labour Party marks its 90th anniversary — a moment that invites reflection not just on the party's history, but on the ideals that gave birth to modern Mauritius. From the early struggles against colonial oppression, led by figures such as Emmanuel Anquetil and Guy Rozemont, to the fight for workers' rights and independence, the MLP's roots are deeply entwined with the nation's own journey toward justice and dignity. Today, as the party navigates a complex political and economic landscape, the question remains: does it still embody the courage, conviction, and commitment to the collective good that inspired its founders? Nita Deerpalsing sheds light on this and more. Read on:

accessible to each citizen of this country through Kreol.

*** The struggle which started in 1936 was about workers' rights, the fight against the plantocracy, and the march toward independence. It provides the party with moral authority — the idea that "we were there at the beginning." That legacy has served the party well, but as the political landscape shifts, we must ask: does it still resonate with today's voters and the generations to come?**

In my opinion — and this is really sad to say — the party today is very quickly becoming a mere copy of the MSM. Where people join, not on the basis of unwavering principles and foundational ideas about progressive politics but to make a "career" in politics. If not that, then to have the opportunity to significantly multiply their net financial worth between the time they join the party and the time they leave.

Of course there are many doctors, lawyers and other accomplished professionals who will tell you they make more money outside than being an MP or a minister — which is more or less true for the accomplished ones. However, they are also vulnerable to another form of "gain": that of an inflated ego, a sense of status, a sense of being important, with media running after them and giving them a public existence.

In my view, these are all the wrong reasons for entering politics, whichever the case may be.

I believe we should draw inspiration from Guy Rozemont, who was, in my eyes, a true firebrand of conviction for genuine individual and societal emancipation.

*** What did Guy Rozemont stand up against?**

« Although Dr Maurice Cure was one of the founding members of the MLP in 1936, I chose to put the spotlight more on Messrs Emmanuel Anquetil and Guy Rozemont. This is because historical documents clearly show that Dr Cure was not that consistent in his convictions. Before founding the MLP, he was part of a movement to ask for retrocession of Mauritius to... the French! After having been with the MLP for a while, he eventually reneged the convictions he had when he founded the party to end up forming a group to stand against the Independence movement...»

Let us remember that, at the time, he faced both political power in the British Colonial Office and economic power in the sugar plantocracy. Guy Rozemont — armed with nothing but his convictions — stood bravely against an abuse of power from both sides, which had subjected citizens to a multitude of injustices

There was the political injustice of citizens not having the franchise to vote. He voiced out and acted against that injustice. There was the political injustice of the then British Governor nominating whoever he wanted (mostly the elites from the sugar plantocracy) in the Legislative Council which practically resulted in nullifying the votes of the people. Concretely that meant that any motion that Guy Rozemont or his peers would bring to the Legislative Council to demand for better working conditions for labourers and workers were easily squashed precisely because the British Governor's nominations had outnumbered those who were actually voted in by the people!

Can you imagine Rozemont bringing a motion for better working conditions, only to face a Legislative Council where the majority were the sugar bosses themselves — seated there by nomination, not by vote? Would they ever agree to such an emancipatory motion? Were the votes in that Assembly reflecting the power of the people, or the power of money?

To those currently hailing from the Labour Party who use the excuse that 'only fools never change their minds' to justify their shifts, I ask them to engage their grey matter. Look at our parliament today: Does it reflect the power of the people, or has it once again succumbed to the power of the purse?

Can you answer this affirmatively when you see how the pension measure was forced down the throat of the people without a single consultation with the people? Without even those taking the decision having even the decency to lead by example?

Can you answer this affirmatively when you see MPs, Junior Ministers, Ministers parading their presence in the rebranding exercises of those at the top economic echelon of this country? Are they proxies for marketing companies? Do they get paid to provide free publicity to some economic players?

Do you find this kind of bizarre occurrence in countries at the top of the list of least corrupt countries? Like the Scandinavian countries? Or the country we like to refer to — Singapore?

☞ Cont. on page 10

'Until non-toxic leadership becomes viral, we will fall short on the ambition of living in a strong, prosperous nation'



☞ Cont. from page 9

Here ministers and junior ministers even go and plant tea trees for an exclusive club of the private sector. Worse yet: they go and give their blessings to mergers of the top companies! I mean this is absolutely surreal. The more so for a team which promised so-called "rupture".

Can you answer the above question (is the power of the people greater than the power of money) affirmatively when you see the Competition Commission giving their blessings to an increased concentration in the insurance sector?

Can you answer this million-dollar question affirmatively when you see Independent Power Producers still marching happily to the banks on the back of every single citizen of this country?

It is difficult to answer this affirmatively when political campaigns — and indeed entire mandates — are so heavily influenced by financial interests. Historically, this influence came from those at the top of the economic ladder. Today, however, a new concern arises: the lack of transparency regarding the origins of political funding, leaving us to wonder if these resources might also be linked to illicit activities.

So, I am very sorry for the imbeciles who are too comfortably busy enjoying the spoils of power not to notice that

☞ **People want Justice. Period. And by Justice I don't mean exclusively the Justice system in the sense of the Judiciary. Although even there we see how those with money and/or connections (whether political or fraternal) are able to differentially treated. I mean Justice in every aspect of a human being's life. That was precisely what the Labour of 1936 was about...»**

even today the evidence is incontestable: the power of money is stronger than the power of the people! Allow me to repeat this in our Kreol Morisien for emphasis for the benefits of the imbeciles: *'puvwar larzan buku pli for ki puvwar lepep'*.

In fact, it is even much more insidious, clever and cancerous than it was in Rozemont's time. And in case anyone has still not understood what we are talking about here, let me spell it out: corruption and the capture of the state with the good old power of money.

And let me underline that this did not start yesterday, certainly not in November 2024, not even in 2014 when the worse MSM led government ever came to power. The 10 years between 2014 and 2024 were an intoxicating, vertiginous acceleration of the power of money. Getting even into the terrain of mafiosi-like things such as what we saw with reward money or even the assassination of Mr Kistnen disguised into a suicide. That should give all of us shivers for what we escaped from in November 2024.

*** Don't you think the party has had to adapt its ideological foundations to suit political realities and coalition dynamics — and eventually evolved into a modern social-democratic movement with a distinct identity alongside its partners?**

Let me be clear. I am not interested in ideology. Because ideology can enslave your mind. In order for my mind to remain free and agile, it is important to even discard the word "ideology". What I am more interested in is fundamental principles and pragmatism.

☞ **The 10 years between 2014 and 2024 were an intoxicating, vertiginous acceleration of the power of money. Getting even into the terrain of mafiosi-like things such as what we saw with reward money or even the assassination of Mr Kistnen disguised into a suicide. That should give all of us shivers for what we escaped from in November 2024...»**

So, when I hear this argument from today's spokespersons of today's MLP — that of "adapting to current realities", I say to myself that obviously they haven't given enough thought to the emancipatory movement led by Anquetil, Rozemont, Pandit Sahadeo and SSR.

My question is what are you adapting to? The power of money to corrupt, to abuse, to capture the State? Really? That is now the new Labour branding?

The other astonishing argument that we often hear is: oh we can't do without those who have the Capital to invest. And on that one I so totally emphatically agree. I am absolutely for a market economy where — like countries with high level of well-being — the people's capital is not used to subsidize private ventures which then capture all the profits!

That is the challenge of today! Are we going to continue the massive subsidies that the people provide as capital to private ventures such as in the case of the IPPs? Lest they do not know, they should do some homework and realize that in the case of IPPs it is the people of Mauritius who provided the capital, took on their back all the risks. Only for the IPPs to walk away with billions of hand outs from ... the people!! So pray do tell, what capital that we can't do without are we talking about?

Do you find these kinds of "frameworks" in our oft-quoted

☞ **Are we going to continue the massive subsidies that the people provide as capital to private ventures such as in the case of the IPPs? Lest they do not know, they should do some homework and realize that in the case of IPPs it is the people of Mauritius who provided the capital, took on their back all the risks. Only for the IPPs to walk away with billions of hand outs from... the people!! ...»**

Singapore for example? Do you find competition commissions siphoning funds from public funds (in terms of lavish salaries, etc.) only to increase the level of cartelisation? I mean, for goodness sake, I would say to those people get a reality check on what a rent-seeking model of development is before you start speaking of "we can't do without capital".

*** The Labour Party has made an impressive comeback to power after a decade in the political wilderness. However, this new success comes with difficult challenges. The party has maintained its commitment to the welfare state, but the current challenge is balancing its socialist roots with fiscal reality. That's a tough one, as the reform of the pensions system has shown. What's your take on that?**

As I mentioned before, I am less interested in "socialism"; I am more interested in real functioning market economics. Where it is not the people who provide capital and take the risks for private ventures to pocket the profits.

And let me please emphasize that I am not talking about the historical landowners only. Today we have a new emerging rent-seeking bourgeois class. And rent-seeking has not all of a sudden become angelic and noble because the colour of the skin of the rent-seekers has become more brown, or more of this or that ethnic community! Take the example of those who obtain by-catch fish contracts regime after regime. You think that is not rent-seeking? That is not something which ultimately erodes something from a Public Goods perspective? We also saw how private clinics of some politically connected people mushroomed under the previous regime.

Unfortunately, all of these examples provide evidence that instead of moving towards a true market economy where there is competition, true market forces, true private enterprises, over the last 30 years or so, we have only democratized the rent-seeking class. Those who feed off of the State's subsidies, those who feed off of preferential development permits granted by the political power of the day. While Public Goods are eroded, regime after regime.

In her insightful book about how concentrated disproportionate wealth erodes democracy, Amy Chua was talking about 'market-dominant minorities' in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Unfortunately for us, we must now speak of "market-dominant multiplicities"; all of which have nothing to do with a truly competitive market economy which delivers both on economic prosperity and democracy.

Ironically, the widespread narrative carefully crafted to manufacture consent is that we have too much "handouts" for the poor and the vulnerable. When in actual fact, the people of this country give real handouts by the billions to the ultra rich! And may I add that I find it absolutely shocking that office bearers of the MLP today are ignorant of the fact.

☞ Cont. on page 11

'The power of money is stronger than the power of the people today!'

In case anyone has still not understood what we are talking about here, let me spell it out: corruption and the capture of the state with the good old power of money.

☞ Cont. from page 10

It would be interesting for a student at the university to research just how much since independence the people of this country have given handouts to the top economic echelon. Or maybe an MP could have demanded a quantification of this amount if we had things like parliamentary committees on economic policy. In the meantime, we will only be fed a narrative that continues to entrench a dominant narrative in which handouts by the people of this country to the richest of richest, simply does not exist, has never existed!

*** Moving forward, do you think the party's current social model sustainable, or is a fundamental shift in its economic approach inevitable?**

Before we move on from what we consider a sustainable model in the dominant narrative, let me share here, an opinion which Sameer Sharma posted a couple of days ago on someone's Facebook post. I share it here because it is so clearly articulated and it comes from a respected professional without any political leaning.

Let me quote and paraphrase a bit: you have people who own large land banks. You don't have land value taxation. You don't have fiscal policy which pushes in a direction that is for collective good. So, what happens is that the large landowners have figured out that they can convert to residential and commercial (with the support of eager and vision-less policy makers I may add); and the value of that land multiplies overnight on paper. They then go to the bank and say here's my collateral, give me a loan. Then they build luxury villas which they sell and make a killing. It's a very easy and stupid model, why would they change that? And the money they make out of these deals, they try to make sure they keep as much of it as possible abroad.

Now if I consider these words from Sameer Sharma, I would say yes of course why would they change that? But the next question is: what needs to be done in order to ensure this does not to change? Get the most servile politicians that money can buy. But who sell themselves as "rupture" makers. And the better if you get the variety which recently paraded on interviews for MLP's 90th anniversary and can mindlessly repeat the narrative: we would all be dead without *this* model of development. Those kinds of politicians are a real treasure. The



☞ **This is the challenge we have in front of us. It's a daunting task and the journey can only start if we have one thing: non-toxic leadership-by-example at all levels. Until non-toxic leadership becomes viral, we will fall short on the ambition of living in a strong, prosperous nation where all concepts of justice is embedded in every single citizen, in every single institution of this country**☞

more mindless they are, the better.

Sorry you were talking about a "sustainable model"? There you go. That has been the most sustainable model for some 30 years or so!

*** Let's move on to the challenge of internal renewal. Developing a new generation of leaders to carry the party forward is its most pressing internal challenge. As voters move away from traditional party loyalty, how can the Labour Party renew its leadership? Has the focus on senior figures made it harder to develop the 'next-generation' talent needed to reach younger voters?**

The question is: who are the names we are going to remember after Anquetil, Rozemont, Seeneevassen, SSR, etc.? Who will be the stalwarts we will remember not for having held a seat of power for some time but for having had the guts, the determination, the decisiveness to wrestle with the power of money which erodes Public Goods?

I don't think that the fundamental aspiration of human beings worldwide is a function of age. People want Justice. Period. And by Justice I don't mean exclusively the Justice system in the sense of the Judiciary. Although even there we see how those with money and /or connections (whether political or fraternal) are able to differentially treated.

I mean Justice in every aspect of a human being's life.

That was precisely what the Labour of 1936 was about.

*** We have a lot about Gen Z these days — a generation that tends to prioritize individual causes and their own careers over collective political action. How does a legacy 'mass movement' party evolve to attract a generation focused on climate change, personal entrepreneurship and social justice?**

I am afraid I do not subscribe to this generalization that fundamental human beings' aspirations can be categorized according to age groups. There are a couple of underlying conditions that any human being craves for: Dignity and Justice.

We see how the world over we have youths everywhere engaged in environmental justice. That is in an example of engagement for a collective good. So I believe we should refrain from reading more than we should when we see how some young people today – across the world – are allergic to politicians of the day. They are not disengaging from collective action because they do not believe in collective goods. It is more a mix of disgust, of resignation in face of the power of money, a discouragement that those profiting from exploiting the planet are so powerful that they wield all sorts of power to block justice in all kinds of ways.

*** Given the rapid pace of change globally in politics,**

economy, and technology, what would you say are the core challenges and opportunities for centre-left parties like the MLP in the 21st century?

I want systemic change which results in justice being done, being seen, being felt and being lived. I don't care what you call that system: left, centre, right. The appellation is not important. Evidence about what works is important.

For example, we know that countries where people have a very decent life are countries which have curbed corruption to the minimum. We know countries which are most prosperous and also enjoy individual and societal well-being, are countries where competition truly flourishes. Here if we continue on this track, we will be living in an increasingly cartelised society. In more ways than one.

And like this there are so many best practices across the world from which we can inspire and build a future proof Mauritius.

But in my view, to do that we need a few basic ingredients:

(1) A strong sense of national unity stemming from the equal applicability of the law. Where every single citizen feels an equal belonging to the collective public goods. Because you simply can't have collective enthusiasm for progress if your citizens self-categorize themselves from a young age. To do that we have to eliminate all kinds of instances where institutions deliver public (but also private) services according to the citizen's look or social status. But also worth noting is that you will never have any truly effective nation building (and collective

☞ **A recent study published by the British Medical Journal re-emphasizes the link between nutrition and mental health/behaviour. When we see all those examples of non-balanced behaviour in schools, on the roads, in buses, at the workplace (and even in parliament for goodness sake!) it should give us serious pause to consider our policy (if we have one) about 'alimentation'...**☞

enthusiasm for progress) if you end up with two categories of citizenry: those who have been to public schools and those who have been to private schools. That situation is extremely erosive and dangerous for us as a nation.

(2) A nation of healthy people. This involves what kind of nutritious, nontoxic food is available for the common citizen. Because it is sheer delusion to think that in 2050 you can have economic prosperity with widespread sickness in the population. A recent study published by the British Medical Journal re-emphasizes the link between nutrition and mental health/behaviour. When we see all those examples of non-balanced behaviour in schools, on the roads, in buses, at the workplace (and even in parliament for goodness sake!) it should give us serious pause to consider our policy (if we have one) about "alimentation".

(3) An enthusiastic nation. This one rests naturally upon the above two but goes much beyond these. Because you can't produce anything great if the people in the country are not energized, do not have a hunger for making individual and collective progress and are satisfied with just the minimum.

This is the challenge we have in front of us. It's a daunting task and the journey can only start if we have one thing: non-toxic leadership-by-example at all levels. Until non-toxic leadership becomes viral, we will fall short on the ambition of living in a strong, prosperous nation where all concepts of justice is embedded in every single citizen, in every single institution of this country.

INSURE • PROTECT • EMPOWER



A NEW ERA OF
**INSURANCE
INNOVATION**

- **INSURANCE**
- **PENSIONS**
- **LENDING**
- **MICRO FINANCE**

For your present, future & beyond
602 3000 | nicl.mu

The logo for NIC (National Insurance Corporation) is displayed in white text within a dark blue circular shape in the bottom right corner of the page.

Across the Globe

Global lithium landscape is undergoing a dramatic shift

The global lithium landscape is undergoing a dramatic shift as producer nations tighten their grip on raw materials and consumer nations race to build domestic alternatives. In a decisive move this week, Zimbabwe suspended all lithium exports, including raw minerals and concentrates, effective immediately. This policy aims to force international mining firms — many of them Chinese-owned — to establish local processing and refining facilities within the country. While Zimbabwe had previously signaled a 2027 deadline for such a ban, the abrupt acceleration of this timeline has sparked immediate supply chain anxiety, causing Chinese lithium futures to surge by more than 9%. This reflects a broader trend across Africa, where at least 13 countries have introduced similar export restrictions since 2023 to capture a

larger share of the value chain. However, the path to industrialization remains difficult; the Africa Center for Strategic Studies notes that high capital costs and technical complexities continue to hinder the rapid development of domestic refineries.



China to overtake Australia as world's top lithium miner by 2026.

As supply tensions mount, Western nations are accelerating their efforts to decouple from China's 60% dominance in lithium refining. Marking a major milestone, the UK's first commercial lithium plant opened in Cornwall this week. Integrated with a deep geothermal energy site, the facility is designed to extract lithium from mineral-rich brine. It is projected to produce 100 tons annually in its initial phase — sufficient for roughly 2,000 electric vehicles — with an ambitious goal of scaling to 18,000 tons within the next

decade. This domestic push comes as the US and its allies, including Japan and Europe, intensify collaboration to secure alternative supply chains for the 60 minerals deemed economically vital for the energy, defense, and semiconductor industries. Between Africa's push for "value addition" and the West's drive for mineral sovereignty, the lithium market is transitioning from an era of global abundance to one of strategic protectionism.

Ireland seeks to boost military alliances

Ireland said it would deepen its naval cooperation with Britain and France and step up protection of shipping and undersea infrastructure from potential Russian attacks. Dublin has been neutral since 1922: It is not a NATO member and did not fight in World War II, although it relies on British forces to protect its airspace.

Growing concern over Russian hybrid warfare — notably cyberattacks and sabotage of submarine cables — led the country's defense ministry to launch its first maritime security plans, potentially permitting NATO ships to patrol its waters. This is not the first time Moscow's recent aggression has pushed formerly neutral countries toward its adversaries. Finland and Sweden both joined NATO following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Hong Kong's Jimmy Lai wins appeal

A Hong Kong court overturned a fraud conviction against Jimmy Lai, but the pro-democracy media tycoon remains in prison. Lai was jailed for fraud for five years in 2022; he has now won an appeal, but he was separately sentenced last month to 20 years for collusion with foreign forces. Activists say Lai's detention shows how Hong Kong's once-robust civil liberties are shrinking, the BBC reported.

The US and UK governments said Beijing-imposed national security laws are being used to silence democracy campaigners. Lai, 78, is reportedly in poor health, and his daughter believes he will "die a martyr behind bars." The overturning of the conviction is "nothing more than a PR move by the Hong Kong authorities," Claire Lai told reporters.

More US citizens seeking life abroad

People are leaving the US in record numbers — partly for political reasons, but also because remote work allows them to combine high American salaries with lower living costs abroad. In 2025, 150,000 more people left the US than arrived, the first confirmed year of net emigration since the Great Depression. Portugal's American population has jumped 500% since 2020; Ireland welcomed 10,000 people from the US last year, more than the number of Irish who moved to the US; Bali, Colombia, and Thailand saw protests over rising housing costs as high-paid US workers arrived. Many of these digital nomads are making the move permanent, with US nationals applying for citizenship in Britain and elsewhere at record rates.

Bill Gates gets 'candid' on Epstein ties, expresses regret to foundation staff: Ex-wife warned, 'saw nothing illicit'



In a candid town hall with staff at the Gates Foundation, Bill Gates admitted he made a "huge mistake" by associating with disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, while denying any involvement in Epstein's crimes.

A recording of Tuesday's internal meeting, reviewed by *The Wall Street Journal*, shows Gates expressing regret that his past relationship with Epstein had cast a shadow over the foundation's work. The Microsoft co-founder told employees he took responsibility for his actions and apologized to those affected.

Gates is among several high-profile figures whose names appear in documents released recently by the US Department of Justice as part of its probe into Epstein, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges involving underage girls.

'I saw nothing illicit'

At the town hall, 70-year-old Gates acknowledged having had two affairs but firmly denied any link to Epstein's criminal conduct. "I did nothing illicit. I saw nothing illicit," he told the Foundation.

"I did have affairs, one with a Russian bridge player who met me at bridge events, and one with a Russian nuclear physicist who I met through business activities," Bill Gates said.

He told staff that his association with Epstein began in 2011, three years after Epstein pleaded guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution. He said he was aware of an "18-month thing" that restricted Epstein's travel but did not investigate further into his background at the time.

Ex-wife Melinda raised concerns

Gates said his ex-wife, Melinda French Gates, had expressed con-

cerns about Epstein as early as 2013. Despite those warnings, he continued interacting with Epstein for at least another year.

"Knowing what I know now makes it, you know, a hundred times worse in terms of not only his crimes in the past, but now it's clear there was ongoing bad behaviour," the WSJ quoted Gates as saying.

He further described spending time with Epstein and bringing foundation executives into meetings as a "huge mistake."

"I apologize to other people who are drawn into this because of the mistake that I made," he said.

Epstein files mention Bill Gates

Photos and references to Gates in the Epstein files have drawn renewed attention following the Justice Department's release of millions of pages of documents.

Last week, Gates withdrew from delivering the keynote address at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, saying the move was made "to ensure the focus remains on the AI Summit's key priorities."

Gates has not formally been accused of any wrongdoing in connection with Epstein and has denied any knowledge of the financier's crimes. However, the files include email correspondence between Gates and Epstein discussing philanthropic projects, calendar entries documenting meetings, and photographs of the two men at events.

A draft email contained in the release quotes Epstein alleging that his relationship with Gates ranged from "helping Bill to get drugs, in order to deal with consequences of sex with Russian girls, to facilitating his illicit trysts, with married women."

Iran-US nuclear talks heat up after Trump's combative State of the Union address

The US and Iran were set to meet in Geneva yesterday for the third round of nuclear talks this year, but the diplomatic atmosphere has shifted sharply following President Donald Trump's combative State of the Union address.

In his speech on Tuesday night, Trump accused Tehran of restarting its nuclear programme, rebuilding missile capabilities and continuing destabilising activities across the Middle East - rhetoric that has raised the stakes ahead of the negotiations.

A tougher public line from Washington

While talks were already underway, Trump's address marked a clear escalation in tone. He claimed that despite last year's US strikes that 'obliterated' Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran was attempting to rebuild.

"They're starting it all over," Trump said, reiterating that Iran "cannot have a nuclear weapon" and warning it would be a "very bad day" if a deal was not reached.

US secretary of state Marco Rubio reinforced that message on Wednesday, saying Iran was "always trying to rebuild elements" of its nuclear programme, even if it was not currently enriching uranium. He also flagged Tehran's refusal to discuss its ballistic missile arsenal as a "big problem."

Vice-president JD Vance said US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner would assess whether a



Iran signals nuclear progress in Geneva as Trump calls for full dismantlement. Pic - Fox News

viable agreement could be reached, but stressed that preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon remained the "ultimate objective."

Military buildup casts shadow

The rhetoric comes alongside one of the largest US military deployments in the Middle East in recent years.

Satellite images analysed by The Associated Press appeared to show US Navy vessels from the Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet dispersed at sea, a move typically associated with force protection measures ahead of potential escalation.

Trump confirmed in his address that the US had previously struck Iranian nuclear facilities in an operation he described as decisive, but said dismantling any remaining capacity was back on the agenda if diplomacy failed.

Iran has warned that any attack would trigger retaliation against US bases in the region.

Iran pushes back

Tehran reacted angrily to Trump's speech. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei dismissed the president's allegations as "big lies," accusing Washington of a disinformation campaign.

Foreign minister Abbas Araqchi arrived in Geneva on Wednesday and met Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, whose country is mediating the indirect talks.

Araqchi said Iran sought a "fair and swift" agreement and reiterated that Tehran would not relinquish its right to peaceful nuclear technology. According to Iranian media, he also raised the issue of lifting what Tehran calls "illegal and unilateral" US sanctions.

Iran has signalled it may offer fresh concessions in exchange for sanctions relief and recognition of its right to enrich uranium - a key sticking point for Washington, which views domestic enrichment as a potential pathway to nuclear weapons.

Across the Globe



Merz hails China ties as he seeks reset with Beijing. Pic - Taipei Times

Merz's balancing act in China

Germany's chancellor called on China to correct the countries' growing trade imbalance as he walks a tightrope between strengthening diplomatic ties with Beijing and managing its economic heft. Friedrich Merz arrived in Beijing on Wednesday with "an outstretched hand and a list of complaints," The New York Times wrote: Berlin is concerned about what it sees as an undervalued yuan, unfair subsidies, and overcapacity from Chinese exporters. But reducing dependence on China is difficult for Germany, whose industries have invested massively in the Chinese market, analysts said. From Beijing's perspective, "it's Europe that should be making the concessions and seeking closer economic support from China because it's in a weak position," one expert said.

SOTU previews midterm fight

US President Donald Trump's vilification of Democrats in Tuesday's State of the Union address could backfire by complicating efforts to gain bipartisan support for key components of his agenda, commentators said. Trump called Democrats "sick people" and said they are "destroying our country" — attacks that show "clearly he's

not interested" in compromise, one Democratic senator said. That could hinder the president's push for laws aimed at lowering housing and drug prices, issues central to Trump's pitch to voters that he is bringing costs down ahead of this year's midterm elections, Semafor's Washington team reported. The official Democratic response to Trump's address previewed the coming electoral fight over affordability.

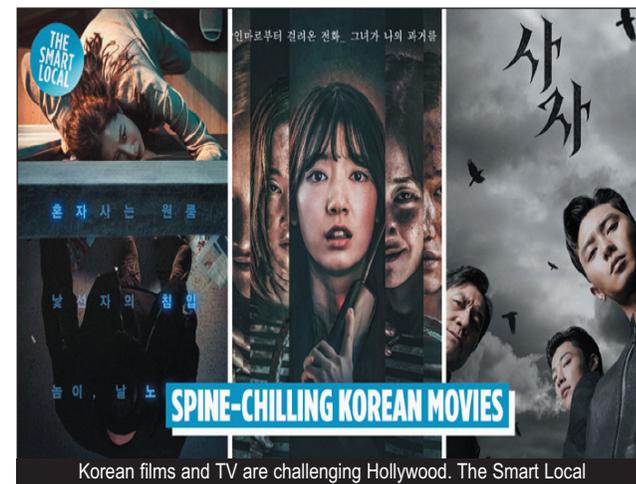
Epstein saga ensnares academia

Harvard University's former president Larry Summers will resign from the school over his ties to Jeffrey Epstein as the scandal increasingly ensnares figures in academia. A Nobel Prize-winning scientist quit Columbia's brain institute, and Bill Gates apologized to his foundation's staff over friendships with the sex offender. Epstein courted celebrities, power brokers, and politicians, but newly released files reveal the extent of academics in his orbit. Many said they only turned to Epstein for fundraising, underscoring the unsavory private sources schools sometimes solicit. Epstein's motivations for cultivating brilliant minds — he maintained a list of top scientists — are not clear, but he may have "sought to leverage academia's reputation to clean up his own," The New York Times wrote.

Death of US cultural cachet

The US is slowly losing its pole position as the global driver of culture, a political scientist argued. For decades, American geopolitical power was intertwined with its cultural cachet — not government-driven "soft power" initiatives, but the "organic triumph" of Hollywood, American pop music, education, and fashion, Soviet Union-born Seva Gunitzky wrote in Persuasion. But that cultural infrastructure is crumbling, mirroring a fracturing geopolitical order.

Korean films and TV are challenging Hollywood, Latin music is topping global charts, and fewer international



Korean films and TV are challenging Hollywood. The Smart Local

students are choosing the US. No other country is poised to instantly replace the US, Gunitzky noted, though China is having a cultural moment as more Americans embrace "Chinamaxxing" and adopt the country's lifestyle and cultural trends.

Symbols reveal earliest writing form

Markings on ancient bone and ivory objects show that humans were storing information outside their heads more than 30,000 years before the first known "writing." Cuneiform, the first true writing, emerged in Mesopotamia around 3000 BC. But a new study showed that Stone Age people in Europe were recording complex information far earlier, around 40,000 years ago. The tools and figurines are covered in markings according to specific conventions. For instance, crosses mostly appeared on animal figures, but dots were never used on tools. It does not record spoken language and so is not "writing," but researchers believe it to be as information-dense as early cuneiform and that it may have been used for tallying purposes or passing messages.



OFFICES . RETAIL
CONFERENCE HALL

Revitalised for Tomorrow

Refreshed office experience. Work, eat, connect
- all under one roof at SABV Tower.



Scalable Office
160m² to 2028m²



Refreshed
Retail Experience



Conference
Hall Facilities



Secure
Parking



Excellent
Connectivity



Fit-Out
Options

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower, Ebène Cybercity, Mauritius.
T: +230 467 6900 | www.landscopemauritius.com



Dieticians Association Celebrates 10 Years, Calls for Recognition

The Dieticians Association of Mauritius (DAM) is celebrating a decade of advocacy, public education, and professional development, while renewing its call for stronger recognition of dieticians within the healthcare system of Mauritius.

Founded in 2015, the association has played a pivotal role in shaping the regulatory and public health landscape surrounding nutrition and clinical dietetics in the country. Over the past ten years, it has worked to elevate professional standards, promote evidence-based nutrition, and raise awareness of the role of dieticians in disease prevention and treatment.

Since its inception, it has collaborated closely with the Allied Health Professionals Council to strengthen the profession's institutional framework. The association contributed significantly to the drafting of the Allied Health Professionals Act of 2017 and helped define registration criteria for practising dieticians in Mauritius.

Beyond weight loss: A clinical profession

According to DAM President Yakshi

Nagawa, dietetics remains widely misunderstood.

"Dietetics is a growing field in Mauritius, but many associate it solely with weight loss, whereas it plays a vital role in disease prevention and management," she explains.

Yakshi Nagawa stresses that dieticians are healthcare professionals specialized in clinical nutrition, working closely with medical teams to manage complex health conditions. Their work includes assessing patients' nutritional status and designing tailored dietary interventions for conditions such as: diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, kidney diseases and digestive disorders, and obesity and cancer.

Rather than focusing solely on lifestyle advice, dieticians provide therapeutic nutrition support that directly influences medical outcomes.



Yakshi Nagawa
President, Dieticians Association of Mauritius

Addressing the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases

The association's renewed advocacy comes at a critical time. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) remain a major public health challenge in Mauritius, with high prevalence rates of conditions such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Recognizing this, DAM plans to intensify public education initiatives focused on nutrition for disease prevention and management. It also aims to launch targeted campaigns addressing modern lifestyle trends, including increased consumption of processed foods and sedentary work patterns. Another priority is combating the growing spread of online nutrition misinformation. According to the association, unverified dietary advice circulating on social media can pose serious health risks, particularly for individuals managing chronic conditions.

Dietician vs. nutritionist: Clarifying the difference

A central aspect of DAM's awareness efforts is explaining the distinction between dieticians and nutritionists — a difference often overlooked by the public.

Yakshi Nagawa highlights that dieticians are healthcare professionals trained in therapeutic dietetics who are qualified to manage patients with medical conditions requiring specialized nutritional care, while also providing general wellness advice. Nutritionists, by contrast, primarily focus on prevention and healthy lifestyle promotion among generally healthy individuals and are not authorized to manage clinical conditions requiring medical supervision.

For patients seeking medical nutritional therapy, this distinction is crucial.

As the DAM marks its ten-year milestone, its mission reflects a broader transformation in public health priorities. The shift from viewing nutrition as an aesthetic concern to recognizing it as a clinical necessity represents a critical step toward improving health outcomes nationwide.

The current Executive Committee of DAM comprises:

Yakshi Nagawa (President), Reena Soniassy (Vice-President), Shivani Poinosawmy-Pawaray (Secretary), Aroushinee Goorapah Parmessur (Assistant Secretary), Lovishka Babajee Jankee (Treasurer), and Mélissa Ng Yow Thow (Assistant Treasurer).

Teeth Whitening: What You Need to Know

Dr Randhir Seewoodharry Buguth
Senior Dental Surgeon (UK)

The quest for a whiter smile began approximately 3,000 years ago in ancient Egypt. At the time, a paste made of ground pumice stone mixed with white vinegar was used to achieve temporary results. By 1840, fluoride was introduced to maintain dental health; however, it was soon discovered that an excess of fluoride led to fluorosis, which permanently stains the teeth. Later, while bicarbonate of soda in toothpaste yielded some results, it often presented inconvenient side-effects for the enamel.

By 2002, a survey by Colgate and the American Dental Association identified teeth whitening as the fastest-growing dental treatment — a trend that remains just as prevalent in the UK today.

The Natural Colour of Teeth

Natural tooth shades vary from pale white to light yellow. Several factors influence the original colour of one's teeth, including:

- **Genetics and Age:** Natural thinning of enamel over time.
- **Lifestyle:** Diet, smoking, and certain medications.
- **Trauma:** Physical injury to the tooth.
- **Developmental Factors:** Excessive fluoride intake or the use of antibiotics like

tetracycline during tooth formation.

In modern society, well-aligned white teeth are widely accepted as the cornerstone of an attractive smile.

Clinical Indications & Consultations

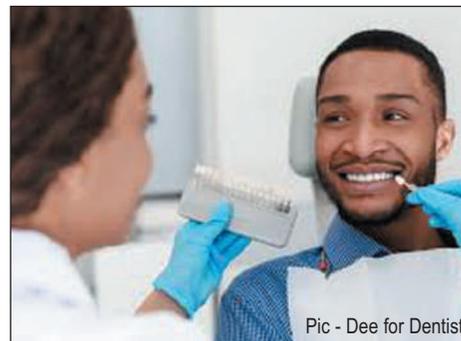
Teeth whitening is a medical act of dentistry and must only be performed by a dentist or under their direct supervision.

A preliminary consultation is essential to assess oral health. Only "dentally fit" patients should undergo the procedure. The following must be addressed prior to treatment:

- Dental decay, infections, or broken teeth.
- Gum and bone disease.
- Oral hygiene and diet analysis.
- Tooth hypersensitivity.
- **Note:** Whitening should never be performed immediately before orthodontic treatment.

Patient expectations are managed using "before and after" photography and shade guides. It is important to note that fillings, veneers, and crowns do not whiten. These may need to be replaced after treatment to match the new, lighter shade of the surrounding natural teeth.

For specific enamel defects, micro-abrasion with resin composite infiltration may be the preferred solution. In more complex cases, porcelain veneers or crowns may be required to achieve the desired colour change.



Pic - Dee for Dentist

As for patient eligibility, treatment is generally withheld for:

- Patients under the age of 18.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women.
- Non-compliant patients.

Exceptions: In rare cases involving minors, a dentist may approve treatment if the tooth discolouration is significantly impacting the patient's mental health and psychological wellbeing.

Professional Procedures

In-Surgery Treatment: The "Zoom" in-surgery whitening (by Philips) utilizes a high-intensity blue LED light to accelerate the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide gel. This process significantly brightens teeth in approximately 90 minutes. This is typically followed by a week of home maintenance using custom-made trays worn for one hour daily. "Top-ups" can be performed every 6–12 months. During the procedure, the gums are strictly protected to prevent che-

mical irritation.

Home Bleaching: The dentist provides custom-fitted trays, which are superior to commercial "over-the-counter" kits. Poorly fitted commercial trays often lead to gel leakage, which can damage soft tissues and provide less stability, particularly for patients who grind their teeth.

- **Daytime Treatment:** Usually 1–2 hours daily using 6% hydrogen peroxide.
- **Nighttime Treatment:** The tray is worn during sleep. Because hydrogen peroxide is unstable, it is often formulated as Carbamide Peroxide for home use. The urea in this formula stabilizes the gel for a longer-lasting effect at a lower concentration (typically 3–4%).

A Note on Safety and Legality

A formal consent form is mandatory, outlining precautions and dietary restrictions (foods to avoid during the first week). This is a vital medico-legal requirement.

The danger of illegal whitening: Whitening performed by unqualified individuals can lead to permanent damage. In 2025, a BBC undercover report highlighted "quacks" using hydrogen peroxide concentrations as high as 53%, resulting in severe gum burns and nerve damage leading to tooth loss. Conversely, some illegal kits contained only 0.1% peroxide, rendering them completely ineffective.

Regulation: Under EU and UK standards, the maximum legal concentration of hydrogen peroxide for dental whitening is 6%.



Kaajal Luckraz

Chemistry of Cognition: Reclaiming Focus in the Age of Brainrot

Time check: 19:00. Friday evening. Finally!

Papa has picked up the takeaway that Mummy ordered on his way back from work. The tablet is set — so the Tiny Human can eat. Grandma joins the table; it's extremely hot, so she did not go out for a walk, but is watching her usual series on her phone — a gift from the family at Christmas. The teenager of the family is on *Call of Duty*. Papa is checking the latest hair loss treatments on social media and — not cheugy* — Mummy is foodstagramming.

Sound familiar?

This is not dysfunction. It is the norm.

I was at a medical exchange a few days ago and we were sharing ideas and experiences, as you do. The whole medical fraternity confessed to being solicited professionally for addressing the consequences of the above phenomenon.

The phenomenon now has a name: **Brainrot** — the Oxford Word of the Year 2024.

It describes the cognitive decline and mental exhaustion experienced by individuals due to excessive exposure to low-quality online materials, especially on social media. Research reveals that brainrot leads to emotional desensitisation, cognitive overload, and a distorted self-concept. It manifests as doom scrolling, zombie scrolling, and compulsive digital consumption.

sive digital consumption.

The “digital native” generation? Think again. This phenomenon also affects our population's most economically and socially productive demographic. They are the ones who contribute by raising families, engaging in meaningful work, caring for the elderly, and connecting with their communities — the 40s–65s.

Are we witnessing a quiet cognitive erosion?

For me, as a pharmacist, brain health is not about the “nootropics hype”. True cognitive resilience depends on neuronal membrane integrity, mitochondrial efficiency, neurotransmitter balance, glycaemic stability, and inflammation control.

Simply put, the most powerful cognitive interventions remain unbranded: 7–8 hours of sleep, stable glucose, resistance training, sunlight, and deep reading.

The Chemistry That Supports Cognition

Evidence-supported nutrients include Omega-3 fatty acids — best in triglyceride formulation; Magnesium (the glycinate salt being excellent for anxiety and sleep, or the threonate); B vitamins, especially B6, B12, and folate — and you are looking for the methylated forms; Vitamin D — yes, despite us being on the sunshine island. My advice here is to avoid multi-nootropic blends with ingredients at “pixie doses”!



Pic - Clark Chronicle

The Brain on a Plate

The food you should choose for brain health includes fatty fish like sardines, mackerel, and salmon — 2–3 times a week. Also, a handful of berries a day — blueberries especially. Dark leafy greens like spinach, rocket, and moringa leaves. Avocados and eggs. Nuts — specifically the one that looks like a brain: the walnut. Beans, lentils, and turmeric with black pepper. A little tweak and our Mauritian diet can easily accommodate these ingredients. And oh — dark chocolate (70%+ cacao).

Time check: 19:10. Sudden power cut — electricity overload. Fah!!!!

Kaajal Luckraz attained her MPharm degree and qualified as a pharmacist at King's College London.

* A Gen Z-coined slang term used to describe someone or something that is out-of-date, unfashionable, or trying too hard to be trendy, particularly mocking millennial-era trends

Éclairages

Qui surveille les gardiens?

La crise de confiance de Kuala Lumpur à Port-Louis

Le 16 février 2026, la Malaisie s'est réveillée sous le choc d'un scandale qui ébranle les fondements mêmes de sa lutte contre la corruption. Les allégations visant Azam Baki, le puissant chef de la *Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission* (MACC), concernant des avoirs boursiers litigieux, ne sont pas seulement un test politique pour le Premier ministre Anwar Ibrahim. Elles posent une question fondamentale, commune à de nombreuses démocraties, dont Maurice: qui enquête sur les enquêteurs?

L'onde de choc malaisienne: un parfum de déjà-vu

En Malaisie, la controverse est née de révélations médiatiques alléguant qu'Azam Baki détenait des actions dépassant les limites autorisées pour les fonctionnaires. Si l'intéressé nie toute malversation et invoque la transparence, la rue gronde. Un millier de manifestants vêtus de noir ont exigé son arrestation, dénonçant une “trahison des réformes”.

Le nœud du problème réside dans la structure même de la MACC. Nommé sur avis du Premier ministre, le chef de l'agence est perçu comme vulnérable aux pressions politiques. Cette architecture institutionnelle nourrit un cynisme croissant: le public a le sentiment que les poursuites sont sélectives, protégeant les réseaux d'élite tout en

frappant les adversaires politiques.

L'expérience mauricienne: de l'ICAC à la FCC

Cette situation trouve un écho frappant à Maurice. L'histoire de la lutte contre la corruption dans le pays est marquée par une évolution institutionnelle constante, mais aussi par une méfiance persistante.

Pendant plus de deux décennies, l'ICAC (*Independent Commission Against Corruption*) a été le pilier central. Malgré des enquêtes d'envergure, l'institution a souvent été critiquée pour son manque d'indépendance réelle. Le mode de nomination de ses directeurs et les retards dans plusieurs dossiers sensibles ont érodé, au fil des ans, le capital de confiance du public.

En 2024, le paysage a radicalement changé avec l'avènement de la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC). Présentée comme une “super-agence” regroupant les pouvoirs de l'ICAC et d'autres instances de recouvrement d'avoirs, la FCC était censée moderniser la répression des délits financiers.

Toutefois, à Maurice comme en Malaisie, les systèmes de surveillance de l'agence anti-corruption sont jugés insuffisants. Le comité parlementaire chargé de superviser la FCC, à l'instar de l'ICAC, est souvent perçu comme une extension de la majorité au pouvoir, rendant le contrôle illu-



L'affaire Azam Baki, chef de la MACC en Malaisie, dépasse le simple test politique pour Anwar Ibrahim: elle pose la question cruciale, partagée par Maurice, de l'indépendance de ceux qui enquêtent sur les enquêteurs. P - Mlay Mail

soire. Quant à l'indépendance du Commissaire, le mode de nomination du chef de la FCC reste le point de friction majeur. Tant que cette nomination dépendra étroitement du pouvoir exécutif, la perception d'une institution “aux ordres” persistera.

Un test pour la démocratie

En Malaisie, le roi Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar a récemment averti que personne n'est au-dessus des lois, affirmant que la MACC elle-même est “sous son radar”. À Maurice, cette régulation — par le haut — manque de clarté. Les mécanismes de reddition de comptes (*accountability*) semblent être, selon les mots des critiques malaisiens, “saisonniers ou sélectifs”.

Le constat est identique sous les deux latitudes: lorsque les citoyens voient que les élites bénéficient d'un bouclier institutionnel, la fibre démocratique se fragilise. Le sentiment de “deux poids, deux mesures” — résumé par le slogan malaisien “*des règles*

pour toi, mais pas pour moi” — est le poison le plus violent pour la confiance publique.

Vers une réforme des gardiens?

L'affaire Azam Baki en Malaisie et les zones d'ombre entourant l'ICAC à Maurice rappellent une vérité inconfortable: une institution anti-corruption ne peut être efficace que si elle est irréprochable et totalement affranchie de la sphère politique.

Les systèmes de contrôle actuels, qu'ils soient parlementaires ou administratifs, ont échoué à garantir cette intégrité. Pour restaurer la confiance, il est impératif de rompre avec la logique de nomination partisane et de replacer les autorités judiciaires indépendantes au cœur du processus de poursuite.

La lutte contre la corruption ne doit pas seulement être menée; elle doit être perçue comme telle, avec une impartialité totale et sans la moindre zone d'ombre.

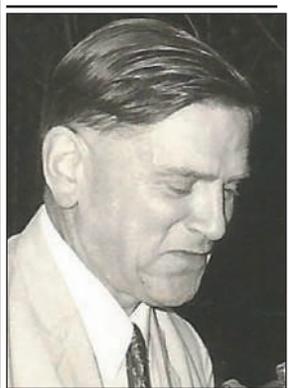
A. Bartleby

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

On Emigration

Emigration is no solution to the population problem. Anyone who says otherwise is persisting in ostrich-like refusal to face facts

British Honduras and Brazil — are at present under-developed; their governments are engaged on implementing development plans; but as the ministers' report makes clear, these development plans do not call for mass emigration. Brazil calls for individual immigration of skilled men who have previously obtained contracts of work or for group migration of really skilled farmers.

British Guiana is concerned to develop her potentialities for the benefit of her own unemployed or under-employed people before considering taking immigrants. (Here it may be pertinent to record what Dr Cheddi Jagan himself told me when I met him in London last year. He said that British Guiana would be glad to take Mauritian immigrants, when, and only when, she had developed her resources to the extent that no British Guianese was unemployed). British Honduras would be prepared to consider a pilot scheme involving a few families, providing finance were available to meet the cost. And the necessary funds are just not there.

Despite this searching mission of the ministers, and despite the adverse report which they have brought back, there are still those who will cry from the housetops that emigration, not family planning, is the panacea which will solve all Mauritius' population problems. Dr Millien has already done so. This purblind refusal to face facts, to abide by the results of enquiries carried out dispassionately, is something that has unfortunately bedevilled political and social and economic life in Mauritius for many years. Time and time again we have had teams of experts from the UK who have enquired into and reported upon this or that aspect of life in Mauritius. Time and time again their reports have been debated by the Legislative Council but not acted upon. Then, a few years later, another team of experts has been called upon to enquire afresh into the same subject; or perhaps to enquire into the findings of the first team... and so it has gone on.

Enquiry follows enquiry, report follows report, discussion follows discussion, but action seems always to be postponed. It's not only the reports of outside experts which are ignored or duplicated; reports of commissions of enquiry set up by the Legislative Council from among its own members (with, perhaps, the addition of selected local experts) also have the habit of being received and pigeonholed without ever a decision being taken or action ensuing. (The reports on the cement industry and population are cases in point).

The Meade and Titmuss reports will inevitably call for action; for decisions to be made and taken. The future of Mauritius depends on these decisions being taken speedily and implemented speedily. Some of the decisions may be politically unpopular, but this is no reason for shirking them. Some of the decisions to be taken may well be antipathetic to the political thought of the anti-governmental groups; but this is no reason for these groups to oppose them. Every decision which will be called for by the two reports is a decision which

is vital to the future of Mauritius; indeed, one might even say vital if Mauritius is in fact to have any future worth speaking of.

The decisions which will have to be taken under the Meade Report cannot be avoided. The government will not avoid them; the frivolous anti-government political groups must not be allowed to sabotage them. Should the Meade Report rule out the possibility or the practicability of this or that, which may perhaps happen to be a pet scheme of M. Koenig or M. Bissoondoyal or Dr Millien, then let us have an end of any more propaganda in favour of such a pet scheme. Now that the ministers' report has clearly and unequivocally ruled out the prospect of mass emigration, let that be an end to it. The government will keep looking out for the opportunities of emigration on an individual basis; that is the only hope; but individual emigration will not do much to alleviate the pressure of overpopulation.

Eighty years ago, the historian J. A. Froude prophesied doom for Barbados; but today that island has a very dense population and a relatively high standard of living — due partly to intensive land cultivation and imaginative development schemes including a Development Board to assist new industries (a Board such as we have asked for in these columns for Mauritius; anticipating in our demand the recommendations of the Meade Report). It may well be that the full implementation of schemes for the development of Mauritius will enable the island to support a population of over a million; time alone coupled with the energetic development of the colony, will tell.

If, however development schemes cannot solve the problems, and family planning is not introduced as a means of checking the already inordinate increase in population, then one thing is as certain as it is humanly possible to be certain of anything at all — and that is, that emigration is no remedy. For one thing, there is the difficulty of cost, as the ministers' report has made clear. For another thing, there is the difficulty of finding elsewhere to emigrate to.

Apart from the UK no commonwealth country allows unrestricted immigration of nationals from another Commonwealth territory; and the UK cannot go on absorbing indefinitely masses of unskilled immigrants from colonial territories. (As a help towards individual emigration from Mauritius it might be worthwhile for the Government to get in touch with



Pic - British Online Archives

London Transport, British Railways, the Post Office and the British Restaurant and Hotels Association in order to investigate jointly the possibility for Mauritius of a scheme such as is operated jointly by the Barbados Government and London Transport and the BRHA).

There is a possibility, but only a possibility on which too much hope should not be placed, that the next meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers (due early in 1961) will discuss this matter of migration from one Commonwealth country to another, and will discuss the possibility of putting all Commonwealth countries on the same footing as the UK; that is of having unrestricted immigration of Commonwealth citizens into Commonwealth countries.

In any case, there is a damaging aspect of emigration. Mauritius needs now, and will need increasingly in the future, a large supply of trained men; it is precisely these trained men and the potentially trained men, who are the most enterprising and the most likely to emigrate. It is precisely these same men whom Mauritius could least afford to lose.

If however, the loss of trained or potentially trained men can be faced with equanimity, then every avenue of emigration must be explored. The ministers have shown that mass migration is not feasible; there remains individual emigration. Perhaps Mauritians might be persuaded to serve in H. M. Forces abroad; are any attracted to the merchant navy? Are there economic possibilities in the lesser dependencies or in the virtually uninhabited islands of Seychelles (e.g. Aldabra) to which the Seychellois themselves seem singularly unattracted?

At present, therefore, emigration is no solution to the population problem. Anyone who says otherwise is persisting in ostrich-like refusal to face facts and is demonstrating his unsuitability to take part in Mauritian politics. The only solution to the social and economic ills that now beset Mauritius and threaten its future is a planned programme of capital development coupled with limitation of families. In no other way can Mauritius escape from the shackles of overpopulation.

MODERN GLADIATORS SPORTS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of Modern Gladiators Sports Club will be held on **28 March 2026 at 6:30 pm** at **View Lounge Restaurant, Palma.**

AGENDA:

1. Reading & Approval of last AGM minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. President's Report
4. Finance
5. Amendments to Rules and Motions (if any)
6. Reshuffle (if any)
7. Any other business (AOB)

M. K. Hosany
President

LIVING GOD MINISTRIES

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Living God Ministries will be held on Sunday, 15 March 2026 at 12.30 hours at the Living God Ministries Building, Glen Park, La Marie.

AGENDA:

1. President's Report
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Last AGM
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Presentation and Approval of the Estimates of Accounts for the Year 2026
5. Election of Members of the Managing Committee
6. Election of Auditors
7. Any Other Business

Secretary

Till death us do part

Marriage is becoming less popular. There are various theories on right and left, from “feminists have brainwashed women” to “women have realized marriage is a trap,” plus the rise of alternative models such as polyamory. But whatever is causing it, “marriage has a marketing problem,” the psychologist Darby Saxbe writes on Natal Gazing. But, she argues, “monogamy is a

little like capitalism: it’s the worst system available, except for all the others.” Humans have evolved to have, on the whole, stable pair-bonds.

That’s visible in how we differ from other primates, along such axes as the size difference between males and females and the comparative weight of human testicles. But unlike, say, lemurs, we’re not perfectly



Pic - brides.com

monogamous -- there’s sneaking around,

breakups, serial relationships. We are “designed to be mostly monogamous but also to show some flexibility.” Marriage, Saxbe says, is a cultural development that boosts fathers’ confidence in their paternity, reduces competition between males, and pools resources to invest in parenting. “We should do more to help young people form stable relationships,” she says, “and we should definitely do more to support parents, including married parents, because raising thriving children requires all hands on deck.”

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Optimism grows stronger. Travel, study, or professional expansion plans gain momentum. Be mindful of deadlines and commitments, as distractions could slow progress. A conversation with a mentor or friend changes your outlook positively. Financial improvement is gradual but steady.

Balance enthusiasm with practicality.
Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 18, 24, 31, 37

Capricorn: Financial discipline and responsibility dominate. You may review budgets, contracts, or long-term goals. Professional recognition is possible due to consistent effort. Family responsibilities require patience and understanding. Avoid overworking; rest is essential for sustained productivity.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 20, 26, 32, 40

Aquarius: Innovation is highlighted. Team projects and collaborations thrive when you share ideas openly. Minor misunderstandings may arise—clarify intentions early. Financially stable with potential for gradual growth. Social connections expand your influence. Health benefits from structured routines.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 17, 23, 30, 36

Pisces: Intuition guides important decisions. Creative and spiritual pursuits feel fulfilling. Double-check financial details to avoid small errors. Emotional sensitivity increases, but so does empathy. A quiet moment of reflection brings clarity about future goals. Rest and relaxation restore balance.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 13, 21, 28, 35, 38

Aries: This week pushes you to take decisive action, especially in career and financial matters. Your natural leadership qualities stand out, and others may look to you for direction. Financially, steady progress is indicated, though unnecessary spending should be curbed. Health improves with regular routine and rest.

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

Taurus: Stability remains your theme, but flexibility will be necessary. A work-related delay could test your patience, yet persistence brings results by the end of the week. This is a favorable period for budgeting, savings plans, and reviewing long-term investments. Relationships require calm communication; avoid stubborn reactions. A family member may seek your advice.

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

Gemini: Your communication skills shine. Meetings, presentations, and negotiations are favored, making this an excellent week for networking. However, avoid scattering your energy across too many tasks. Prioritize what truly matters. Socially, a reconnection with an old contact may open new doors. Financial prospects improve through careful planning.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 16, 23, 31, 38

Cancer: Emotional balance will guide your success. Professional responsibilities increase, but support from colleagues helps lighten the load. Financially, it’s a good time to reassess expenses and eliminate waste. In personal life, honest dialogue strengthens bonds. Midweek may bring a small but meaningful breakthrough. Pay attention to stress levels and avoid overexertion.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 12, 19, 26, 33, 37

Leo: Recognition and appreciation are likely. Your confidence attracts positive attention, particularly in leadership or creative roles. Avoid ego-driven disagreements, especially with authority figures. Romantic energy improves, making this a favorable week for strengthening emotional ties.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 10, 17, 25, 30, 36

Virgo: Organization brings peace of mind. Administrative tasks, paperwork, and structured planning are well supported. A practical approach helps resolve lingering concerns. Health routines deserve renewed attention—small adjustments yield big improvements. At work, a senior may acknowledge your reliability. Financially steady, with potential minor gains.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 21, 28, 35, 40

Libra: Partnerships take center stage. Cooperation and compromise help avoid unnecessary tension. A joint decision regarding finances or career may move forward. Creativity flows, making it a productive period for artistic or strategic thinking. Social interactions bring pleasant surprises.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 15, 22, 29, 34, 38

Scorpio: Intensity defines the week. Strategic decisions regarding career or finances prove beneficial if approached calmly. In relationships, transparency prevents misunderstandings. Energy levels fluctuate—pace yourself. An unexpected insight helps you shift direction confidently.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 19, 27, 33, 39



SMALL FARMERS WELFARE FUND

2nd Floor, MCIA (Ex-FSC) Building, St Pierre, Republic of Mauritius

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVER AWARD SCHEME

Pour les Enfants des Fermiers Enregistrés

Bourses Supplémentaires pour la cuvée 2024 basées sur le mérite et critères sociaux

Le Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF) avait lancé la 8^e édition du <<Educational Achiever Award Scheme (EAAS)>> destiné aux enfants des fermiers qui ont brillé aux examens du PSAC, NCE, SC et HSC 2024. A cet effet, le SFWF invite désormais les enfants des fermiers qui ont été sélectionnés pour les bourses supplémentaires basées sur le mérite et des critères sociaux selon les recommandation du Ministère de l’Intégration Sociale, de la Sécurité Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale à soumettre leur application.

Un prix spécial de **Rs 15,000** ainsi qu’un trophée souvenir seront octroyés par le SFWF aux enfants sélectionnés.

L’Educational Achiever Award Scheme est destiné exclusivement aux enfants des fermiers, enregistrés auprès du SFWF et détenteurs d’une Carte du Fermier valide et délivrée par l’organisme.

Les formulaires d’application, avec les termes et conditions, sont disponibles dans les bureaux du SFWF et sont aussi téléchargeables sur le sfwf.govmu.org ou le <http://agriculture.govmu.org>.

HEAD OFFICE	FSA Bldg, Rte Royale, St Pierre – Tel : 433 2052 / 433 1564-66 Lundi à vendredi (09.00 hrs à 15.30 hrs)
EST	Rte Royale, Belle Mare – FAREI Bldg, Belle Mare Tel : 5907 6254 Uniquement les vendredis (09.00 hrs à 12.00 hrs)
	FSA Bldg, Bon Accueil – uniquement les jeudis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs) Tel : 5907 6254
	Min. of Agro-Industry and Food Security – Division of Veterinary Services Building, Rte Royale, Camp Garreau, Flacq – Tel : 5907 6254 Les lundis et mercredis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs)
	FSA Bldg, Beau Champ – uniquement les vendredis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs) Tel : 5907 6254
NORD	FSA Bldg, Goodlands – Tel : 282 3273 Les lundis et mercredis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs)
	FSA Bldg, Riviere du Rempart – Tel : 409 0771 uniquement les jeudis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs)
	FSA Bldg, Solitude Les lundis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs)
SUD	FSA Bldg, Union Park – Tel: 677 1274 Les lundis, mercredis et jeudis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs)
CENTRE/OUEST	Rte Royale, La Marie – Tel : 684 0434 Les lundis, mercredis et jeudis (12.30 hrs à 15.30 hrs)

Téléchargez votre application Mobile
Mobeez maintenant pour accéder à
plusieurs facilités offertes par le
Gouvernement pour les fermiers









Mode d’application

Les formulaires d’application, dûment remplis, doivent être soumis en personne, au comptoir des bureaux du SFWF avec les documents (originaux et copies) y relatifs, au plus tard le **21 mars 2026** :

1. La Carte du Fermier valide (SFWF) du/des parent/s;
2. L’acte de naissance de l’étudiant ;
3. Le certificat du **HSC (2024)** de l’étudiant
4. **Les personnes éligibles mais qui ne sont pas détentrices d’une Carte de Fermier valide et ceux dont les cartes sont expiré donc plus valide, ont jusqu’au 21 mars 2026 pour se faire enregistrer, pour faire une demande de renouvellement afin que leurs enfants puissent bénéficier du l’Educational Achiever Award Scheme.**



Pour de plus amples renseignements sur le Educational Achiever Award Scheme (EAAS),
veuillez contacter le SFWF ou SCANNER le code QR ci- : info@sfwfund.com
2nd Floor, MCIA Building, St Pierre Tel: 433-2052/1564-66 Email: info@sfwfund.com



La Direction



21 février 2026

*Laughter is the
Best Medicine*



New Words in English

Errorist

A person who repeatedly makes mistakes -- with unwavering commitment.

Askhole

Someone who constantly asks for your advice, then does the exact opposite.

Ambitichous

Striving to be more of a bitch than the average bitch. Dudevorce

When two male best friends officially end their friendship over a trivial disagreement -- usually involving a girl.

Nonversation

A completely worthless conversation in which nothing is illuminated, explained, or clarified. Common at parties, bars, and networking events.

Destinesia

When you arrive at your intended destination and forget why you went there in the first place. Not to be confused with being stoned.

Unkeyboardinated

Lacking physical or mental keyboard coordination; unable to type without making repeated mistakes.

Cellfish

People who continue talking on their mobile phone, completely oblivious to everyone around them.

Textpectation

The anticipation --and mild anxiety -- felt while waiting for a reply to a text message.

Carcolepsy

The inability to stay awake and alert in a car, or in anything that moves: trains, planes, or buses.

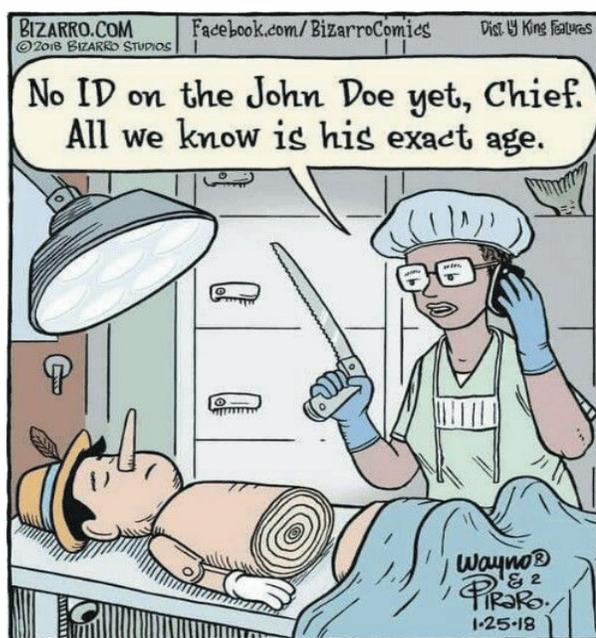
Hiberdating

The act of disappearing from all friendships while dating a new boyfriend or girlfriend.

* * *

A Clean Classroom Joke

"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up?"



asked the sarcastic teacher.

After a long silence, one freshman slowly rose to his feet.

"Now then, mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?" the teacher inquired with a sneer.

"Well, actually I don't," replied the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."

* * *

A Light Jealousy

A jealous husband asked his wife, "Would you sleep with Brad Pitt for a million dollars?"

The wife replied thoughtfully, "I suppose... I'd just need to figure out a way to come up with that kind of money."

* * *

The Billionaire's Secret

A 60-year-old billionaire married a stunning 25-year-old woman.

After their honeymoon, they threw a lavish party to celebrate.

Once the drinks were flowing, his friends gathered around and asked, "How on earth did you manage to marry someone so young?"

"It's simple," the billionaire boasted. "I faked my age."

"Really? Even if you said 40 or 45, she's way out of your league! What age did you tell her you were?" a friend asked.

With a proud smile, the billionaire replied, "Eighty-five."

* * *

First Day at University

After his first day at university, a young man calls his mother.

"I'm doomed," he says. "I might as well just come home now."

"Oh honey," she replies, "what happened?"

"They put us in a huge lecture hall," he begins. "There were hundreds of students. The Dean walked in and gave his welcome speech. He told us to look at the person on our right and then on our left and said that one of us wouldn't be there on graduation day."

"Oh dear," his mother said. "Who was on your right?"

"Mei-Ling -- an international prodigy on a full academic scholarship."

"Oh my," she said. "And who was on your left?"

"The aisle."

* * *

The Stubborn Goat

There was an old, poor couple who owned just one goat. Hoping to make a little money, they decided to breed her and grow their small "farm."

A man from the village advised them: "You have to take the goat to the city to mate her. If she drinks water the next day, it means it didn't work, and you'll have to bring her back again."

So the old man loaded the goat onto a wheelbarrow and took her to the city.

The next day she drank water.

He took her again. Same thing happened.

This went on for several days until the old man, exhausted, told his wife: "Please check if the goat drank water today. I'm too tired to go again. Just tell me."

The wife went to check and returned, saying: "The goat drank the whole water trough and is now standing in the wheelbarrow, waiting for you."

* * *

Light Moments: A Collection of Witty Jokes

For a week, a man was engrossed in a book on



assertiveness entitled Be the Man of the House. When he finished reading it, he announced grandly to his wife:

"Henceforth, things are going to be different around here. You will do exactly as I want; my every wish is your command. Tonight, you will prepare a gourmet meal and wash all the dishes afterwards. When you have tidied up, we will have sex the way I want. Then you will bathe me as I relax, towel me dry, and massage my feet and back."

His wife replied sarcastically, "The funeral director would be my first guest."

* * *

A blonde and a brunette went to a café and ordered two cups of tea. After a while, the blonde complained, "Why does my eye hurt every time I take a sip?"

The brunette replied, "Try taking the spoon out."

* * *

Guests at a party were arguing about whether men or women are more trustworthy. One man was particularly outspoken, insisting, "No woman can keep a secret."

A blonde sitting opposite him protested, "I disagree. I've kept my age a secret since I was twenty-one."

"You'll let it slip sometime," said the man.

"No way. When a woman has kept a secret for twenty-five years, she can keep it forever," she replied.



The Book of Fate**Anthony Hopkins
and The Girl from
Petrovka**

In 1973, Anthony Hopkins found himself facing a minor crisis. He had just landed a role in the film *The Girl from Petrovka*, based on a novel by the American author George Feifer. As a dedicated actor, Hopkins wanted to study the original text to fully inhabit his character, but he couldn't find a single copy of the book anywhere in London.

He spent an entire day scouring the famous bookshops of Charing Cross Road — a haven for bibliophiles — but his search was fruitless. The book simply wasn't available in the UK.

Exhausted and ready to concede



defeat, Hopkins headed into the Leicester Square Underground station to catch a train home. As he sat down on a subway bench, he noticed an object left behind by a previous commuter: a lone, abandoned book.

He picked it up and turned it over. It was *'The Girl from Petrovka'*.

Stunned by the coincidence, Hopkins took the book home. As he began to read, he noticed the margins were filled with meticulous handwritten notes in red ink — detailed annotations and personal insights. Though he found the notes helpful for his preparation, he couldn't explain how the exact book he needed had appeared on a bench in a city of eight million people.

The Impossible Connection

Months later, while filming on location in Vienna, Hopkins met the author, George Feifer. During their conversation, Feifer mentioned a personal frustration:

"I don't even have a copy of my own book anymore," Feifer confessed. "I lent my personal copy — the one filled with all my private notes — to a friend years ago. He lost it somewhere in London, and I've never seen it since."

A chill ran down Hopkins' spine. He reached into his bag and pulled out the

book he had found in the Underground.

Feifer's face went pale. It was his copy. His handwriting. His life's work, returned to him by the very man hired to bring his characters to life on screen.

Synchronicity in Action

The psychologist Carl Jung defined this phenomenon as synchronicity: the idea that meaningful coincidences are not merely random, but are part of a deeper, invisible pattern in the fabric of reality.

For Anthony Hopkins, the event became a lifelong reminder of the mystery of existence. He has often reflected on the "perfection" of that moment, suggesting that while we may not understand the master plan, we should remain open to the wonder of it.

Whether it was luck, fate, or the universe leaning in to help, the story remains a testament to a beautiful truth: Sometimes, the right book finds the right reader at the exact right time.

Stray Thoughts**Let go**

By Heidi Priebe

There is a beauty in the letting go, in the surrender to the unknown, to the inevitable.

It is a beauty that is often overlooked, overshadowed by the fear of loss, of

change.

But it is a beauty that is nonetheless real, and it is a beauty that is worth embracing.

When we hold on too tightly, we choke the life out of what we love. We become like the vines that strangle the trees, the weeds that suffocate the flowers.

We must learn to loosen our grip, to allow things to flow, to change, to be.

**We've forgotten how
to be truly alive**

How often do we find ourselves being experts at "planning" a life, but absolute beginners at actually experiencing it?

We work so hard for the house, the

car, and the security only to realize we've forgotten how to be truly alive inside of them. It is a strange paradox: we sacrifice the present moment to build a future that we are then too distracted to enjoy.

If you've been feeling that specific "burnout of becoming," there is a different way to move through your day.

Philo Thoughts

A myth we have believed throughout our lives is that we have to 'get' happiness, and if we can just get the external details of our lives right, we will be happy. This is not happiness, it is a form of enslavement.

Gelong Thubten

quotefancy

"If you organize your life around your passion, you can turn your passion into your story and then turn your story into something bigger—something that matters."

 BLAKE MYCOSKIE

**Yuri Gagarin and
the Queen's Lemon**

When Yuri Gagarin -- the first human to travel into space -- was received by Queen Elizabeth II, tea was served in the traditional British way, complete with a slice of lemon.

After finishing his tea, Gagarin did something unexpected: he scooped the lemon out with his spoon and ate it.

The room fell silent. That move was definitely not covered in royal etiquette.

Without hesitation, the Queen calmly lifted the lemon from her own cup and ate it as well. One by one, everyone followed her example. And just like that, an unspoken rule was established:

If the Queen eats the lemon, it's perfectly acceptable.

Later, Gagarin laughed about another moment from the reception. At one point, he lightly touched the Queen just above the knee -- not out of rudeness, but sheer disbelief. He simply couldn't wrap his mind around the fact that a real queen, not a character from a storybook, was sitting beside him.

Queen Elizabeth showed no reaction at all. Perhaps she was used to such awe... or perhaps Gagarin's sincerity



Yuri Gagarin and the Queen's Lemon

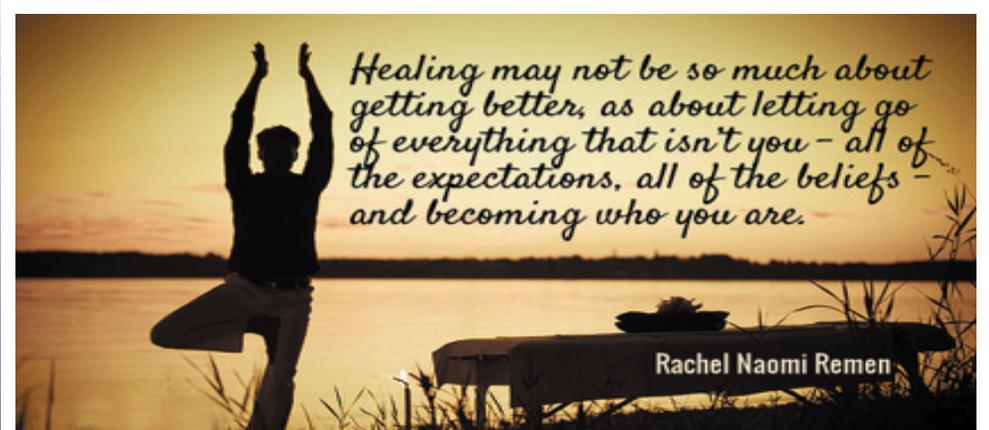
made the moment entirely innocent.

At another point, Gagarin admitted that he had no idea which utensils were meant for which course. The Queen leaned toward him and whispered with a smile:

"Truth be told, I don't always know either -- the staff just gives me the correct ones."

According to official British accounts of the visit, both Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip were genuinely impressed by Gagarin -- by his composure, his courtesy, and the natural elegance with which he carried himself.

From the silence of space to the halls of Buckingham Palace, Yuri Gagarin left a mark wherever he went -- sometimes with a spacecraft, sometimes with a simple slice of lemon.



Healing may not be so much about getting better, as about letting go of everything that isn't you - all of the expectations, all of the beliefs - and becoming who you are.

Rachel Naomi Remen

The Maturity Advantage

Why Starting a Business Later Is Your Secret Weapon

The tech world often paints a picture of the "young genius" founder -- think Mark Zuckerberg at 19 or Steve Jobs at 21. However, according to Jeff Haden, contributing editor for Inc., science suggests that these cases are the outliers. If you are in your 40s, 50s, or 60s, you aren't just capable of starting a business; you are statistically more likely to build a wildly successful one.

Success Scales with Age

Data from the US National Bureau of Academic Research and the Census Bureau dismantles the myth of the teenage tech mogul. After analyzing 2.7 million founders, researchers found:

- **The Sweet Spot:** The average age of entrepreneurs who found the most successful tech companies is 45.

- **The 50s Advantage:** A 50 -- year -- old is nearly twice as likely to launch an extremely successful company as a 30 -- year -- old.

- **The 60s Peak:** A 60 -- year -- old founder is three times more likely to launch a successful startup than someone half their age.

Conceptual Breakthroughs vs. Masterful Execution

Haden notes a distinct difference in how different age groups succeed. Younger founders often rely on conceptual breakthroughs -- radical new ideas like the "computer on every desk." They then have to spend years developing the skills to manage that vision.

In contrast, older entrepreneurs are often "Masters."



They leverage decades of:

- **Extant Knowledge:** Understanding how different industries and systems fit together.

- **Leadership Skills:** The ability to turn a group of individuals into a cohesive, high -- performing team.

- **Execution:** While youth brings ideas, age brings the ability to execute those ideas efficiently.

Famous "Late" Bloomers

History is filled with "Masters" who used their middle -- age experience to build empires:

- **Ray Kroc:** Was 52 and a career salesman before he turned McDonald's into a global franchise.

- **Sam Walton:** Was in his 40s when he leveraged his retail experience to launch Walmart.

- **Colonel Sanders:** Was in his 60s when he finally franchised KFC.

Why Experience Wins

Modern research into scientists and inventors shows that the age of "genius" is rising. Mastery takes time because it requires more than just knowing facts; it requires the cognitive ability to draw together complex sets of knowledge to make new breakthroughs.

While survivor bias makes us focus on the few young founders who made it, the data is clear: your experience, connections, and earned expertise are your greatest competitive advantages. If you've been waiting for the "right time" to start, science suggests your 40s, 50s, and 60s are the prime seasons for success.

Health Watch

The Morning Meal: Is it the most important one?

Many of us are reassessing the wellness habits we established at the start of the year. Among these, few topics spark as much debate as the necessity of breakfast. Long heralded as "the most important meal of the day," modern nutritional science suggests a more nuanced reality: while breakfast isn't a universal requirement for health, it serves as a critical tool for regulating the body's internal rhythms and energy levels.

Replenishing the Body's Fuel

The primary function of breakfast is suggested by its name -- "breaking the fast." During sleep, blood sugar levels drop as the body utilizes stored energy to maintain vital functions. A balanced morning meal replenishes these glucose stores, providing the necessary fuel for muscles and brain function. Without this initial input, individuals often experience a "mid-morning slump," characterized by decreased concentration and irritability.

Beyond immediate energy, a consistent morning meal helps stabilize the body's rhythm of fasting and eating. Skipping this window can lead to intense hunger later in the day, which often results in "compensatory eating" -- the tendency to reach for high-fat or high-sugar snacks to satisfy a sudden caloric deficit.

Breakfast and Weight Management

The relationship between breakfast and weight remains a subject of ongoing research. Historically, observational studies noted that individuals who eat breakfast tend to be thinner. However, more recent clinical trials have shown that eating breakfast does not automatically guarantee weight loss.

The benefit appears to lie less in the act of eating itself and more in the quality of the food chosen. A breakfast



shutterstock.com · 1949931253

high in protein and fiber can improve satiety, making it easier to manage appetite throughout the afternoon. Conversely, a breakfast consisting of refined sugars -- like pastries or sweetened cereals -- can cause a rapid spike and subsequent crash in blood sugar, potentially leading to more hunger than if the meal had been skipped entirely.

Critical Needs for Children and Adolescents

While adults may have more metabolic flexibility, breakfast is particularly vital for developing bodies. Children who skip the morning meal often struggle with focus, restlessness, and lower academic performance. Studies have consistently shown that students who eat breakfast achieve higher test scores than those who do not. Furthermore, because children have high nutrient requirements relative to their size, it is difficult for them to meet their daily needs for vitamins and minerals through lunch and dinner alone.

Designing a Balanced Start

For those looking to optimize their morning routine, a

"doughnut won't do." A balanced start should ideally include a combination of complex carbohydrates for immediate energy, protein for sustained fullness, and healthy fats for cognitive support. Quick options such as whole-grain cereal with low-fat milk, a fruit smoothie with yogurt, or even a handful of nuts can provide the necessary nutritional scaffolding for the day.

Ultimately, whether you choose a large meal or a small snack, the goal is to provide the body with consistent, high-quality fuel. By paying attention to these early nutritional signals, you can maintain better focus and energy as you move through the remainder of the winter season.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TECHNICAL AND OTHER STAFF UNION (RDATOSU)

The Annual General Meeting of Road Development Authority Technical and Other Staff Union (RDATOSU) will be held on **28 March 2026** at **10:30 am** at **View Lounge Restaurant, Palma**.

Agenda:

1. Reading & Approval of last AGM minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. President's Report
4. Finance
5. Amendments to rules (if any) and motions
6. Reshuffle (if any)
7. AOB
8. Speeches by Honorary Guests

Dr Pritish Gupta Quedou
Secretary

BollyBytes



Priyanka Chopra Jonas: On the "Olive Branch" that Saved Her Career

In a deeply personal reflection shared on Jay Shetty's podcast today, Priyanka Chopra Jonas opened up about the "stifling" atmosphere she experienced during her final years in Bollywood. Despite being a top-tier star, Priyanka admitted to feeling "cornered" by the internal politics and "networky" nature of the Hindi film industry. She described a period where she felt her work options were being intentionally limited, leading to a sense of "drowning" in an environment that no longer offered the professional longevity she desired.

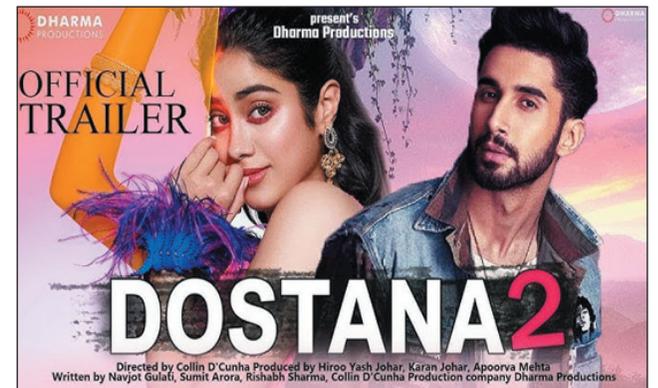
Priyanka explained that her move to the United States was not just a career pivot but a necessity for her mental and physical survival. "I am not someone who stays stagnant," she remarked, noting that she needs "movement" to solve her problems. That movement took her across continents, starting with her foray into the international music scene in 2012. Collaborating with stars like Pitbull and Will.i.am served as a "breath of fresh air," pulling her out of the stagnation she felt in Mumbai.

She credits this "pop star era" as the bridge that led to her breakthrough in *Quantico* and subsequent Hollywood success. Reflecting on the timeline, she noted that the universe provided her with an "olive branch" just as she felt her direction in Hindi cinema was fading. Today, as a global producer and actor, she views her exit from Bollywood not as a rejection of her roots, but as a pragmatic choice to ensure her career would not only survive but thrive on a global stage.

'Dostana 2' Finds Its Lead: Sini Shetty's High-Stakes Debut

The long-delayed and much-discussed 'Dostana 2' has finally found its leading lady. Dharma Productions has officially signed former Miss India Sini Shetty to star alongside Lakshya and Vikrant Massey. This marks a major turning point for the project, which has faced a tumultuous production history, including a high-profile fallout between Karan Johar and Kartik Aaryan that led to the film being temporarily shelved. While Kartik and Karan have since reconciled, the sequel has moved forward with an entirely new dynamic.

Sini Shetty, who was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 and represented India at Miss World 2023, follows a prestigious lineage of pageant winners -- including the original *Dostana* star Priyanka Chopra -- making their mark in cinema. A trained Bharatanatyam dancer and commerce graduate, Sini reportedly replaced Pratibha Ranta for the role. Her debut comes at a time when the film's vision has shifted toward a more "stylish" and international aesthetic.



Vikrant Massey, known for his powerhouse performances, expressed excitement about his first collaboration with Dharma Productions. He revealed that the film will feature him in a "never-seen-before" avatar, complete with designer outfits and sleek sunglasses, with significant portions of the film set to be shot in Europe. This makeover for Massey, combined with Lakshya's established presence and Sini's fresh energy, suggests that *Dostana 2* is aiming to recapture the glamorous, light-hearted spirit that made the 2008 original a cult classic.

Hema Malini: Grace Amidst Grief and the Legacy of Dharmendra

Three months after the passing of the legendary Dharmendra, his wife and "Dream Girl" Hema Malini has stepped forward to address the "void" left by the veteran star. In a recent interview, she expressed heartening gratitude for the BAFTAs featuring Dharmendra in their posthumous tribute -- making him the only Indian actor honored this year. However, she also used the platform to firmly shut down rumors of a rift between her family and Dharmendra's first family, including sons Sunny and Bobby Deol.

"There is no negativity at all," Hema asserted, emphasizing that the entire family is united by their love for "Papa." She pointed out that her daughters, Esha and Ahana, recently attended the screening of Sunny Deol's *Border 2*, illustrating a bond that exists away from the prying eyes of the public. "We don't display all these moments in public... it's all within our family," she explained, urging fans to respect their privacy during this period of mourning.

Hema also touched upon her own journey of healing, noting that she continues to find solace in dance. She shared that Dharmendra always encouraged her to keep performing to stay mentally and physically fit. While she remains open to returning to the silver screen, she admitted that she has yet to find a role that matches her



standards. For now, she finds comfort in the stories shared by Dharmendra's former staff and associates, all of whom remember him as a source of immense warmth, strength, and traditional Indian values.

The Era of the Mega-Budget: Bollywood's Billion-Rupee Gambles in 2026

The Indian film industry has officially entered a period of unprecedented financial scale. As of early 2026, the term "blockbuster" is no longer just about box office returns but the staggering capital invested before the first frame is even shot. Leading this charge is Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana', an ambitious live-action adaptation of the ancient epic.

With a reported budget ceiling of nearly MUR 20.4 billion (INR 4,000 crore), it stands as the most expensive Indian production to date. The film is a two-part VFX-heavy spectacle, with the first instalment slated for Diwali 2026. It aims to set a new global benchmark for Indian technical prowess, covering the journey from Lord

Ram's wedding to the pivotal exile and kidnapping of Sita.

Not far behind in terms of sheer "swagger" is 'Toxic', starring Yash. With a budget of approximately MUR 2.55 billion (INR 500 crore), this period gangster film is being touted as a "fairytale for grown-ups." Set against the lush but gritty backdrop of 1940s-70s Goa, the film explores the violent rise of a drug cartel.

Similarly, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love and War' has seen its budget swell to MUR 2.17 billion (INR 425 crore). This increase is attributed to Bhansali's legendary pursuit of aesthetic perfection, ensuring that the period romance starring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt is noth-

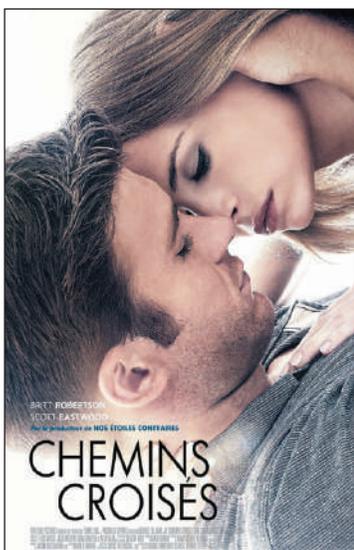
ing short of a visual masterpiece.

Even established franchises are raising the stakes. 'Dhurandhar 2', following the record-breaking success of its predecessor, is operating on a budget of roughly MUR 1.53 billion (INR 300 crore). Starring Ranveer Singh as an undercover agent in Pakistan, the film is scheduled for a March 19 release.

Finally, Shah Rukh Khan's 'King' has seen a massive budgetary leap from MUR 765 million to MUR 1.78 billion (INR 350 crore) to accommodate a "darker, edgier" script that sees Khan playing a menacing underworld mentor to his real-life daughter, Suhana Khan.



Vendredi 27 Février - 20.10



Samedi 28 Février - 20.10



Dimanche 1 Mars -20.10



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 27 février	06.16 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie 08.04 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Mortal Engines 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Speed 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: Chemins Croises 22.15 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.05 Tele: Happily Ever After 23.30 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Le Mag 10.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 11.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.30 Local: Couleur Marine 12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.02 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.32 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 15.00 Emotion En Avant Plan 15.15 Local: En Forme 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 Local: Securite Routiere 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: Avant Scene	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: Tarsu Chhu Tari Prit Ma Starring: Jeet Upendra 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: MBC Prod Friday 19.54 Local: Khel Khiladi 21.00 Serial: Crime Patrol 21.45 Serial: Mere Sai 22.34 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 22.55 Local: Mati Ke Mol 00.17 Local: Khel Khiladi 00.43 Local: Mati Ke Mol	06.25 Mag: Arts Unveiled Special 07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.57 Doc: Eyes On The Taiga 11.08 Mag: Eco India 12.01 Doc: Environmental Crime 12.31 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.30 Doc: A Mediterranean... 15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.32 D.Anime: Paddles! 16.00 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 16.24 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 17.02 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 17.13 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 17.40 Doc: Little Gourmet 17.45 Mag: Travel 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: Amrit Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Smita Patil, Aruna Irani, Shafi Inamdar, Satish Shah, Zarina Wahab... 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: Amrit Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Smita Patil, Aruna Irani, Shafi Inamdar, Satish Shah, Zarina Wahab...
samedi 28 février	03.32 Serial: Heartland 04.28 Serial: Belgravia 05.13 Tele: Living To Love 06.30 Serial: Under Pressure 07.20 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: Suprematie 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: The Day After Tomorrow 22.13 Serial: Nautilus 22.59 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal	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: Arsiv 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 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: Glwar Dantan 22.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux 23.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel 23.58 Local: Palette 00.25 Local: Metie	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 08.26 Local: Abhyas Yog 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 12.52 Local: Khel Khiladi 13.18 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Phool Aur Angaar Cast: Mithun, Shanti Priya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 18.58 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.13 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara Guests 21.00 Film: Kaal Cast: Ajay Devn, Vivek Oberoi 23.08 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.34 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 23.47 Geet Nritya Aur Parampara...	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 06.45 D.Anime: Not Quite Narwhal 07.09 Film: La Famille Blaireau Renard 08.20 D.Anime: Mush Mush And... 09.31 Dex And The Humanimals 10.39 Doc: All The Answers 11.15 Doc: La Mediterranee... 13.48 Doc: The Stone Age Diet 15.00 Film: Zombillennium 16.17 D.Anime: Robin De Bois 16.29 D.Anime: Le Rythme De La... 16.39 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 17.12 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Doc: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 19.02 Mag: Business Africa 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.53 Doc: Natural Wonders 21.45 Film: Luce 23.31 Doc: Healthy Eyes	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: Takkar With: Naseeruddin Shah, Suniel Shetty, Sonali Bendre 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.30 Crime Patrol
dimanche 1 mars	02.32 Film: Luce 04.22 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois... 05.10 Tele: Lying Heart 06.30 Film: The Day After Tomorrow 08.24 Serial: Belgravia 09.06 Film: Backtrack 10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 12.34 Film: Violence A Jericho 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: The Day After Tomorrow 17.30 Doc: Visionary Gardens 17.52 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: The Shamer's Daughter 21.47 Serial: S.W.A.T. 22.33 Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal	08.40 Local: Profil 08.55 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.30 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.30 Emotion En Avant Plan 13.53 Local: The Lion King Musical 15.24 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 15.51 Local: Coin Jardin 16.03 La Barre De Recherche 16.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Wildflower 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.34 Local: Les Klips 21.30 Local: Festival Gospel 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 Local: Entractes 23.59 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 06.59 Local: Wellness Watch 08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan 08.26 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 12.00 Film: Champion Cast: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan 15.48 MBC Production 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.12 Local: Hunarbaaz 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.20 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.06 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 23.05 Local: Samay Chakra 23.45 Local: Hunarbaaz 00.09 Local: Samay Chakra 04.57 Film: Champion Cast Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 08.19 D.Anime: Mush Mush And... 08.43 D.Anime: Word Party 10.00 Serial: Will, La Série 11.15 Mag: In Good Shape 13.56 Doc: Legendary Hotels 15.04 Film: Kung Fu Panda 16.29 Le Rythme De La Jungle 17.13 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: Rev Special 18.36 Doc: Brilliant Corners 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.45 Film: Hope Springs Cast: Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, Steve Carell 23.17 Doc: Gym Boys-Why Young Men Pump Iron? 00.00 Doc: Artificial Immortality 00.42 Doc: Empowering The Future 01.25 Mag: REV Special	00.45 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 02.33 Udaariyaan 04.12 Anupamaa 06.47 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: De Dana Dan Cast: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty
lundi 2 mars	04.28 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 04.50 Tele: Lying Heart 05.36 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.04 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 07.46 Tele: All The Flowers 08.09 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Hope Springs 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 20.18 Serial: Quantico 21.00 Serial: Berlin Station 21.50 Tele: Mademoiselle	09.10 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 10.14 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 15.01 Local: Fam Model 15.27 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 16.09 Local: Les Klips 17.00 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 23.25 Local: Metie 00.19 Local: En Toute Intimite	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Holi Chowtaal 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Kudrat Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini, Vinod Khanna 15.00 Samachar 15.51 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Holi Chowtaal 18.57 Ved Ki Shikshahein 19.30 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Aadmi Aur Insaan Cast: Dharmendra, Saira Banu, Feroz Khan 23.39 Mere Sai 00.27 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners 07.18 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.48 Doc: La Mediterranee... 09.20 Doc: Artificial Immortality 10.52 Doc: Forgotten... 11.38 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: Riley Rocket 16.00 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 16.22 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.46 D.Anime: Le Rythme De La... 17.40 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa 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: Warrior	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.26 Film: Kohra Starring: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran 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



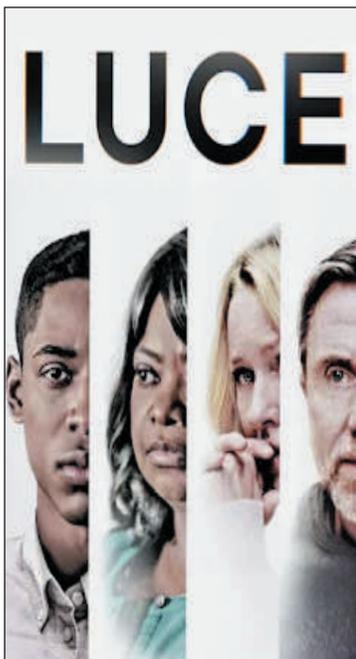
Mardi 3 Mars - 20.30



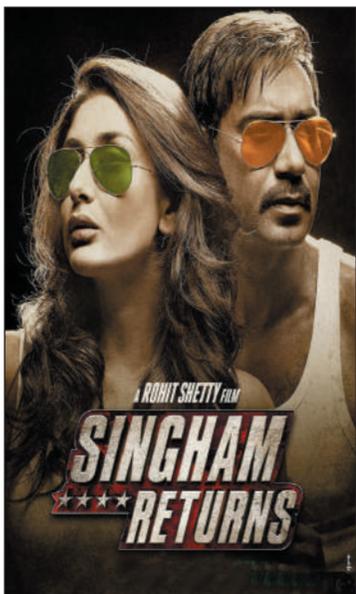
A BRONX TALE



Mercredi 4 Mars - 21.40



Mercredi 4 Mars - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 3 mars	04.10 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 04.32 Tele: Lying Heart 05.18 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 06.54 Serial: Quantico 08.51 Tele: La Desalmada 09.16 Film: Warrior 11.36 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: Six Black Horses 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Once Upon A Time In The Bronx 22.25 Tele: Mademoiselle	09.10 Local: The Role Of MRA... 11.00 Local: MRIC 11.35 Local: Grand Titre 13.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Feminin Pluriel 15.04 Local: Sur Prise 15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Ce Fait Debat 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 Ladrog 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 22.20 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.22 Local: Fee Main 23.33 Local: Music Tour 2026	08.27 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Pakhandee Cast: Shashi Kapoor, Zeenat Aman 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Holi Chowtaal 18.31 Rangmanch Ki Awaaz 19.27 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.56 Local: Prakriti 20.38 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Mere Jeewan Saathi Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja	07.00 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.46 When Night Falls In Mumbai 09.09 Doc: The Microchip War 10.24 Doc: The Happy Worker 12.41 Mag: In Good Shape 13.49 Doc: Tomorrow Today 15.00 D.Anime: Momulu Et Ses Ami 15.35 D.Anime: Riley Rocket 17.11 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 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: Initiative Africa 22.08 Doc: Iron Butterflies 22.58 Mag: Euromaxx 23.22 Doc: The Raw Materials...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Jurmana Starring: Rakhee Gulzar, Amitabh Bachchan 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: Jurmana Starring: Rakhee Gulzar, Amitabh Bachchan
mercredi 4 mars	06.11 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Evita 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Once Upon A Time In The Bronx 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: Music Tour 2026 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.35 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.00 Local: Les Klips 22.52 Local: Grand Titre 23.12 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.37 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.52 Local: Festival Gospel 2025	08.00 Local: Holi Chowtaal 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Kati Patang 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Sayings Radha Krishna 16.00 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Phagua Ke Dhun Rediff 18.58 Bhajans On Holi 19.58 Local: Virasat 20.13 Local: Kaam Daam 20.30 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garub 21.00 Film: Aaj Ki Beti Cast: Tushar Dalvi, Kishori Godbole, Vaibhav Mangle, Tarun Khanna 23.00 Serial: Mere Sai 23.24 Wagle Ki Duniya	09.04 Mag: Euromaxx 09.30 Doc: The Raw Materials... 11.47 Mag: Made In Germany 12.44 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.10 Doc: Iron Butterflies 14.06 Mag: Euromaxx 14.28 Doc: Home Again 15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 15.19 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.24 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 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: Healing Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.40 Film: Luce Cast: Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Singham Returns Starring: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Amole Gupte 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: Singham Returns Starring: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Amole Gupte
jeudi 5 mars	06.16 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.28 Film: Patch Adams 11.36 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 14.10 Serial: Asintado 15.30 Film: Hope Springs 17.15 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: I, Me Aur Main Stars: John Abraham, Chitrangda Singh, Prachi Desai 22.24 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.09 Tele: Happily Ever After 23.32 Le Journal	09.20 Local: Agir Ensemble 10.05 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.41 Local: Les Klips 11.38 Local: Grand Titre 12.11 Local: Palette 13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.10 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 15.32 Local: Saver Lokal 17.12 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 21.00 Local: Metie 21.15 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.35 Local: Memwar Dan Ros 00.25 Local: Tous Egaux	08.00 Phagua Ke Dhun Rediff 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Anuraag Cast: Vinod Mehra, Moushami Chaterjee 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 08.41 The Power Of The Super... 10.06 Doc: Iran From Above In... 11.05 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.01 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.27 Doc: Healing Gardens 12.49 Mag: Close Up 13.18 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.29 Doc: A Passion For Helping 15.00 Momolu Et Ses Amis 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.24 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.56 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 16.21 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: Aankhen Stars: Govinda, Chunky Pandey, Raj Babbar 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: Aankhen Stars: Govinda, Chunky Pandey, Raj Babbar



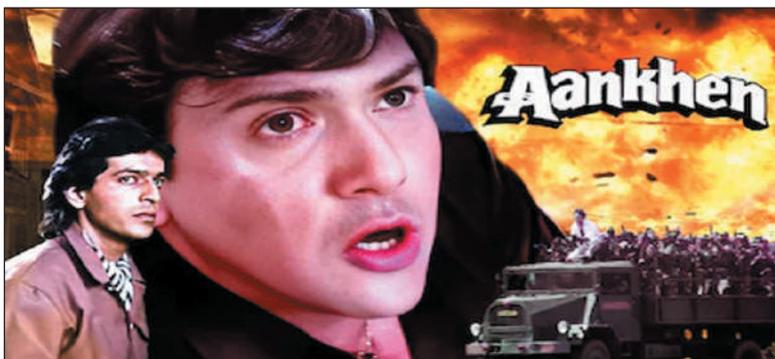
Jeudi 5 Mars - 15.30

Stars: Govinda, Chunky Pandey, Raj Babbar



Jeudi 5 Mars - 20.10

Stars: John Abraham, Chitrangda Singh, Prachi Desai





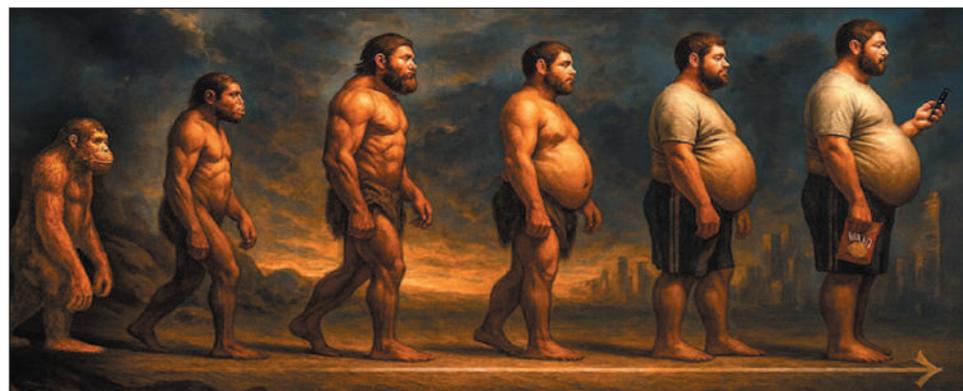
Dr Rajagopal
Soondron

The Fat of the Matter

The Obesity Paradox and Nature's Hidden Agenda

Whenever our expert historians talk about the hunter-gatherers of many millennia ago, we immediately visualize those ancestors walking the savannah from place to place, alone or in small groups — looking for tubers and fruits or hunting some small quarry. The picture coming to our mind's eye

was of people who were moderately muscular with flat bellies; being daily on the move to look for their next meal was costly in terms of energy; any excess zeal in their outings was a health hazard. No wonder they could not accumulate fat. After all, nuts, tubers, and some rare lean venison carried little lipids — not the optimal scenario for a healthy brain, which essentially needs fatty acids, cholesterol, and good lipids for its development.



When the earth was wild and humans were wanderers, survival shaped our bodies. Pic - Vani Gupta-India Today

Some authors believe that later gregariousness opened the way to big game hunting for more venison - which gave a boost to further brain development. However, it was the agricultural era that prompted changes in our ancestors' further evolution and body contour. Becoming agriculturists, they soon discovered that harvesting cereals or other eatables gave them a real safety margin for a starchy food reserve. The fear of missing the next meal slowly faded from their psyche. Eventually, eating some extra food was even seen as a wonderful new experience for the gustatory buds and stomach.

And the inevitable consequence of that extra food, combined with a more sedentary life, stimulated body fat accumulation! If some of us — obese modern people — start blaming these ancestors for transmitting their greed and fatty genes to us, then we should have second thoughts.

The present theory advanced by some experts suggests that our lean hunter-gatherer ancestors lacked sufficient energy reserves to engage in other activities, particularly complex mental processes. The agricultural era, however, addressed this limitation by enabling the accumulation of adipose tissue. This provided a significant evolutionary advantage — a vital reserve of ener-

gy that supported greater cognitive capacity, improved planning, and more effective responses to internal and external threats. Admittedly, during periods of floods or droughts that affected harvests, some populations would inevitably face starvation. Yet those with slightly higher body fat were more likely to survive than their leaner counterparts.

Far be it from us to suggest that these agriculturists used their increased energy solely for positive purposes. More likely, their first plans often involved attacking neighbouring tribes with more fertile land or greater access to water, or confronting groups with different traditions, beliefs, and totems. Thus, over the ages, we see that *Homo sapiens* gradually capitalised on this newfound energy to manage life's challenges — for better or for worse — sustained by accumulated body fat and carbohydrates.

The Present View

It is a déjà vu scenario: over time, many of our human activities seem to revert back to square one. Nowadays, many of us are trying to eliminate as much of our ponderable fats as possible — either for health reasons or for cosmetic appearance — to imitate those lean and flat-bellied hunter-gatherers of yesteryears by eating more nuts and greens and engaging in strenuous physical activities! At the other extreme — in the midst of plenty of processed food - many of us are being cajoled by businessmen to eat more, which spells the downfall of many an obese individual.

However, mention must be made of two recent medical articles on "The Obesity Paradox," which might remind us of the role played by that agricultural fat in our evolution. They mentioned that lean patients do not do as well as those who are slightly obese — especially after surgery.

Medical researchers long ago invented the Body Mass Index (BMI) in the 50s; if this BMI is between 18 and 25, it is considered the best health option; the 25 to 29 group is classified as slightly overweight, and 30 and above signals impending medical ill health

and complications.

But in the postoperative phase, it is found that those in the second group - slightly obese with a 25–29 BMI - are the ones who do better than the leaner ones! The rationale is that this group has fat reserves which help to feed the attending postoperative catabolic fasting period, thereby sparing muscle energy; but the leaner group has only muscle mass energy to feed that very catabolism — so in the long run, their skeletal system will be weakened and they will fare worse.

Could this hint that it is good news to have some fat reserve in our body in case we have to undergo some stressful conditions — such as the droughts or floods of long ago, or the catabolism following an operation?

Speculating

And what is to be said of those varying degrees of pot bellies accompanying us as we age — more evident in men?

Why should we be handicapped by extra weight? The truth is that after 40 or 50, there is a decline in all of our physiological and anatomical wellbeing; our appetite decreases and our energy requirement plummets. Mother Nature *dixit*. However, she has a hidden agenda for us.

Taking pity on us, she decides to gift us with a pad of belly fat so that a reserve of energy is readily available to see us through the last few years of our declining life -- to make up for our reduced mobility, our failing organs, and failing taste buds. Scientifically, it is not proven — but we can have some fun by stretching our imagination and speculating. Some good fat and agricultural carbohydrates have never done us harm; in fact, they could have been at the origin of our brain's exponential evolution since the dawn of agriculture.

UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER MINISTRIES

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association, scheduled for Friday, 27 March 2026 at 12.00 hours at the seat of Government Teachers' Centre, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome Address by the President
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Executive Members and Auditors
7. Any Other Business (A.O.B.)

Secretary

Tree of Knowledge

The Unseen World



Pic - youtube.com

Exploring the unseen world can be worthwhile as there are many gifts awaiting you there.

Just because we can't see something doesn't mean it doesn't exist, although this is a common way in which people deny the existence of spirit guides, angels, and other unseen helpers in our lives. However, anyone who has encountered such beings can attest to the fact that they do exist, just as our breath exists, keeping us alive, even though we can't see it. The wind exists, too, but we only know this because we feel it on our skin and hear it moving the leaves on the trees. All around us and within us are things we can't see, and yet we know they are just as real as the grass beneath our feet.

What we see and don't see may just be a matter of perspective, like the ladybug who sees the leaf on which she sits, but not the tree the leaf grows on or the person sitting beneath it. And the person beneath the tree may or may not see the ladybug, depending on where they focus their attention. Still, all of these things, whether seen or not seen by the person or the ladybug, exist in reality. Some people are more gifted at accessing that which we cannot see, but with an open and willing heart, anyone can tune into the invisible realm and begin to find their way.

Human beings have always done this, and it is only recently that we have fallen into distrusting the existence of what we can't see. If you have lost touch with the unseen world, all you have to do is resolve to open your heart to its existence, and it will make itself known. Closing your eyes in meditation and visualization or engaging the unseen through the written word are just two ways to welcome the invisible back into your life. Whatever you choose to do, cultivating a relationship with that which you can't see is a time-honored human practice that can greatly enhance your life.

Daily Om