

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• War doesn't make boys men, it makes men dead. - Ken Gillespie (Retired military leader, 1952 - present, Australia)

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# When Great Powers Gamble, Small Nations Pay the Price

Escalating confrontation in the Gulf threatens global shipping, energy supply and the economic stability of countries far beyond the battlefield

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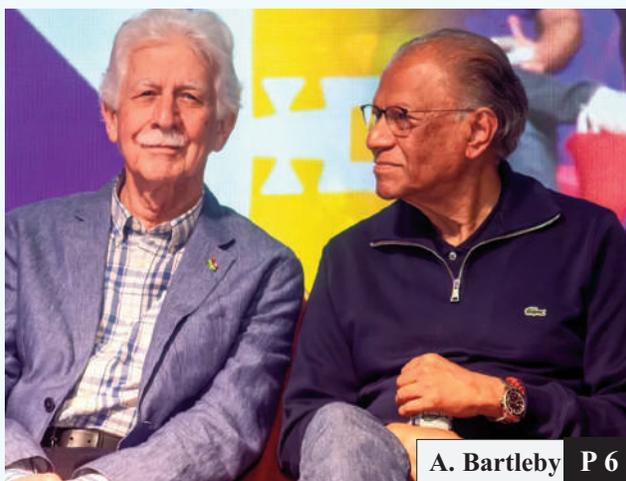
# The High Price of 'Epic Fury'



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The world woke last Saturday, February 28, to a geopolitical nightmare that many had hoped would remain a theoretical exercise for war games and think tanks. Following the launch of Operation Epic Fury -- a series of coordinated U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian soil -- the Middle East has been plunged into a hot war.

## Eclairages



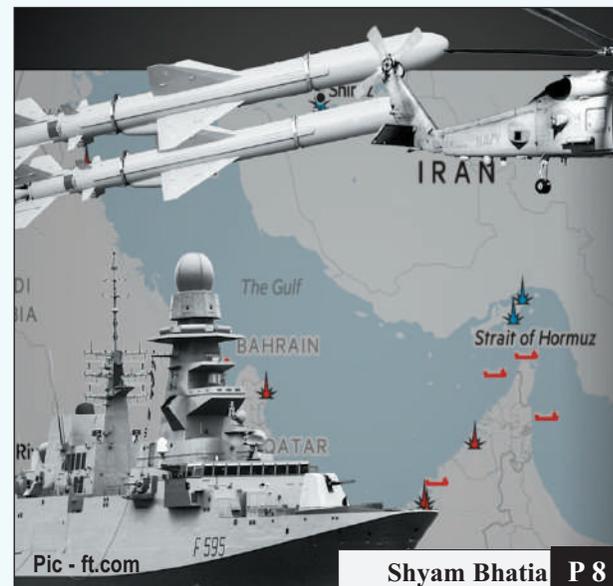
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## Opinion

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The world woke last Saturday, February 28, to a geopolitical nightmare that many had hoped would remain a theoretical exercise for war games and think tanks. Following the launch of Operation Epic Fury — a series of coordinated U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian soil — the Middle East has been plunged into a hot war. While the immediate focus remains on the devastating military exchanges, a secondary, silent explosion is rippling across the globe. From the high-frequency trading floors of Wall Street to the supermarket aisles of Mauritius, the economic impacts aren't just theories anymore; they are hitting the markets right now.

For a global economy still recovering from previous inflationary scars, the timing is precarious. The "Iran Factor" represents more than just a localized disruption; it is a systemic shock to the two pillars of modern prosperity: energy security and maritime connectivity.

### The Choke Point of the World

At the heart of the crisis lies the Strait of Hormuz. It is a narrow, 21-mile-wide strip of water that functions as the jugular vein of the global energy market. Approximately 20 million barrels of oil — roughly 20% of global consumption — pass through this corridor daily. As news broke of shipping attacks and the potential closure of the Strait, the reaction was instantaneous. Brent crude, which hovered around \$61 at the start of the year, surged nearly 10% in a single session, breaching the \$80 mark and eyeing the psychological \$100 barrier.

Financial institutions are sounding the alarm. Goldman Sachs has warned that if the Strait remains closed for even a single month, European gas prices could double. JPMorgan and Commerzbank analysts suggest that a prolonged conflict will inevitably push oil into triple digits. For the United States, despite its increased energy self-sufficiency, a global price spike remains an unavoidable tax on the consumer. But for the rest of the world, particularly developing nations and small island states, the impact is not just a "tax" — it is a potential derailment of national budgets.

As uncertainty peaks, investors have triggered a classic "flight to safety." Capital is pouring into gold and the Swiss franc, while S&P 500 futures have retreated. This volatility is a symptom of a deeper fear: the Iran War will now make everything more expensive to produce and ship around the world.

### The View from the Indian Ocean: Mauritius at the Crossroads

While missiles are being fired in the Persian Gulf, the economic damage is hitting us thousands of miles away in the Indian Ocean. For Mauritius, a nation that imports nearly 70% of what it consumes, the "Iran War" is not a distant television drama; it is an impending domestic crisis.

In local radio talk shows, different analysts have dissected the vulnerability of our "small island economy." Their consensus was sobering: in a globalized world, geography provides no sanctuary from economic contagion. Experts point out that the lag between a geopolitical event and its impact on the Mauritian consumer is roughly six to eight weeks. Importers currently hold reserves that act as a temporary buffer, but as those stocks are replenished at new, war-inflated prices, the "inflationary wave" will hit our shores. The Mauritian Rupee's relative weakness against the Dollar only compounds the pain, making every barrel of oil and every ton of grain more expensive to land at Port Louis.

### The Freight and Logistics Nightmare

Perhaps more concerning than the price of the commodity itself is the cost of moving it. The maritime routes connecting the Gulf to the markets of Asia and Africa are the lifelines of the Mauritian economy. As the Strait of Hormuz

# The High Price of 'Epic Fury'



Pic - Shutterstock

becomes a "no-go zone," shipping companies are rerouting vessels, opting for longer, safer paths that add thousands of miles to a journey.

This is already translating into a surge in freight rates, with reports of increases between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per container. Combined with skyrocketing war-risk insurance premiums, the cost of "bringing goods to the shelf" is becoming unsustainable for many small-scale importers. This logistical paralysis threatens the very stability of our supply chains. While the Customs House Brokers' Association has urged calm — noting that our essential food items primarily come from India and China — it is acknowledged that the "energy factor" is the great equalizer. If aviation fuel and maritime diesel climb, the price of a bag of rice from India will rise just as surely as an electronic component from Europe.

### The Fiscal Challenge: A Rs 10 Billion Hole

The conflict arrives at a moment of existing internal fiscal pressure. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam recently noted the need to identify Rs 10 billion for the upcoming budget. In a stable world, this would be a standard challenge of governance. In a world at war, it is a Herculean task.

If the government is forced to subsidize fuel to protect the population from "pump shock," the budget deficit will widen. If it allows prices to fluctuate with the market, the cost of living could ignite social discontent. Furthermore, the banking sector is unlikely to lower interest rates in such a volatile climate, potentially stifling the very investment needed to grow our way out of this shortfall.

The tourism sector — the pillar of our prosperity — stands equally exposed. Higher oil prices mean higher airfares. Disruptions in Middle Eastern airspace mean cancelled flights and rerouted itineraries. For a European traveller, a holiday in the sun becomes a secondary priority when their own heating bills are doubling due to the natural gas crisis.

### Finding the Silver Lining

Is there an opportunity amidst the chaos? Some analysts suggest that if maritime routes are permanently redrawn to avoid the Middle East, Mauritius could leverage its strategic position in the centre of the Indian Ocean to become a more vital logistics and bunkering hub. However, this is a long-term play that requires massive infrastructure investment — money that is currently being diverted to meet immediate consumption needs.

Geopolitical analysts remind us that this conflict is multifaceted. It is about nuclear ambitions, regional hegemony, and the limits of U.S. airpower. But for the "silent casualties" — the small states — it is about the price of a loaf of bread and the ability to keep the lights on.

### The Need for Resilience

The Iran war serves as a brutal reminder of the fragility of the "just-in-time" global economy. For Mauritius, the lesson is clear: our dependence on imported energy and the whims of distant corridors like the Strait of Hormuz is a strategic liability.

As we look toward the next budget and the coming months of uncertainty, the focus must be on three fronts:

#### 1. Energy Diversification:

We must accelerate the transition to renewables to decouple our economy from the volatility of Middle Eastern oil.

**2. Food Security:** Strengthening local production is no longer a "green" preference; it is a national security imperative.

**3. Fiscal Prudence:** The government must manage the Rs 10 billion gap with care, ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected from the coming inflationary wave without bankrupting the future.

The chimneys of our past may have been built on sugar, but the survival of our future depends on our ability to weather the storms of a world where a single missile in the Gulf can change the price of life in the tropics. We are not just observers of this war; we are, economically speaking, on the front lines.

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**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



Vijay Makhan

# When Great Powers Gamble, Small Nations Pay the Price

*Escalating confrontation in the Gulf threatens global shipping, energy supply and the economic stability of countries far beyond the battlefield*

Those who have spent a lifetime observing international affairs learn one enduring lesson: wars launched with confidence rarely end as their architects imagine. They expand, they entangle new actors, and they generate consequences far beyond the calculations of those who initiate them.

Events in the Middle East are evolving rapidly. Yet beyond the daily headlines, the broader pattern now emerging deserves careful attention.

The escalating confrontation between the United States, Israel and Iran carries all the characteristics of a conflict that risks widening beyond its original parameters. What initially appeared to be a limited exchange of military strikes now threatens to draw in additional actors and destabilise an already fragile region.

Most troubling is the shifting narrative surrounding the justification for recent military action. Only recently, Washington declared that Iran's nuclear capabilities had been "obliterated". Now, the narrative is that Tehran was allegedly on the verge of acquiring a nuclear weapon within weeks. Such contradictions inevitably raise questions about credibility and about the strategic coherence of the policies being pursued.

The timing of the strikes has further deepened international unease. Diplomatic efforts were underway under Omani mediation, with negotiations believed to be close to resuming. Instead of diplomacy, however, the world is once again confronted with military escalation.

Diplomacy is overtaken by force.

For decades, warnings about Iran's imminent acquisition of nuclear weapons have been repeated with striking regularity with a timeline often measured in weeks or months, yet those deadlines have continually shifted forward as the years passed. Meanwhile, no conclusive evidence has been produced to prove that Iran had crossed the threshold into weaponisation.

None of this diminishes the legitimate concerns surrounding nuclear proliferation. Those concerns are serious and deserve sustained diplomatic engagement. But when explanations for military escalation shift from one justification to another, confidence in international leadership inevitably erodes.

Credibility, once weakened, is difficult to restore.

## The Economic Shockwaves Already Underway

For countries far removed from the battlefield, the immediate consequences of war are often economic rather than military.

The Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's most critical maritime corridors — carries a substantial share of global oil shipments. Any instability in this narrow passage rapidly reverberates across global energy markets.

Shipping companies reconsider routes. Maritime insurers raise war-risk premiums. Vessels hesitate before entering contested waters while naval deployments multiply across the region.

The result is predictable.

Fuel prices rise. Freight costs escalate. Insurance premiums surge. Deliveries slow.

And these costs inevitably pass through global supply chains.

For import-dependent economies, the chain reaction is swift and painful: higher energy bills, rising transport costs, increased food prices and growing economic uncertainty.

In other words, the geopolitical decisions of powerful



states begin to manifest themselves in the daily lives of ordinary citizens thousands of kilometres away.

## The Dangerous Illusion of Controlled Escalation

History offers a sobering warning about the belief that conflicts can be tightly managed once they begin.

Many of the actors that later became the focus of global security concerns were themselves products of earlier geopolitical strategies. Armed movements cultivated as proxies during past rivalries frequently evolved into forces that later turned against their original sponsors.

The record is instructive.

During the Cold War conflict in Afghanistan, militant networks were supported as instruments of geopolitical competition. From those same networks later emerged organisations such as Al-Qaeda, whose attacks reshaped global security in ways few policymakers had foreseen.

Saddam Hussein's Iraq was once viewed as a regional counterweight before becoming the target of devastating wars that destabilised an entire region.

Even individuals who later became symbols of international terrorism, including Osama bin Laden, initially operated within geopolitical contexts shaped by earlier strategic calculations.

The lesson is clear.

Geopolitical engineering often produces consequences that extend far beyond the intentions of those who initiate it.

Proxies do not always remain proxies. They evolve, fragment and pursue their own agendas. And when they do, instability can persist for decades.

## A Crisis of Strategic Consistency

Equally troubling is the perception of growing inconsistency in international leadership, clearly adding to further confusion in an already volatile situation.

The oscillation of the American administration as to Iran's nuclear status — obliteration and imminent acquisition — projects contradictions that inevitably raise questions about strategic clarity.

When policy signals shift so dramatically within short periods, allies struggle to interpret intentions while adversaries may miscalculate responses. In international security, ambiguity can sometimes serve diplomacy — but inconsistency rarely does.

At the same time, relations with traditional partners have been strained by economic pressure and rhetorical confrontation, further complicating the formation of a coherent international response to escalating crises.

Foreign policy, particularly when nuclear powers are involved, requires disciplined coordination between political leadership, military establishments and diplomatic institu-

tions.

When that coordination appears fragile, the risks multiply.

## The Indian Ocean: Where Distant Wars Become Immediate Realities

For the countries of the Indian Ocean, the widening conflict carries implications that are often underestimated.

The region lies directly along the maritime routes connecting the energy producers of the Gulf with the markets of Asia, Africa and Europe. Every escalation in the Persian Gulf therefore travels swiftly along these sea lanes into the wider Indian Ocean basin.

When tensions rise in the Strait of Hormuz, ships do not simply stop moving. Instead, they slow down, reroute, or anchor while awaiting security clearance; there is always a risk of attack or the sudden closure of critical passages. Consequently, freight rates rise. War-risk insurance premiums surge. Energy prices climb. Deliveries become irregular.

For island economies such as Mauritius — dependent on imported fuel, food, manufactured goods and connectivity — these disruptions are not abstract geopolitical developments. They translate directly into the cost of living.

A tanker delayed in the Gulf means higher fuel prices at the pump.

Higher maritime insurance means more expensive imported goods.

Airspace disruptions mean fewer flights and pressure on tourism.

For Mauritius in particular, the implications are immediate and practical. Our economy remains deeply dependent on imported energy, maritime transport and international air connectivity. Any prolonged instability in the Gulf risks pushing up the cost of petroleum products, increasing shipping insurance and freight charges, and disrupting supply chains that bring essential goods to our shores. Tourism, a pillar of our economic activity, is equally vulnerable to rising fares and uncertain travel conditions. What may appear on television screens as distant geopolitical manoeuvring therefore carries the potential to translate very quickly into higher prices, tighter supply of goods and renewed pressure on the cost of living for Mauritian families already navigating an uncertain global economy.

The geography that has long made the Indian Ocean a crossroads of commerce also makes it vulnerable to distant conflicts.

Small states, which have neither the power to influence great power confrontations nor the capacity to shield themselves from global economic shocks, often become the silent casualties of geopolitical rivalry.

## The Imperative of Restraint

The widening confrontation in the Middle East therefore represents far more than a regional crisis. It is a reminder of how fragile the global systems that sustain prosperity — maritime trade, energy flows and financial stability — can become when diplomacy gives way to military escalation.

Conflicts between major powers rarely unfold according to the tidy scenarios imagined at their outset. They expand through miscalculation, retaliation and the unpredictable behaviour of regional actors. Once escalation begins, events often acquire their own momentum.

The world does not need further demonstrations of force.

It needs diplomacy.

It needs restraint.

And it needs renewed respect for international law.

For, in an interconnected world, the flames ignited in one region rarely remain there. They travel — through shipping lanes, energy markets, financial systems and food supply chains — until they reach the homes and livelihoods of people who had no part in lighting the match.

The tragedy of war is not only that it destroys nations. It is that it punishes the innocent far beyond the battlefield.

History will judge not only those who ignite wars, but also those who fail to prevent them when diplomacy was still possible.

New Delhi, 6 March 2026

## Sovereignty in a Time of War

# Who Controls Diego Garcia?

*‘Based on the 2025 agreement, Mauritius could potentially be held legally responsible or face international pressure for US strikes launched from Diego Garcia’*

**A**s tensions escalate in the Middle East and global rivalries sharpen, the strategic military base on Diego Garcia has once again moved to the centre of international attention. Reports that UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer initially refused to allow the United States to launch offensive strikes on Iran from the base raise complex legal and geopolitical questions. With sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago now tied to Mauritius through the 2025 agreement — though not yet fully ratified — the episode highlights unresolved issues about control, legal responsibility, and the future of the Diego Garcia lease. Lex explores the legal, diplomatic, and strategic implications for the UK, the US, and Mauritius.

### LEX

**\* Reports indicate UK Prime Minister Starmer has denied the US permission to use Diego Garcia for the current strikes against Iran. Does the 1966 Exchange of Notes (or the 2025 Treaty) provide the UK with a definitive legal “veto” over US missions, or is this a political stance that Washington could legally challenge?**

Reports indicate that in early 2026, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer initially refused to grant the United States permission to use the Diego Garcia airbase for offensive strikes against Iran, citing international law, and subsequently authorized its use only for defensive purposes. This action rests on the legal framework of the 1966 Exchange of Notes (and the associated, though not yet fully ratified, 2025 treaty), which governs the operation of the joint base.

Under international law, the 1966 Exchange of Notes provides the UK with a definitive contractual right — in effect, a veto — over US operational use of the base.

**\* If the UK permits the use of the base for strikes — later deemed a “crime of aggression” under international law —, does the UK share legal liability? Does Keir Starmer’s current refusal effectively shield the UK from international prosecution?**

The UN Charter (1945) establishes the foundational legal framework governing the use of force in international relations. Its central tenet, Article 2(4), prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. Only two exceptions exist: self-defence against an armed attack (Article 51) and actions authorized by the UN Security Council.

It would therefore appear that if the UK were to allow the US to use the Diego Garcia base indiscriminately to attack another state, the UK could be answerable under international law and before the United Nations.

**\* Could Mauritius also be held legally responsible for future US strikes launched from Diego Garcia? Since Mauritius is now the sovereign owner of the islands, does it share the blame for any ‘crimes of aggression’ committed from its territory, even if the UK and US have operational control?**

Based on the 2025 agreement, Mauritius could potentially be held legally responsible or face international pressure for US strikes launched from Diego Garcia, since sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago — including the island of Diego Garcia — has transferred to Mauritius.

While the UK retains a 99-year lease to operate the

base for the US and the UK, Mauritius is the recognized sovereign owner, which alters the legal framework of responsibility under international law.

**\* How does the current conflict redefine the “defense purposes” clause of the Chagos agreements? If the base is used for a war the UK does not officially support, does the lease agreement become functionally void?**

It all depends on the clauses of the lease between the UK and the US. The 2025 agreement to transfer sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius, while leasing Diego Garcia back to the UK/US for 99 years, redefines “defence purposes” so as to accommodate both national sovereignty and the continuation of strategic operations. If the US were to breach this agreement, the original lease could be rendered void. But would the UK have the political will and courage to stand up to the US?

**\* With the Chagos Bill currently “paused” in the House of Lords, what is the current legal status of the May 2025 treaty? If it remains unratified indefinitely, does Mauritius have a grounds to sue for “bad faith” or “breach of faith” regarding the years of negotiation?**

As of March 2026, the May 22, 2025, treaty between the United Kingdom and Mauritius remains unratified and has not entered into force. The parliamentary process for the Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill was effectively stalled in late February 2026 after Foreign Office Minister Hamish Falconer confirmed a “pause” to address the Trump administration’s vocal opposition.

President Trump’s recent characterization of the deal as an act of “total weakness” — combined with his public friction with Prime Minister Keir Starmer over the use of the base for strikes against Iran — has left the legislation in a state of suspended animation.

If this impasse continues indefinitely, Mauritius has a compelling case that the UK has violated the international legal principle of “good faith” in negotiations, specifically by failing to implement a settlement designed to resolve the unlawful detachment of the archipelago as identified by the 2019 ICJ and 2021 ITLOS rulings.

**\* In your view, is there a risk that Starmer’s “princi-**



Pic - Biobiochile

**“Based on the 2025 agreement, Mauritius could potentially be held legally responsible or face international pressure for US strikes launched from Diego Garcia, since sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago — including the island of Diego Garcia — has transferred to Mauritius. While the UK retains a 99-year lease to operate the base for the US and the UK, Mauritius is the recognized sovereign owner, which alters the legal framework of responsibility under international law...”**

**pled stand” on Iran will provoke the US administration to withdraw its support for the Mauritius sovereignty deal entirely?**

Based on the fallout from ‘Operation Epic Fury’, there is a significant and active risk that Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s recent friction with the Trump administration — specifically his initial refusal to authorize US strikes on Iran from British bases — could derail the Mauritius sovereignty deal.

President Trump has publicly expressed being “very disappointed” in Starmer, mockingly remarking that the UK leader is “not Winston Churchill” after he hesitated to permit the use of Diego Garcia for offensive operations.

**\* Critics argue that “returning” Chagos makes the base vulnerable to Chinese influence. How can Mauritius legally or diplomatically “de-risk” this perception to satisfy the strategic anxieties of the US?**

To “de-risk” its sovereignty claim, Mauritius can implement a multi-layered security framework that codifies a “no-go” policy for foreign militaries on the outer islands and enforces a 24-nautical-mile “security shield” around Diego Garcia, where all administrative control remains with the base operators.

By establishing a permanent joint security council for regional monitoring and providing a 99-year “guaranteed use” clause immune to domestic political shifts, Port Louis can transform a potential flashpoint into a collaborative partnership that offers the US greater strategic certainty than the previous British administration.

☞ Cont. on page 5



Pic - GB News

“If the Mauritius-UK deal regarding the Chagos Archipelago collapses, pursuing a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution for the formal non-recognition of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) would be a potent, aggressive legal strategy to enforce sovereignty. Such a move aligns with established international norms designed to prevent the legitimisation of unlawfully contested borders...”

☞ Cont. from page 4

\* **President Trump has called the deal a “big mistake.” Is there a viable legal pathway for Mauritius to negotiate a bilateral deal directly with the US, effectively cutting the UK out of the middle?**

Based on recent developments, there is a viable, but politically complex, legal pathway for Mauritius to deal directly with the United States regarding the Diego Garcia military base. Although the 2025 Treaty formally installs the UK as the lessee for 99 years, the US-Mauritius Bilateral Security Discussions held in Port Louis in February 2026 signal a pivot toward a more direct strategic partnership.

\* **Since the 2019 ICJ Advisory Opinion was non-binding, what mechanisms are available to Mauritius to “harden” that ruling into a mandatory one if the UK unilaterally walks away from the treaty?**

While the 2019 International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago is formally non-binding, Mauritius has several mechanisms to “harden” its conclusions into mandatory obligations — particularly if the UK walks away from the 2024/2025 treaty framework. These mechanisms rely on transforming the advisory opinion into binding international law through General Assembly resolutions, arbitration, and institutional pressure.

\* **Can Mauritius leverage international bodies (like ICAO or IMO) to “de-register” Diego Garcia or disrupt BIOT’s telecommunications and mail to create a functional administrative blockade?**

Based on the 2024-2025 UK-Mauritius agreement, Mauritius is legally barred from creating an artificial blockade of the Chagos Archipelago, particularly Diego Garcia. While the treaty returns sovereignty to Mauritius, it simultaneously grants the UK a 99-year lease with total administrative authority over Diego Garcia. Crucially, the terms require Mauritius to guarantee unrestricted access for UK and US military vessels and aircraft.

Under this framework, the UK retains “unrestricted ability” to control the flow of individuals, goods, and communications to the base.

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## Sovereignty in a Time of War

# Who Controls Diego Garcia?

**\*If the deal collapses, should Mauritius push for a new, more aggressive UNGA resolution calling for international sanctions or “non-recognition” of the BIOT administration by all UN member states?**

If the Mauritius-UK deal regarding the Chagos Archipelago collapses, pursuing a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution for the formal non-recognition of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) would be a potent, aggressive legal strategy to enforce sovereignty. Such a move aligns with established international norms designed to prevent the legitimisation of unlawfully contested borders.

By securing a collective “duty of non-recognition” from the international community, Mauritius would effectively transform the BIOT into a diplomatic pariah, making it increasingly difficult for the UK to maintain its administration under the weight of global censure.

\* **Following Mauritius’s suspension of ties with the Maldives yesterday (Feb 28), does this regional tension affect the legal weight of Mauritius’s maritime boundary claims, or does it signal a necessary shift to aggressive diplomacy?**

The suspension of diplomatic ties between Mauritius and the Maldives on February 27–28, 2026, over the Chagos Archipelago dispute, constitutes a major geopolitical escalation. This move shifts the conflict from the realm of legal arbitration into a phase of high-stakes, confrontational bilateral diplomacy.

While this rupture does not diminish the legal weight of Mauritius’s existing international victories — such as the ICJ Advisory Opinion and ITLOS rulings — it directly challenges the practical implementation of those mandates. Ultimately, it signals Mauritius’s pivot toward a more aggressive foreign policy aimed at forcing recognition of its sovereign rights.

\* **If the treaty is abandoned, should the Mauritian government officially support and protect Chagossian “civilian return” missions to the islands as a way of asserting de facto sovereignty?**

The question of whether the Mauritian government should support and protect Chagossian civilian return missions to the Chagos Archipelago — particularly if the May 2025 treaty were to be abandoned — remains a

central issue in the ongoing dispute over the islands.

Proponents argue that physically inhabiting the islands (specifically the outer islands of Peros Banhos and the Salomon Atolls) is the most effective way to establish *de facto* sovereignty, effectively transforming *de jure* recognition from the ICJ and UN into concrete control.

Following the 2019 International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion — which declared the separation of the Chagos Archipelago unlawful and mandated that the UK end its administration — supporting a return could be viewed as a necessary step in upholding international law and finally completing the decolonisation of Mauritius.

\* **At the end of the day, a fundamental question remains: given the current geopolitical volatility, do you think 99 years is a sustainable timeframe for a lease if the “landlord” (Mauritius) has no say in — or even prior knowledge of — the wars launched from its soil?**

The 99-year lease agreement signed in May 2025 between the United Kingdom and Mauritius — which secures the US-UK military base on Diego Garcia while returning sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius — remains a highly contested, long-term geopolitical arrangement. Whether such an expansive timeframe is truly “sustainable” amidst today’s extreme geopolitical volatility is a subject of intense and ongoing debate.

LEX



### Invitation for Bids (IFB)

(Authorised under Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

#### Press Notice

**Design, Develop, and Deploy an AI-enabled Rule-Based Work Permit System that is fully integrated with the NELS platform**

Procurement Ref. No: TNR-0017 and EDB/IFB/2026/219

1. The Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius is proceeding with a Request for Proposals online and is inviting potential Consultants opened to local and international Consultants submit their proposals through the Government eProcurement System for the **Design, Develop, and Deploy an AI-enabled Rule-Based Work Permit System that is fully integrated with the NELS platform**.
2. Request for Proposal Documents may be downloaded from the eProcurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system EDB/IFB/2026/219
3. Proposals must be submitted online on the eProcurement System at latest by **Tuesday 24 March 2026 up to 14h00 (Local Time)**.
4. Consultants who have submitted proposals online by the closing date and time shall decrypt and re-encrypt their proposals as from **Tuesday 24 March 2026 as from 17h01 (Local Time) up to Wednesday 25 March 2026 up to 15h00 (Local Time)**.
5. Proposals received will be opened online on **Wednesday 25 March 2026 as from 15h01 up to 18h00 (Local Time)**.
6. The Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

February 2026

Par A. Bartleby

# Passer le Flambeau ou Tenir la Barre? Le Paradoxe de la Succession au PTr et au MMM

**D**ans le paysage de la démocratie moderne, la longévité d'un leader politique est souvent perçue comme une arme à double tranchant. Si elle peut offrir un sentiment de continuité et une «légitimité historique», elle risque simultanément d'étouffer le renouveau même, indispensable à la survie à long terme d'un parti. Si la pérennité du leadership au MMM suscite des interrogations quant à la succession de Paul Bérenger, les propos récents de Navin Ramgoolam ont apporté un nouvel éclairage sur la direction du Parti Travailleurs (PTr). À la tête du parti depuis 1991, son positionnement actuel suscite des réflexions sur la transition et la continuité politique dans le contexte mauricien.

## Les leaders émergent-ils d'eux-mêmes?

Lors d'une récente fonction, le Dr Ramgoolam a fait l'aveu frappant qu'il aurait peut-être été «préférable» qu'il perde les dernières élections — un commentaire laissant deviner le poids personnel et politique d'une carrière de plusieurs décennies. Pourtant, ce moment de réflexion a été promptement balayé lors des célébrations du 90e anniversaire du Parti Travailleurs, le 23 février 2026. S'adressant à une foule de partisans, Ramgoolam a déclaré qu'il serait «là pour un bon moment», fermant ainsi la porte à toute discussion immédiate sur un plan de succession.

En affirmant son intention de rester à la barre, Ramgoolam s'appuie sur son rôle de «gardien de l'héritage» du parti fondé par Maurice Curé et porté par son père, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. Cependant, l'absence d'une feuille de route claire pour la transition soulève une question cruciale pour toute démocratie: les leaders émergent-ils naturellement ou doivent-ils être institutionnalisés?

Dans un sens purement organique, les leaders émergent souvent en temps de crise ou grâce à des performances exceptionnelles aux yeux du public. Des figures comme Barack Obama ou, plus récemment dans le contexte canadien de 2026, Mark Carney, se sont imposées en captivant



Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger — Si la stabilité d'un leader historique rassure, elle peut devenir un obstacle au renouveau indispensable à la pérennité d'une institution politique. P - PeoplePress

l'imaginaire collectif à un moment charnière de l'Histoire.

**T**outefois, dans de nombreux partis «centrés sur le leader», l'émergence organique est fréquemment entravée. Lorsqu'un seul individu occupe le poste suprême pendant plus de trente ans, les structures internes du parti évoluent souvent pour servir ce leader plutôt que l'institution. Dans de tels environnements, les successeurs potentiels sont souvent perçus comme des menaces plutôt que comme des protégés, menant à un «désert de talents» où personne n'est prêt à prendre la relève lorsque le leader finit par s'en aller.

## Mécanismes de succession: leçons mondiales

Pour éviter le chaos d'un «vide» politique, des partis démocratiques prospères à travers le globe ont établi des mécanismes formels pour garantir des transitions fluides. Ces modèles offrent un contraste frappant avec le style de leadership personnalisé souvent observé à Maurice.

### 1. Le modèle travailliste britan-

**nique (la règle du tiers):** Au Royaume-Uni, le leadership n'est pas un mandat à vie. Après une défaite électorale, le mandat du leader est souvent automatiquement remis en question. Le parti utilise un système où les députés présélectionnent des candidats, puis l'ensemble des membres (et les syndicats affiliés) votent. Cela a assuré une transition claire — bien que pas toujours facile — de Tony Blair à Gordon Brown, et plus tard à Keir Starmer.

**2. Le modèle du «Congrès» allemand:** Les partis allemands, comme le SPD, organisent régulièrement des congrès où la direction est réélue tous les deux ans. Cela évite «l'épuisement du leadership» et garantit que le chef du parti reste responsable devant la base.

**3. Le système du «Spill» australien:** Bien que parfois critiqué pour son instabilité, les grands partis australiens disposent d'un mécanisme de «spill» (remise en jeu) ouvert, où le leadership peut être contesté par le groupe parlementaire à tout moment. Cela oblige les leaders à maintenir une légi-

imité interne constante.

## Succès «dynastique» contre succès «institutionnel»

Lorsque les transitions manquent de ces mécanismes formels, elles tombent souvent dans le «piège dynastique». À Maurice, le Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM) a exécuté une transition en 2017 lorsque Anerood Jugnauth a remis le pouvoir à son fils, Pravind Jugnauth. Bien qu'efficace sur le plan logistique, cette passation a manqué de l'adhésion démocratique d'un concours ouvert, entraînant des accusations persistantes de népotisme.

La «meilleure» option pour la stabilité politique reste la primaire institutionnelle. Celle-ci implique :

- 1. La limitation des mandats:** Plafonner le nombre d'années pendant lesquelles on peut diriger un parti, que ce soit dans l'opposition ou au gouvernement.
- 2. L'apprentissage obligatoire:** Créer un rôle puissant de «Leader Adjoint» doté d'une réelle responsabilité exécutive, à l'instar de ce qui se pratique en Australie.
- 3. Des débats ouverts:** Permettre aux successeurs potentiels de débattre publiquement de leur vision devant la base du parti.

## Coût du «long adieu»

**L'**histoire montre que les partis qui ne parviennent pas à préparer l'ère «post-leader» font souvent face à une période de guerre civile interne ou à une non-pertinence électorale une fois que la figure dominante se retire.

Pour que le Parti Travailleurs honore véritablement son héritage de 90 ans — celui de donner une voix aux sans-voix — il doit impérativement offrir un espace d'expression à sa propre relève. Le leadership ne se résume pas à l'exercice du pouvoir ; il réside aussi dans la sagesse de savoir transmettre le flambeau au moment opportun. Une leçon de clairvoyance qui s'impose, avec la même acuité, au MMM.

# Sommes-nous déjà dans une guerre mondiale?

*Techniquement, non. Mais l'impact, lui, est déjà planétaire*

**A** ce jour, la question de savoir si le monde bascule vers un conflit mondial n'appartient plus au débat académique ou à la fiction dystopique; elle s'impose désormais comme une réalité tangible et terrifiante. Sept jours après le début des frappes conjointes américano-israéliennes le 28 février 2026, ce qui était initialement présenté comme une opération «chirurgicale» visant à décapiter un régime hostile s'est mué en une conflagration régionale multi-fronts, capable d'embraser une troisième guerre mondiale.

Avec la mort signalée du Guide suprême, l'Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, lors des premières salves, le «ciment géopoliti-

que» qui maintenait la cohésion de la région s'est dissout. Nous n'assistons plus à un échange de tirs localisés; nous sommes témoins d'un test de résistance systématique de l'ensemble de l'ordre international.

## Géographie de l'escalade

L'expansion rapide du conflit a pris de court de nombreux observateurs internationaux. En une semaine seulement, la guerre a transcendé les frontières de l'Iran et d'Israël.

● Suite en page 7



Sept jours après les frappes du 28 février, l'offensive américano-israélienne a basculé d'une frappe ciblée vers une guerre régionale aux relents de conflit mondial. P -TVL- YouTube

# Sommes-nous déjà dans une guerre mondiale?

● Suite de la page 6

Les repréailles de Téhéran ont été larges et aveugles, ciblant des installations militaires et des ambassades américaines dans neuf pays arabes, dont les Émirats arabes unis, le Qatar, Bahreïn et le Koweït. Même les marges de l'Europe ont été touchées, avec des frappes atteignant Chypre, entraînant la Méditerranée dans la zone de combat.

**P**lus grave encore, le détroit d'Hormuz — l'artère énergétique la plus vitale au monde — est désormais un champ de bataille actif. La tentative de l'Iran de fermer le détroit a effectivement perturbé 20 % du flux pétrolier mondial, provoquant une ascension verticale des prix du brut. En y ajoutant les toutes premières frappes directes contre les infrastructures nucléaires, comme le site de Natanz, le «seuil de retenue» a été franchi de manière irréversible.

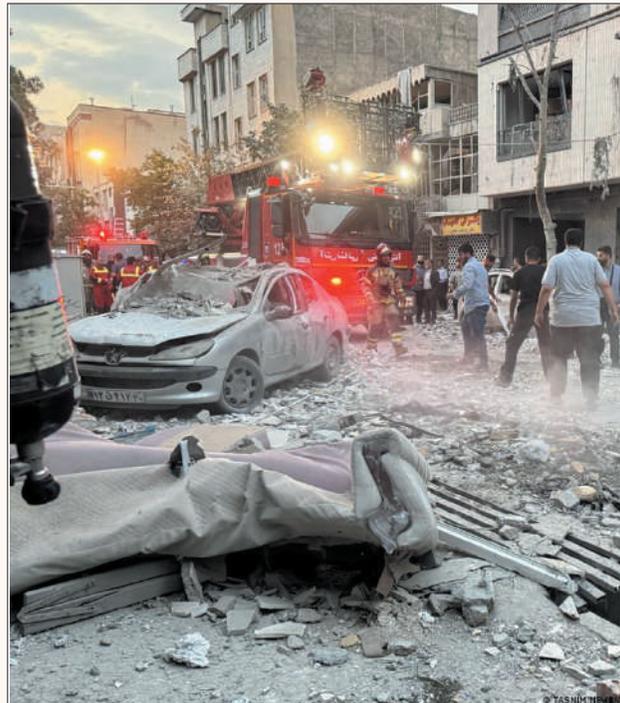
## Trois «fils de détente» mondiaux

Bien que les combats cinétiques soient actuellement ancrés au Moyen-Orient, le passage d'une guerre régionale à une guerre véritablement mondiale dépend de trois «fils de détente» critiques qui vibrent actuellement sous la tension.

### 1. Calcul des superpuissances

Les jokers de ce jeu sont Moscou et Pékin. Actuellement, la Russie pratique une politique de «couverture stratégique». Bien que le Kremlin ait émis des condamnations virulentes contre l'offensive américano-israélienne, Vladimir Poutine reste lourdement engagé dans ses objectifs en Ukraine. Pour Moscou, un choc cinétique direct avec l'OTAN au sujet de Téhéran pourrait être un pas de trop — à moins que les dirigeants n'y voient une ouverture stratégique pour provoquer l'effondrement total de l'influence occidentale.

**L**a Chine, à l'inverse, se trouve dans une impasse économique profonde. En tant que principal consommateur de pétrole iranien, Pékin est la plus durement touchée par le blocus d'Hormuz. Si les dirigeants chinois préfèrent traditionnellement la pression diplomatique à l'aventurisme militaire, l'étranglement continu de leur approvisionnement



L'armée israélienne dit avoir mené l'opération militaire en Iran avec plusieurs avions de combat. Pic - TASNIM NEWS/AFP

énergétique pourrait finir par les forcer à agir, les faisant passer de l'état d'«observateur inquiet» à celui de «participant actif».

### 2. Durcissement des blocs diplomatiques

L'Histoire nous enseigne que les guerres mondiales commencent souvent par un «échec de l'ordre international». Nous voyons des échos de 1914 dans la manière dont les alliances diplomatiques se calcifient actuellement. Alors que des nations du G7 comme le Royaume-Uni et l'Allemagne apportent divers niveaux de soutien à Washington, d'autres rompent les rangs.

**D**es dirigeants comme le président français Emmanuel Macron et le Premier ministre canadien Mark Carney ont qualifié la nature unilatérale de l'opération «Epic Fury»

de dérivation dangereuse des Nations Unies. Si des nations comme la Turquie — membre de l'OTAN qui a déjà intercepté des missiles iraniens — ou l'Espagne continuent de durcir leurs critiques envers l'approche américaine, le monde pourrait voir le retour d'un système d'alliances de type «avant-1914», où un seul mauvais calcul sur un théâtre secondaire entraînerait des dizaines de nations dans le brasier.

### 3. Pression intérieure de la «guerre éternelle»

Aux États-Unis, l'administration a présenté cette intervention comme une nécessité préventive pour empêcher une percée nucléaire. Cependant, alors que des militaires américains perdent la vie face aux stratégies iraniennes de la «terre brûlée» et aux attaques par procuration de groupes comme le Hezbollah et les Houthis, l'horloge politique intérieure tourne.

**L**a Maison-Blanche est sous une pression immense: Elle doit soit parvenir à un «changement de régime» total à Téhéran en quelques semaines, ou faire face à la perspective d'une «guerre éternelle» prolongée qui pourrait polariser davantage un public américain déjà fracturé.

## Le verdict: une guerre régionale aux conséquences mondiales

Sommes-nous déjà dans une guerre mondiale? Techniquement, non. Nous sommes dans une «Guerre régionale totale à impact systémique mondial». Cependant, le passage à une «Troisième Guerre mondiale» ne tient plus qu'à un cheveu.

Le conflit sera classé comme mondial dès l'instant où une superpuissance tierce interviendra militairement, ou si le conflit déborde irrémédiablement sur le territoire de l'OTAN. Avec une Turquie déjà en état d'alerte maximale et une économie mondiale chancelante sous l'effet de la fermeture des voies énergétiques, «l'arc de l'univers moral» n'est pas seulement testé: il est en train d'être forgé par le feu.

Le monde retient son souffle pour voir si le chaos de cette semaine débouchera sur un nouvel équilibre régional, fût-il violent, ou si nous assistons à l'effondrement des derniers piliers de la sécurité mondiale.

## L'Iran sous le feu: Les enjeux majeurs d'un séisme géopolitique mondial

**L**e 28 février 2026 restera dans l'histoire comme le jour où Donald Trump et Benjamin Netanyahu ont lancé une offensive foudroyante contre le régime iranien. Si la décapitation de la République islamique semble actée, l'onde de choc menace de déstabiliser l'équilibre précaire de la planète.

Dès les premières heures de l'attaque, la mort de l'Ayatollah Khamenei et de hauts dignitaires a scellé le destin militaire du régime. Toutefois, la victoire sur le champ de bataille ne règle en rien la question de «l'après». Entre risques de guerre civile, basculement des marchés énergétiques et effondrement du droit international, voici quelques points clés pour comprendre l'avenir de la région, énumérés par G. Duval de Social Europe et ancien rédacteur de Alternatives Economiques.

### 1. Possibilité d'une «solution vénézuélienne»?

Donald Trump, peu enclin à l'exportation de la démocratie, pourrait être tenté par une solution pragmatique: maintenir une



L'un des bâtiments du quartier général de la police à Téhéran ciblé par des frappes américano-israéliennes sur l'Iran, le mercredi 4 mars 2026 (Pic - Sobhan Farajvan/Pacific P/SIPA)

dictature issue des rangs du régime actuel, à condition qu'elle se plie aux exigences nucléaires et balistiques de Washington. Cependant, le fossé de sang creusé par 50 ans de répression rend cette option fragile. Le peuple iranien n'acceptera probablement plus aucun avatar des mollahs, même «assagi».

### 2. Retour des Pahlavi: une transition pacifique?

**L**e nom de Reza Pahlavi, fils du dernier Shah, circule avec insistance. Si une partie de la population rêve d'un retour à l'âge d'or impérial, sa légitimité reste contestée. Un exilé de longue date peut-il stabiliser un pays en ruines? La résistance des derniers Gardiens de la révolution et l'hostilité des puissances régionales font de ce scénario un pari risqué.

### 3. Spectre de la fragmentation ethnique

L'Iran est une mosaïque. Si le nationalisme perse est puissant, près de 50 % de la population appartient à des minorités dominées:

A. Bartleby

● Suite en page 14



Shyam Bhatia

# Why a Distant War Matters to Mauritius

**F**or Mauritius, the widening war between Israel, the United States and Iran is not a distant spectacle confined to Gulf airspace or intelligence corridors. It is a reminder of how tightly the island's prosperity is tied to stability thousands of kilometres away.

Mauritius is not a combatant. It lies far from missile trajectories and naval manoeuvres. Yet it is deeply embedded in the Indian Ocean system that connects Gulf energy flows to Asia and Africa. When tension rises at the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow passage through which roughly a fifth of global oil supply transits — the tremors move quickly along the maritime arteries that sustain small, open economies.

For an island that imports virtually all of its petroleum needs, sustained oil volatility feeds directly into electricity generation costs, transport prices and household budgets. Energy shocks do not remain abstract in Mauritius; they become visible in utility bills, supermarket prices and business margins.

Even limited disruption — tanker seizures, naval signalling, elevated war-risk insurance premiums — can push up freight and shipping costs across the wider Indian Ocean. Oil prices do not need to spike dramatically to hurt small, import-dependent economies; a sustained increase of ten or fifteen dollars a barrel can feed directly into inflationary pressure.

Food security is linked to the same arteries. Mauritius imports a substantial proportion of its staple foods and consumer goods. When shipping costs rise and insurers re-



calibrate risk, supply chains tighten. Financial anxiety often spreads faster than physical destruction. Long before infrastructure is threatened in the Gulf, supermarket shelves and transport bills begin to reflect upstream instability.

There is also an indirect but important human dimension.

India's exposure to the Gulf is overwhelmingly labour-based. Nearly nine million Indians live and work across the Gulf states — in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman. The UAE alone hosts more than three million. Their earnings underpin one of India's largest external income streams, sustaining families and supporting domestic consumption.

When the Gulf trembles, the effects are rarely theatrical at first. Employers postpone expansion. Construction projects slow. Airlines reroute flights. Investors grow cautious. Long before oil installations are physically threatened, labour markets can tighten and remittance flows may soften.

**F**or Mauritius, this matters indirectly but materially. India remains one of the island's principal economic partners — through trade, tourism, investment vehicles and financial linkages. If prolonged instability weakens Indian growth through higher oil prices or reduced remittances, secondary effects can cascade into smaller connected economies. Slower Indian demand affects bilateral trade. Financial risk aversion constrains capital flows. Diaspora-linked spending patterns shift.

There is a financial dimension as well. Mauritius has positioned itself as a gateway between Asia and Africa, with capital flows linked to India and broader emerging markets. Heightened sanctions regimes or geopolitical polarisation can compli-

cate compliance environments, even where there is no direct exposure. In times of war, global finance becomes cautious. Smaller jurisdictions often feel that caution disproportionately.

Tourism — one of the central pillars of the Mauritian economy — is equally sensitive to fuel costs and aviation stability. The sector directly and indirectly contributes roughly a quarter of national GDP and supports tens of thousands of jobs. Higher oil prices translate into more expensive long-haul travel. Airline route recalibrations, insurance adjustments and regional airspace restrictions can subtly affect passenger flows, even when the island itself remains far from any battlefield.

Mauritius lies along sea lanes that connect Gulf energy exports to Asia and Africa. Stability of maritime insurance classifications and uninterrupted passage matter more than headline geopolitics. If naval posturing intensifies, the Indian Ocean's commercial character could face new layers of strategic tension.

**D**iplomatically, Mauritius traditionally pursues careful balance. It maintains cordial ties with India, strong economic links with Gulf states, engagement with Western partners and a longstanding commitment to multilateralism. A widening regional war narrows manoeuvring space for many small states. Voting alignments at the United Nations, positions on sanctions and public diplomatic language may acquire greater weight than usual.

None of this is to forecast imminent crisis. Maritime routes may remain open. Energy markets may stabilise. Gulf governments have powerful incentives to contain escalation and protect economic continuity. The protagonists themselves may calculate that widening conflict carries prohibitive cost.

But for Mauritius, prudence lies in recognising structural exposure rather than reacting to headlines.

Oil lanes, remittance corridors, aviation routes and financial flows are not peripheral to the island's prosperity — they are its foundation. When instability touches those arteries, even indirectly, the effects accumulate.

Connectivity has long been Mauritius' strategic advantage. In periods of global calm, it brings growth, capital and opportunity. In periods of geopolitical strain, it brings transmission risk.

The widening war may not approach Mauritian shores militarily. But economically, it already lies within range.

For Port Louis, the essential question is not alignment in a distant confrontation. It is resilience — fiscal, logistical and diplomatic — in an era when distance no longer guarantees insulation.

London, March 1, 2026



**“For an island that imports virtually all of its petroleum needs, sustained oil volatility feeds directly into electricity generation costs, transport prices and household budgets. Energy shocks do not remain abstract in Mauritius; they become visible in utility bills, supermarket prices and business margins. Even limited disruption — tanker seizures, naval signalling, elevated war-risk insurance premiums — can push up freight and shipping costs across the wider Indian Ocean. Oil prices do not need to spike dramatically to hurt small, import-dependent economies; a sustained increase of ten or fifteen dollars a barrel can feed directly into inflationary pressure...”**

Pic - motors.mega

**The Physical Education and Sports Employees Union (PESEU) will hold its AGM on Saturday 28th of March 2025 at 10.30 a.m. at MTUC Headquarters, GRNW, Port-Louis.**

### AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of last AGM
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance
4. President's Report
5. Election (if any)
6. Motions/ amendments of rules (if any)
7. Reshuffling of Managing Committee (if any)
8. AOB

Compliant members are kindly requested to attend the AGM.

**Mrs Henna MIHDIDIN**

Secretary  
PESEU



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G7 nations are walking a tightrope between supporting a key ally and avoiding the "quagmire". Pic - X

## The Iran Conflict: Where Do the G7 Nations Stand?

As the military confrontation between the United States, Israel, and Iran enters its sixth day, the world watches with bated breath. While Washington and Jerusalem have moved into an active offensive, the rest of the G7 nations are walking a tightrope between supporting a key ally and avoiding the "quagmire" that experts like Jiang Xueqin warned about back in 2024.

With Iranian drone strikes now targeting U.S. bases and embassies across the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and beyond, and the conflict expanding into Lebanon via Hezbollah, the Middle East is on the brink of total regional war. Here is how the other G7 members are positioning themselves as of March 5, 2026.

### The United Kingdom: Lessons from History

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has adopted a posture of cautious cooperation. Early friction occurred when the UK blocked U.S. use of the Diego Garcia base for strikes, prompting a signature social media outburst from President Trump. However, following a drone attack on RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, London has shifted its stance.

The UK now permits the U.S. to use British bases for "defensive purposes" specifically to intercept Iranian missiles. To bolster this, the HMS Dragon has been deployed to Cyprus, alongside Wildcat helicopters equipped with Martlet missiles. Despite this, Starmer remains firm that the UK will not join the war directly, stating the nation has "learnt its lesson from 2003."

### France: "Strictly Defensive" Military Action

President Emmanuel Macron has been vocal about returning to the negotiating table, but he has not remained idle. France has moved its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, into the Mediterranean.

## US global tariffs to return

The US will likely implement a 15% global tariff this week, the country's Treasury secretary said, while other countries expand trade ties among themselves. Scott Bessent added that US levies will soon return to levels reached before the Supreme Court recently cancelled last year's "Liberation Day" duties.

On Thursday, France authorized U.S. support aircraft to use French bases but explicitly banned combat aircraft. The French military issued a stern statement: their assets are to be used "strictly in support of the defense of our partners" and must in no way participate in direct U.S. operations against Iranian soil.

### Italy and Germany: Logistical Support Only

In Rome, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Defense Minister Guido Crosetto have confirmed that Italy is sending naval assets to protect Cyprus and anti-drone systems to Gulf partners. However, Meloni was clear on the radio: "Italy is not at war and we do not want to enter a war." Italy's cooperation remains limited to "non-kinetic" (non-bombing) logistical support based on 1954 bilateral agreements.

Similarly, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz met with Trump at the White House this week. While Trump praised Berlin for allowing military access to certain bases, Merz has ruled out any direct German military involvement, expressing a desire for a "swift end" to the hostilities.

### Canada and Japan: Legal and Economic Concerns

The most vocal criticism has come from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. He condemned the U.S.-Israeli strikes as "inconsistent with international law," noting that the action was taken without consulting allies or the UN. While Carney has not "categorically ruled out" future participation to defend Canadians, his tone remains one of principled distance.

Meanwhile, Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has refrained from supporting the strikes entirely. Tokyo's focus remains pragmatic and internal: monitoring the devastating impact on oil and gas supplies and coordinating the emergency evacuation of Japanese nationals from the escalating combat zones in West Asia.

Several countries have since moved to deepen their own trade links, avoiding commerce with the US. Brazil ratified a deal between the EU and Latin America's largest trade bloc; the EU will reportedly expand a "Made in Europe" preferential manufacturing zone to include Japan, the UK, and other partners; and Canada's premier is touring the world to encourage other "middle powers" to strengthen trade ties.

## Across the Globe

### War causes split with US allies

The US strike on Iran has fractured Western alliances. Canada called for a "rapid de-escalation" and questioned the legality of the attacks; French President Emmanuel Macron labelled them "outside international law." Spain barred US planes from its bases, while Britain committed only to defensive involvement. Previously, these allies joined US-led interventions in Iraq and Libya, but recent US tariffs, threats of territorial annexation, and political interference have strained cooperation.

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### Iran strikes cause energy crunch

The Iran conflict is changing global energy flows. Oil and gas prices have spiked since the strikes began, as the conflict hit both Iran's exports and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Beijing has told its oil refiners to suspend overseas sales and prioritize domestic needs, while Europe faces another energy crisis, with gas prices up 70% since Friday. The continent is "only coming out of an industrial energy crunch" from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and "now we've got the next one," an analyst told the Financial Times. Cargo shipping is also struggling: Freight giant Maersk imposed emergency price hikes as fighting forces longer, costlier routes.



US Releases Video Showing Strikes on Iran. Pic - YouTube

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### US reportedly talks with Kurds

Iran struck the Iraq-based headquarters of Kurdish opposition forces amid reported discussions between the fighters and Washington about joining the attack on Tehran. Kurds make up about a tenth of Iran's population, and Kurdish factions in Iraq and Syria have allied with the US in previous decades to fight those countries' rulers.

Senior Kurdish leaders denied launching any ground incursion into Iran so far, but several outlets reported that Iranian Kurdish groups were in talks with Washington, which is considering arming the militias to help overthrow Iran's leadership. The strategy is risky, with a leading Iranian-American historian telling The National that it could be "a recipe for civil war."

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### Water as a Strategic Commodity in the Iran War



Iran's Water Crisis. Pic - ORF Middle East

Water, rather than oil, may become the key geopolitical commodity shaping the outcome of the US-Iran conflict, a Bloomberg columnist argued. Iran has considered relocating its capital amid severe water shortages, while Tehran and US regional allies such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE rely heavily on desalination plants.

These facilities could become potential targets if the war escalates. Although attacks on critical infrastructure are illegal under international law, similar tactics have been seen during the war in Ukraine.

The Eurasia Group named water a top global risk for 2026, noting that roughly half of humanity faces water scarcity each year. While water shortages rarely cause violence on their own, they can "heighten grievances, accelerate displacement, and become a tool for control."

\* Contd on page 11

## 10,000 pounds per person: UK to offer fees to failed asylum seekers who leave voluntarily

The UK is working on new ways to battle its immigration crisis, the latest being paying failed asylum workers a lump sum fee to leave the country voluntarily. As per a report by the London Broadcasting Company, the UK Home Office is expected to announce this pilot programme on Thursday.

Citing Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, the LBC reported that the Home Office will open the pilot with 150 families and is looking to pay around 10,000 pounds per person.

Speaking to the radio station, families of failed asylum seekers will be paid up to 40,000 pounds if they volunteer to leave the UK within a seven-day deadline, reports HT.

As per Mahmood, who took inspiration from a programme in Denmark, if the plan is rolled out nationwide, it could save a Home Office up to 20 million pounds a year.

"Taxpayers should not be footing mil-



10,000 pounds per person: UK to offer fees to failed asylum seekers who leave voluntarily

lions of pounds to accommodate families who have no right to be here, especially when others comply with the rules and leave the UK when required. That is why

we are acting to remove them swiftly, cut hotel use and slash costs," Mahmood told LBC.

The Home Secretary, who is known for her hardline immigration policies, stated she will do "whatever it takes" to remove incentives which is causing illegal migration to the UK.

In case families refuse to leave or obstruct their departure from the UK, they will not be eligible for the scheme and will lose support for their stay from the Home Office.

### UK doubles down on immigration

This new plan to tackle illegal migration in the UK comes just as the country made refugee status temporary. Under this new rule, which came without a parliamentary vote, asylum cases will be reviewed every 30 months, after which seekers could be sent to their country of origin, provided it is deemed safe to do so.

Those who have already applied for asylum can stay in the UK as per the existing rules, which allows for five years of protection.

## Across the Globe



Gemini Said They Could Only Be Together if He Killed Himself. Soon, He Was Dead. Pic - WSJ

### Google Faces Wrongful Death Lawsuit Over Gemini

A wrongful death lawsuit filed against Google alleges that its Gemini chatbot sent a man on dangerous "missions" and ultimately instructed him to kill himself.

Google said its models generally perform well in high-risk scenarios and noted that the chatbot had previously directed the user to a crisis hotline.

Preventing real-world harm has become a growing technical and legal challenge as companies race to develop more advanced AI systems. In January, Google and Character.ai settled another lawsuit brought by the family of a teenager who died by suicide.

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### Pope Warns Against AI-Generated Homilies

Pope Leo XIV has warned Catholic priests not to rely on artificial intelligence to write their sermons, saying that "the brain needs to be used." Speaking to

clergy in Rome, he urged them to resist the temptation to use the technology, arguing that a true homily requires sharing faith — something AI cannot do.

He also cautioned priests against seeking validation through social media. The pope's interest in AI partly influenced his papal name, chosen in honour of Leo XIII, who wrote about the impact of machines on work during the Industrial Revolution.

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### Property crisis helps Chinese 'retire'

The collapse of China's property bubble has enabled some young people to secure cheap housing and retire early. A 46,000-unit development near Shanghai is reportedly 80% empty; one former finance worker saved \$290,000, rented an apartment there, and calculated she would not need to work again.

China's workforce lost 1.6 million young people between 2019 and 2024, with many leaving competitive urban jobs for slower-paced lifestyles elsewhere. The trend resembles the "Financial Independence, Retire Early" movement in the West, but is more attainable due to China's lower living costs: One couple told The Associated Press they rent an apartment for \$110 a month and work only a few hours a week teaching yoga.

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### China's restrained response on Iran

China's top diplomat on Tuesday urged his Israeli counterpart to halt attacks on Iran, but Beijing is unlikely to go beyond standard criticism of strikes against its regional partner, analysts said. Beijing has not extended practical help to Tehran — which supplies more than 13% of China's imported crude oil — because, as Semafor's Andy Browne argued, nothing would give Beijing "more satisfaction than watching the US bog itself down in another Middle East quagmire, diverting Washington's attention and resources from China's own

backyard." With President Donald Trump's visit to China only weeks away, Beijing is positioning itself as a stabilizing force while seeking to "engage the US president when he's at his most dangerous," Browne wrote.

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Shingles vaccine. Pic - Scientific American

### Shingles vaccine may prevent dementia

Growing evidence suggests shingles vaccines may protect against dementia. Researchers first observed lower dementia rates among vaccinated adults after the rollout of the Zostavax shot in 2006. Several large-scale natural experiments, using staggered regional rollouts to assess impact, consistently found a 20% or greater reduction in dementia rates among those vaccinated. Research into the newer Shingrix vaccine indicates an even stronger protective effect, Ars Technica reported: A study published this month suggested a 51% lower risk. Dementia cost the global economy \$1.3 trillion in 2019, according to the World Health Organization. There are 10 million new diagnoses annually, a figure expected to rise as populations age.

# Farewell, Madhu. Farewell, my friend

I was woken up early Thursday 12th February by my aide with the tragic news that you had moved on the night before at the clinic, barely hours after you had been admitted there with a persistently high temperature. He had been liaising with your sister-in-law to agree on a convenient slot when I could pay you a visit. It was not to be, not in this world.

You left us, exactly as you had lived. Quietly. Discreetly. Surrounded until your last days by the warmth and comfort of your family in the house that you had bought in Quatre Bornes from a departing resident who preferred to migrate to Australia rather than face the uncertain prospects of the soon-to-be independent Mauritius.

Madhukarlal Baguant was born in August 1935, to Roheeneendun Baguant and his wife Chundraotee Geerjanaan, as the 6th of ten siblings. He grew up, together with his three sisters and six brothers in the family house in Phoenix. His maternal grandparents were not far away, in Highlands. His uncle and aunt were settled in the Baguants' native village of Camp Ithier where he had cousin siblings.

He spent quality family time in all three places, playing, socialising, swimming in the rivers, which he loved. Unfortunately, he lost his father when he was only eight years old. His elder brothers and the extended family stepped in to ensure that the family's needs were adequately taken care of.

Madhu did most of his early schooling at Camp Fouqueraux primary school, finishing the primary cycle with Standard VI at the St Enfant Jesus Roman Catholic Aided School in Rose Hill, a star school then as now. He was an assiduous student and benefited fully from the family tutoring combine run in-house by the elder siblings.

stages of the professional exams that would qualify them as a full-fledged Statistician. For Madhu, this was but the first rung of a ladder that would eventually take him to the top echelons of the Civil Service.

He was married in 1961 to Miss Narbada Hoolsy, daughter of an agricultural landowner from their neighbouring native village, who was active in the co-operative movement. Two years later, he obtained a Commonwealth Scholarship which took him to Canada where he studied Economics at the University of Manitoba and graduated in 1966.

Our paths crossed in February 1969 when the two of us were selected by the Public Service Commission, after interview, to be appointed as economists in the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Office. Our trajectory diverged when I took leave of absence to join the United Nations Industrial Organization in Vienna for some years only to return after the EPU had become a full-fledged Ministry in its own right. The Minister, Sir Kher Jagatsingh, was heard to pun: "I've got two great guys: one is Bheenick, the other is a cynic!" He was referring to Madhu, of course.

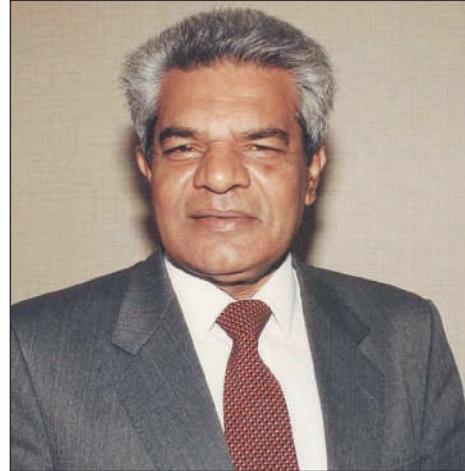
Madhu was Deputy Director and I occupied the next slot as Secretary for Aid Coordination until the bust-up leading to devaluation and structural adjustment with IMF and World Bank Programs in end-1979. He became Financial Secretary in January 1980, and I was appointed Director of MEPD, effectively running in double harness as we set about the arduous task of repairing the damaged economy and enhancing its prospects.

We stayed the course — both the country and the two of us — playing a stewardship role through an all-change in government and several break-ups in ruling coalitions thereafter. We were hauled before investigations and Commissions of Inquiry under strenuous personal circumstances, with heavy clouds hanging over our career prospects. The clouds lifted gradually.

Madhu redefined the Financial Secretary position into a much-coveted post. He was unceremoniously shunted aside against his wishes to the administratively higher position of Secretary to the Cabinet. I accompanied him to call on the outgoing Cabinet Secretary where Madhu declined the promotion and asked to stay in his post, only to be told that the post was already filled. This is how Madhu became an unwilling Cabinet Secretary. He went on nevertheless to serve with dedication, leaving a spotless reputation when he retired from this position in 1995.

He served on the board of many government-linked corporates and institutions, too numerous to mention, during his long career. He chaired several financial institutions such as the Development Bank, State Investment Corporation, State Bank of Mauritius, and State Bank of India (Mauritius branch).

After retirement, he went on to serve as full-time Chairman of the Central Tender Board for two terms. His last



**Madhukarlal Baguant, C.S.K.** — A career dedicated to national service: formerly the Financial Secretary and subsequently the Secretary to the Cabinet, the highest-ranking position in the Mauritian Civil Service. Pic - GIS

role was to chair the body that replaced it, the Central Procurement Board, in 2015 until hanging up his spurs in 2018.

Madhu was a tireless over-achiever, a worthy scion of a family that gave him brothers who were Government Principal Dental Surgeon, Dental Surgeon, Director of Civil Aviation, Hospital Physicist, Agricultural Researcher and Head of the Philately Section of the Post Office. His cousin siblings included an Attorney, a laureate who became a medical doctor, and a Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius.

A grateful State conferred upon Madhu the status of Commander of the Order of the Star and the Key, CSK. The French Republic made him a *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite*.

An illustrious career to be proud of, for all his family, relations, colleagues, and friends who mourn his loss. Madhu leaves behind three daughters, a son, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law and six grandchildren. His wife had pre-deceased him.

Our deepest condolences go to all of them.  
Farewell, my friend.

**Manou Bheenick**  
1st March 2026



**1993 Investiture Ceremony: President Cassam Uteem presenting the C.S.K. Insignia to Madhukarlal Baguant in recognition of his service to the nation. Pic - GIS**

As expected, he went to the Royal College of Curepipe for his secondary studies. The teenager Madhu must have impressed his teachers considerably as he was chosen as one of three students selected to progress from Form I straight to Form III, skipping Form II altogether.

He continued with his turbo-charged performance in the upper Forms, which was captured in a newspaper of 30th September 1954, in an article entitled 'L'Histoire du Centre Administratif de Curepipe', as reported in the following extract half a century later.

*'La presse d'il y a un demi-siècle fait la part belle aux résultats scolaires du GCE Advanced Level. Elle mentionne les succès de Madhukarlal Baguant en mathématiques pures et appliquées, en physique et en chimie.'*

It was no surprise, therefore, that he joined the Central Statistics Office when he left college, where he learnt on the job, like several others of his peers while taking the several



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**Early Childhood Care and Education Authority**  
2nd Floor, Le Windsor  
Royal Road, Beau Bassin

Date 13th February 2026

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*

B. Ramlallah

## Editorial

# Post-Mortem: Why we lost the 1960 municipal elections

**T**he Mauritius Labour Party suffered a crushing defeat at the Municipal Elections of Sunday last. It is a crushing defeat pure and simple, and,

in this article, we are trying to find out the reasons which are responsible for the defeat at the hands of the Parti Mauricien — which suffered a more crushing defeat in the Legislative elections of March 1959. We are printing here our own views and judgments which have been formed after consultation with a large number of people. We feel they are bitter truths which must be told now; to what extent they are true and bitter will be known later on. The reasons for Labour's failure can be classified into three groups: (a) the disadvantageous factors which were apparent during the campaign and on election day, (b) internal factors, and (c) external factors.

The Parti Mauricien fought the Municipal elections on a communal basis; it revived the alleged danger of Hindu domination and in this it was helped by Mr Dahal, who said that in fact Hindus were out to dominate the other communities. This is an old story, but this time the Parti Mauricien has succeeded in making Tamils feel that they are a separate community: a minority. "The Labour Party is a Hindu party" was their main slogan and, as proof, they mentioned the following: Messrs Hazareesingh, R. Ramsaha, and T. Callychurn are Heads of Departments because they are Hindus; it was also said that Mr S. Bhuckory was appointed Town Clerk because he is a Hindu and even that Mr R. Neerunjun was made Chief Justice and Mr H. Vaghjee, Speaker of the Legislative because they are both Hindus. That was the theme of the Parti Mauricien which was thoroughly hammered during the campaign. We have heard a candidate of the Parti Mauricien telling an elector: "Do not vote for Labour because they have sold us to the Indians." All this is symptomatic of a serious disease.

The most serious factor against Labour was money, and it has always been a grave handicap. Labour will never be able to spend money on such a scale. Some people were paid to vote against Labour, others were paid to abstain, and some agents were paid to work against the Labour Party or to abandon their posts. Also, as Mr Koenig himself has pointed out, the Parti Mauricien made a political issue of the election whilst the Labour Party rested satisfied with an "administrative" campaign. This is an important point where we went wrong. On election day the organisation of the Parti Mauricien was as strong and effective as the Labour organisation of 1956 was, and it is here that we have lost heavily.

**I**t is now agreed that with a better organisation we would have certainly won the elections. Who was responsible for the organisation? When did they start preparing for the organisation of agents and transport? Let it be said that Labour has not been serious in its attitude to the Municipal Elections. When did the Labour Party start its registration campaign? Almost at the end of the period allotted for registration. There was a sort of indifference on the part of the leadership. Everything was done at the last minute. And there was no cohesion in the efforts of the members of the



Pic - Electoral Commission

Party. While the Parti Mauricien works as a team, there are in the Labour Party people who cannot subordinate personal grievances to the future of the Party. We should make no mistake about the fact that internal rivalries and personal bickering have directly and definitely contributed to the downfall of the Party.

**A**gain, there was serious difficulty in the choice of candidates. Why were the candidates chosen at the last minute? Did not the Labour Party know that there were going to be Municipal Elections? The candidates ought to have been chosen before the registration of electors, and once chosen, the candidates could have started working for election day. Elections are not won by last-minute tactics or defective and half-hearted attitudes. We have said so on many occasions and we repeat that politics is becoming a full-time occupation. Let us hope that the lessons are well learnt now.

Another big factor against us was the inclusion of Mr Badry in our list of candidates. We have nothing against Mr Badry as a man, and he is free to go to Moscow or Pekin any num-

ber of times he wants. But since he started singing the glories of communism in Mauritius, we knew that he was doing himself a lot of harm — politically. The Labour Party cannot hope to attract Christian votes by presenting a candidate who openly declares himself to be pro-communist.

**T**he external factors working against us were many and varied. Our press campaign was almost non-existent whilst the Parti Mauricien was backed to the hilt by most of the press. We were attacked from all sides and by everyone.

And our campaign was very ineffective. The Syndicaliste-Travailleurs have done much harm to the party and are greatly responsible for the Parti Mauricien. It will be interesting to know what the British TUC and the ICFTU think about all this.

To conclude, we say that it is time the Executive of the Labour Party and the Comité d'Action Musulman made a thorough inquiry to find out what had happened. The Labour Party must put its house in order, and it must organise the people. It must keep constant touch with the electorate. The way the Muslim community voted with the Labour Party is satisfactory, and we do not think that it's true to say that followers of Comité d'Action voted for the Parti Mauricien. The Labour and Comité d'Action alliance stands and we feel that it must stand. The chimneys will spend enormous sums of money to break that alliance and to disrupt communal harmony in Mauritius.

## Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times

# L'Iran sous le feu: Les enjeux majeurs d'un séisme géopolitique mondial

● Suite de la page 7

- les Kurdes et Azéris au nord,
- les Arabes dans le Khouzistan (poumon pétrolier),
- les Baloutches à l'est.

Sans État central fort, ces régions pourraient chercher l'indépendance, poussées par des voisins comme le Pakistan ou l'Azerbaïdjan, transformant l'Iran en une nouvelle Libye.

## 4. L'énigme saoudienne

Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) a sans doute donné son feu vert aux frappes, mais il ne tolérera pas un Iran devenu vassal d'Israël et de son rival émirati (MBZ). Riyad, aux côtés de la Turquie et du Qatar, manœvrera pour empêcher une hégémonie totale de l'axe Trump-Netanyahou sur Téhéran.

## 5. Netanyahu: un triomphe en trompe-l'œil

Militairement, le Premier ministre israélien élimine une menace existentielle. Politiquement, il détourne l'attention du drame humanitaire à Gaza. Mais, à long terme, la disparition de la «menace iranienne» pourrait affaiblir les alliances de revers d'Israël avec les monarchies sunnites, rendant le jeu diplomatique régional bien plus complexe.

## 6. Le borbier de Donald Trump

Trump espérait que sa simple armada ferait plier

Téhéran. Contraint de frapper pour ne pas perdre la face, il rompt sa promesse électorale de non-intervention. Si le conflit s'enlise, ce «coup d'éclat» destiné à faire oublier ses déboires judiciaires (affaire Epstein) pourrait devenir son plus grand échec politique.

## 7. Paradoxe russe

On pensait Vladimir Poutine affaibli par la perte de son allié iranien. C'est l'inverse qui s'est produit.

• Détournement d'armes: Les munitions américaines utilisées en Iran ne vont pas en Ukraine.

• Manne financière: La fermeture du détroit d'Ormuz fait exploser les prix du gaz et du pétrole, renflouant les caisses du Kremlin malgré les sanctions.

## 8. Dilemme chinois

Pour Pékin, l'enjeu est vital. L'Iran est une source majeure de pétrole à bas prix. Xi Jinping, après avoir perdu ses accès privilégiés au Venezuela, ne peut rester muet. La



Une frappe aérienne israélienne sur la banlieue sud de Beyrouth, le 6 mars 2026. P - AP

Chine devra choisir: accepter l'hégémonie américaine sur ses routes d'approvisionnement ou intervenir diplomatiquement pour protéger ses intérêts.

## 9. Acte de décès du multilatéralisme

Les Nations unies sont les grandes absentes. En frappant sans aucun mandat international, les États-Unis et Israël enterrent officiellement le droit international. Après des années d'impuissance au Soudan ou en Ukraine, l'ONU semble avoir rendu son dernier souffle à Téhéran, ouvrant une ère d'anomie mondiale extrêmement dangereuse.

## 10. Europe: Une spectatrice

### impuissante

La région du Golfe est plus cruciale pour l'Europe que pour les États-Unis (énergie, commerce vers l'Asie, migrations). Pourtant, l'Union européenne est inaudible. Incapable de peser militairement ou diplomatiquement sur Netanyahu, l'Europe se contente de regarder passer les missiles, confirmant son statut de vassal de plus en plus vulnérable.

## Jiang Xueqin: le «Nostradamus chinois» qui avait prédit la défaite militaire des États-Unis face à l'Iran

**A** lors que les tensions au Moyen-Orient atteignent un point de rupture en ce début d'année 2026, une série de prédictions faites en 2024 par un professeur sino-canadien secoue la toile. Deux de ses trois prophéties s'étant déjà réalisées, le monde observe désormais avec inquiétude la troisième: la défaite militaire des États-Unis face à l'Iran.

Depuis quelques jours, les extraits d'une conférence académique datant de mai 2024 inondent les réseaux sociaux. À l'époque, les propos de Jiang Xueqin semblaient relever de la spéculation géopolitique audacieuse, voire de la science-fiction. Aujourd'hui, avec Donald Trump de nouveau à la Maison-Blanche et un conflit ouvert entre Washington et Téhéran, celui que les internautes surnomment désormais le «Nostradamus chinois» est devenu une figure incontournable de l'analyse prédictive.

### Trois prédictions, un sans-faute (pour l'instant)

Lors de son cours enregistré en 2024, Jiang Xueqin avait posé trois jalons clairs pour l'avenir des États-Unis:

1. le retour de Donald Trump au pouvoir lors de l'élection de novembre 2024 ;
2. le déclenchement d'une guerre entre les États-Unis et l'Iran sous cette nouvelle présidence;
3. la défaite finale des États-Unis, un événement qui, selon lui, marquera la fin de l'ordre mondial tel que nous le connaissons.

Le 20 janvier 2025, la première prédiction s'est concrétisée avec l'investiture de Trump. Quelques mois plus tard, l'escalade



Jiang Xueqin n'est pas un mystique, mais un intellectuel rigoureux au parcours prestigieux. P - The Economic Times

militaire a validé la seconde. Désormais, c'est le troisième volet de son analyse qui suscite l'effroi des observateurs occidentaux.

### Qui est Jiang Xueqin?

Né en 1976, Jiang Xueqin n'est pas un mystique, mais un intellectuel rigoureux au parcours prestigieux. Diplômé de l'Université de Yale en littérature anglaise, il a mené une carrière de premier plan dans la réforme de l'éducation en Chine, occupant des postes de direction au sein d'institutions d'élite comme le lycée de l'Université de Pékin et celui de l'Université Tsinghua.

Ancien contributeur de l'édition chinoise de *New York Times*, il anime aujourd'hui la chaîne YouTube «Predictive History», qui

compte plus de 1,5 million d'abonnés. Sa méthode? La «psychohistoire», un concept emprunté à Isaac Asimov, qu'il applique au monde réel en combinant les cycles historiques, la théorie des jeux et l'analyse des intérêts géopolitiques.

### L'analogie de l'Expédition de Sicile

Pour justifier sa prédiction d'une défaite américaine, Jiang s'appuie sur un précédent historique célèbre: l'expédition de Sicile (415-413 av. J.-C.). Durant la guerre du Péloponnèse, Athènes, alors puissance dominante, avait lancé une campagne militaire ambitieuse contre Syracuse. Ce qui devait être une démonstration de force s'est terminé par un désastre

total, précipitant la chute de l'empire athénien.

Selon Jiang, l'Iran est la «Sicile» de l'Amérique. «La géographie de l'Iran, avec son terrain montagneux et ses lignes de ravitaillement étendues, rend toute occupation prolongée impossible», expliquait-il dès 2024. Il soutient que la résistance interne iranienne et la connaissance parfaite du terrain transformeront tout succès initial américain en un borbier stratégique.

### Une guerre d'usure de vingt ans

Invité récemment sur le plateau de l'émission américaine *Breaking Points*, le professeur a affiné son analyse. Pour lui, le conflit actuel n'est pas une surprise pour

Téhéran, mais l'aboutissement d'une préparation de deux décennies.

«L'Iran mène une guerre d'usure. Ils ont eu de nombreuses répétitions générales», a-t-il affirmé, citant notamment le conflit éclair de 12 jours en juin 2025. Cette période aurait permis aux forces iraniennes d'analyser en détail les capacités de frappe d'Israël et des États-Unis.

### Au-delà du militaire: une guerre économique

Plus inquiétant encore, Jiang Xueqin souligne que la stratégie iranienne ne vise pas seulement les troupes, mais les infrastructures vitales de l'économie mondiale. Il pointe du doigt la vulnérabilité des usines de dessalement d'eau dans le Golfe. «Si l'Iran détruit l'usine de dessalement de Riyad, une ville de 10 millions d'habitants, il n'y a plus d'eau potable en deux semaines», prévient-il.

**E**n s'attaquant aux ressources énergétiques et à l'approvisionnement en eau des alliés de Washington, l'Iran chercherait, selon lui, à provoquer un effondrement systémique que l'armée américaine, malgré sa supériorité technologique, ne pourrait contrer.

### Un avertissement pour l'avenir

Si certains experts restent sceptiques face à ces prédictions, les qualifiant de spéculatives, l'exactitude des deux premiers points de Jiang Xueqin force le respect, ou du moins l'écoute. Pour le «Nostradamus chinois», l'issue de ce conflit ne sera pas un simple traité de paix, mais une redistribution totale des cartes du pouvoir global.

L'histoire est-elle en train de se répéter, ou les États-Unis parviendront-ils à briser le cycle prédit par l'universitaire de Pékin? Les prochaines semaines ou mois apporteront la réponse définitive à la dernière prophétie de Jiang Xueqin.

A. Bartleby



Christine Nguyen,  
University of  
Southern California  
2023 California Health  
Equity Fellow,  
University of Southern  
California

# Obesity in children is rising dramatically, and it comes with major health consequences

*Severe obesity carries a heightened risk of liver disease, cardiovascular disease and metabolic problems such as diabetes*

In the past two decades, children have become more obese and have developed obesity at a younger age. A 2020 report found that 14.7 million children and adolescents in the U.S. live with obesity.

Because obesity is a known risk factor for serious health problems, its rapid increase during the Covid-19 pandemic raised alarms.

Without intervention, many obese adolescents will remain obese as adults. Even before adulthood, some children will have serious health problems beginning in their preteen years.

To address these issues, in early 2023, the American Academy of Paediatrics released its first new obesity management guidelines in 15 years.

I am a paediatric gastroenterologist who sees children in the largest public hospital in California, and I have witnessed a clear trend over the last two decades. Early in my practice, I only occasionally saw a child with a complication of obesity; now I see multiple referrals each month. Some of these children have severe obesity and several health complications that require multiple specialists.

These observations prompted my reporting for the California Health Equity Fellowship at the University of Southern California.

It's important to note that not all children who carry extra weight are unhealthy. But evidence supports that obesity, especially severe obesity, requires further assessment.

## How obesity is measured

The World Health Organization defines obesity as "abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to health."

Measuring fat composition requires specialized equipment that is not available in a regular doctor's office. Therefore, most clinicians use body measurements to screen for obesity.

One method is body mass index, or BMI, a calculation based on a child's height and weight compared to age- and sex-matched peers. BMI doesn't measure body fat, but when BMI is high, it correlates with total body fat.

According to the American Academy of Paediatrics, a child qualifies as overweight at a BMI between the 85th and 95th percentile. Obese is defined as a BMI above the 95th percentile. Other screens for obesity include waist circumference and skin-fold thickness, but these methods are less common.

Because many children exceeded the limits of existing growth charts, in 2022 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention introduced extended growth charts for severe obesity. Severe obesity occurs when a child reaches the 120th percentile or has a BMI over 35. For instance, a 6-year-old boy who is 48 inches tall and is 110 pounds would meet criteria for severe obesity because his BMI is 139th percentile.

Severe obesity carries a heightened risk of liver disease, cardiovascular disease and metabolic problems such as diabetes. As of 2016, almost 8% of children ages 2 to 19 had severe obesity.

Other health problems associated with severe obesity include obstructive sleep apnea, bone and joint problems that can cause early arthritis, high blood pressure and kidney disease. Many of these problems occur together.



## How obesity affects the liver

The liver disease associated with obesity is called nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. To store excess dietary fat and sugar, the liver's cells fill with fat. Excess carbohydrates in particular get processed into substances similar to the breakdown products of alcohols. Under the microscope, a paediatric fatty liver looks similar to a liver with alcohol damage.

Occasionally children with fatty liver are not obese; however, the greatest risk factor for fatty liver is obesity. At the same BMI, Hispanic and Asian children are more susceptible to fatty liver disease than Black and white children. Weight reduction or reducing the consumption of fructose, a naturally occurring sugar and common food additive – even without significant weight loss – improves fatty liver.

Fatty liver is the most common chronic liver disease in children and adults. In Southern California, paediatric fatty liver doubled from 2009 to 2018. The disease can progress rapidly in children, and some will have liver scarring after only a few years.

Although few children currently require liver transplants for fatty liver, it is the most rapidly increasing reason for transplantation in young adults. Fatty liver is the second-most common reason for liver transplantation in the US, and it will be the leading cause in the future.

## Links between obesity and diabetes

Fatty liver is implicated in metabolic syndrome, a group of conditions that cluster together and increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Barry Reiner, a pediatric endocrinologist, voiced his concerns to me about obesity and diabetes.

"When I started my practice, I had never heard of type 2 diabetes in children," says Reiner. "Now, depending on which part of the U.S., between a quarter and a third of new cases of diabetes are type 2."

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease previously called juvenile-onset diabetes. Conversely, type 2 diabetes was historically considered an adult disease.

However, type 2 diabetes is increasing in children, and obesity is the major risk factor. While both types of diabetes have genetic and lifestyle influences, type 2 is more modifiable through diet and exercise.

By 2060, the number of people under 20 with type 2 diabetes will increase by 700%. Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander and Native American/Alaska Native children will have more type 2 diabetes diagnoses than white children.

"The seriousness of type 2 diabetes in children is underestimated," says Reiner. He added that many people express a misconception that type 2 diabetes is a mild, slow-moving disease.

Reiner pointed to an important study showing that type 2 diabetes acquired in childhood can rapidly progress. As early as 10 to 12 years after their childhood diagnosis, patients developed nerve damage, kidney problems and vision damage. By 15 years after diagnosis, at an average age of 27, almost 70% of the patients had high blood pressure.

Most patients had more than one complication. Although rare, a few patients experienced heart attacks and strokes. When people with childhood onset diabetes became pregnant, 24% delivered premature infants, over double the rate in the general population.

## Heart health

Cardiovascular changes associated with obesity and severe obesity can also increase a child's lifetime chance of heart attacks and strokes. Carrying extra weight at 6 to 7 years old can result in higher blood pressure, cholesterol and artery stiffness by 11 to 12 years of age. Obesity changes the structure of the heart, making the muscle thicken and expand.

Although still uncommon, more people in their 20s, 30s and 40s are having strokes and heart attacks than a few decades ago. Although many factors may contribute to heart attack and stroke, obesity adds to that risk.

## Talk about being healthy, not focusing on weight

Venus Kalami, a registered dietitian, spoke with me about the environmental and societal influences on childhood obesity.

"Food, diet, lifestyle and weight are often a proxy for something greater going on in someone's life," says Kalami.

Factors beyond a child's control, including depression, access to healthy food and walkable neighborhoods, contribute to obesity.

Parents may wonder how to help children without introducing shame or blame. First, conversations about weight and food should be age appropriate.

"A 6-year-old does not need to be thinking about their weight," says Kalami. She adds that even preteens and teenagers should not be focusing on their weight, though they likely already are.

Even "good-natured" teasing is harmful. Avoid diet talk and instead discuss health. Kalami recommends that adults explain how healthy habits can improve mood, focus or kids' performance in a favorite activity.

"A 12-year-old isn't always going to know what is healthy," Kalami said. "Help them pick what's available and make the best choice, which may not be the perfect choice."

Any weight talk, either criticism or compliments for weight loss, may backfire, she adds. Praising a child for their weight loss can reinforce a negative cycle of disordered eating. Instead, cheer the child's better health and good choices.

Dr. Muneeza Mirza, a pediatrician, recommends that parents model healthful behaviour.

"Changes should be made for the whole family," says Mirza. "It shouldn't be considered a punishment for that kid."

An International Women's Day Forum by ABC Banking

# Leadership and Corporate Culture: The True Catalysts for Workplace Equity

**W**orkplace equity cannot be established by mere decree; it is an ongoing construction, built brick by brick through daily behaviours, strategic decisions, and a culture championed by leadership. This was the central theme of a high-level panel discussion hosted by ABC Banking in collaboration with Board of Good, held on Thursday, February 26, at Les Suites by The Docks in Port Louis.

The event, organised in anticipation of International Women's Day, featured a dynamic exchange moderated by Jeremy Stockdale, a former banking executive and founder of Ylead, widely recognized for his dedication to inclusive leadership. He was joined by Dr Myriam Blin (Gender Economist and Head of the Charles Telfair Centre), Natacha Emilien (Founder and CEO of Board of Good), and Anju Beni Madhu (Head of Treasury at ABC Banking).

### Dismantling Structural Barriers

Moving beyond theory, the discussion delved into concrete scenarios and the lived experiences of the panelists. Dr Myriam Blin opened the dialogue by addressing a persistent global hurdle: the unequal distribution of unpaid labour. She argued that true professional equity is unattainable without a fundamental rebalancing of roles within the home.

Dr Blin identified four critical pillars that require simultaneous action:

**The data gap:** A lack of comprehensive national data regarding the female workforce.



To champion workplace equity, ABC Banking partnered with Board of Good to organise an insightful panel debate, held at Les Suites by The Docks, Port Louis

**Representation:** Continued limited access for women to high-level decision-making bodies.

**Safety:** The ongoing challenge of gender-based violence.

**Compensation:** The persistent gender pay gap.

### Transformation from the Top

Natacha Emilien emphasized that any sustainable shift in mindset must be spearheaded by leadership. Cultural transformation, she noted, begins in the boardroom and during executive meetings before permeating every level of the organisation.

She also called for a shift in how women manage their own career paths, encouraging them to transcend traditional roles and assert their presence in decision-making spaces. Ms Emilien dismissed the outdated "choice" between career and family as a false dichotomy, advocating instead for a modern model where professional ambition and personal well-being coexist and thrive.

### Equity as a Daily Practice

For Anju Beni Madhu, equity only gains credibility when it becomes measurable and tangible. She believes equity is forged in the "daily grind" — in how responsibilities are assigned, how evaluation criteria are structured, and how contributions are recognized.

"It is the responsibility of leaders to establish a transparent and level playing field for everyone," she stated.

She also highlighted her personal commitment to dismantling stereotypes by ensu-

ring that every voice within her team is heard and valued, irrespective of gender.

### An Engine for Innovation

Drawing on over 27 years in the banking sector, Jeremy Stockdale shared a vision linking social progress directly to economic success. "A nation progresses through the empowerment of women," he remarked. "Building equitable work environments is not just a moral imperative; it is a powerful driver of performance and innovation."

Building on the success of their 2025 initiative, ABC Banking's collaboration with these industry leaders reaffirms its commitment to fostering diversity, inclusion, and gender equality within the financial sector.

Founded in 2010, ABC Banking has evolved rapidly into a versatile commercial bank serving both local and international markets. The bank operates across four strategic pillars — Personal, Private, Corporate, and Global Banking — and maintains an international presence through representative offices in Hong Kong and Dubai.



Wastewater Management Authority

## WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

(Authorised under Section 14(2) of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

**Contract WW 534 W - Sewerage Project at Terrasson, Pointe aux Sables - Phase 1**

**Procurement Reference: CPB/45/2025**

### Open International Bidding

The **Wastewater Management Authority** is inviting bids from eligible and qualified local and international bidders through the Government E-Procurement System for the **Contract WW 534 W – Sewerage Project at Terrasson, Pointe aux Sables - Phase 1**.

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2025/1744**.

A Pre-Bid Meeting and site visit shall take place on **24 March 2026** as detailed in the Bidding Document.

Bids must be submitted online on the E-Procurement System at latest by **Wednesday 15 April 2026 up to 13:30 hours (Mauritian Time) at latest**.

Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt and re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 15 April 2026 from 14:31 hours till Friday 17 April 2026 up to 14:00 hours**.

Bidders shall submit an Original Bid Security amounting to **MUR 2,500,000.00** at the address mentioned below on or before the deadline for submission of bids. The bid security shall be valid up to **11 September 2026**.

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 17 April 2026 as from 14:01 hours up to 18:00 hours**.

**The Conference Room  
Central Procurement Board  
1st Floor, Social Security House  
Julius Nyerere Avenue  
Rose Hill  
Mauritius**

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

02 March 2026

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21)

Travel, learning, or career expansion plans move forward smoothly. A meaningful conversation with a mentor or friend brings clarity. Financial improvement is steady. Balance enthusiasm with practical steps to succeed.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 9, 16, 24, 30, 33

### Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19)

Focus on career and long-term goals. Strategic decisions bring progress in work and finances. Emotional patience strengthens family bonds. Avoid conflicts and impulsive actions. Financial plans succeed when carefully researched.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 10, 16, 21, 28, 35

### Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18)

Innovation and fresh ideas lead to opportunities. Social connections expand your horizons. Emotional balance requires attention—take time to rest and reflect. Financial gains are steady but avoid unnecessary risks.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 8, 13, 19, 26, 32

### Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20)

Intuition is heightened, guiding important decisions. Creative projects flourish. Romantic experiences bring satisfaction. Family responsibilities may require compromise. Consistent financial planning ensures stability.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 11, 17, 23, 30, 38

### Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19)

This week brings a surge of energy and initiative. Focus on personal goals and professional challenges—your confidence opens doors. Relationships benefit from open communication. Financial caution is advised despite tempting opportunities.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 7, 14, 19, 26, 33

### Taurus (Apr 20–May 20)

Patience is your ally this week. Career and finances progress steadily when you avoid impulsive decisions. Family matters need careful attention; a thoughtful conversation resolves tension. Health improves with consistent routines.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 9, 15, 21, 28, 36

### Gemini (May 21–Jun 20)

Your communication skills shine, helping in negotiations or presentations. Creative ideas attract recognition and opportunities. Relationships deepen when honesty guides your interactions. Managing finances wisely ensures stability and confidence in the week ahead.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 8, 13, 22, 29, 35

### Cancer (Jun 21–Jul 22)

Home and family matters take priority. Diplomacy helps resolve lingering issues. Unexpected career opportunities may appear; assess before committing. Health benefits from proper rest and nutrition.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 10, 16, 23, 30, 38

### Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22)

Confidence is your key asset. Leadership roles and social visibility bring recognition. Romance thrives if patience is exercised. Avoid overspending; disciplined financial decisions benefit long-term goals. Networking enhances future opportunities.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 11, 17, 25, 32, 39

### Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22)

Organization and planning are essential. Attention to detail earns professional recognition. Financial growth comes through careful management and budgeting. Health improves through structured routines.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 12, 18, 24, 31, 37

### Libra (Sep 23–Oct 22)

Harmony in relationships is highlighted. Cooperation and compromise lead to positive outcomes. Career progress is steady when distractions are minimized. Creative or artistic pursuits provide satisfaction.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 9, 15, 20, 27, 34

### Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21)

Intuition guides you in problem-solving. Emotional connections deepen, bringing clarity in personal relationships. Financial growth is gradual but reliable. Health improves with moderate exercise and attention to wellness.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 7, 14, 22, 29, 36

## Risks persist: Millions with dementia still prescribed high-risk brain drugs

Despite over a decade of medical warnings, a significant number of older Americans with dementia continue to receive "brain-altering" medications that significantly increase their risk of falls, delirium, and emergency hospitalizations. A new study from UCLA Health Sciences, published January 12 in JAMA, reveals that while overall prescribing of these drugs has dipped, the most cognitively vulnerable patients remain the most likely to be prescribed them.

### The Findings: A Widening Gap

Researchers analyzed nine years of Medicare data (2013–2021) and found a troubling trend. While drug use across the general Medicare population fell from 20% to 16%, those with cognitive decline did not see the same level of protection.

- 17% of older adults with normal cognition receive these drugs.



- 22% of those with mild cognitive impairment are prescribed them.
- 25% of patients with full dementia — one in four — are still on these high-risk regimens.

The study focused on central nervous

system (CNS)-active medications, including antipsychotics, benzodiazepines (anti-anxiety meds), and strong antidepressants. For those with dementia, these drugs can be "double-edged swords," often prescribed to manage agitation or sleep issues but frequently causing more harm than good.

### Lack of Medical Justification

Perhaps the most alarming discovery was the lack of clinical "why." Senior author Dr. John N. Mafi of UCLA noted that as of 2021, over two-thirds of these prescriptions lacked a documented medical reason.

"These results underscore substantial opportunities to improve the quality and

safety of care for millions of older Americans," Mafi stated, highlighting that those with dementia are the most susceptible to the drugs' adverse effects.

### Shifting Trends

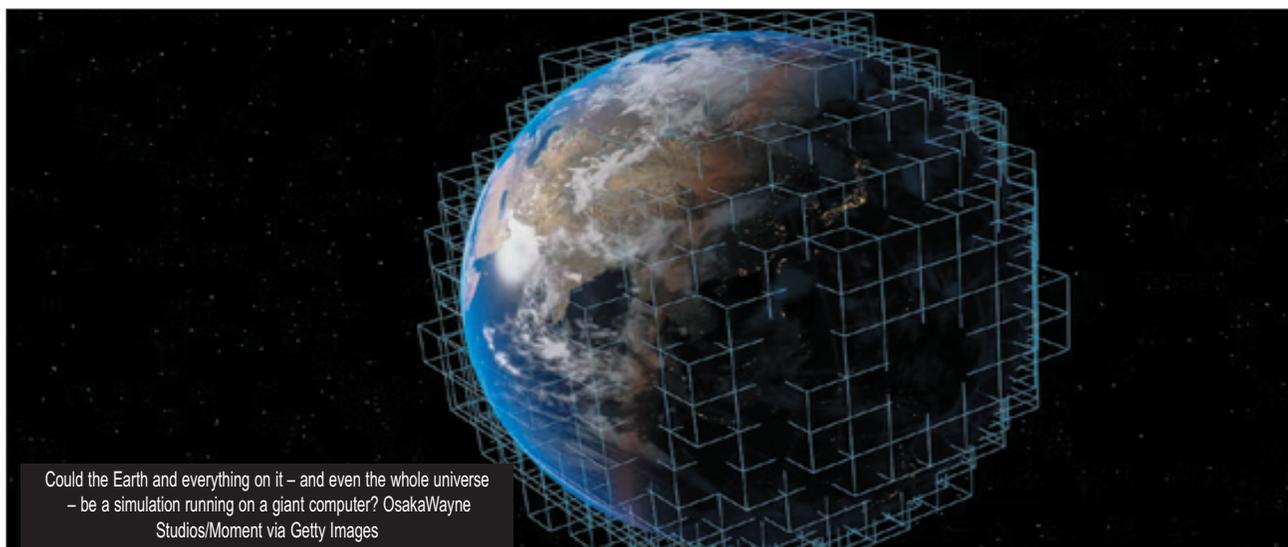
The data showed some progress: prescriptions for sleep aids and benzodiazepines have declined. However, antipsychotic prescriptions actually rose from 2.6% to 3.6%. These drugs are particularly risky, as some carry FDA "black box" warnings due to an increased risk of death in dementia patients.

Lead author Dr Annie Yang emphasized that while these medications are sometimes necessary for conditions like schizophrenia, they are often overused. Families and caregivers are encouraged to work with physicians to "taper or stop" medications that may no longer be appropriate, opting instead for non-drug behavioral strategies.



## Is the whole universe just a simulation?

Here's why some people believe we're living in a computer simulation of reality — like a giant video game in which we're all the characters.



21st century planet Earth only ever existed one time, but it will eventually get simulated trillions of times, and if the simulations are so good that the people in the simulation feel just like real people, then you're probably living on one of the trillions of simulations of the Earth, not on the one original Earth.

This argument would be even more convincing if you actually could run powerful simulations today, but as long as you believe that people will run those simulations someday, then you logically should believe that you're probably living in one today.

### Signs we're living in a simulation ... or not

If we are living in a simulation, does that explain anything? Maybe the simulation has glitches, and that's why your phone wasn't where you were sure you left it, or how you knew something was going to happen before it did, or why that dress on the internet looked so weird.

There are more fundamental ways in which our world resembles a simulation. There is a particular length, much smaller than an atom, beyond which physicists' theories about the universe break down. And we can't see anything more than about 50 billion light-years away because the light hasn't had time to reach us since the Big Bang. That sounds suspiciously like a computer game where you can't see anything smaller than a pixel or anything beyond the edge of the screen.

Of course, there are other explanations for all of that stuff. Let's face it: You might have misremembered where you put your phone. But Bostrom's argument doesn't require any scientific proof. It's logically true as long as you really believe that many powerful simulations will exist in the future. That's why famous scientists like Neil deGrasse Tyson and tech titans like Elon Musk have been convinced of it, though Tyson now puts the odds at 50-50.

Others of us are more skeptical. The technology required to run such large and realistic simulations is so powerful that Bostrom describes such simulators as godlike, and he admits that humanity may never get that good at simulations. Even though it is far from being resolved, the simulation hypothesis is an impressive logical and philosophical argument that has challenged our fundamental notions of reality and captured the imaginations of millions.

**Zeb Rocklin**

Associate Professor of Physics,  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Some things you can see directly, like your fingers. Other things, like your chin, you need a mirror or a camera to see. Other things can't be seen, but you believe in them because a parent or a teacher told you, or you read it in a book.

As a physicist, I use sensitive scientific instruments and complicated math to try to figure out what's real and what's not. But none of these sources of information is entirely reliable: Scientific measurements can be wrong, my calculations can have errors, even your eyes can deceive you, like the dress that broke the internet because nobody could agree on what colors it was.

Because every source of information — even your teachers — can trick you some of the time, some people have always wondered whether we can ever trust any information.

If you can't trust anything, are you sure you're awake? Thousands of years ago, Chinese philosopher Zhuangzi dreamed he was a butterfly and realized that he might actually be a butterfly dreaming he was a human. Plato wondered whether all we see could just be shadows of true objects. Maybe the world we live in our whole lives inside isn't the real one, maybe it's more like a big video game, or the movie "The Matrix."

### The simulation hypothesis

The simulation hypothesis is a modern attempt to use logic and observations about technology to finally answer these questions and prove that we're probably living in something like a giant video game. Twenty years ago, a philosopher named Nick Bostrom made such an argument based on the fact that video games, virtual reality and artificial intelligence were improving rapidly. That trend has continued, so that today people can jump into immersive virtual reality or talk to seemingly conscious artificial beings.

Bostrom projected these technological trends into the future and imagined a world in which we'd be able to realistically simulate trillions of human beings. He also suggested that if someone could create a simulation of you that seemed just like you from the outside, it would feel just like you inside, with all of your thoughts and feelings.

Suppose that's right. Suppose that sometime in, say, the 31st century, humanity will be able to simulate whatever they want. Some of them will probably be fans of the 21st century and will run many different simulations of our world so that they can learn about us, or just be amused.

Here's Bostrom's shocking logical argument: If the

*Laughter is the  
Best Medicine*

## 'We truly did our best, Rahul'

In a moment of uncharacteristic nostalgia, Rahul Gandhi decided to return to his roots at the Doon School in Dehradun. Choosing the occasion of Teachers' Day -- a date usually reserved for honoring the architects of the future -- the politician sought to pay a heartfelt tribute to the mentors of his youth.

Standing before the faculty, Gandhi grew somber and reflective. With a sweep of his hand toward the gathered educators, he delivered what he intended to be the ultimate compliment. "Today I am what I am," he declared with conviction, "only because of you all."

He likely expected a round of applause or perhaps a few misty eyes of pride. Instead, a pin-drop silence settled over the assembly. The air grew thick with a sudden, heavy tension as the teachers looked at one another, then at the floor.

Finally, the silence was broken by the Headmaster, Mr Jagpreet Singh, who appeared visibly moved -- though perhaps not for the reasons Rahul had hoped. Wiping a stray tear and his voice trembling with emotion, the Headmaster pleaded, "Please, Rahul... you can't really blame us. We truly did our best."

\* \* \*

### Serious Business

A large foreign construction company got a contract to build roads in the mountains. They immediately started preparing maps and conducting surveys.

A local contractor watched them and asked, "Why do you need maps to build roads in the hills?" He then explained:

"We just put a sack of lime on a donkey, poke a small hole in it, and let it roam the mountain. The lime falls as it walks, marking the path. We simply follow the lime trail to build the road."

The foreign team was stunned.

"Don't civil engineers handle road planning here?" they asked.

The local contractor chuckled, "Only where donkeys aren't available!"

\* \* \*

### The Dream Gift

On the eve of her birthday, a woman woke up and said to her husband, "I just dreamt that you gave me a beautiful diamond necklace! What do you think it means?"



"You'll know tomorrow," he said with a smile.

The woman could hardly think of anything else all day, patiently counting the hours for morning to arrive. As she got out of bed on her birthday, her husband handed her a nicely wrapped small package.

She opened it excitedly, only to find a book entitled *The Meaning of Dreams*.

\* \* \*

### The Practical Present

A man asked his wife what she wanted for her birthday.

She said, "Something to run around in would be nice."

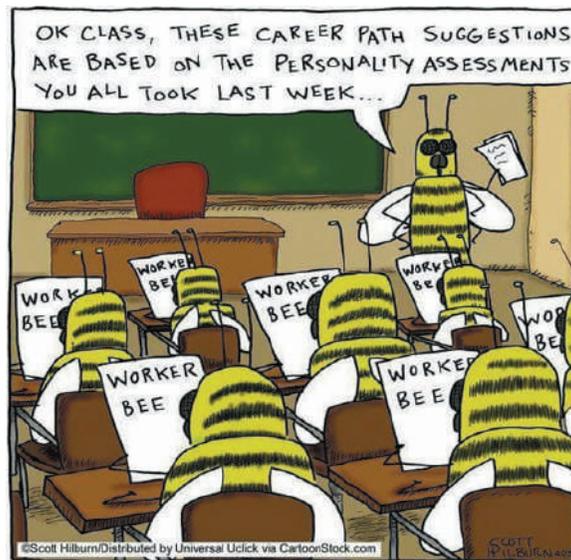
So, he bought her a tracksuit.

\* \* \*

### The Anniversary "Gift"

A wife told her husband, "Even though we've been married for twenty years, because it's your birthday, you can go out tonight and pretend we're not married yet."

He replied, "No thanks. I don't want to think I've got twenty years of this ahead of me!"



\* \* \*

### The Open Invitation

Alan and Joe were chatting in a bar.

Alan said, "I don't know what to get my wife for her birthday."

Joe suggested, "Why don't you make up a certificate stating she can have an hour of fun anyway she desires? She'll probably be excited!"

Alan followed his friend's advice.

The next day at the bar, Joe asked, "Well, how did it go? Did she like the suggestion?"

"Oh, yes!" replied Alan. "She jumped up, kissed me on the cheek, and ran out the door yelling, 'I'll be back in an hour!'"

\* \* \*

### The Night Before the Surprise

The night before her birthday, a wife was dropping hints to her husband. "I'd like something for my birthday that goes from 0 to 200 in about 3 seconds," she said. The next morning, she ran out to the driveway expecting a Porsche. Instead, she found a small gift-wrapped box. She opened it to find a brand-new bathroom scale.

\* \* \*

### The Anniversary Countdown

A couple was celebrating their 50th anniversary.

On the eve of the big day, the husband asked, "Darling, what should we do to celebrate fifty years of bliss?"

The wife sighed and said, "Let's have a moment of silence."

\* \* \*

### The Early Delivery

The day before his wife's 40th birthday, a man was feeling sentimental.

He told her, "Honey, tomorrow is a big day. To celebrate, I've booked us a trip to the most romantic place you can imagine."

She gasped, "Oh, darling! Is it Paris? Is it Venice?"

He smiled and said, "Better. It's the kitchen. I've hired a plumber to finally fix that leak you've been complaining about for three years!"

\* \* \*

### The Golden Rule

A man was talking to his friend the night before his 25th wedding anniversary.

"I've bought my wife a trip to the Himalayas," he boasted.

"Wow," said the friend, "that's incredible! What are you going to do for your 50th?"

The man replied, "Go back and get her."

\* \* \*

### The Sales Pitch

A man walks into a bar looking very sad.

A regular notices and asks, "Hey, are you alright?"

"I'm doing terrible," the man replies. "I'm having serious money troubles, and the only option I have left is to sell my beloved dog. I'm going around town asking if anyone wants to buy him. He's in the car."

"I'm sorry to hear that," says the regular. "How much are you asking for him?"

"Five hundred dollars," the man says.

"Whoa, that's a lot for a dog," the regular replies.

"Well," the man says, "he's like family. He's the gentlest, sweetest dog you'll ever meet. He never barks unless there's an intruder -- and then he turns into the fiercest guard dog imaginable. When he needs to go out, he just nudges your leg and patiently sits by the door. My wife and kids adore him, and they'll be heartbroken when I sell him... but I have no choice."

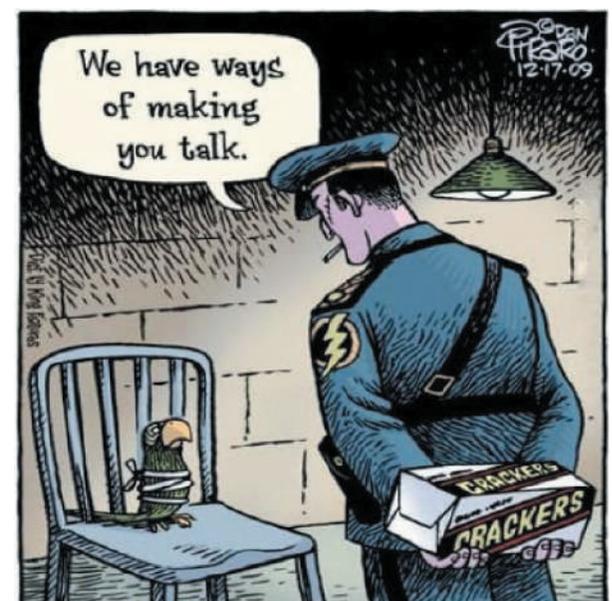
The regular sighs. "If he's that good, I'll take him. I'd be happy to help you out."

A year later, the man walks into the same bar.

The regular sees him, jumps up, and shouts, "YOU! You sold me that useless son of a bitch dog! He does nothing but make a mess all over the house, barks non-stop, and tries to bite my wife and kids every chance he gets! Buying that dog was the worst decision of my life!"

The man looks at him calmly, smiles, and says,

"Mister... you're never going to sell that dog if you keep talking about him like that."



Life's Stories

## The master of the human heart: Fyodor Dostoevsky

Fyodor Dostoevsky understood human suffering better than most philosophers ever could -- because he lived it.

In 1849, at just 27 years old, Dostoevsky was arrested for belonging to a literary group that discussed banned political ideas. He was thrown into a freezing prison cell in St. Petersburg and sentenced to death by firing squad.

On the morning of his execution, he stood before the soldiers, blindfolded, waiting for the final command. At the last possible moment, a messenger arrived: his sentence had been commuted by the Tsar. It was a cruel act of mercy, a punishment designed to break his spirit.

He was sent instead to four years of hard labour in a Siberian prison camp, chained at the ankles, forced to sleep on straw among thieves and murderers. There, he lost everything -- his freedom, his health, his status, his illusions. But he found something else.



He found compassion.

He saw the divine spark even in the most broken souls. He saw that goodness and evil live side by side in every heart. When he was finally released, he wrote not like a man who theorized about pain, but like a man who had looked directly into its eyes.

That experience shaped every word he wrote

afterward.

*Crime and Punishment, The Idiot, Demons, The Brothers Karamazov* -- all born from that same raw truth: redemption is possible only through suffering, and even the darkest heart is capable of light.

Dostoevsky once wrote, "Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart." He wasn't glorifying misery. He was saying that to feel deeply, to truly live, is to suffer honestly and still choose love.

He never became rich. He struggled with debt and illness. But his words outlived him. His books are not just novels -- they are confessions of the human soul.

And perhaps that is why Dostoevsky still matters -- because he reminds us that even in the darkest cell, even moments from death, the human spirit can still awaken, still forgive, still love.

"He was condemned to die, but in that moment, he learned to live."

If you've never read Dostoevsky, start with *The Brothers Karamazov*. It's deep, human, and unforgettable. You'll see why people still call him the master of the human heart.

## Things You Need to "Lie" About in an Interview (From a Recruiter)

Having conducted interviews for years, I know when someone is lying. But not all "lies" are equal -- lying about your university or why you left a job isn't the same as strategic storytelling. Think of an interview less as an exam and more as a negotiation: the company wants to "buy" your skills, and it pays to have a few tricks up your sleeve. Here's what differentiates a strong negotiator and how to handle common tricky questions:

1. **Previous Salary:** HR wants the most qualified candidate at the lowest cost. If pressured to reveal your past salary, don't give the exact number if you want a bigger raise.

2. **Why You're Leaving Your Job:** Avoid saying you disliked your previous environment -- it can make you seem difficult. Instead, focus on growth: "I'm seeking new professional challenges."

3. **How You Felt About Your Old Boss:** Even if your previous boss was a tyrant, don't say it. It signals that you might be difficult to manage. Keep the tone neutral.

4. **Where You See Yourself in 5 - 10 Years:** Companies want to know you'll stick around, but you don't need to share personal fantasies like running a farm. Keep it career-focused while showing ambition.

5. **Sell Yourself:** Don't downplay your achievements with phrases like, "I had help." Frame it as, "We faced challenges, but we managed to solve them," showing leadership and teamwork.

6. **Your CV:** Make sure your resume reflects your skills and accomplishments. A CV is your marketing tool -- it should highlight the achievements that matter most to employers.

Above all, **believe in yourself**. There's always a company looking for someone with your exact skills -- you just have to present yourself so they can find you.

Stray Thoughts

## The Mystery of Great Stories

By Arundhati Roy

The secret of the Great Stories is that they have no secrets.

The Great Stories are the ones you have heard and want to hear again. The ones you can enter anywhere and inhabit comfortably.

They don't deceive you with thrills and trick endings. They don't surprise you with the unforeseen. They are as familiar as the house you live in. Or the smell of your lover's skin.

You know how they end, yet you listen as though you don't. In the way that although you know that one day you will die, you live as though you won't.

In the Great Stories you know who lives, who dies, who finds love, who doesn't. And yet you want to know again.

That is their mystery and their magic.

*Philo Thoughts*

## Flirting is Cheating

Flirting is cheating.

Flirting with someone breaks a boundary within a committed relationship.

In a committed relationship, we agree to give certain parts of ourselves to our partner.

When we flirt with someone else, we give another person the type of attention that should belong only to our partner.

**Cody Bret**

When you realize there  
is no lacking, the whole  
world belongs to you."

LAO TZU



*If I could make one wish,  
it would always be the same,  
to wake up beside you and  
love you in the truest,  
deepest way forever.*



## I Walked Away

I once walked into a room where a couple of my friends were talking about me, unaware I was there. I shook my head, smiled, and walked away.

I once had a best friend who spoke badly about me, never knowing I found out. I said nothing. I just smiled and walked away from that friendship.

A few family members chose to push me out of their lives when I finally stood up for myself -- and when I stopped crossing oceans for them while they wouldn't even jump over a puddle for me. I smiled, shook my head, and walked away.

I was in a relationship where I was always put last, no matter what I did. In that moment, I realized: someone's effort is a direct reflection of their interest in you. So I walked away -- and never looked back.

Someone once asked me how I could just walk away from people who betrayed me, even if they were family, friends, or partners.

I told them: every time I reached a crossroad, I had to decide who was coming forward on my journey with me. That revealed who I cannot take along.

You should never be angry at someone who betrays you, even in the name of friendship or family.

Just bow out gracefully, enjoy your journey, and remember -- when you start wondering if you deserve better...

You do.

**Cody Bret**

## The Biology of Intimacy: How Physical Connection Impacts Systemic Health

Stepping away from physical intimacy can occur for many reasons, ranging from health issues and stress to personal choice. Because human touch and activity are tied to various biological processes, the body and mind may experience specific shifts during a "hiatus."

### Mood and Stress Regulation

One of the primary changes occurs in the endocrine system. Regular physical closeness helps regulate hormones released during high-pressure situations. Without this specific outlet, individuals may feel more tense or anxious. An active intimate life is often linked to improved overall wellbeing, acting as a buffer against everyday stressors.

### Cardiovascular and Cognitive Health

The heart may also be affected. Studies suggest that infrequent activity is associated with a higher incidence of cardiovascular issues compared to those who are regularly active. This is partly because the physical exertion involved mimics light exercise, similar to a brisk walk. Furthermore, research has found a connection between regular activity and better memory recall in older adults, likely due to enhanced blood flow to the brain and hormonal fluctuations.



### Immune Function and Sleep

Your immune system and sleep hygiene are also part of this equation:

- **Immunity:** Moderate frequency is associated with higher levels of immuno-globulin A, which helps the body

fight infections.

- **Rest:** Following physical climax, the body releases relaxation-inducing hormones like prolactin and oxytocin. Without these natural sleep aids, achieving restful nights may be more challenging for some.

### Relational and Long-Term Health

For those in partnerships, the absence of physical reinforcement can influence emotional bonding. The chemicals released during intimacy promote satisfaction for several days afterward; without them, partners may need to find other ways to maintain a sense of connection.

Regarding specific health risks, some research suggests that for men, regular activity may be linked to better prostate health. Conversely, for women — particularly postmenopause — long gaps in activity can lead to physical discomfort or dryness when activity resumes.

Ultimately, every individual is unique. Many people lead happy, healthy lives with little to no physical intimacy. However, understanding these physiological connections allows you to make more informed choices about your long-term wellness and lifestyle.

## The Essential Elements of Restorative Sleep

*Sleep quality plays a central role in long-term health. These bedroom upgrades could help create a more restful space*

In the spirit of preparing for a more restful future, let's look at the "lead-up" to a better night's sleep. Just as historical movements require a series of intentional shifts before a major breakthrough, your health relies on the small, environmental changes you make to your bedroom today.

Since we are currently in early March, it's the perfect time for a "bedroom checkup" to ensure your sanctuary is optimized for the year ahead. Here is how to overhaul your space for peak restorative health.

### Foundation and Air Quality

The most significant upgrades start with what you can't always see. Your mattress is the literal foundation of your sleep; if it's older than nine years, it's likely time for a replacement. To avoid "off-gassing" and respiratory irritation, prioritize mattresses with GOTS-certified organic materials and avoid polyurethane foam or chemical flame retardants.

To further protect your lungs, address the "hidden" inhabitants of your room: dust mites. While you can't eliminate them entirely, you can "muzzle" them by:

- Washing bedding weekly in hot water.
- Using a vacuum with a HEPA filter.
- Swapping out wall-to-wall carpets for solid wood or tile, which are easier to keep allergen-free.

### Environmental Control: Light, Temp, and Sound

Your body's internal clock, or circadian rhythm, is highly sensitive to external cues. To signal that it's time for rest, you must manage your "sensory input":

To optimize your environment for rest, several key factors must align. Setting your bedroom temperature between 60°F and 67°F is essential, as it mimics the body's natural cooling process to trigger sleep. Achieving pitch black conditions is equally important to prevent the suppression of melatonin; this can be managed effectively through the use of blackout curtains.

The visual environment also plays a role, as choosing a colour scheme of blue or neutrals provides light waves that are soothing to retinal receptors, which helps in lowering your heart rate. Finally, managing sound with white noise can provide a consistent auditory backdrop that masks "ambient" disruptions, such as outside traffic or a snoring partner.



### The "Sleep Divorce" and Digital Boundaries

Modern sleep hygiene often requires setting strict boundaries. This includes a ban on electronics; even the small glow from a smartphone can disrupt sleep spans and has been linked to weight gain.

Furthermore, consider the "sleep divorce." While it sounds dramatic, nearly 25% of couples now sleep in separate beds to avoid disruptions. If a partner's snoring or tossing prevents your rest, a separate sleeping arrangement might be the healthiest move for your relationship and your heart health.

### Final Touches: Nature and Zen

Finally, embrace Feng Shui by decluttering and positioning your bed away from direct door alignments. Introduce "air purifiers" in the form of plants; English Ivy is a NASA-proven toxin fighter, while the Snake Plant converts carbon dioxide to oxygen specifically at night.

By making these fourteen adjustments now, you aren't just changing a room — you're staging a revolution for your long-term vitality.

## MAHATMA GANDHI SECONDARY SCHOOL (FLACQ) PTA

REG No: 7630

### Annual General Meeting

All compliant members of the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School (MGSS) Flacq Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the above-mentioned Association on **Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 1:00 pm** at the seat of the school.

### AGENDA:

1. Welcome Address by the President of MGSS Flacq PTA, Mrs Mungroo
2. Welcome Address by the Head of School of MGSS Flacq, Rector, Mr S. Ramful
3. Reading & Approval of Minutes of AGM 2025 (27th March 2025)
4. Matters Arising
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Private Motion(s)
8. Amendment to rules and regulations of the Association
9. A.O.B.

Any private motion from members should be sent by registered post so as to reach the Secretary, Miss Luchmun Dirti – Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Flacq, François Mitterrand Street, Central Flacq by latest **Wednesday 11th March 2026 by 1:00 pm**.

**NOTE:** If there is **NO QUORUM** on Wednesday 18th March 2026, the AGM will be adjourned for **Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 1:00 pm** at the same venue, with the same agenda.

Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Flacq  
François Mitterrand Street  
Central Flacq

The Secretary, Miss D. Luchmun

## BollyBytes

## Taapsee Pannu on the "Obsessive Gaze" of the Film Industry

Taapsee Pannu, currently receiving accolades for her performance in the courtroom drama 'Assi', has sparked a necessary conversation about how the film industry perceives female actors. In a recent discussion, Taapsee addressed what she calls an "obsession" with specific parts of the female anatomy -- specifically the midriff in the South Indian film industry and cleavage in Bollywood. While clarifying that her previous remarks were often taken out of context, she stood by the core issue: the "awkward" gaze that female actors must navigate on set.

Taapsee recalled her early days as a newcomer, where she often had to comply with a director's vision for "glamorous" roles. She described the discomfort of having to pad her costumes or expose her midriff to satisfy the "mainstream" heroine



archetype. "I was too new... the director is the captain of the ship," she explained, noting that at the time, she felt these roles were the only gateway to being recognized as a leading actress.

However, she defended her choice to do those parts, stating that she doesn't look back with regret. According to Taapsee, those roles allowed her to build the career she has today -- one where she can now lead powerful, message-driven films like Assi. The film, which features her as a lawyer fighting for a rape survivor, has already collected over MUR 25.5 million (INR 5 crore) at the

box office. For Taapsee, the goal is to move past the obsession with physical appearance and focus on the substance of the storytelling.

## Drawing the Line: Shreya Ghoshal Refuses the "Item Song" Label

In the lead-up to International Women's Day, a poignant conversation regarding the representation of women in media has emerged from an unlikely place: the recording studio. Acclaimed singer Shreya Ghoshal recently clarified her stance on "item numbers," revealing that she has begun turning down massive hits -- including, it is hinted, the chart-buster *Fevicol Se* -- due to concerns over the blatant objectification of women.

While Ghoshal continues to own the musical artistry of her 2012 hit *Chikni Chameli*, she admits that the "repercussions" of its success sparked a crisis of conscience. The turning point came not from critics, but from the sight of five-year-old

girls mimicking the suggestive choreography and lyrics. "I feel very embarrassed," she shared on the Raj Shamani podcast. "A little girl singing those lyrics -- it doesn't sound good."

Ghoshal highlights a critical loophole in Indian media: while films receive "A" certifications for mature content, songs permeate every household, regardless of age. This realization led her to "fold her hands and sneak out" of offers featuring lyrics like "*Chicken bana ke kha le*" (Eat me like a chicken), which she found devoid of any subtlety.

By choosing to distance herself from "history" written through the lens of the male gaze, Ghoshal is drawing a firm line between sensuality and subjugation. Her decision



serves as a powerful reminder that "Women on the Move" are not just those breaking glass ceilings in space or politics, but also those in the arts who refuse to lend their voices to the erosion of female dignity.

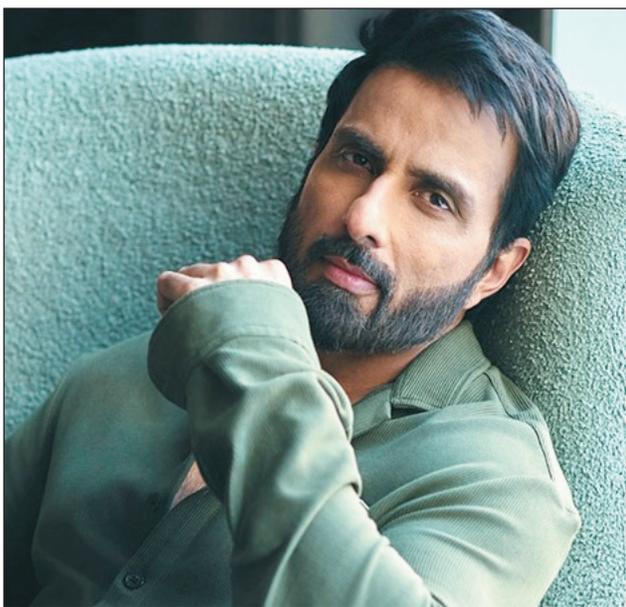
## Beyond Borders

Sonu Sood's "Humanity First" Response to the Gulf Crisis

As the aerial skirmishes of late February 2026 have given way to a volatile regional standoff, the human cost of the U.S.-Iran conflict is being felt far beyond the blast zones. With airspace closures and flight cancellations leaving thousands of travelers stranded in transit hubs like Dubai, Bollywood actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood has once again stepped into the breach, proving that "distance no longer guarantees insulation" -- a sentiment echoed by many in the Indian Ocean region.

On March 5, 2026, Sood announced a partnership with Dugasta Properties to provide free, unconditional accommodation to anyone trapped in Dubai due to the escalating tensions. In a video message that has since gone viral, Sood emphasized a "no nationality" policy, stating, "Whether our fellow Indians or people of any nationality... we will make sure you get a free stay until you are able to return to your country."

This initiative recalls Sood's celebrated efforts during the 2020-21 pandemic, yet it carries a sharper diplomatic weight in today's polarized climate. While govern-



ments navigate voting alignments and strategic posturing, Sood's "just humanity" approach offers a stark contrast to the rigid "paranoid" mindsets often found in conflict-prone regimes.

## The Psychology of Survival

### How Deepti Naval Painted Her Way Out of Depression

In the history of Indian cinema, Deepti Naval was often pigeonholed as the "girl next door" -- a comforting, uncomplicated presence. However, as revealed in her 2022 memoir and recent reflections as of February 2026, Naval's life has been anything but simple. Her journey is a masterclass in the "nuanced picture" of a woman who refused to be defined by her marriage, her depression, or her grief.

From a thirteen-year-old girl slapped by police for trying to run away to the mountains of Kashmir, to a sophisticated student of psychology in New York, Naval's independence was always her core. Yet, she was not immune to the "retrograde machismo" of an industry that stopped offering work to women the moment they wed. Her marriage to filmmaker Prakash Jha led to a "dead end" of professional isolation and a paralyzing battle with depression. "This sense of failure is precious," she later noted, "because it is from this that we carve ourselves out as artists."

Naval's second chapter was defined by a deep, creative partnership with Vinod Pandit, which was tragically cut short by his battle with cancer. Forced back into acting to pay hospital bills, she transformed her personal tragedy into a renewed dedication to her craft -- painting, writing, and photography. As we approach International Women's Day, Naval stands as a symbol of the "independent voices" we strive for -- not just in politics, but in the internal battle to remain whole in the face of loss.



## Romance & Govinda: Neelam looked like a doll

In a week where the global discourse is focused on the grit and agency of women -- from fighter pilots to independent musical voices -- a recent interview with 90s superstar Govinda serves as a stark reminder of the "machismo mindset" that still lingers in the corridors of Bollywood nostalgia. Speaking with Siddharth Kannan on March 5, 2026, Govinda reminisced about his frequent co-star Neelam Kothari, describing his attraction to her in terms that feel increasingly out of sync with modern sensibilities.

"She was different... she looked like a doll," Govinda remarked, attributing his attraction to a "village-folk" fascination with fair-skinned, delicate aesthetics. While he celebrated their undeniable on-screen chemistry -- which fuelled hits like *Ilzaam* and *Love 86* -- his language frames the female lead not as a professional peer, but as a prized, decorative object. "I lost my heart," he admitted, echoing sentiments he first voiced in 1990, even while married at the time.



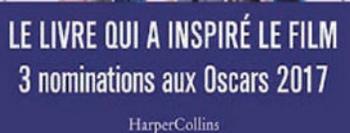
Vendredi 6 Mars - 20.18



Samedi 7 Mars - 20.30



Dimanche 8 Mars -20.10



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 6 mars

samedi 7 mars

dimanche 8 mars

lundi 9 mars

## MBC 1

06.16 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie  
08.04 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage  
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada  
09.30 Film: I Saw The Light  
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: The Shamer's Daughter  
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.18 Film: Pearl Harbour  
22.15 Tele: Mademoiselle  
23.58 Le Journal  
00.33 Tele: Happily Ever After

## MBC 2

09.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles  
09.50 Local: Le Mag  
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  
22.00 La Femme En Chanson  
23.00 Zournal Kreol  
23.24 Local: En Forme  
23.37 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
23.58 Nu Rasinn

## MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Amrit Vani  
10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
12.00 Film: Kala Sona  
Starring: Feroz Khan, Parveen Babli, Prem Chopra  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna  
15.58 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  
21.48 Serial: Mere Sai  
22.37 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
22.59 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
00.21 Local: Khel Khiladi  
00.47 Local: Mati Ke Mol

## Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Asia 2050  
07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.57 Doc: The World Of Amish  
11.26 Mag: Eco India  
12.01 Mag: Transforming Business  
12.48 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
14.42 Doc: Carnet De Sante  
15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami  
15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mots...  
15.30 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
16.00 D.Anime: Dino Ranch  
16.22 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
17.02 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger  
17.16 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
17.45 Doc: Little Gourmet  
17.50 Doc: Japan Video Topics  
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

## Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama  
15.30 Film: Rangeela  
Cast: Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff  
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: Rangeela  
Cast: Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff

03.32 Serial: Heartland  
04.58 Serial: Lying Heart  
06.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage  
06.26 Serial: A Spy Among Friends  
07.20 Serial: Nautilus  
08.10 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani  
09.10 Serial: Heartland  
09.55 Serial: Elementary  
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: Bowfinger  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: The Arrival  
22.25 Serial: Nautilus  
23.15 Tele: Terra Nostra  
23.42 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
06.25 Local: Tous Egaux  
06.45 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
08.25 Local: Retrovizer  
09.18 Local: La Sosiete  
10.30 Local: J'ai Faim  
11.00 Local: Friday With Jerry  
12.00 Local: Arsiv  
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard...  
15.05 Local: J'ai Faim  
15.31 Moments Forts De L'Histoire  
18.05 Tele: Wildflower  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.35 Local: Les Petits Genies  
20.30 Local: Rubrique: Moris...  
22.04 Local: Glwar Dantan  
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.00 Zournal Kreol  
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux  
23.37 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
23.58 Local: Palette  
00.25 Local: Metie

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
06.59 Mag: Wellness Watch  
08.30 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: Dulaara  
Cast: Govinda, Karishma Kapoor  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
18.58 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah  
19.13 Sanskriti Ki Baatein  
21.00 Film: Lajja  
Cast: Madhuri Dixit, Manisha Koirala  
00.22 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
00.48 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah  
01.03 Sanskriti Ki Baatein

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 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami  
10.45 Doc: All The Answers  
11.20 Doc: La Mediterranee...  
13.54 Doc: The Stone Age Diet  
15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami  
15.19 D.Anime: Grands Mots...  
16.22 D.Anime: Robin De Bois  
16.46 D.Anime: Jungle Book...  
17.03 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger  
17.43 Doc: Little Gourmet  
18.00 Doc: In Good Shape  
18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors  
19.02 Mag: Initiative Africa  
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage  
20.53 Doc: Natural Wonders  
21.45 Film: Victor Frankenstein  
23.31 Doc: Saving The Temples...

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: Jahaan Chaar Yaar  
With: Swara Bhasker, Meher Vij, Shikha Talsania, Pooja Chopra  
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein  
21.30 Crime Patrol

02.32 Film: Victor Frankenstein  
04.24 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois...  
05.10 Tele: Lying Heart  
06.30 Film: The Arrival  
08.20 Serial: Elementary  
09.06 Film: Bowfinger  
10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune  
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage  
12.34 Film: Seven Ways From Sundown  
14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Film: The Arrival  
17.30 Doc: Visionary Gardens  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Film: Les Figures De L'Ombre  
22.15 Serial: S.W.A.T.  
22.57 Terra Nostra  
00.05 Le Journal

08.40 Local: Profil  
08.55 Local: Les Petits Genies  
09.30 Live From Cote D'or National  
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
12.30 Emotion En Avant Plan  
14.25 Egalite Du Genre Sur Le Lieu  
15.24 Local: Coin Jardin  
15.38 Local: Voyage Au Feminin  
16.03 Local: Konkour Slam  
17.22 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
17.32 Local: En Toute Intimite  
18.00 Tele: Wildflower  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
20.34 Rubrique: Moris...  
21.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
23.09 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.16 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion  
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin  
23.44 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne  
00.10 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif  
00.39 Local: Metie

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
10.30 Serial: Mahabharat  
10.52 Excerpts From Mangal Mahadev Abhishek  
12.00 Film: Gumrah  
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Sridevi  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
15.48 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein  
16.33 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah  
18.00 Samachar  
18.32 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani...  
19.24 Local: Gyan Vigyan The Life...  
19.54 Local: Mahila Diwas Dob  
21.30 Serial: Keh Doon Tumhein  
21.51 Serial: Crime Patrol  
22.34 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar  
23.36 Yeh Shaam Mastani...

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!  
08.19 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...  
09.05 D.Anime: Word Party  
10.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami  
11.04 Doc: All The Answers  
14.10 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
15.04 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami  
16.22 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
17.43 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: Warrior  
Cast: Tom Hardy, Nick Nolte, Joel Edgerton  
00.08 Doc The Golden Fiber  
00.51 Humans: The Great Enigma  
01.43 Doc: International Adoptions  
02.25 Mag: REV Special

00.45 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho  
02.46 Udaariyaan  
04.20 Anupamaa  
06.50 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: Pink  
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Tapsee Pannu

04.28 Tele: L'Amour Invincible  
04.38 Tele: Lying Heart  
05.24 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: Les Figures De L'ombre  
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  
21.55 Tele: Mademoiselle

09.10 Local: Glwar Dantan  
09.42 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  
14.45 Rodrig Prog - Careme  
15.59 Local: Les Klips  
16.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
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  
20.34 Local: Tous Egaux  
21.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
21.50 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
22.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.25 Local: Metie  
23.59 Local: En Toute Intimite

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani...  
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha  
10.00 Local: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar  
12.00 Film: Amar Prem  
Cast: Sharmila Tagore, Rajesh Khanna, Vinod Mehra  
15.00 Samachar  
15.51 Kundali Bhagya  
17.30 Shiv Shakti  
18.01 Live: Samachar  
18.31 MBC Prod Monday  
18.57 Ved Ki Shikshahein  
19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek  
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud  
21.00 Film: The Burning Train  
Cast: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Jeetendra  
23.33 Mere Sai  
00.21 Wagle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners  
07.18 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
07.48 Les Femmes Du Rwanda  
09.26 Doc: Humans: The Great...  
11.01 Mag: Rev Special  
11.19 Mag: Travel  
11.32 Doc: Brilliant Corners  
12.25 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
15.00 Serial: Momolu Et Ses Amis  
15.15 D.Anime: Story Time  
15.30 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
16.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier  
16.24 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
16.46 D.Anime: Jungle Book  
17.40 Doc: Little Gourmet  
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC  
18.31 Mag: Choices  
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage  
20.30 Live: News  
20.53 Tele: Asintado  
21.40 Film: Fire With Fire

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud  
15.26 Film: Vaada Raha  
Starring: Bobby Deol, Kangana Ranaut, Dwij Yadav, Atul Agnihotri & Mohnish Behl  
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



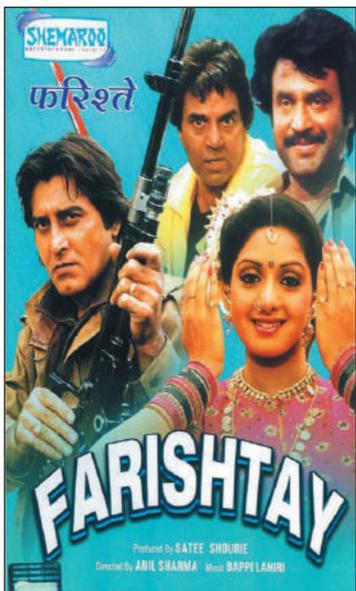
Mardi 10 Mars - 21.43



Mercredi 11 Mars - 21.40



Mercredi 11 Mars - 15.00



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 10 mars</b>	04.19 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 04.42 Tele: Lying Heart 05.27 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.00 Serial: Quantico 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Violence A Jericho 11.36 Tele: Happily ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: I Saw The Light 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 21.43 Film: Rescue Dawn 22.43 Tele: Mademoiselle 00.28 Le Journal	09.10 Le Cri De La Crecerelle 10.49 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.35 Local: Grand Titre 13.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Feminin Pluriel 15.08 Rodrig Prog - Careme 15.47 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.42 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local Production 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 20.33 Local: Priorite Sante 21.30 Local: L'Independance 22.31 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.22 Local: Fee Main 23.33 Local: Music Tour 2026 00.25 Local: Parlons Sante Senior	08.27 Local: Charcha 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Kabeela Cast: Feroz Khan, Rekha 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.41 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 20.31 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Dharam Karam Cast: Raj Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Rekha 23.34 Mere Sai 00.23 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.46 Children In Elite Sports 09.41 Doc: Adam And I 10.33 By Train Through Thailand's 12.37 Mag: In Good Shape 13.49 Doc: Tomorrow Today 15.00 D.Anime: Momulu Et Ses Ami 15.30 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 17.06 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 17.42 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Mag: REV 18.26 Doc: Delicious Morning 18.46 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Doc: Natural Wonders 20.53 Tele: Asintado 21.38 Mag: Business Africa 22.08 Doc: Euromaxx 22.34 Doc: Opioids: Business And... 00.18 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi Starring: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati 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: Haathi Mere Sathi Starring: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati
<b>mercredi 11 mars</b>	06.11 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie 08.20 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Escape Room 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: Rescue Dawn 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 20.15 Nou Travay Nou Lavenir 21.46 Serial: New Amsterdam 22.29 Serial: S.W.A.T. 23.11 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.55 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Priorite Sante 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.00 Local: Le Challenge 12.01 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 12.40 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.17 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 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.35 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.16 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.29 Local: Grand Titre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil 00.35 Local: Artizan	07.00 Mag: Sadgati 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Mere Gaon Mera Desh 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.46 Radha Mohan 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 MBC Pro Wednesday 19.23 Hamara Swasthya 19.30 Local: Gyan Vigyan 19.57 Local: Virasat 20.30 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garub 21.00 Film: Nandini Cast: Gaurav Jha, Richa Dixit 23.29 Serial: Mere Sai 00.18 Wagle Ki Duniya	09.04 Mag: Euromaxx 09.22 Doc: Opioids: Business And... 11.59 Mag: Made In Germany 12.55 Mag: Business Africa 13.21 Doc: Urbana Animalis 14.06 Mag: Euromaxx 14.28 Doc: Penthouse Or Hovel 15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 15.14 D.Anime: Story Time With MS 15.30 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.42 D.Anime: Riley Rocket 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: The Arrival Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Crouse, Richard Schiff	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Farishtay Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna 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: Farishtay Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna
<b>jeudi 12 mars</b>	06.16 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.08 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.28 Film: The Arrival 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 Local: Le Cri De La Crecerelle 16.15 National Day Celebrations 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.00 Message Of Dr The Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam 20.15 La Meteo 20.29 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.45 Film: Kesari Chapter 2 Cast: Akshay Kumar, Madhavan, Ananya Panday	09.24 Local: Cinema D'Ici 10.20 Local: Saveurs Plus 10.46 Local: Les Kliips 11.38 Local: Grand Titre 12.31 Le Champ De Mars 13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.14 Local Production 15.32 Local: Saveurs Plus 16.19 Local: Son Ladan Mem 18.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 18.45 Live From Champ De Mars - National Day Celebrations 22.00 Local: Generations J 22.30 Local: Moments Forts De L'Histoire 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.35 Local: Memwar Dan Ros 00.00 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel	08.00 Local: Gyan Vigyan 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Pukaar Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Zeenat Aman, Randhir Kapoor 15.22 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.48 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 08.52 Film: Freedom Force 10.17 Doc: Iran From Above In... 11.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.47 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.17 Doc: Healing Gardens 12.39 Doc: We Come From The... 13.30 Film: Spies In Disguise 15.07 Film: Princess Halle And The Jester 16.19 Film: Les Trolls 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 17.53 Doc: Little Gourmet 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 18.47 Doc: Delicious Morning 18.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.22 Mag: REV Special 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.52 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.10 Film: The Legend Of Bhagat Singh Stars: Sushant Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, D. Santosh, Shivram Hari Rajguru, Akhilendra Mishra, Chandrashekhar Azad, 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: The Legend Of Bhagat Singh



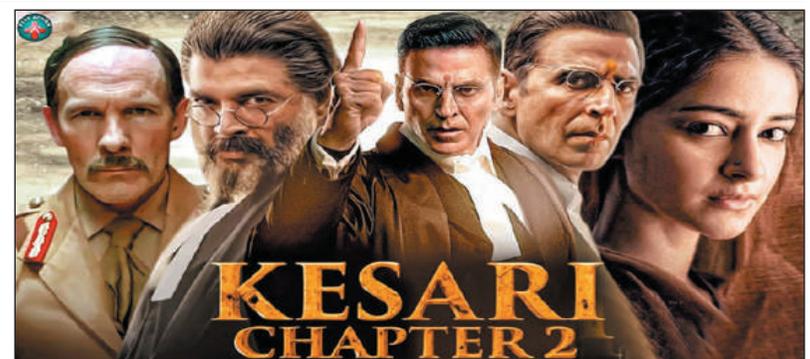
Jeudi 12 Mars - 15.30

Stars: Sushant Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, D. Santosh, Shivram Hari Rajguru, Akhilendra Mishra, Chandrashekhar Azad, Raj Babbar



Jeudi 12 Mars - 20.10

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Madhavan, Ananya Panday





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Women on the Move: A Nuanced Picture

Let us not begin International Women's Day with yet another round of lamentation. The economic, political, and cultural obstacles that still prevent many women from fully developing their potential are real and deserve attention. Yet it is also true that modernity has opened new spaces for women to excel. In fields such as science, medicine, technology, engineering, and politics, increasing numbers of women are reaching the highest levels. A few have even gone beyond Earth itself — the latest being Sophie Adenot, the second French woman to board a spacecraft. Three astronauts of Indian origin have also served on American shuttle crews, including Sunita Williams and Kalpana Chawla, whose career ended tragically in 2003.

Recent history offers striking examples of courage and achievement. In 2024, following the Pahalgam attack on civilians in Kashmir, India, two young Indian female pilots flew French-made fighter jets into Pakistani airspace; one of them was only 24 years old. Earlier, between 2016 and 2020, Kurdish female soldiers were on the frontline in Syria, fighting Islamic State militants, many paying the ultimate price. More recently, reports from late February 2026 described young female pilots taking part in highly complex military operations in the Middle East. Around the same period, a video circulated online showing a young female pilot parachuting safely into a desert area in Kuwait after an emergency landing. These stories illustrate the remarkable courage and professionalism shown by women in demanding roles traditionally dominated by men.

At the same time, the situation for many women around the world remains deeply troubling. In Iran, tensions have persisted since the protests triggered by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in 2022. Demonstrations and crackdowns have highlighted the severe restrictions many women face, and reports from activists continue to raise concerns about human rights and the treatment of detainees. The "Woman, Life,



Freedom" movement became a powerful symbol of resistance and aspiration for greater freedoms. Acts of quiet protest have also been visible in other arenas — for example, when Iranian athletes refrained from singing the national anthem during international competitions.

Elsewhere, the challenges are even more stark. In Afghanistan, the situation for women has deteriorated sharply under Taliban rule. Severe restrictions on education, employment, and public life have limited opportunities for girls and women. In some areas, extreme poverty has forced families into desperate choices, including sending very young daughters to work in other households or arranging early marriages. Such realities underline the continuing struggle for dignity and basic rights.

Violence and discrimination against women and children remain global concerns; no society is entirely free from them. What distinguishes more open societies is

the ability to debate these problems publicly and hold perpetrators accountable. In many places, however, rapid social change has created tensions, with some individuals feeling uncertain about shifting gender roles. Addressing these anxieties constructively remains an important challenge for policymakers and communities alike.

History reminds us that women have long played influential roles in public life — as rulers, traders, warriors, and poets across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The idea that women's political participation is purely a modern development overlooks this rich heritage. Reducing women's influence to "kitchen politics" reflects an outdated mindset. Many countries, particularly smaller developing states, still struggle to ensure meaningful representation of women at national levels. Yet representation alone is not enough: what matters equally is the presence of independent voices capable of contributing thoughtfully to public debate.

Finally, the global media landscape also shapes how these developments are perceived. Smaller countries often rely heavily on international news sources and may miss important political shifts elsewhere. One such development has been the rise of Sanae Takaichi in Japan, a prominent female political figure whose recent electoral success attracted considerable attention domestically.

Whenever women break barriers and demonstrate leadership, competence, and courage, it represents progress not only for gender equality but for society as a whole.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE – MRA

Staff Association 2026

Reg. No. 632

### AGENDA:

1. Welcome Address
2. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the Last AGM
3. President's Report
4. Speech by the President of FCSOU
5. Matters Arising
6. Treasurer's Report and Approval
7. Approval of Budget for the Year 2026
8. Motion(s), if any
9. Any Other Business (AOB)

### Important Notice to Members:

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Union to be held on **Wednesday, 25th March 2026 at 11:30 hrs at Rabita Hall, 28 Pope Hennessy Street, Port Louis.** Members wishing to submit motion(s) are requested to send their letters to:

**The Secretary  
MRASA**

**Mauritius Revenue Authority  
Corner Mgr Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Street  
Port Louis**

**Deadline for submission: 18th March 2026  
at 16:00 hrs.**



## Essay Contest 2026

The Competition Commission invites secondary and tertiary students to participate in its essay contest on the topic:

**“Discuss how competition law enforcement by the Competition Commission can contribute to addressing the rising cost of living in Mauritius”**

First prize for tertiary students: Rs 60,000

First prize for secondary students: Rs 50,000

Deadline for Registration: 9 March 2026

Briefing session: 13 March 2026

Essay Submission Deadline: 30 April 2026

To register visit our website,  
[www.competitioncommission.mu](http://www.competitioncommission.mu)

For more information  
on the contest

