

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Peace is more important than all justice; and peace was not made for the sake of justice, but justice for the sake of peace. – Martin Luther (Theologian, writer, 1483 – 1546, Germany)

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When Narratives Become Weapons

Fog, miscalculation and the erosion of credibility in an age of shifting justifications

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- ‘The government is unlikely to hike taxes or slash spending merely to plug a Rs 10 billion gap

The reasons for these actions must be deeper and more structural in nature’

- ‘External factors are now dictating domestic policy choices. The room for manoeuvre is narrowing by the day – leaving the government with little choice but to walk the tightrope...’

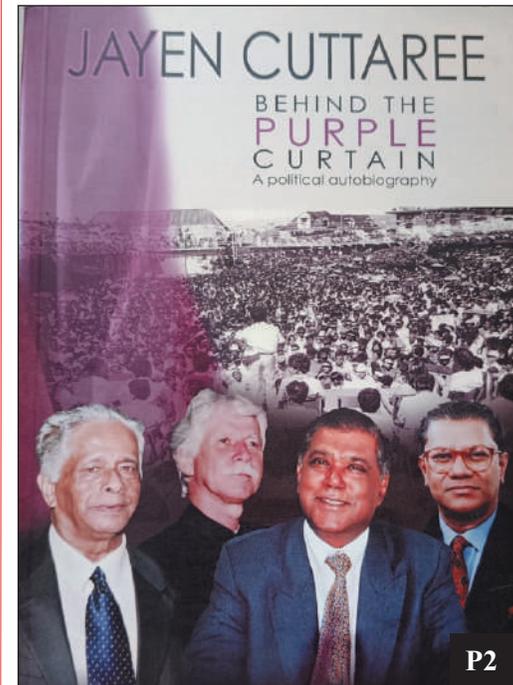
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The 'Purple Curtain' Revisited

The ghosts of the 1993 crisis that befell the MSM-MMM government have found a new home in the corridors of the 2026 *Alliance du Changement*, proving that in our political landscape, the past is never truly buried; it is merely waiting for the next storm.

As Paul Bérenger sat in the study of his River Walk residence last Wednesday, flanked by a handful of loyalists, the atmosphere was thick with the scent of that historical rupture. Breaking a week of silence following his resignation as Deputy Prime Minister, the MMM leader attempted a "grand déballage" (a great unfolding). However, what we witnessed was less a show of strength and more a desperate effort to frame a narrative that seems to be rapidly slipping from his grasp.

To understand the current crisis within the *Alliance du Changement*, one must look back through the lens of Jayen Cuttaree's seminal autobiography, *Behind the Purple Curtain*. The latter's thesis remains the definitive diagnostic tool for the "Mauve" malaise: the MMM is a party perpetually caught between its founding myth as a mass democratic movement and the gravitational pull of a single, unyielding, yet increasingly isolated leader.

The Ghost of 1993

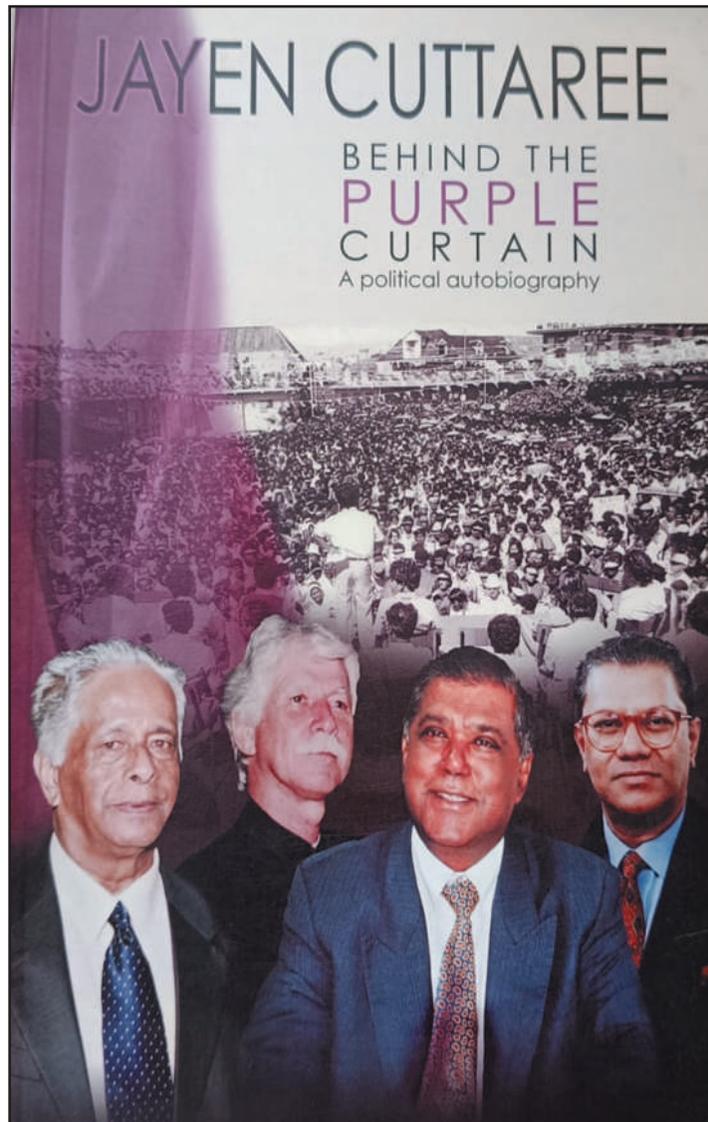
The parallels between the 1993 split and the 2026 rupture are surgically precise. In 1993, a conflict of authority between Paul Bérenger and Sir Anerood Jugnauth led to the "Prem Nababsing" episode, where a significant faction of the MMM refused to follow Paul Bérenger into the opposition, choosing instead the stability of government. Jayen Cuttaree observed that the MMM's overly centralized leadership turns the party into a "pressure cooker" prone to fracturing.

In 2026, the steam has once again blown the lid off. But this time, the rebellion is not a mere faction; it is a near-total exodus. Out of 18 elected MMM members, 16 have pledged their continued loyalty to Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. This "16 of 18" split represents the most significant challenge to Paul Bérenger's leadership in half a century. When Rajesh Bhagwan — a man whose loyalty was once considered the bedrock of the party — comes forward to publicly accuse Paul Bérenger of "abandoning the MMM," the Purple Curtain hasn't just been pulled back; it has been torn down.

The Economic Alibi

During his 90-minute press conference, Paul Bérenger framed his resignation as a "patriotic act" motivated by a "grave economic catastrophe." He pointed to a leadership vacuum at the Ministry of Finance, underscored by the conspicuous absence of a dedicated Minister, the risk of a Moody's downgrading, and the potential "grey listing" by the FATF. He lamented that Rs 47 billion in private investment remains blocked due to ministerial inertia.

While these concerns are valid, the timing suggests a recurring strategic pattern. In 1993, Paul Bérenger's criticisms peaked during the global downturn following the Gulf War. Today, we stand in the shadow of the Iran War, an international crisis unsettling economies worldwide. History shows that Paul Bérenger has a habit of distancing himself from government precisely when "drastic"



and "unpopular" economic measures become necessary for national resilience. By stepping out now, he avoids the political "burn" of the belt-tightening policies that the Ramgoolam government must inevitably implement. It is a tactical retreat masked as principled dissent.

The "Gang de Cinq" and the Proof Gap

The most explosive element of Bérenger's discourse involves allegations of systemic corruption reminiscent of the preceding MSM government. He spoke of a "Gang de Cinq" that has allegedly expanded into a network of some 20-25 individuals operating within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "A thief does not leave a receipt," he quipped, attempting to justify a total lack of concrete evidence.

Furthermore, since 2025, Paul Bérenger has consistently challenged the Prime Minister's high-level nominations — from the Commissioner of Police, that of the Prisons to the leadership of Air Mauritius — warning that these institutions, particularly the national carrier, are on the verge of "crashing." However, a glaring logical inconsistency remains: if the Deputy Prime Minister truly held evidence of a corrupt criminal network within the PMO, his first recourse should have been the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) or the Police. To air these grievances in a press conference after resigning, rather than through formal legal channels while in office, weakens the institutional integrity he claims to defend. It

transforms a matter of state into a weapon of political theatre.

The Ministerial Rebellion

Perhaps the most "mesquin" (mean-spirited) aspect of the crisis, according to Paul Bérenger, is the reaction of his lieutenants. He described himself as "deeply saddened" by the attacks from those he mentored. Yet, the ministers who stayed argue they are respecting the mandate given by the people in 2024.

For these ministers, the "Purple Curtain" has become a shroud. They are tired of the "Politburo" culture where one man's temperament dictates the nation's stability. By staying in the Cabinet, they are attempting a daring political manoeuvre: reclaiming the MMM identity while isolating the founder. They are betting that the activists care more about the "Changement" promised in the manifesto than the grievances of a leader who, in his own words, "did not know the PTR would return to its old habits."

The Road to Beau-Bassin

Tomorrow, Saturday, March 28, Paul Bérenger will meet his remaining supporters at the Salle des Fêtes of the Beau-Bassin-Rose Hill Municipality. He has floated the possibility of creating a new party to "save the MMM" — a move that would ironically mirror the 1993 creation of the RMM, though that rupture was led by those who chose not to follow him into the wilderness.

As Jayen Cuttaree wisely observed, whenever Paul Bérenger feels his influence is compromised, he prefers to return to the "braise" (the embers of opposition). But this time, the fire might be too cold. With 16 of his 18 MPs refusing to follow him, Paul Bérenger finds himself at a crossroads where all paths seem to lead away from the centre of power.

Paul Bérenger remains an important figure in Mauritian history, but Wednesday's performance felt more like a retrospective than a turning point. His warnings about the economy and the potential impact of the Iran war amount to a call that the government would do well to consider. However, the absence of supporting evidence for his corruption allegations, together with difficulties in maintaining party cohesion, suggests that the "Purple Curtain" may be gradually drawing to a close.

The question for Saturday's meeting is simple: Is there an MMM without Bérenger, or is there only a Bérenger without a party? This dilemma highlights the precarious crossroads at which the MMM finds itself today.

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Who Owns the MMM?

The 1993 Ghost Returns: Paul Bérenger and the Ministerialist Split

In 1993, the MMM fractured over whether a Minister's loyalty lies with the Cabinet or the party leadership. The ensuing Supreme Court battle — pitting Paul Bérenger against frontbenchers like Prem Nababsing, Jean Claude de l'Estrac, and others — resulted in the landmark Vinod Boolell judgment (1994 SCJ 63). This "rulebook" for political associations established that a party's legal identity and "soul" reside within its internal democratic structures, not its parliamentary seats. Defeated, the "ministerialists" launched the *Renouveau Militant Mauricien* (RMM) in June 1994.

Today, March 2026, the parallels are striking. Amid tensions over policy and state appointments within the Alliance du Changement, Paul Bérenger has resigned as Deputy Prime Minister. Yet, in a stark echo of 1993, all MMM ministers except Joanna Bérenger have stayed on, leaving the party technically within Navin Ramgoolam's government.

The current crisis raises a fundamental question of authority: who truly speaks for the MMM? While the 'stay-on' faction currently holds the levers of power within the Comité Central and Bureau Politique, it has long been believed that the all-powerful Assemblée des Délégués remains Paul Bérenger's ultimate stronghold. Yet, recent developments suggest this may no longer be a certainty. In this week's analysis, Lex weighs in on the constitutional ripples of the current political impasse, seeking guidance from the landmark judgment of Justice Boolell in 1994.

LEX

*** In his 1993 ruling, Justice Vinod Boolell appeared to prioritise the authority of a party's internal organs (notably the Central Committee and the Assemblée des Délégués) over the actions of its parliamentary wing. Does this mean an MP must follow the party, or does the role remain independent under the Constitution?**

In most parliamentary democracies, an MP's mandate is legally and constitutionally an autonomous office — often referred to as a 'free mandate' — rather than a subordinate of a political party. However, in modern practice, this independence is heavily curtailed by party discipline, rendering the mandate functionally subservient to party leadership in almost all legislative scenarios.

*** The 1993 case affirmed the Assemblée des Délégués as the ultimate sovereign body within the party. In a situation where internal party structures are divided, does the ruling suggest that the Court will ultimately defer to the will of the delegates as the decisive authority?**

Yes, courts generally defer to the decisions of political party delegates as the decisive authority in internal party matters, including the selection of candidates and the interpretation of party rules. This judicial deference is rooted in the principle of party autonomy and the voluntary nature of political associations, treating parties as private entities with the right to self-govern.

*** In the context of an electoral alliance, such as the 2024 mandate won under a shared banner, where does an MP's primary legal loyalty lie: with the alliance presented to voters or with their individual party? Does the Boolell ruling clarify this hierarchy?**

An MP's primary legal loyalty lies with their individual party rather than the broader electoral alliance presented to the electorate. While an alliance may offer a joint manifesto to secure power, the legal mechanisms for accountability — specifically anti-defection laws and party discipline — typically operate at the level of the individual's membership in a specific, registered political party.

*** If an MP justifies remaining in government on the basis of fulfilling manifesto commitments to the electorate, does the Boolell judgment support the argument that party discipline nevertheless prevails as the superior obligation?**

In many parliamentary democracies — particularly those

based on the Westminster system — established constitutional convention and judicial observation support the argument that party discipline (party loyalty and the whip system) serves as a superior obligation to individual manifesto commitments. This principle is grounded in the theory of representative democracy, collective ministerial responsibility, and the functional nature of party politics, rather than in a legally binding contract.

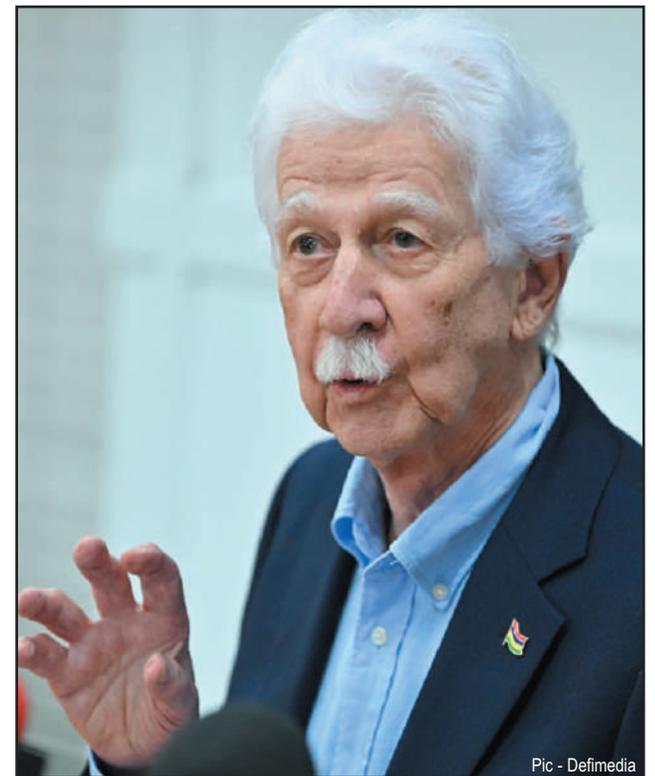
*** In the absence of a formal anti-defection law in Mauritius, does the Boolell judgment effectively operate as a common law mechanism allowing a party to disown or disassociate itself from dissenting MPs?**

In the absence of a formal anti-defection law, political parties in Mauritius rely on quasi-absolute party discipline and internal party mechanisms to manage dissenting MPs. While an expelled member technically retains their seat as an 'Independent' — as no automatic vacancy is created — the following actions are typically deployed to neutralize their influence:

- The MP is formally stripped of party support, meaning they no longer receive voting instructions or participate in caucus meetings.
- The Speaker is notified to move the MP from the party benches to the 'cross-benches' or the far end of the opposition/government ranks, signalling their isolation.
- The party can move to replace the dissenting member on influential Select Committees or the Public Accounts Committee, stripping them of their specialized oversight roles.
- While not a legal removal, an MP who breaks with the party that nominated them under the Best Loser System faces a profound crisis of political legitimacy, as their seat was mathematically tied to their party's performance.
- The most potent long-term tool is the public guarantee that the individual will not be granted a 'ticket' (nomination) for the next general election, effectively ending their career under that party's banner.

*** If a party's supreme body decides to withdraw from a governing alliance, would a Minister who refuses to resign be deemed, in law, to have severed their party membership under the logic of the Boolell precedent?**

Based on the legal and constitutional principles governing political alliances and ministerial responsibility in Mauritius, a Minister who refuses to resign after their party officially withdraws from a governing alliance is deemed to have severed their party membership. This interpretation aligns with the principles of the democratic mandate and par-



Pic - Defimedia

liamentary convention.

While the specific legal outcome depends on national laws and a party's own constitution, in many parliamentary democracies — especially those with robust anti-defection frameworks — such conduct is construed as "voluntarily giving up" party membership. This typically leads to formal expulsion or, where applicable, automatic disqualification from the party's ranks.

*** The 1993 ruling addressed control over the party's name and identity. In today's context, could that precedent extend to modern assets such as logos, branding, and official social media platforms, enabling party leadership to seek immediate legal protection?**

In a modern political dispute, a judgment regarding the control of a political party's name extends to its entire intellectual and digital identity — including logos, branding, and official social media platforms. Courts and election authorities typically treat these assets as the protected property of the legal entity. Consequently, whoever is adjudged to represent the party's 'true' leadership generally gains exclusive control over its brand and public-facing communication channels.

*** How does the Boolell judgment interact with the constitutional powers of the Speaker? Can a party compel or formally request the Speaker to recognise dissenting MPs as independents rather than party representatives?**

A political party can formally request or initiate a process for the Speaker to recognize dissenting Members of Parliament (MPs) as independents, but the ability to compel the Speaker depends on a country's constitutional laws regarding anti-defection and the removal of the party whip. In most Westminster systems, this is achieved through the withdrawal of the party whip, which formally notifies the Speaker that the member no longer represents the party's interests in the House.

*** Ultimately, in disputes of this nature, where should the Court's primary concern lie: in safeguarding the stability of government, or in upholding the internal integrity and rules of the political party as an association?**

In disputes concerning internal political party affairs, the Court's primary duty is to uphold the internal integrity, statutes, and democratic processes of the party as a voluntary association. By ensuring that a party remains 'master of its own house' through the fair application of its own rules, the judiciary indirectly supports broader government stability and the rule of law without overstepping into the political thicket.



Anil Madan

Blocking the Strait of Hormuz – Iran's Nuclear Option

The chant has been ringing for years. Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear bomb. The Israelis have persistently emphasized that this is existential for the survival of their State. The Gulf nations see a nuclear armed Iran as a threat. With nuclear bombs, Iran would be able to bully and extort its neighbours with missiles, drones and unleashed proxies. Underscoring the seriousness of the issue, two and one-half years ago, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) said if Iran gets a nuclear weapon, “we have to get one.”

It is no flight of fancy to imagine that Israeli Prime Minister emphasized the desirability of forestalling nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, as a reason for urging the US to attack Iran. President Trump's oft-expressed aversion to nuclear weapons is well known. Such an appeal would have resonated with him.

Saudi Arabia's nonproliferation argument

In 2023, Saudi Arabia and Iran re-established diplomatic relations under China's auspices as the go-between. So, it came as somewhat of a surprise that this seeming rapprochement was not. The *Washington Post* reported that MBS privately urged the US President to strike Iran militarily, while publicly urging diplomacy and declaring that he would not allow such an attack to be launched from Saudi soil. Similar messages were said to have been delivered by MBS's brother to Trump.

One can well imagine that MBS too would have made the same nonproliferation argument to Trump. The goal was apparently to protect Saudi oil facilities from retaliatory attacks by Iran.

It turns out that Iran had two options as devastating as a nuclear bomb. These two options — nuclear options, if you will — are (i) control of the narrow shipping channel known as the Strait of Hormuz, and (ii) threatening to destroy the oil and LNG infrastructure of Iran's Gulf neighbours that lie within range of Iran's missiles and drones.

As it turned out, America's joining with Israel in attacks on Iran did not protect the Saudi or other Gulf states. Iranian strikes by drone and missile came anyway. As of ten days ago, Iranian attacks caused heavy damage to Qatar's LNG plant — the largest such facility in the world —, hit a Saudi refinery, forced a shutdown of UAE's LNG facilities and caused fires to erupt at two Kuwaiti refineries. Turkey, Bahrain, Jordan and Oman too were later targeted. Some attacks involved hundreds of missiles and drones. How long Iran can keep this up is unknown.

It remains unknown how long the Gulf



“America's joining with Israel in attacks on Iran did not protect the Saudi or other Gulf states. Iranian strikes by drone and missile came anyway. As of ten days ago, Iranian attacks caused heavy damage to Qatar's LNG plant — the largest such facility in the world —, hit a Saudi refinery, forced a shutdown of UAE's LNG facilities and caused fires to erupt at two Kuwaiti refineries. Turkey, Bahrain, Jordan and Oman too were later targeted. Some attacks involved hundreds of missiles and drones. How long Iran can keep this up is unknown. It remains unknown how long the Gulf nations, the world, and President Trump can sustain this trajectory...” Pic - Special Euresia

nations, the world, and President Trump can sustain this trajectory. Trump appears to be seeking an off-ramp, perhaps spurred by a sense of surprise at the sheer ferocity and duration of the Iranian response.

Responding to a *Fox News* reporter, Trump expressed surprise at Iran's attacks on the Gulf countries: “Nobody. Nobody. The greatest experts — nobody thought they were going to hit,” he said. It is little wonder that the sequelae now roiling the world's markets are disturbing to the US president who sees his popularity at home being hit hard, and a perplexed world wondering what he will do next.

It is not unreasonable to expect an escalatory response from Turkey and the Gulf countries. Indeed, because of Iran's attacks, Saudi Arabia has declared Iran's military attaché and some embassy staff members *persona non grata* and ordered them to leave the Kingdom. That is a mild rebuke. There will be more escalation in the days ahead.

Last Saturday, a regional summit was held in Riyadh. Participants, including Turkey, issued a joint statement criticizing Iran for its attacks on their territory and particularly for targeting civilian infrastructure. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, speaking on behalf of the group said that the Gulf countries have issued their “last warnings” to Iran and would be forced to retaliate if the Iranian attacks continue. “The Gulf countries are questioning why Iran is

targeting them in this war,” Fidan said. “They say, ‘We have nothing to do with the outbreak of this war; that is a separate matter.’ They also say, ‘The attack against us is unjust, and we need to respond to it.’”

History's greatest energy shock

Meanwhile, Israel and Iran continue to attack each other's territory, and Israel continues to pound Lebanon with airstrikes in an effort to dislodge Hezbollah.

The knock-on effects of this crisis cannot be overstated or exaggerated. As many have intimated, this is the greatest energy shock that the world has seen, and its after-effects will be profound and felt for years to come.

In my previous comments, I referred to the impacts on shipments of oil and LNG to the nations of the world. I mentioned how outbound shipments of refined petroleum products, helium, sulfur, fertilizer, and inbound shipments of food, medical supplies, medicine, and the entire tourism and business-hub economies of the Middle East have been ground to a halt.

It would take too long to list all the hardships being visited on the world's population. Some examples are lack of cooking gas in India, an emergency declared in the Philippines, rationing as far away as Australia, soaring gasoline and cooking gas prices worldwide, and the prospect of soaring inflation as businesses grapple with frightening escalations of raw materials

prices, energy costs, and supply chain lock-ups.

To keep things in perspective, note that almost 90% of the oil and LNG flowing out of the Strait of Hormuz goes to Asian countries.

This crisis has created a windfall of oil profits for Russia and Iran too, as President Trump has lifted sanctions on the sale of oil by those countries.

The biggest problem, however, is finding an off-ramp that keeps Iran from getting a nuclear arsenal. Iran is unlikely to agree. At least, the present regime — what is left of the present regime — is unlikely to agree. Although President Trump declared that the US has already caused regime change in Iran, the commentator Karim Sadjadpour wryly observed that what we have is nothing more than a personnel change.

If the word “existential” has any meaning, the ruling group in Iran surely grasps that they are in an existential battle.

Kim Jong Un of North Korea castigated the US for its “unjustified” attack on Iran and declared that this had vindicated his country's decision never to give up its nuclear weapons.

As President Trump calls for a peace deal with Iran, one thing seems certain. If any vestige of the ruling Ayatollah theocracy remains in power, Iran will have nuclear weapons sooner rather than later.

Existential off-ramp

Reports circulating suggest that the US has proffered a 15-point peace plan to Iran. As expected, Iran has rejected it. Iran insists on its right to refine uranium for peaceful (wink-wink) purposes, seeks guarantees that there will be no future attacks on its territory, and wants reparations for the damage done by US and Israeli bombs.

Putting aside that no guarantee against a future attack by either Israel or the US has any meaning, and if some means for transferring money to satisfy the reparations issue, one way or another, can be found, it seems unrealistic for Iran to agree that it will never have a nuclear weapon. Or maybe not. The *Wall Street Journal* reports: “The US and Israel have temporarily removed two senior Iranian officials from their list of officials to eliminate as they explore possible peace talks, US officials said. Iranian parliamentary speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi have been removed from the target list for up to four or five days as President Trump opens the door to high-level negotiations for ending the war, the officials said.”

Is it possible that Ghalibaf and Araghchi will have an existential off-ramp and find a way to ink a peace deal to save their own lives? Of course, the public discourse will be about how they saved Iran's honour.

Or is giving in to Iran's nuclear ambitions the only way that this conflict will resolve short of regime elimination?

There is no 15-point plan that provides the answer. At least not one that Israel can abide.

Cheerz...
Bwana



Vijay Makhan

When Narratives Become Weapons

Fog, miscalculation and the erosion of credibility in an age of shifting justifications

In the current Middle East crisis, narratives are moving faster than facts — fuelling uncertainty, eroding credibility and increasing the risk of miscalculation, with immediate consequences for small states far from the battlefield.

In modern conflicts, it is no longer only weapons that shape outcomes. Narratives do.

In war, truth has long been described as the first casualty. Today, something more deliberate appears to be at work: **uncertainty** itself is being deployed as an **instrument of strategy**.

Recent reports surrounding alleged missile activity in the direction of Diego Garcia illustrate this reality with unusual clarity. Claims have been made, counter-claims issued, denials asserted. Capabilities are questioned, intentions disputed. What emerges is not a settled account of events, but a contested space of interpretation.

In such circumstances, the question is no longer simply what happened. It becomes: who benefits from what is being said to have happened?

When Narratives Overtake Facts

The current confrontation involving the United States, Israel and Iran is increasingly marked by the fluidity of its justifications, a troubling feature. We are told at one moment that Iranian capabilities have been “obliterated.” At another, that Iran stands on the threshold of acquiring a nuclear weapon within weeks. References to imminent threat are followed, almost in the same breath, by suggestions of dialogue — claims promptly denied by the other side.

This is not strategic clarity. It is, at best, inconsistency. At worst, it raises questions about the coherence of policy itself.

When the rationale for military action shifts so readily, credibility is not merely weakened — it is steadily eroded.

The Diego Garcia Question

Reports relating to Diego Garcia must be approached with caution and sobriety.

If, as suggested, missiles were directed toward the island, questions naturally arise regarding capability, intent and feasibility. If, as denied, no such action took place, then the emergence of such reports invites scrutiny of a different kind.

In either case, the episode illustrates a broader reality: in contemporary conflict, narratives can precede verification, and perception can shape reaction before facts are established. This creates a dangerous environment in which states may find themselves responding not to confirmed events, but to interpretations of events.

And that is where the risk lies.

Strategic Ambiguity or Strategic Confusion?

As a student of history — and over the course of a long career in diplomacy and international relations — I have come to appreciate that there is a longstanding place for **strategic ambiguity** in statecraft. It can deter adversaries, preserve flexibility and create space for negotiation.

What we are witnessing today, however, appears at times to go beyond ambiguity into something more troubling: **a pattern of shifting justification and uncertain signalling**.

When policy statements oscillate between claims of decisive success and assertions of imminent threat, when references to military action coexist with suggestions of dia-



“When policy statements oscillate between claims of decisive success and assertions of imminent threat, when references to military action coexist with suggestions of dialogue that are not reciprocated, the result is not strategic subtlety but growing confusion...”

logue that are not reciprocated, the result is not strategic subtlety but **growing confusion**.

Recent experience also points to a style of leadership in which policy is articulated through abrupt and sometimes **contradictory public statements**. Such an approach may command attention, but it **complicates diplomacy**, unsettles partners and increases the risk of miscalculation.

Ambiguity, when carefully deployed, can serve strategy. Incoherence rarely does.

The Lesson of Miscalculation

History offers a sobering reminder of how quickly misinterpretation can turn crisis into catastrophe.

In 1914, following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, a series of decisions taken under conditions of uncertainty and mistrust set in motion a chain reaction. Mobilisations were interpreted as threats, alliances triggered by assumption rather than certainty. Diplomatic space narrowed rapidly.

What began as a regional crisis escalated into a global war.

The lesson is clear.

Conflicts do not always expand by design. They often expand through misreading of intent, overreaction to signals, and the absence of clear and credible communication.

The present moment bears uncomfortable similarities.

A War Easier to Start Than to End

There is another dimension that cannot be ignored.

Wars launched with apparent ease are rarely concluded with equal simplicity.

Political leadership may initiate military action under immediate pressures — strategic, domestic or otherwise. But once conflict is underway, the calculus changes.

Costs begin to accumulate. Economic pressures mount. Energy prices rise. Markets react. Public opinion shifts.

Here in Mauritius, the impact is already visible in the rise in diesel prices at the pump — an early reminder that for small states, the economic consequences of distant conflicts

are neither abstract nor delayed.

Even in the United States, signs of unease are beginning to surface as the economic and political implications of sustained engagement become more apparent.

The challenge then becomes not how to prosecute the war, but how to bring it to an end without loss of face or credibility.

That is often the most difficult phase.

Small States in the Line of Impact

For smaller states, the consequences of this evolving situation are immediate, even if indirect. We are not participants in these decisions. Yet, we are exposed to their effects.

In such an environment, the greatest risk lies in being drawn into narratives that are still unfolding and facts that remain contested.

The imperative is therefore one of **strategic caution**. Not passivity — but discernment.

Small states must resist the temptation to react to every claim and counter-claim. They must anchor their positions in principle rather than shifting narratives and preserve their capacity for independent judgment in a world where **information is abundant but certainty is scarce**.

A Final Reflection

The current crisis is not only a contest of military capability. It is a test of credibility, coherence and judgment.

In an age where narratives travel faster than verification, the ability to distinguish between assertion and reality becomes a central element of statecraft.

For small states, the challenge is not to choose between competing narratives.

It is to remain clear-eyed in the midst of them.

For in modern conflict, the most consequential battles are often not those fought on the battlefield, but those waged over perception — and the greatest danger lies not only in being misled, but in acting too quickly on what we do not yet truly understand.

L'affaire du «Gang des Cinq»: Entre démission, corruption et devoir de dénoncer

Par A. Bartleby

L'actualité politique de la semaine introduit une phase d'incertitude qui pourrait durablement influencer les équilibres en place. Mercredi dernier, lors d'une conférence de presse très attendue - faisant suite à sa démission fracassante de vendredi dernier -, Paul Bérenger a jeté un pavé dans la mare: l'existence présumée d'un «Gang des Cinq» opérant au cœur même du Bureau du Premier ministre (PMO).

Au centre de ces allégations de corruption systémique se trouve l'affaire Mamy Ravatomanga. Selon l'ancien Premier ministre adjoint, des millions de roupies auraient été distribués pour parait-il faciliter l'atterrissage d'un jet privé appartenant à l'homme d'affaires malgache, alors que celui-ci fuyait les troubles civils et les contestations populaires dans la Grande Île. Bérenger affirme avoir, à plusieurs reprises, alerté le Premier ministre sur ces «pratiques douteuses», mais ses avertissements seraient restés lettre morte.

Le dilemme du «whistleblower» de haut rang

Cette démission soulève des questions juridiques et éthiques fondamentales. Dans un État de droit, que prévoit la loi lorsqu'un haut dignitaire de l'État découvre des malversations au sommet de la pyramide?



En vertu de la *Financial Crimes Commission Act 2023*, tout officier d'un organisme public — une définition qui inclut sans équivoque le Deputy Prime Minister — a l'obligation légale de signaler par écrit à la Commission tout soupçon de corruption ou de crime financier. P - Défi Media

En vertu de la *Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) Act 2023*, tout officier d'un organisme public — une définition qui inclut sans équivoque le Deputy Prime Minister — a l'obligation légale de signaler par écrit à la Commission tout soupçon de corruption ou de crime financier. Ici, le droit entre en collision avec la pratique politique. Bérenger a choisi d'informer son supérieur direct, le Premier ministre. Or, la loi, elle, privilégie la dénonciation indépendante auprès des autorités compétentes comme

la Police ou la FCC.

Certains critiques pourraient ainsi s'interroger: en ne saisissant pas officiellement les institutions de contrôle plus tôt, Paul Bérenger a-t-il manqué à son obligation statutaire? Ou a-t-il simplement épuisé les recours internes avant de prendre l'ultime décision de démissionner?

La preuve contre l'autorité: Un bras de fer

L'autre point de friction réside dans la

réponse du chef du gouvernement. Confronté aux révélations de son adjoint, le Premier ministre aurait exigé des «preuves» avant d'agir. Sur le plan administratif, cette posture est défendable: un Premier ministre ne peut déstabiliser son administration sur la base de simples rumeurs.

Cependant, sur le plan de l'intégrité publique, lorsqu'une information d'une telle gravité émane de son numéro deux, le Premier ministre ne dispose-t-il pas de l'autorité nécessaire pour ordonner une enquête interne immédiate par le biais du Secrétaire au Cabinet ou de la police? Exiger des preuves irréfutables dès le signalement peut freiner la démarche du lanceur d'alerte et retarder l'établissement des faits.

Les risques juridiques: Diffamation ou devoir moral?

Si Paul Bérenger ne parvient pas à étayer ses allégations concernant ce fameux «Gang des Cinq», il s'expose à des poursuites pour diffamation ou pour avoir jeté l'opprobre sur le gouvernement dont il faisait partie il y a encore quelques jours. Mais l'argument inverse est tout aussi puissant: on ne peut attendre d'un Premier ministre adjoint qu'il se rende dans un poste de police comme un simple citoyen pour porter plainte contre ses propres collègues ou des fonctionnaires du PMO. D'aucuns avanceront que sa démission constitue, en elle-même, son témoignage le plus éloquent.

L'affaire Ravatomanga, et l'atterrissage de ce jet Cessna en 2025, est désormais le symbole d'une crise de confiance profonde. La question n'est plus seulement de savoir si des millions ont changé de mains, mais de savoir si nos institutions sont capables d'enquêter sur elles-mêmes.

Une épreuve pour la FCC

Cette affaire sera le premier véritable test pour la nouvelle *Financial Crimes Commission (FCC)*. La population attend de savoir si cette institution aura l'indépendance nécessaire pour convoquer les acteurs de ce prétendu «Gang des Cinq» et faire la lumière sur les procédures d'atterrissage du jet malgache.

Paul Bérenger a choisi de partir en dénonçant. Le Premier ministre a choisi de rester en exigeant des preuves. Entre les deux, c'est l'intégrité de l'administration publique mauricienne qui est aujourd'hui sur le banc des accusés. Le pays mérite des réponses, et non des joutes verbales sur «qui aurait dû informer qui».

➔ Voir plus en page 7

Quels sont les pouvoirs réels de la FCC face au PMO?

Depuis sa proclamation en mars 2024, la *Financial Crimes Commission (FCC)* agit comme l'agence «apex» (sommitale) de lutte contre la criminalité financière à Maurice. Son mandat, défini par la *FCC Act 2023*, lui confère des prérogatives qui touchent directement au fonctionnement des institutions publiques.

1. L'indépendance statutaire (Section 7)

L'article 7 de la loi stipule que, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, la Commission n'est pas soumise à la direction ou au contrôle de «toute autre personne ou autorité».

Théoriquement, cela signifie que ni le Premier ministre, ni aucun membre du Cabinet ne peut stopper une enquête initiée par la FCC, y compris si elle concerne le Bureau du Premier ministre (PMO).

2. La révision des systèmes (Section 6-2-j)

L'un des pouvoirs les plus redoutables de la FCC est celui de mener une

«SystemsReview». La Commission est mandatée pour examiner les pratiques et procédures de n'importe quel organisme public afin de déceler les failles favorisant la corruption.

- Application: Si la FCC soupçonne que les protocoles d'atterrissage des jets privés sont opaques ou manipulables, elle peut exiger un audit complet de ces procédures.
- Caractère Obligatoire: Selon l'article 141(5), le refus de mettre en œuvre les recommandations de la FCC après une telle révision est passible de sanctions pénales.

3. Pouvoirs de perquisition et de saisie

Pour mener à bien ses enquêtes sur des délits tels que le trafic d'influence ou la corruption (Section 144), la FCC dispose de pouvoirs étendus:

- Accès aux données: Elle peut saisir des documents, des ordinateurs et des serveurs, même au sein d'un ministère ou d'un département gouvernemental.

- Mandats spéciaux: Avec une autorisation judiciaire, elle peut procéder à des interceptions de communications ou à des perquisitions pour obtenir des preuves matérielles.

4. Le devoir de rapporter (Section 55)

La loi impose une obligation stricte: tout officier d'un organisme public qui soupçonne un délit financier doit le signaler à la Commission. Ce point est crucial dans l'affaire actuelle: la loi place la responsabilité de dénoncer au-dessus de la loyauté hiérarchique.

5. Le cas particulier de Mamy Ravatomanga

Il est important de noter que la FCC a déjà communiqué publiquement (notamment en octobre 2025) sur la complexité de l'enquête concernant l'homme d'affaires malgache, évoquant des ramifications internationales. Cela prouve que le dossier est déjà «sous la loupe» de la Commission, ce qui rend les révélations de Paul Bérenger d'autant plus explosives pour la suite des procédures.

Géopolitique 2026: Un monde à la croisée des chemins entre souveraineté et chocs systémiques

Le paysage mondial actuel ressemble à une toile complexe où s'entremêlent des crises de souveraineté traditionnelles et des ruptures systémiques sans précédent. Pour l'observateur politique, l'année 2026 ne se contente pas de prolonger les tensions du passé; elle redéfinit les règles du jeu international. Entre la remise en question du droit international, l'escalade énergétique au Moyen-Orient et la montée d'un nationalisme économique musclé, les enjeux pour les acteurs mondiaux sont désormais existentiels.

La crise du droit international et de la souveraineté

L'ordre mondial "fondé sur des règles", pilier de l'après-guerre, traverse une épreuve de vérité. Le cas le plus emblématique reste le dossier de l'archipel des Chagos. Alors que le Royaume-Uni s'apprête à ratifier le traité de mai 2025 avec Maurice, le débat fait rage. Le bail de 99 ans concédé sur Diego Garcia est-il un véritable acte de décolonisation ou un compromis stratégique déguisé?

Pour Maurice et les pays du Sud Global, l'enjeu est la reconnaissance pleine et entière de l'intégrité territoriale. Pour Londres et Washington, il s'agit de sécuriser un avant-poste militaire crucial tout en évitant de créer un précédent juridique qui affaiblirait d'autres possessions territoriales. Cette "souveraineté partagée" interroge: le droit international est-il en train de devenir un outil de "géométrie variable" où les puissances définissent les normes selon leurs besoins sécuritaires, laissant les institutions comme le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU dans une paralysie quasi permanente?

Escalade géopolitique et sécurité énergétique

Le conflit impliquant Israël, les États-

Unis et l'Iran a cessé d'être une préoccupation régionale pour devenir un choc systémique mondial. Le "verrou de Hormuz" a sauté. En mars 2026, la fermeture de ce détroit vital a provoqué la plus grande perturbation de l'approvisionnement pétrolier de l'histoire moderne. Avec un baril de Brent dépassant les 120 dollars, l'énergie est devenue une arme de guerre.

Pour les nations d'Asie et d'Europe, l'enjeu est une réévaluation brutale de leurs stratégies de génération d'énergie à long terme. Nous assistons à l'émergence d'une stagflation mondiale qui menace de plonger les économies dépendantes de l'énergie dans des récessions techniques. Au-delà des chiffres, c'est la stabilité sociale qui est en jeu: la hausse des coûts de la vie devient un catalyseur de troubles domestiques, forçant les gouvernements à des arbitrages budgétaires douloureux entre défense et protection sociale.

Le nouvel entre-soi: Le nationalisme économique

L'ère de la mondialisation laissez-faire semble révolue, cédant la place à un "interventionnisme économique musclé" dirigé par les États. La fragmentation du commerce mondial s'accélère. Les mesures protectionnistes ne sont plus des exceptions, mais les composantes d'une fusion entre stratégie industrielle et diplomatie transactionnelle.

Un champ de bataille majeur est celui des minéraux critiques nécessaires à la transition écologique. Dans cette course, les gouvernements forment des alliances pour sécuriser des chaînes d'approvisionnement "traçables" afin de réduire la dépendance envers les acteurs dominants, au premier rang desquels la Chine. L'enjeu, ici, est la souveraineté technologique. Celui qui contrôle les ressources contrôle la vitesse et la direction de la transition énergétique



L'ordre mondial de 2026 se fragmente: la sécurité souveraine prime désormais sur la coopération internationale. P - GoodTech

mondiale.

Les conflits "invisibles" et la stabilité régionale

Pendant que les grands titres se focalisent sur le Moyen-Orient, d'autres crises couvent, souvent ignorées. Dans la Corne de l'Afrique, les tensions entre l'Éthiopie et l'Érythrée concernant l'accès aux ports menacent d'embraser toute la région. Un tel conflit pourrait déstabiliser davantage les routes maritimes de la Mer Rouge, déjà sous pression.

Parallèlement, l'Amérique latine connaît un basculement idéologique majeur. Le calendrier électoral chargé de 2026 révèle un virage vers des candidats de droite, favorables au marché. Ce mouvement est une réponse directe aux déceptions économiques subies sous les gouvernements de gauche sortants. Pour ces nations, l'enjeu est de trouver un équilibre entre croissance économique et réduction

des inégalités sociales persistantes, dans un contexte de volatilité mondiale.

Des questions sans réponse

Au terme de cette analyse, deux interrogations majeures subsistent pour l'avenir proche:

1. L'impact du détroit de Hormuz: Quelles seront les conséquences à long terme de sa fermeture sur le narratif des pays du Golfe comme "destinations sûres" pour les investissements étrangers et les expatriés?

2. L'émergence d'un droit alternatif: Le mouvement du "droit international par le bas", porté par les nations émergentes, réussira-t-il à briser l'hégémonie traditionnelle des principes juridiques occidentaux?

L'ordre mondial de 2026 ne se contente pas de craquer; il se reconstruit selon des lignes de fracture nouvelles où la sécurité, qu'elle soit territoriale, énergétique ou économique, l'emporte désormais sur la coopération globale.



Flambée historique du pétrole: la guerre au Moyen-Orient fait s'envoler les cours de 30%. P - DHnet

L'énigme du baril: Le conflit Iran-Israël et l'insoutenable fragilité de Maurice

En ce mois de mars 2026, le monde ne se contente plus de retenir son souffle; il vacille sous l'onde de choc d'un conflit que l'on craignait depuis des décennies. L'escalade militaire sans précédent entre Israël, les États-Unis et l'Iran a transformé le Moyen-Orient en une poudrière à ciel ouvert. Alors que les frappes de l'opération "Epic Fury" visent les infrastructures balistiques de Téhéran et que les représailles iraniennes frappent les bases alliées et les pétroliers, une question brûlante s'impose à nous: pourquoi, malgré cinquante ans de "leçons" historiques, sommes-nous encore les otages énergétiques d'une région en feu?

L'ombre de la "Seconde Guerre d'Iran"

Le contexte actuel est radicalement plus grave que les

crises précédentes. Le détroit d'Ormuz, véritable carrefour de survie pour 20 % du pétrole et du gaz naturel liquéfié (GNL) mondial, est devenu le centre de gravité d'une guerre d'usure. L'Iran, acculé, déploie ce que les experts appellent ses "options non-nucléaires": une capacité de nuisance asymétrique capable de paralyser l'économie mondiale.

Pour un pays comme Maurice, situé au carrefour de l'océan Indien, ce conflit n'est pas une simple nouvelle internationale; c'est une menace directe sur notre panier de la ménagère. Le Premier ministre, le Dr Navin Ramgoolam, a d'ailleurs récemment averti que cette "tourmente mondiale" pourrait amputer notre croissance et propulser l'inflation vers les 6 %.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 18

Vinaye Ancharaz, Economist

Iran War — “The risks of stagflation are real... However, I do not believe this is a terminal crisis”

Mauritius Times: Despite our geographical distance from the Iran war, Mauritius remains highly vulnerable to global supply-chain disruptions, particularly in relation to fuel and food imports. Moreover, with Moody's maintaining a 'Negative' outlook on our Baa3 rating, the threat of a sovereign downgrade looms large. Taken together, these vulnerabilities suggest that the economic situation could deteriorate in the weeks and months ahead. How bad is it likely to get?

Vinaye Ancharaz: You are right to be concerned. The confluence of geopolitical tension, domestic structural weaknesses, and a deteriorating sovereign credit outlook presents the most severe test for our economy since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our geographical distance indeed offers little protection. The conflict in the Middle East is transmitting shocks directly to our shores through two specific channels. Firstly, the Strait of Hormuz – through which roughly 20-25% of global seaborne oil transits – is now effectively a war zone. This had pushed oil prices above \$100 per barrel, but prices have dipped slightly following President Trump's claim that negotiations were under way to end the Iran war. If no deal is reached soon, the war may rage on, especially in view of Iranian officials' comments that no peace talks were on the table. With petroleum products accounting for approximately 20% of our total import bill, the pass-through to domestic inflation is inevitable.

Secondly, our supply chains are uniquely vulnerable due to a critical infrastructure weakness: our total national storage capacity for white oil (Mogas, Diesel, Jet Fuel) is roughly equivalent to 25-30 days of consumption. This leaves us gambling on the timely arrival of the next shipment, with no buffer for prolonged disruption.

The global investment manager, BlackRock, has projected that an increase in oil prices above \$150 per barrel could throw the world economy into a recession. While this doomsday scenario looks like a distant possibility for now, Mauritius is already contemplating some of the adverse effects of the war on the economy. GDP growth, forecasted to edge up to 3.4% this year, is now expected to fall below 3% in the case of prolonged conflict as tourist arrivals drop. Headline inflation, on a steady upward trend since March 2025, and expected to reach 4% this year, may jump to 6% amid rising world oil and commodity prices. The current account deficit is expected to widen – to 6% of GDP – as the oil import bill soars and tourist receipts decline.

Regarding the sovereign rating, Moody's decision to maintain a 'Negative' outlook on our Baa3 rating reflects an erosion of fiscal credibility. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) recently noted that the state's response to these headwinds has felt “unsteady,” with “policy inertia” and “questionable fiscal practices” denting investor confidence. A downgrade would raise our borrowing costs precisely when we need fiscal space to cushion the shock. It could also ward off FDI, exacerbating the pressure on the rupee to depreciate against major currencies.

*** So, how bad is it likely to get?**

The risks of stagflation – an ugly combination of slow growth and high inflation – are real, especially since structural weaknesses (such as lack of economic diver-

As tensions in the Middle East escalate and oil markets grow increasingly volatile, small import-dependent economies like Mauritius find themselves exposed to shocks far beyond their shores. With fuel prices rising, supply chains under strain, and Moody's maintaining a negative outlook on the country's sovereign rating, concerns are mounting about inflation, growth, and fiscal stability. Economist Vinaye Ancharaz assesses how vulnerable Mauritius really is – and whether the country is heading toward a stagflationary squeeze.



“**The risks of stagflation are real, especially since structural weaknesses persist. However, I do not believe this is a terminal crisis. Some reforms are already under way and the Mauritian economy has proved rather resilient during past crises. Ultimately, the severity of the outcome will depend on policy choices we make now. We must move decisively to diversify our energy sources, increase strategic storage capacity, and restore the technocratic competence that once defined our economic miracle. Without this, the deterioration you warn of will not just be a possibility – it will be a certainty**”

sification, energy and food insecurity, constant downward pressure on the rupee, rising wages and falling labour productivity, persistent labour shortages and skills mismatch, and vulnerability to climate change) persist.

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policy choices we make now. We must move decisively to diversify our energy sources, increase strategic storage capacity, and restore the technocratic competence that once defined our economic miracle. Without this, the deterioration you warn of will not just be a possibility – it will be a certainty.

***The Prime Minister recently signalled a “difficult” budget. In such a scenario, should the government prioritise fiscal consolidation to reassure markets, or expand subsidies and social safety nets to shield households from war-induced inflation?**

The upcoming Budget is shaping up to be an exceptionally difficult exercise, as the government finds itself trapped between the devil and the deep sea. The Prime Minister's warning of a “difficult” budget is no mere rhetoric – it reflects a genuine stagflationary predicament. On one hand, addressing the cost-of-living crisis calls for expanding subsidies and social safety nets. The government has already set up a High-Level Committee and allocated Rs 1.5 billion to a Price Stabilisation Fund to cushion consumers from inflation, including war-induced commodity price hikes.

On the other hand, the government's hands are tied by the prevailing debt situation, which Moody's is watching like a hawk.

☞ **Cont. on page 9**

'The government is unlikely to hike taxes or slash spending merely to plug a Rs 10 billion gap

The reasons for these actions must be deeper and more structural in nature'

“ The Prime Minister’s warning of a “difficult” budget is no mere rhetoric – it reflects a genuine stagflationary predicament. On one hand, addressing the cost-of-living crisis calls for expanding subsidies and social safety nets. The government has already set up a High-Level Committee and allocated Rs 1.5 billion to a Price Stabilisation Fund to cushion consumers from inflation, including war-induced commodity price hikes. On the other hand, the government’s hands are tied by the prevailing debt situation, which Moody’s is watching like a hawk...”

☞ Cont. from page 8

With public debt at 89.3% of GDP (Rs 654 billion) and a Baa3 rating with negative outlook, a credit downgrade hangs like a Damocles’ sword on the Mauritian economy. Moody’s has explicitly warned that delays in fiscal consolidation would trigger a downgrade, forcing the government to take a slew of unpopular measures last year (e.g., raising of the BRP-eligible age from 60 to 65, gradual suppression of CSG-related allowances, etc.)

The government has little choice but to prioritise fiscal consolidation – maintaining the debt-to-GDP target of 75% by 2030 – even as it tries to shield households through targeted, rather than expansive, relief. This is the grim reality of navigating between Moody’s gun and the social bomb.

*** How will a weakening Rupee combined with rising global interest rates affect Mauritius’s ability to service its public debt, and does this significantly narrow the government’s fiscal room for manoeuvre?**

A weakening rupee and rising global interest rates are a toxic cocktail for Mauritius. With nearly 45% of public debt denominated in foreign currency, every rupee depreciation inflates the domestic debt burden – and global rate hikes make refinancing that debt painfully expensive. This directly tightens the government’s fiscal space.

The challenge is stark: higher debt-servicing costs leave less room for productive spending or relief measures. Yet, given Moody’s negative outlook and its focus on debt metrics, the government cannot afford to ease up on fiscal consolidation. Any slippage risks triggering the very downgrade that would further raise borrowing costs.

In short, external factors are now dictating domestic policy choices. The room for maneuver is narrowing by the day – leaving the government with little choice but to walk the tightrope between fiscal credibility and household relief.

*** While we are self-sufficient in some vegetables, we import 77% of our total food requirements, including staples like wheat, rice, and meat. With global freight and insurance premiums surging due to the Strait of Hormuz emergency, is the Rs 10 billion Price Stabilisation Fund sufficient to cushion oil and food price shocks, or is it merely a temporary**

buffer that risks being depleted quickly and placing additional pressure on public finances?

Indeed, Mauritius imports almost 80% of its food requirements, including staples like wheat and rice, but also fish and fish products – an aberration for a country that boasts of an exclusive economic zone a thousand times bigger than its land mass! Unfortunately, the food security issue always comes up in times of external crises, such as the prevailing one, only to be forgotten once the situation returns to a semblance of normalcy.

Now, the Strait of Hormuz emergency has sent global freight and insurance premiums soaring. There are additional risks of disruption to supply chains, leading to commodity price inflation. Against this backdrop, the Rs 10 billion Price Stabilisation Fund should best be understood as a temporary buffer, not a permanent solution.

To date, only Rs 628 million of the proposed Rs 10 billion has been disbursed. This leaves the government some room for manoeuvre as inflation is projected to hit 6%. However, the difficult budgetary situation – with the public debt overhang and Moody’s watching closely – means any rapid drawdown of the Fund would quickly deplete it, providing only partial relief to consumers facing a persistent cost-of-living crisis. In short, the Fund buys time, but it does not address the underlying fiscal and structural constraints.

“ The government must urgently shift from blanket subsidies to targeted mechanisms that protect the most vulnerable while conserving fiscal space. Targeted vouchers are a proven solution. By leveraging the Social Register of Mauritius, the government can disburse food vouchers directly to households in need – a model already used in Malaysia through the “Rahmah Basic Contribution” (Sara) programme, where island residents use a smart card (MyKad), administered by the government, to purchase subsidised goods at designated shops...”

*** What specific mechanisms can the government use to prevent a cost-of-living “riot” scenario among householders if the Price Stabilisation Fund is depleted by mid-2026?**

To prevent such a dramatic scenario, the government must urgently shift from blanket subsidies to targeted mechanisms that protect the most vulnerable while conserving fiscal space.

Targeted vouchers are a proven solution. By leveraging the Social Register of Mauritius, the government can disburse food vouchers directly to households in need – a model already used in Malaysia through the “Rahmah Basic Contribution” (Sara) programme, where island residents use a smart card (MyKad), administered by the government, to purchase subsidised goods at designat-



ed shops. This ensures that relief reaches only intended beneficiaries.

Rationalisation of subsidies is equally critical. Instead of general subsidies on rice, flour and LPG, the government can limit subsidies on these products to targeted groups, and redeploy the savings thus generated to subsidise a broader range of essential products or extend the duration of support.

Best practices from Chile demonstrate the value of clear withdrawal rules: the Economic and Social Stabilization Fund (ESSF) operates with strict parameters to prevent premature depletion. Mauritius should adopt similar discipline – drawing funds only during clear crisis triggers, not ad-hoc political pressures.

Together, these mechanisms stretch limited resources, protect households, and avoid the fiscal cliff that leads to social unrest.

*** On the other hand, Mauritius remains 91% import-dependent for energy, with petroleum products alone making up 20% of our import bill. Since the government recently sought “stop-gap” diesel-powered barges to meet peak electricity demand, does this conflict effectively kill the 2030 goal of 60% renewable energy, or does the crisis provide the political “shock therapy” needed to force an immediate, massive investment in solar and biomass?**

The government’s recent move to secure diesel-powered barges as a stop-gap measure effectively signals that the 60% goal is no longer attainable.

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'External factors are now dictating domestic policy choices.'

The room for manoeuvre is narrowing by the day – leaving the government with little choice but to walk the tightrope...'

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Energy Minister Patrick Assirvaden himself acknowledged in July 2025: "We are at less than 18% renewable energy in the electricity mix. The target of 60% by 2030 is neither realistic nor achievable in its current form..." (l'express.mu, 30 July 2025). The government is now working with IRENA to revise the roadmap, with an updated interim target of 35% by 2028 backed by a Rs 30 billion investment in solar and biomass.

Rather than killing the transition, the current crisis – with the Strait of Hormuz disruption leaving just 15-20 days of heavy fuel oil stock – provides the political shock therapy needed. For an energy-insecure nation, where imported coal remains by far the dominant source of energy, and with petroleum alone making up 20% of the import bill, the path forward lies in accelerating solar, biomass, and battery storage. The stop-gap barges are a painful reminder that further delays to the green transition could have drastic consequences, with the risk of generalized blackouts looming large.

*** With airlines facing airspace disruptions over the Gulf and rising fuel costs, what is the likely contagion effect on tourist arrivals, connectivity, and foreign exchange earnings for the 2026 season?**

The tourism industry directly contributes some 9% to Mauritius' GDP. However, taking into account the sector's

“**Tourism's strategic importance was starkly illustrated during the 2020 pandemic, when border closures triggered a 14.5% GDP contraction. Today, the escalating conflict in the Gulf presents serious contagion risks. Airlines face airspace disruptions and rising fuel costs, likely leading to higher ticket prices, reduced bookings, and diverted tourist flows. This year, Mauritius was expecting to welcome 1.5 million tourists, but this milestone is now in question. A sharp drop in tourist arrivals could diminish foreign exchange earnings, putting pressure on an already-weak rupee, and further strain the economy...**”

entrenched linkages with the economy, its actual contribution can easily be in the vicinity of 22–25%. This significance is underscored by the 150,000 direct and indirect jobs it supports and over half a billion dollars it generates in income.

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an already-weak rupee, and further strain the economy. The actual impacts will depend on the duration and severity of the ongoing conflict.

*** With Mauritius rated Baa3 (Negative), how much fiscal space remains before a downgrade to sub-investment grade becomes likely, particularly if the government opts to prioritise subsidies over deficit reduction?**

Mauritius has very limited fiscal space before a potential downgrade to sub-investment grade. Moody's currently rates the country at Baa3 with a negative outlook, a status described as the "last rung of the investment grade category". The agency has indicated that it will likely make a decision within 12 to 18 months based on the government's fiscal performance.

The fiscal thresholds are precise. Government debt is forecast to decline steadily to 82.7% of GDP by 2030, well above the Baa3 median of 58%. The fiscal deficit ballooned to 9.8% of GDP in FY2025 but is expected to fall sharply to 4.9% in 2025-2026, largely due to the government's efforts at fiscal consolidation – often at the cost of its political popularity. Moody's expects this fiscal consolidation to continue into FY 2027, explicitly warning that "delays in fiscal consolidation that lead to persistently large fiscal deficits" would likely result in a downgrade to Ba1 (junk status).

If the government prioritizes subsidies and social support over deficit reduction, at a time when it is politically expedient to do so, this would directly contradict Moody's requirements and increase the likelihood of the dreaded credit downgrade.

*** With a Rs 10 billion shortfall linked to delays in Chagos agreement payments and another Rs 10 billion committed to the Price Stabilisation Fund, is it realistically possible to bridge this effective Rs 20 billion gap without higher taxes, deeper spending cuts, or increased borrowing?**

“**Rather than killing the transition, the current crisis – with the Strait of Hormuz disruption leaving just 15-20 days of heavy fuel oil stock – provides the political shock therapy needed. For an energy-insecure nation, where imported coal remains by far the dominant source of energy, and with petroleum alone making up 20% of the import bill, the path forward lies in accelerating solar, biomass, and battery storage. The stop-gap barges are a painful reminder that further delays to the green transition could have drastic consequences, with the risk of generalized blackouts looming large...**”

It is important to put things in their right perspective.

First, the Rs 10 billion committed to the Price Stabilization Fund should not be seen as a sunk cost; it is critical to combat the cost-of-living crisis, even if grossly inadequate. Second, the Rs 10 billion that Mauritius was expecting to receive as part of the Chagos agreement represents a mere drop in the government budget, amounting to over Rs 260 billion in FY 2026. Yes, the Rs 10 billion would have made a difference if added to the Price Stabilization Fund, but in the larger scheme of things, it matters little.

So, I don't think that the government would resort to higher taxes, steeper spending cuts, or increased borrowing just because it is short of Rs 10 billion. The reasons for these actions must be deeper and more structural in nature.

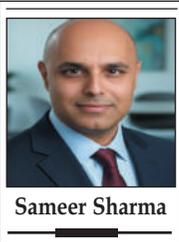
*** What structural reforms — including industrial policy and energy transition measures — would both reduce Mauritius's import dependence and reassure rating agencies enough to stabilise the outlook despite global turmoil?**

Mauritius stands at a critical juncture where structural reforms are essential – not to resolve the immediate Gulf crisis – such external shocks require short-term adaptations – but to underscore the urgency of long-delayed transformations. The crisis should serve as a decisive reminder that reducing import dependence is an imperative, not an option. The country's heavy reliance on imported fuel and food exposes it to global price volatility and supply chain disruptions.

Fortunately, Mauritius possesses considerable potential to address these vulnerabilities. Accelerating the energy transition – through solar, biomass, and emerging ocean technologies – can reduce fossil fuel imports. Simultaneously, expanding climate-smart agriculture, hydroponics, and the blue economy can enhance food security and create new economic opportunities. Industrial policy measures focused on enhancing labour and capital productivity – for example, through the adoption of Manufacturing 4.0 – can support economic growth, widening the tax base.

To reassure rating agencies and stabilize the negative outlook, the government must sustain its fiscal consolidation plan. Moody's has linked the Baa3 rating to credible deficit reduction, requiring tighter spending controls and greater revenue mobilization. This includes reviewing tax expenditures and reassessing taxable income thresholds that constrain the revenue base.

Structural reforms in industrial policy and energy transition thus serve a dual purpose: they build long-term resilience against external shocks while signalling fiscal discipline to credit rating agencies. By pursuing these reforms decisively, Mauritius can protect its investment-grade status and lay the foundation for sustained economic stability.



Sameer Sharma

The Architecture of Ambition

Why Mauritius must build an AI Ecosystem before an AI Infrastructure

For decades, Mauritius has navigated global economic shifts with pragmatism. Today, we are at a definitive crossroads. Mauritius Telecom (MT) has unveiled an ambitious Rs 20 billion (\$434 million) “Africa-Asia Digital Corridor” roadmap for 2026–2029. This plan aims to transform the island into a regional powerhouse through Tier IV data centres, 5.5G networks, and new subsea cables like T4 and SEACOM 2.0.

While this “Digital Bridge” vision is bold, it carries a “bet-the-company” financial risk for MT. More critically, it faces a Timing Trap. Between a year-long global waitlist for Nvidia B300 GPUs and the years required to commission redundant Tier IV facilities, Mauritius is racing against a clock that doesn’t pause. If we focus on the “plumbing” (the hardware) before we have the “architects” (the developers), we will build a multi-billion-rupee monument to a revolution that has already passed us by.

To win, Mauritius must adopt the “Autopilot” Strategy popularized by Silicon Valley giants like Sequoia Capital: building end-to-end AI services today on a hybrid cloud, while we solve the domestic infrastructure hurdles of tomorrow.

The Sequoia Lesson: From Copilots to Autopilots

In the traditional “1990s model” of outsourcing — which still dominates Ebene — Mauritian companies sell labour. We provide the humans to run the software that European fund managers buy. Sequoia Capital’s Julien Bek argues that the next trillion-dollar companies won’t sell software tools; they will sell the work itself.

The Copilot (Old Way): You sell a tool that helps an accountant work faster.

The Autopilot (New Way): You sell the “Closed Books.” The customer pays for the outcome, not the hours.

Mauritius has perfected the “Back-Office” where humans handle the “Intelligence” tasks — rules-based processing like KYC, document verification, and fund administration. But AI has now crossed the threshold where it can handle these tasks autonomously. If we remain a manual back-office, we are competing against an “Autopilot” that is faster, cheaper, and infinitely scalable.

The Hybrid Path: Solving the “Hollow Infrastructure” Risk

The MT roadmap for Tier IV data centres and subsea cables is essential for long-term sovereignty; however, the funding model needs to be refined, but it cannot be our only play. AI will not wait for our cable landings.

We must embrace a Hybrid Ecosystem. By using global cloud infrastructure (AWS,



“A hardware-first strategy is a multi-million-dollar gamble with a dangerous lead time. Mauritius must stop focusing solely on the “plumbing” and start focusing on the “architects.” The government’s role is to facilitate this ecosystem: streamlining the academic partnerships and creating a friction-free environment for international mentors to engage with our local talent. We must move from being a ‘Service Provider’ to an ‘Intelligence Provider’...” Pic - TechFinitive

Azure, or Google) today, our engineers can start building “Autopilot” services immediately. The true sovereignty lies in the Logic Layer — the proprietary Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) we design to solve specific European and American or even African regulatory or financial problems. By the time our domestic Tier IV servers are humming, we should already have a library of AI services ready to migrate onto them. It is indeed interesting that we don’t talk about building out the ecosystem of developers and services and just focus on the infrastructure layer so much in Mauritius. This is financially suicidal.

Extending the Autopilot: Credit, Lending, and Regulation

The opportunity to “sell the work” extends across our entire financial landscape:

Autonomous Credit Lending: Instead of a weeks-long manual review for an SME loan, we build a system where AI agents ingest bank statements and market data to deliver a “Verified Credit Decision” in minutes. We can export this “Lending-as-a-Service” across the African continent.

RegTech for the FSC and BoM: Our regulators can lead the charge. By automa-

ting the “Intelligence” work of license applications — cross-referencing international databases and AML checks — the Financial Services Commission (FSC) and Bank of Mauritius (BoM) could grant licenses with unprecedented speed. This turns our regulatory rigour into a global competitive advantage.

Building the Architects: Mentorship Over Hardware

The bottleneck for Mauritius is not a lack of servers; it is a lack of an ecosystem. We need a targeted, two-track approach to talent:

Fundamental AI Engineering: We must move beyond “IT literacy” to “AI Architecture.” Our engineers need academic training in the first principles of generative systems and vector databases so they can build the systems, not just use the prompts.

The Diaspora & Global Mentorship Bridge: The “judgment” required to build a commercially viable AI service cannot be found in a manual. We must incentivize experienced AI architects — from our brilliant diaspora in New York, London or Paris to international experts — to mentor small, elite squads of Mauritian engineers. By working on real-world private sector pro-

blems (like procurement leakage or fund reconciliation), these squads gain the “business taste” required to scale.

A Call for Strategic Realism

A hardware-first strategy is a multi-million-dollar gamble with a dangerous lead time. Mauritius must stop focusing solely on the “plumbing” and start focusing on the “architects.”

The government’s role is to facilitate this ecosystem: streamlining the academic partnerships and creating a friction-free environment for international mentors to engage with our local talent. We must move from being a “Service Provider” to an “Intelligence Provider.”

The 1990s model is dying. The future of Mauritius belongs to those who build the systems that make the machines work. Let us invest in our people today so that our infrastructure has a purpose tomorrow.

** A Tier IV data centre is the ultimate fault-tolerant facility, offering 99.995% uptime (only 26 minutes of annual downtime). Through 2N+1 redundancy, it ensures continuous operation despite equipment or power failures, making it the most expensive, reliable, and secure infrastructure available.*



Kiran Nandinee
Meetarbhan

Mauritius cannot Afford to Miss this Dubai Moment

In geopolitics, crises destroy value. In economics, they redistribute it.

The question is whether Mauritius is ready, at last, to claim its share

History rarely announces opportunity politely. More often, it arrives disguised as crisis elsewhere.

The escalating war in the Middle East is first and foremost a human tragedy. But it is also rapidly becoming a stress test for one of the region's most prized economic assets: confidence. And confidence, once shaken in finance, does not return simply because a skyline remains impressive.

For years, Dubai has sold itself as the indispensable sanctuary of capital in a volatile region: efficient, connected, sophisticated, safe. It is still many of those things. But war has a brutal way of exposing the fragility beneath even the most polished narrative. When international banks begin shutting branches temporarily, relocating staff, activating contingency protocols and reassessing operational concentration, the message is unmistakable: risk has entered the room.

This is not to suggest that Dubai is collapsing, nor that financial institutions are staging some dramatic overnight exodus. That would be lazy analysis. The real story is more subtle and more important. In moments such as these, global finance does not panic; it recalculates. Boards revisit exposure. Compliance teams revisit jurisdictional risk. Senior management asks whether critical functions are over-concentrated in a geography that can no longer be treated as insulated from regional fire.

That is precisely why Mauritius should be paying very close attention.

Because this is not merely a Gulf story. It is a competitive story. And unless Mauritius has once again decided that opportunities are best admired from a distance, it should now be preparing to position itself aggressively as a serious alternative, or at the very least a complementary hedge, for financial institutions, banking and non-banking alike, wealth platforms, treasury functions and investment structures reconsidering where resilience truly lies.

Mauritius has spent years speaking of itself as an international financial centre. This is the moment to prove that it is one.

The country possesses real advantages, not imagined ones. It has a sophisticated financial services sector, a functioning banking system, a mature cross-border business ecosystem, legal and regulatory structures that are credible, intelligible and grounded in institutional continuity. Unlike more fashionable jurisdictions that depend heavily on perception management, Mauritius can point to something sturdier: a financial centre built not only on convenience, but on legal architecture.

That matters.

In uncertain times, serious institutions do not relocate simply for tax arbitrage or brochure language. They relocate for enforceability, regulatory credibility, political calm, operational continuity and jurisdictional trust. They seek places where the law works, where the regulator answers, where institutions endure and where tomorrow does not depend on



“Mauritius must be faster than it is accustomed to being. This is where many opportunities die. Firms making strategic relocation or diversification decisions do not wait politely while files circulate. They move where the signal is strongest and the execution quickest. If Mauritius wants high-quality financial inflows, it must learn to act with the tempo of the opportunity, not the rhythm of administrative habit...” -- Pic - Dinku Transnational

the temperature of a neighbouring conflict.

Mauritius, for all its imperfections, offers much of that.

It also offers something increasingly scarce in global business: peace. Not performative stability. Not marketed stability. Real, lived, ordinary stability. Mauritius is removed from the theatres of military confrontation currently unsettling parts of the Middle East. It is not entangled in the strategic rivalries now rattling investor confidence. It benefits from a tradition of political moderation, democratic continuity and an external posture that is measured rather than provocative. In a more fractured world, neutrality is no longer merely diplomatic style; it is commercial value.

And yet Mauritius has a habit of underestimating itself at exactly the wrong moment.

Too often, the country speaks about opportunity in vague terms, while competitors move with ruthless clarity. This would be a grave mistake now. If institutions with Gulf exposure begin diversifying functions, Singapore will not wait. Neither will other agile jurisdictions with stronger marketing machines, quicker execution and a more instinctive understanding that in financial services, hesitation is surrender.

Mauritius therefore has a narrow window, not for self-congratulation, but for strategic action.

What is required is not another conference panel about the promise of the jurisdiction. It is not another round of institutional self-praise. It is not another brochure repeating that Mauritius is the “gateway to Africa,” as though slogans alone close mandates.

What is needed is a coordinated national offensive.

The Economic Development Board, the Financial Services Commission, the Bank of Mauritius and the Government must immediately align around a common objective: to attract financial and related business now looking for diversification, continuity and geopolitical insulation. Not in theory. In practice.

That means first identifying the most realistic capture targets. Mauritius is unlikely to absorb, overnight, the full headquarters of major global banks abandoning Gulf exposure. That is not the point. The real openings lie in functions that

are portable and commercially valuable: regional treasury operations, fund administration, compliance and risk teams, family office, wealth structuring, Africa-facing booking support, fintech and payments operations, and selected non-bank financial services. These are precisely the kinds of activities firms diversify first when they begin hedging geopolitical uncertainty.

Second, Mauritius needs a genuine one-stop framework. Any serious institution considering entry or expansion must encounter a single, coordinated state response, not a bureaucratic relay race between agencies. The EDB should originate and target. The FSC should fast-track and clarify.

The Bank of Mauritius should engage serious banking and treasury entrants directly. Government should remove friction on permits, tax certainty, executive relocation, infrastructure and policy coordination. One country. One desk. One message.

Third, Mauritius must go out and sell, properly. Not passively, and not with the tired language of generic investment promotion. It should be in direct conversation with banks, fund operators, private capital groups and non-bank institutions in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, London, Geneva, Johannesburg, Mumbai and elsewhere that are rethinking operational geography. It should be making a sophisticated case: Mauritius as a stability hedge; Mauritius as a legally credible base; Mauritius as an Africa-Asia financial bridge; Mauritius as a calm jurisdiction in an increasingly turbulent map.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, Mauritius must be faster than it is

accustomed to being. This is where many opportunities die. Firms making strategic relocation or diversification decisions do not wait politely while files circulate. They move where the signal is strongest and the execution quickest. If Mauritius wants high-quality financial inflows, it must learn to act with the tempo of the opportunity, not the rhythm of administrative habit.

There is also a deeper point here.

Mauritius should not market itself through the decline of others, nor indulge in the fantasy that Dubai is somehow finished. Dubai remains formidable. But that is beside the point. The issue is not whether Dubai survives this moment. It is whether prudent institutions, having witnessed the return of hard geopolitical risk to the region, decide that concentration there is no longer wise. If they do, then Mauritius does not need to replace Dubai. It only needs to become indispensable as the safer second pillar.

That is a far more intelligent ambition and a far more achievable one.

The global economy is entering an age in which resilience will matter as much as scale, and in which political serenity will command a premium that glossy infrastructure alone cannot buy. Mauritius has long possessed many of the raw ingredients of a resilient financial jurisdiction. What it has lacked, too often, is strategic urgency.

This is one of those moments that separates countries that merely describe themselves as international financial centres from those that actually behave like them.

Mauritius can either move decisively, with state coordination, institutional seriousness and commercial discipline or it can watch others capture business that might, with enough foresight, have landed here.

In geopolitics, crises destroy value. In economics, they redistribute it. The question is whether Mauritius is ready, at last, to claim its share.

Kiran Nandinee Meetarbhan is a Barrister and Strategic Adviser to financial institutions.

The Politics of the Spectacle

U. Dasin

In 1967, Guy Debord wrote a treatise titled *The Society of the Spectacle*, in which he diagnosed a condition of modernity that has only been exacerbated in our present times. The politics of the spectacle refers to a social condition in which image and appearance predominate over genuine commitment and in-depth thinking. The theatricalisation of public life deprives action of meaning; actors become puppets, keen on performing for live audience response rather than prioritizing authentic engagement grounded in structured thought.

One might have anticipated that those who have long relied on the manipulative tactics of the spectacle would possess sufficient restraint not to fall prey to the very mechanisms they have deployed in the past. Yet the

events of the last few days suggest that no one is entirely impervious to such pressures and ideological manipulation, even when they originate within their own ranks.

I am, of course, referring to the hullabaloo surrounding the resignation of the DPM, following his repeated “I love you - I love you not” tactics since November 2025 — curiously timed, each instance, just prior to significant official visits by distinguished heads of state. It is almost as though the frenzy accompanying the organisation of such visits unsettles the political climate, despite public claims of a desire to fight corruption from within. This is where, as the French expression goes, *le bât blesse*: if his commitment to combating corruption were as steadfast as he suggests, would it not be more effective to do so from within, employing a gradualist strategy, rather than engaging in a futile opposition against the machinery of the state?

Yet, notwithstanding his erratic tergiversations - which each time seem to capture the limelight and redirect political debate, sidelining more substantive issues - it is perhaps understandable (though not necessarily indicative of political maturity) that certain militant supporters appear drawn to the archetype of the “arch-revolutionary.” This is despite indications that the figure in question may now be less in a phase of revolutionary zeal, and more engaged in the continued projection of his own image. An image that survives partly because one overlooks the dense strategic networks that decades of realpolitik have constructed around him. In this sense, the DPM becomes an agent of his own political reproduction - a phenomenon that Frankfurt School theorists once attributed to the superficial logics of modernity.

What is less understandable, however, is the wave of reactions that followed this ostensibly dramatic exit, which at times verged on the theatrical. We have witnessed various forms of public posturing, with those presenting themselves as “pure militants” announcing their resignations from their posts in a gesture of allegiance via Facebook posts. At the time of writing, *Le Mauricien* reports at least six such resignations publicized in this manner. Each seeks to project a heightened militancy, implicitly contrasting themselves with those who have chosen to remain in office to confront the realities of governance and to uphold the responsibilities entrusted to them.

But what remains of the militant spirit if:

1. it subordinates ideology to the image of a leader;
2. it privileges family dynamics over the will of the broader electorate;
3. it becomes entangled in rhetoric that fails to withstand analytical scrutiny?

“The drift toward superficiality in public debate is driven by multiple factors, not least the impact of technology. The shock effect generated by the constant influx of information increasingly takes precedence over the substance of the information itself, mobilising emotion rather than reason. This dynamic contributes significantly to the weakening of meaningful political discourse. Perhaps it is time to pause, to check our reflexes, and to allow for more strategic, long-term thinking to guide our collective responses...”

This final point is particularly pertinent in light of social media posts praising the “principled stand” of a young militant leader. There are, however, principles and principles. When they are grounded in objectivity and intellectual rigour, they merit consideration. But when they are entangled in intergenerational loyalties and appear to disregard the voices of those tasked with governance — even within the same political formation — the very nature of these professed principles becomes open to question. Is such public posturing in the service of the common good, or does it ultimately reflect private or familial interests?

The drift toward superficiality in public debate is driven by multiple factors, not least the impact of technology. The shock effect generated by the constant influx of information increasingly takes precedence over the substance of the information itself, mobilising emotion rather than reason. This dynamic contributes significantly to the weakening of meaningful political discourse.

Perhaps it is time to pause, to check our reflexes, and to allow for more strategic, long-term thinking to guide our collective responses.



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War's lengthy economic impact

Analysts and businesses are concerned that the Iran war could drag on for months and have devastating economic consequences. Goldman Sachs told investors that it assumed oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz would remain at 5% of normal levels for six weeks before a slow recovery. Qatar Airways sent 20 of its largest aircraft to storage in Spain, preparing for months of disruption.

A group of executives told CNBC that the worst could be yet to come: if the Strait is not opened within two weeks, they predicted oil prices up to \$175 a barrel. Whatever happens, a prolonged period of high prices is coming, said The Economist: "Even the best-case scenario for energy markets is disastrous."

France's right lags in municipal polls

The French left won the Paris mayor's race, one of a number of blows to far-right and center-right challengers in nationwide municipal polls. Emmanuel Grégoire won just over 50% of the vote, a result Le Monde characterized as "the left's greatest victory in

Paris since 2001."

Marine Le Pen's National Rally, which targeted a number of southern cities, suffered several defeats, though it made inroads in smaller towns and said it was building momentum ahead of next year's presidential race. Another winner: one of President Emmanuel Macron's former prime ministers, Édouard Philippe, who won reelection as mayor of Le Havre and is seen as the favorite to advance to the 2027 presidential runoff against the National Rally.

Iran plans fees for Hormuz passage

Iran is finalizing plans to impose fees on vessels traversing the Strait of Hormuz, part of efforts to strengthen its grip on the key waterway. The battle for control of the strait — through which huge proportions of oil, gas, and other key global commodities flow — has sent prices soaring globally.

While Tehran has allowed a trickle of ships from friendly nations to pass through, the strait remains shut for the majority of Gulf nations, wrecking their economies. Some regional powers, worried that a quick US exit would leave Tehran in control of the passage, want to see a "conclusive outcome that addresses Iran's full range of threats," the UAE's ambassador to the US said.

War propels shift to EVs, renewables

China's oil demand could peak sooner than expected, a senior executive at a major state energy firm said, as the Iran war accelerates the turn away from fossil fuels. The country is the world's second-largest oil consumer, but demand growth has slowed as it shifts to EVs and renewables, and rising prices caused by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz will speed the process, CNOOC's deputy chief economist said.

Similar dynamics are playing out elsewhere: used EV purchases in Europe are up as fuel prices rise; one French retailer told Reuters that it doubled EV sales between February and March. And a UK electricity firm boss said solar panel sales had risen 50% since the war began.



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Kenyan flower shipments suffer

Kenya's flower industry is losing millions of dollars every month as the conflict in the Middle East upends global commerce. Horticulture is one of the country's most important economic drivers, generating close to 1% of its GDP. But the sector is reliant on just-in-time air freight, and routes have become longer and more expensive because of the Iran war's disruption to Gulf air hubs, forcing some producers to discard as much as half of their flowers.

The war has upended the travel industry too, with forecasters estimating airfares — which have jumped six-fold on some routes — will remain high for months. "Travellers hoping for a drop in long-haul summer airfares are in for a brutal reality check," Bloomberg wrote

Jury finds Meta and Google liable in social media addiction trial

A jury found both Meta and YouTube liable in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit that aimed to hold social media platforms responsible for harm to children using their services.

The decision came after more than 40 hours of deliberation across nine days and more than a month since jurors heard opening statements in the trial.

The plaintiff, a 20-year-old woman identified as KGM in documents, or Kaley as her lawyers have called her during the trial, says her early use of social media addicted her to the technology and exacerbated her mental health struggles, reports AP.

She began using YouTube at age 6 and Instagram at age 9 and told the jury she was on social media "all day long" as a child.

Meta and Google-owned YouTube were the two remaining defendants in the case after TikTok and Snap each settled before the trial began.

Jurors listened to a month of lawyers' arguments, testimony and evidence, and they heard from Kaley herself, as well as Meta leaders Mark Zuckerberg and Adam



US jury finds Meta, Google, liable in social media addiction trial. Pic - Al Jazeera

Mosseri. YouTube's CEO, Neal Mohan, was not called in to testify. Lawyers representing Kaley, led by Mark Lanier, were tasked with proving that the respective defendants' negligence was a substantial factor in causing Kaley's harm. They pointed to specific design features they said were designed to "hook" young users, like the "infinite" nature of feeds that allowed for an endless supply of

content, autoplay features, and even notifications.

Jurors were told not to take into account the content of the posts and videos that Kaley saw on the platforms. That's because tech companies are shielded from legal responsibility for content posted on their sites thanks to Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act.

Meta argued that Kaley had struggled with her mental health separate from her social media use, often pointing to her turbulent home life. Meta also said "not one of her therapists identified social media as the cause" of her mental health issues in a statement following closing arguments. But the plaintiffs did not have to prove that social media caused Kaley's struggles — only that it was a "substantial factor" in causing her harm.

YouTube focused less on Kaley's medical records and mental health history and more on her use of YouTube and the nature of the platform. They argued that YouTube is not a form of social media, but rather a video platform akin to television, and pointed to her declining YouTube use as she got older. According to their data, she spent one minute a day on average watching YouTube Shorts since its inception. YouTube Shorts, which launched in 2020, is the platform's section of short-form, vertical videos that have the "infinite scroll" feature the plaintiffs argued was addictive.

* Contd on page 16

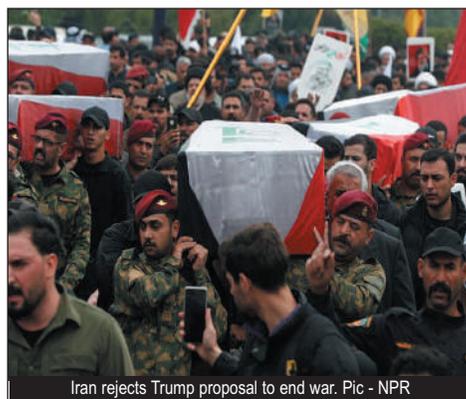
Iran warns of costly ground war as reports suggest possible US troop deployment

Iran has warned that any ground offensive by the United States or Israel would be "more dangerous and costly," as tensions escalate amid reports that Washington may deploy additional troops to the Middle East. The warning, issued by Brigadier General Ali Jahanshahi, commander of Iran's army ground forces, signals Tehran's readiness to confront any land-based military action.

According to Iranian state media, Jahanshahi said Iranian forces are "standing firm and steadfast on the frontlines of defense" and would "incapacitate the enemy" if ground warfare is initiated. His remarks come as US media reports suggest that the Pentagon is considering sending between 2,000 and 3,000 troops from the elite 82nd Airborne Division to the region.

The 82nd Airborne Division is designed for rapid deployment and specialises in forcible entry operations, often used to secure strategic positions ahead of larger military actions. Although no official confirmation has been issued by the Pentagon or the White House, the reports have intensified speculation about possible escalation.

US President Donald Trump has publicly stated that he is not in favour of sending additional troops. However, he added ambiguity by noting that "if I were sending troops, I would not tell you,"



Iran rejects Trump proposal to end war. Pic - NPR

leaving open the possibility of undisclosed preparations. Approximately 50,000 US troops are already stationed across the Middle East, including in Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan and Iraq.

Further complicating the situation, reports indicate that Washington is also considering diverting some military aid originally intended for Ukraine to support operations in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Trump has claimed that Iran is "begging for a deal," while Tehran has reportedly rejected a US-proposed 15-point peace plan as excessive and presented its own demands, including sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz.

With diplomatic efforts stalled and military signals intensifying, the risk of broader regional confrontation appears to be growing.

Snapchat hit with EU probe into alleged failure to prevent child grooming...



Snapchat faces EU probe over alleged failure to protect children from harmful content. Pic - Courthouse News Service

Snap-owned Snapchat was hit with an EU investigation on Thursday as regulators warned that the social platform appears not to be doing enough to prevent child grooming and the sale of illegal goods.

The EU probe is under the Digital Services Act, which requires big online platforms to do more to tackle illegal and harmful content or risk fines as much as 6% of their global annual sales.

"From grooming and exposure to illegal products to account settings that undermine minors' safety, Snapchat

appears to have overlooked that the Digital Services Act demands high safety standards for all users," EU tech chief Henna Virkkunen said in a statement.

The European Commission, charged with enforcing the act, said it suspected that Snapchat does not have sufficient safeguards to prevent children from being contacted by users looking to exploit them sexually or for criminal activities.

It said the company's content moderation tools were ineffective in preventing the spread of information pointing

users to the sale of illegal products such as drugs or age-restricted products such as vapes and alcohol, reports Reuters.

The Commission said it will take over Dutch regulators' investigation opened last September into the sales of vapes to children on Snapchat.

Other areas of EU concern include Snapchat's self-declaration age assurance tool which regulators said is insufficient, its inadequate default account settings, and its mechanisms to allow users to report dark patterns in its design.

Across the Globe

Maduro due in US court on drug charges

Former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was due in a US court yesterday to face narcoterrorism charges, a test of laws that have had limited courtroom success in the past. Washington has accused Maduro of heading the Cartel de los Soles, which allegedly funnelled large quantities of drugs into the US, using the accusations as the justification for ousting him from power.



Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, in handcuffs after landing at a Manhattan helipad (file photo)

The narcoterrorism statute has only produced four convictions since it was implemented in 2006, two of which were later overturned, according to Reuters. Prosecutors have also argued that Maduro should not be allowed to use Venezuelan government funds to pay for his defence, "an early skirmish in a long and complex legal war," *The Economist* argued.

S. Africa probe exposes graft

South Africa's police chief was charged with corruption as part of a probe that has exposed the staggering graft problem in the continent's biggest economy. The investigation suggests corruption extends to the most senior ranks of South Africa's establishment but also demonstrates authorities' willingness to do something about it after years of complacency, one of the journalists who uncovered the graft told the *Financial Times*.

Any progress could have a huge impact in South Africa: experts estimate that corruption costs South Africa as much as 4% of its GDP every year, a pattern seen across much of the continent. According to the UN, graft on the continent accounts for around \$90 billion annually.

AI gathering rejects papers over AI use



Go Nakamura/File Photo/Reuters

A major AI research conference rejected hundreds of papers after revealing that the authors used AI. The International Conference on Machine Learning requires submitting authors to review other submissions, and use of AI to do so is banned. The organizers set a trap: they distributed papers for review and included hidden-text watermarks instructing AIs to include telltale phrases. About 2% of authors were caught, and their papers rejected, *Nature* reported.

A 2025 AI conference found 21% of peer reviews were likely AI-generated, and another found hundreds of apparently hallucinated citations in papers. The problem is greatest in AI research but widespread elsewhere: one publisher retracted 8,000 fraudulent articles in 2023, as AI tools make generating fake papers easy.

Musketeer's remains found in church

The suspected remains of Charles de Batz de Castelmore, better known as d'Artagnan from *The Three Musketeers*, have been found under a Dutch church. Alexandre Dumas' famous novel and its sequels were based on the fictionalized biography of a real Gascon soldier who rose through the ranks of the royal musketeers under the reign of Louis XIV.

While the hero existed — as did Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, or at least musketeers with similar names — most of the actual stories are invented, either by the sensationalist biographer or Dumas himself. D'Artagnan was killed by a musket ball to the throat in the siege of Maastricht in 1673, and excavators believe that a skeleton found in the city was his.

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 330

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 23 December, 1960

• *Of the Wrong we are always conscious, of the Right never. — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Within two days, 1960 will be over: one year will end and another will start. It is but natural that we pause and take stock of our position. It is the time for an appraisal of the past, just as it is the right time for planning the year ahead. The end of a year — or of any period for that matter — is one of those moments in human life that shows there is, after all, a break in everything; it unmistakably illustrates that a respite is inevitable. Nothing is truly static, and so it has been with 1960 — a fateful year for Mauritius.

1960 will go down in our history as a very sad year. People have already stopped talking of the terrific cyclone of 1892; Carol has now superseded it. "Carol" has come to mean "terrific" in the superlative. In view of the devastation and misery that followed, it will be difficult indeed to forget the year 1960. Those who lost their lives during the cyclone will be mourned for years to come, and those who have been made homeless may only find their memories mitigated once they have a sound roof over their heads. Beyond individual misery, the economy of the country will take years to recuperate. What has been lost is well and truly lost; to make it good, great efforts are needed.

Although 1960 will be remembered for the misery suffered by the people, it will also be remembered for the fortitude and equanimity with which most faced those difficult hours. A people is known by its moments of trial. It must be deplored, however, that certain political upstarts, hankering after cheap publicity, have been misleading the people by telling them that everything must be done by the Government alone. But we do not despair; one encounters such phenomena during periods of instability and transition. With the passage of time, there will be no more room for upstarts.

Another very important reason why 1960 will be remembered is the political climate it fostered. Politics has taken on a new look during the outgoing year: the Mauritius Labour Party came out with flying colours at Quatre Bornes but lost the Municipality, while the Parti Mauricien, which was a decaying party, has emerged with added strength. The Parti Mauricien has succeeded in dividing the Muslim community, and the capitalists have shown that their money can be freely used to destroy the Labour Party.

And what about the Labour Party? It presents a pitiable sight. It has no proper organisation and is being defeated both from within and from without. We have, on many previous occasions, urged in these very columns that the Labour Party — its Chairman and Executive — should try to organize the constituencies and maintain more frequent contact with the people. But neither the Chairman nor

Editorial

Goodbye 1960



People have already stopped talking of the terrific cyclone of 1892; Carol has now superseded it. "Carol" has come to mean "terrific" in the superlative. In view of the devastation and misery that followed, it will be difficult indeed to forget the year 1960. Those who lost their lives during the cyclone will be mourned for years to come, and those who have been made homeless may only find their memories mitigated once they have a sound roof over their heads - P - histoiresmauriciennes.com

the Party has ever paid any heed to our warnings. Will anyone pay heed now?

The Labour Party is being defeated on four fronts. First, it is not keeping contact with the people — here, the Opposition is simply walking over them. Secondly, the press is totally against the Party: every day the Opposition carries articles against the Party and others boosting the Opposition, while the Labour Party is busy writing poetry! When, during the last two years, has the Labour Party replied to the systematic press campaign against it? Thirdly, the Labour Party is being belittled in the Legislative Council: every Council meeting becomes a day of rejoicing for the Opposition. What the Party does is being twisted, distorted, and misrepresented by the Opposition in the Council and on the platform, yet the Labour Party keeps mum; no answer is made. The Labour Party does not realize that the Opposition has turned the Legislature into a political platform; until it does so, it will be difficult to beat the combined forces of the Parti Mauricien and the Independent Forward Bloc. Fourthly and lastly, a good section of the trade union movement has been turned against the Labour Party, and the Party has never cared to look into this matter or take

action.

How, then, can we expect to be popular with the people? Have the leaders of the Party not yet realized this? Are we going to remain cloistered in our homes

and offices and call it politics? Mr Bissoondoyal has written about 20 articles against the Labour Party, each replete with nonsensical arguments, yet no one replied to him. *Le Mauricien*, under the editorship of Mr André Masson, attacks us every day; what do we do except write poetry? The time has now come for a drastic change in the Party's approach. We repeat: if this is not done now, we shall merely be asking for independence under a Parti Mauricien and IFB coalition government. We hope that the new year, 1961, will bring about the necessary awakening, and that as the year starts, new decisions will be taken and the groundwork will already be in hand.

1961, therefore, offers many prospects, but not without difficulties. The Party structure must be reorganized to ensure direct and constant contact between the Party and the people. There will possibly be a by-election in Port Louis, which is bound to take much of the Party's time and energy. Besides, the Legislative Council will have as crowded a programme as it had for the 1960 Session. There will be a large number of important Bills, the Estimates, the Meade and Titmuss Reports, and the Commission of Enquiry requested by Mr. Rault will have started its work. Last but not least, there will be the preparation for the London constitutional talks. It is not yet known whether there will be a debate in the Legislative Council on the future Constitution, but we know there will be plenty of talk in public meetings. Be that as it may, 1961 has much in store for us; if Nature is kind, we can look forward to interesting and important days.

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L'énigme du baril: Le conflit Iran-Israël et l'insoutenable fragilité de Maurice

☞ Suite de la page 7

Pourquoi cette addiction persiste-t-elle?

Il est légitime de se demander pourquoi la diversification promise après le choc de 1973 est restée lettre morte.

1. L'hégémonie du coût: Même avec l'arrivée de nouveaux joueurs comme les États-Unis ou la Russie, le Golfe reste imbattable. Extraire un baril en Arabie Saoudite coûte moins de 10 \$, contre 50 \$ ailleurs. C'est cette marge qui permet au Golfe de rester le "régulateur" ultime des prix.
2. Le verrouillage des infrastructures: Notre monde a été construit pour le pétrole. Des engrais agricoles aux composants médicaux, la pétrochimie est partout. On ne remplace pas une civilisation bâtie sur le carbone en quelques années.
3. L'illusion du "off-ramp": Le président Trump semble aujourd'hui chercher une "porte de sortie" (un off-ramp) diplomatique, surpris par la férocité de la réponse iranienne. Mais tant que le monde n'aura pas changé de moteur, cette porte de sortie ne sera qu'une trêve fragile.

Maurice: Le défi du 60 % en 2030

Pour Maurice, l'urgence est devenue une question de sécurité nationale. Le pays s'est engagé dans une transition audacieuse, mais le chemin est semé d'embûches.



Le baril de pétrole a flambé lundi de 30% en quelques heures et tutoyé brièvement 120 dollars. P - Reuters

L'accélération nécessaire: Le gouvernement a réaffirmé son objectif de 60 % d'énergies renouvelables d'ici 2030 et l'élimination progressive du charbon. Pour y parvenir, plusieurs chantiers sont cruciaux:

- La biomasse et le solaire: Avec un investissement annoncé de 30 milliards de roupies, l'accent est mis sur l'énergie solaire agrivoltaïque et la valorisation des déchets.
- Le stockage: Le grand défi reste l'intermittence.

L'installation de 500 MW de systèmes de stockage par batterie (BESS) est impérative pour stabiliser un réseau qui ne pourra plus compter sur les centrales thermiques classiques à plein temps.

- Le transport, ce maillon faible: C'est ici que le bât blesse. Si nous pouvons décarboner notre électricité, nos véhicules et nos navires de fret dépendent toujours du pétrole. Le passage massif aux véhicules électriques et l'exploration de l'hydrogène vert pour le transport lourd sont les prochaines frontières.

Le prix de l'indépendance

Passer du pétrole aux renouvelables n'est pas qu'un choix écologique ; c'est une stratégie de défense. Chaque panneau solaire installé à Maurice est une petite victoire contre la volatilité du détroit d'Ormuz. Cependant, le coût initial est colossal. Pour une petite économie insulaire, le dilemme est cruel: investir massivement aujourd'hui dans une infrastructure verte, ou continuer à subir les taxes invisibles de la géopolitique mondiale à chaque plein d'essence.

Combien de temps cela prendra-t-il? Si la décarbonation électrique — le passage des énergies fossiles vers des sources à faible émission comme le renouvelable — est en marche pour 2030, la souveraineté énergétique totale, incluant les transports, ne deviendra sans doute une réalité qu'aux alentours de 2050.

D'ici là, nous restons liés au sort de Téhéran, de Tel-Aviv et de Washington. La leçon de mars 2026 est brutale: dans un monde interdépendant, la seule véritable liberté est celle que l'on produit sur son propre sol, à l'abri des vents de guerre du Moyen-Orient.

A. Bartleby

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: A sense of exploration defines your week.

Whether through learning, travel, or new experiences, growth comes from stepping outside your comfort zone. However, avoid overcommitting or taking on too much at once. A surprising opportunity may arise—evaluate it carefully before making a decision.

Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 18, 22, 30, 37

Capricorn: Discipline and patience bring progress.

Professional matters begin to stabilise, and your long-term efforts start showing results. Financial planning becomes important—review your goals and make necessary adjustments. In personal life, stability improves, allowing you to focus on what truly matters.

Lucky numbers: 4, 10, 16, 24, 33, 38

Aquarius: Innovation and fresh thinking guide you forward. Collaborative efforts can bring success if roles and expectations are clearly defined. Avoid emotional detachment in relationships—your presence matters more than your ideas right now. A new perspective could lead to an unexpected breakthrough.

Lucky numbers: 6, 11, 15, 21, 29, 36

Pisces: Your intuition is strong, helping you navigate subtle situations. Creative and spiritual activities bring fulfilment, but practical matters should not be ignored. Be mindful of your energy—set boundaries to avoid exhaustion. A quiet but meaningful gain is likely by the end of the week.

Lucky numbers: 1, 7, 13, 23, 28, 34

Aries: The week begins with renewed energy, pushing you to act quickly on ideas that have been delayed. However, patience will be your greatest strength. Avoid rushing decisions, especially in work matters where details matter more than speed. Midweek may bring a conversation that shifts your perspective on a personal relationship. **Lucky numbers:** 3, 7, 14, 22, 31, 39

Taurus: A steady and grounded approach helps you move forward. This is a week for building rather than changing. Work-related matters improve gradually, and your persistence will not go unnoticed. In relationships, calm communication strengthens bonds. A small financial opportunity may arise—handle it with care and long-term thinking. Avoid stubbornness when flexibility is required.

Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 16, 24, 33, 40

Gemini: Communication dominates your week. Expect emails, messages, or discussions that open new pathways. Your ability to adapt quickly will be an advantage but avoid spreading yourself too thin. Focus on priorities to avoid confusion.

Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 13, 21, 28, 36

Cancer: This is a reflective period where emotional clarity becomes important. You may find yourself reassessing priorities related to home, finances, or close relationships. Trust your intuition, but do not let overthinking slow you down. Support from family or trusted individuals will help you stay grounded.

Lucky numbers: 4, 10, 18, 25, 30, 37

Leo: Confidence rises this week, placing you in a position to lead or influence others. Recognition in professional or social circles is possible. However, maintaining humility will ensure lasting success. In personal relationships, listening will be more valuable than asserting yourself. Avoid unnecessary conflicts driven by ego.

Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 15, 23, 29, 38

Virgo: Organisation and discipline define your week. This is the perfect time to clear pending tasks and refine your plans. Attention to detail will help you avoid mistakes and improve efficiency. Health and routine should be prioritised, as they directly impact your productivity. A small issue resolved early can prevent larger complications later.

Lucky numbers: 7, 11, 17, 26, 32, 40

Libra: Balance is your focus, but it requires conscious effort. You may need to set clearer boundaries in both personal and professional life. Creative pursuits are favoured, offering both satisfaction and potential gains. Financial decisions should be approached cautiously—avoid assumptions and verify facts before acting.

Lucky numbers: 3, 12, 19, 27, 34, 39

Scorpio: Intensity drives your actions, helping you push through obstacles. A breakthrough is possible if you stay focused and avoid distractions. Emotional honesty will strengthen your relationships, while secrecy may create unnecessary tension. Use your determination wisely and avoid controlling tendencies.

Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 14, 20, 31, 35

Mauritius Times

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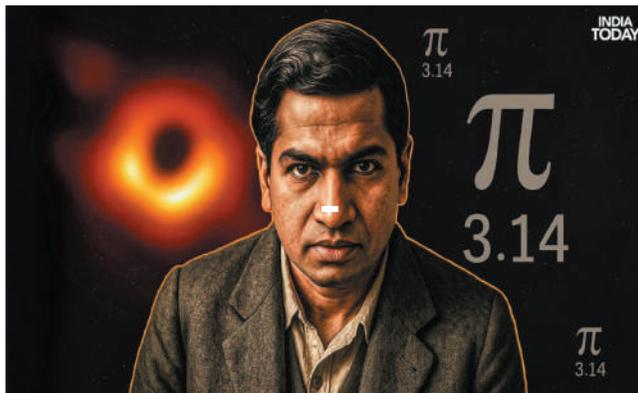
Ramanujan's 100-year-old Pi Formula still revealing the universe

More than a century ago, the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan developed a series of elegant formulas for calculating Pi. At the time, they were praised for their incredible efficiency. Today, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have discovered that these formulas are far more than abstract puzzles — they appear to be hardwired into the physical laws of the universe.

From Circles to Black Holes

Most of us know pi as the constant 3.14, used to measure circles. However, in a study published by the Centre for High Energy Physics (CHEP), researchers found that the mathematical structures Ramanujan used to calculate Pi are the same ones needed to describe complex physical phenomena.

"Ramanujan's motivation might have been very mathematical," says researcher Faizan Bhat, "but without his knowledge, he was also studying black holes, turbulence, and percolation."



lence, and percolation."

Scale invariance and Physics

The connection lies in Conformal Field Theories. These theories describe systems that look the same no matter how closely you look at them — a property known

as scale invariance. This occurs in various "extreme" physics environments:

- **The Critical Point of Water:** Where liquid and vapor become indistinguishable.
- **Fluid Turbulence:** The chaotic movement of air or water.
- **Percolation:** How substances spread through a porous material.
- **Black Holes:** The theoretical descriptions of these gravitational giants.

The IISc team discovered that the compact, efficient structure of Ramanujan's math allows physicists to compute key quantities in these complex theories much faster than previous methods.

A legacy beyond time

The fact that a self-taught genius in early 20th-century India — working with almost no contact with modern physics — anticipated structures central to 21st-century science is nothing short of miraculous. As Professor Aninda Sinha noted, the work highlights that "beautiful mathematics" almost always finds a mirror in a physical system.

Ramanujan didn't just find a better way to calculate a number; he provided a key to unlocking the behaviour of the universe itself.



Why do leaders go to war when it could damage their own people too?

Wars can start due to a disagreement, fear, or a desire for more power.

Before governments, countries and writing, there was war. People have always fought with each other. Archaeologists have discovered skeletons with weapon injuries that are over 10,000 years old.

Wars are very serious because they hurt people and the environment. They happen for many different reasons, and each war is different. People who start wars often think that the short-term benefits of a war are worth the harm to their own people. But they don't always understand the long-term consequences of their actions.

Experts use something called the "just war theory" to understand whether it's ever OK to fight a war. This is a very old, but useful, set of ideas that help people decide if a war is fair, how soldiers should behave and how to protect people who are not fighting, like children and families.

Just war theory says that countries have a right to defend themselves from invasion when another country attacks them. However, it also says that the harm from war must not be worse than the problem, that someone must actually be able to win and that people should try talking, negotiating and making agreements before they fight.

It provides rules for countries at war to follow. The rules say that normal people and the things that they need, such as hospitals, power plants and schools, should never be attacked because they help everyone live safely.

These ancient ideas have become part of the modern international laws and agreements that help make our world more peaceful. Unfortunately, not all countries follow just war theory when they go to war. Thankfully, we have laws in place to punish the leaders or soldiers who break the rules.

Why do wars start?

Wars can start due to a disagreement, fear or a desire for more power. Unfortunately, some leaders will choose war because they don't want to appear weak. Or



they might go to war to distract their own people and stay in control, because they feel vulnerable and unpopular. They might make a bad decision, really believe that they are right, then underestimate how long the war will last. The best leaders do not start wars in this way, do not make these mistakes and care about their people's long-term wellbeing.

Another reason why people start wars is because they think that invading another country will make them stronger or richer. As we use up things we cannot easily replace, such as fossil fuels for our cars and rare metals for our phones and computers, this increases competition between countries to own the remaining resources.

Peace experts like me also explain that climate change contributes to wars, as it makes it harder for people to access good water and farmland. It is so much better for everyone when countries bargain with each

other and share resources, instead of starting wars.

Even though wars are happening now in countries like Ukraine, Afghanistan and Iran, most countries still solve their problems peacefully by talking and working together.

Many experts think that wars are evidence of failure, and that everyone loses when they fight instead of working together to create agreements and compromises. Pacifists believe that war is always wrong and that we must strive to find peaceful solutions. I think that they have the right idea, and that a more peaceful world is definitely possible.

Becky Alexis-Martin

Lecturer in Peace Studies and International Development,
University of Bradford

Laughter is the
Best Medicine



Trump in jail

Two old men were sitting outside a tea shop in Arizona, sipping their tea and laughing uproariously.

A well-educated man passing by was struck by their high spirits. Curiously, he stopped and asked, "What on earth has you two laughing so hard?"

One of the men wiped his eyes and said, "I've finally found the solution to all this country's problems. It's simple: we just need to put Trump in jail and throw a donkey in jail right next to him."

The passerby looked shocked. "Wait... why on earth would you put the donkey in jail?"

Hearing this, both old men erupted into fresh fits of hysterical laughter. One leaned over to the other and wheezed, "See! I told you! No one asks about Trump — everyone's worried about the donkey!"

* * *

Fencing neighbours

I've been bored lately, so I decided to take up fencing.

The neighbours said they'd call the police unless I put it back.

* * *

Donkey meat

I recently ate donkey meat.

I don't recommend it -- it tastes like... ass.

* * *

Tip of My Tongue

A husband tells his friend about a gorgeous vacation: "It had a white sand beach, a huge pool, a spa..."

The friend asks, "What was the place called?"

The husband struggles: "It's on the tip of my tongue... Something flowery. Name a flower!"

"Rose?", "No." - "Tulip?", "No." - "Lily?", "Lily! That's it!" He turns to his wife: "Hey Lily! What was the name of that place?"

* * *

With Sugar or Without?

An Arab buys a golden lighter from a little old Jewish man for a million dollars. A genie pops out and grants the

man a simple wish: a glass of tea with sugar.

Amazed, the Arab rushes home, clicks the lighter, and demands his million backs, plus a yacht, a private jet, and two Mercedes. The genie sighs, "I'm very sorry, Sir. I can only serve tea or coffee... with sugar, or without."

* * *

Mother-in-Law Effect

I went to get a haircut the other day, and the barber kept asking me the same question.

"So, how's your mother-in-law doing?" he asked.

"She's fine," I replied.

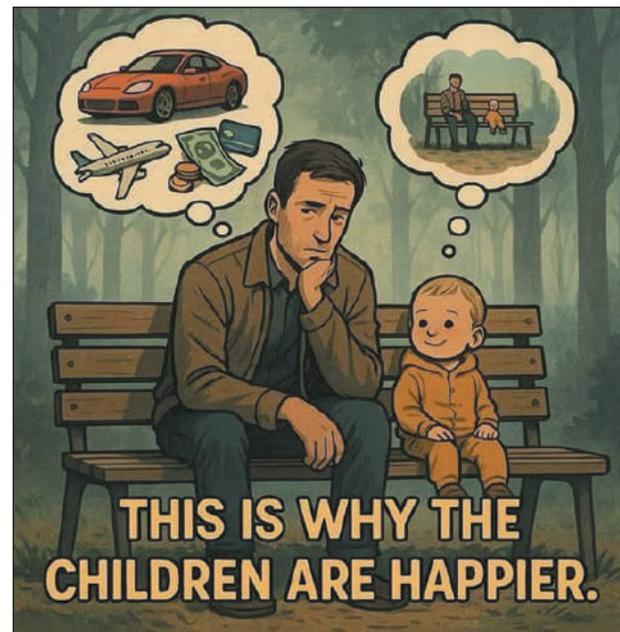
Five minutes later: "So, how's your mother-in-law?"

"Fine," I said, annoyed.

A few minutes later: "How is your mother-in-law doing?"

"Dude! I already told you twice -- she's fine! Why do you keep asking?"

The barber chuckled: "Oh, don't worry. It's not because I care. Every time I mention your mother-in-law, your hair stands straight up... makes it a lot easier to cut!"



* * *

Good and Bad News

A woman is at the doctor's office.

Doctor: "Your husband has been in a terrible accident."

Woman: "Oh no! Tell me..."

Doctor: "There's good news and bad news."

Woman: "Tell me the bad news first."

Doctor: "Well... most of the bones in his body are broken. Many organs are ruptured. His head is severely injured and he's permanently brain-damaged. He'll never regain consciousness, speak, or recognize you. You'll need to feed him, wash him, cut his hair and nails, manage his bowel movements, clean his teeth... the list goes on."

Woman: "Okay... tell me the good news!"

Doctor: "I was just kidding. He's dead."

* * *

A Priest and the Supreme Court Justice

A priest was being honoured at his retirement dinner for 30 years of service. A U.S. Supreme Court Justice, a prominent member of the congregation, was supposed to give the presentation, but he was stuck in traffic. To fill the time, the priest decided to speak:

"I'll admit, my first impression of this parish was... challenging. The very first confession I heard here

The dangers of predictive text



shocked me. The man had burglarized his neighbour's house, stolen money from his parents and employer, lied to the police, had affairs, exposed himself, took illegal drugs... even gave an STD to his sister-in-law!

I thought, 'How could one person commit so many terrible acts?' But over time, I realized my parish wasn't all like that. Indeed, it's full of good and loving people."

Just then, the Justice arrived to a standing ovation, apologized for being late, and began his presentation:

"I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived," he said. "In fact, I had the honour of being the very first person to go to him for confession."

* * *

Burglar Skills

A man woke up in the middle of the night and heard a burglar in his house. He called the police, who arrived quickly and arrested the intruder.

The next day, the man went to the police station and asked to speak to the burglar.

"No," said the duty sergeant. "You'll have to wait until he's in court. Why do you want to speak to him?"

"Well," said the man, "he got into my house at 2 am without waking my wife. I want to know how he did it."

* * *

Good News, Bad News

A man is nervously pacing the hospital corridor next to the operating room. Hours go by -- one, two, three...

Finally, the operating room door opens, and a surgeon comes out with a solemn expression.

"I'm afraid I have some bad news," he says. "Your mother..."

The man interrupts: "That's not my mother! That's my mother-in-law!"

The surgeon smiles: "Ah... in that case, I have good news for you."

* * *

Brain Transplant

A man is lying in the hospital, nervously awaiting the world's first brain transplant. The doctor walks in:

"Good news -- we can go ahead with your surgery. Bad news -- it's experimental, so your insurance won't cover it. You have three options:

- An engineer's brain: \$200 per ounce
- An astrophysicist's brain: \$100 per ounce
- A politician's brain: \$1,000 per ounce

The man says, "That's ridiculous! Why is a politician's brain so expensive?"

The doctor shrugs: "Do you have any idea how many politicians it takes to get an ounce of brains?"



The Joke Life Tells After Sixty-Five

There comes an age between 65 and 80 when life stops lying to you.

The mirror no longer negotiates.

The phone no longer rings out of politeness.

And you finally learn a truth that would save you years of stress:

Being lonely alone is far better than being miserable together.

Most human suffering comes from people who cannot stand their own company and therefore tolerate nonsense from others.

Life after 65 quietly edits your priorities. It deletes ambition, reduces noise, and highlights things you once ignored. The things you thought would matter don't. The things that matter now are so simple they almost look insignificant. Almost.

Start with a home. Not a man-



sion. Not an investment. Just a place with your name on the papers. At this age, a house is not pride in it, it is peace. Landlords suddenly develop allergies to grey hair. Cruel, but true.

Then there are the legs. If you can still walk to the shop, climb stairs, or cross the road without assistance, you are winning. Walk daily. Even if it's just to look busy and come back. Your legs are not decoration. They are freedom.

Friendships also change. You don't need many. You need one real one -- the kind who remembers your

birthday without Facebook reminders.

Children? Real success is simple: do they call just to greet you? If yes, you did something right.

Money too changes meaning. At this age, wealth is not luxury. It is dignity -- enough to live, eat, medicate, and sleep without begging.

Resentment becomes too heavy to carry. Anger steals sleep. Letting go is not weakness -- it is survival.

And purpose? Retirement does not kill purpose. Emptiness does. Those who find a reason to wake up -- a walk, a plant, a hobby, a grandchild -- live longer in spirit.

So, here is the joke life plays on us:

If you have a home, working legs, one true friend, children who call, enough money for dignity, and a heart free of resentment -- you are not old.

You are quietly winning.

Inspiration

The Quiet Architect of Radical Giving: MacKenzie Scott

In 1992, MacKenzie Tuttle graduated from Princeton as a gifted writer mentored by Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. Her life took a sharp turn when she met Jeff Bezos at a New York hedge fund. Embracing his vision of an online bookstore, she married him in 1993 and moved to a garage in Washington to launch Amazon. In those lean early years, MacKenzie was integral -- handling logistics, writing business materials, and steadying the company through its chaotic infancy.



MacKenzie Scott + Jeff Bezos

As Amazon scaled, she stepped back to raise four children and publish two acclaimed novels, remaining largely out of the public eye for 25 years. That changed in 2019 when her divorce settlement granted her 4% of Amazon shares, valued at roughly \$38 billion.

MacKenzie immediately signed the *Giving Pledge*, viewing her wealth not as a personal trophy but as the product of collective labour to be returned to society. Through her initiative, *Yield Giving*, she revolutionized philanthropy with a "no-strings-attached" approach.

By early 2026, her total giving exceeded \$26 billion across 2700 organizations, including record donations to HBCUs, Habitat for Humanity, and frontline Covid-19 relief. Despite giving at unprecedented speed, her net worth remains high due to stock appreciation. Eschewing legacy-building and named buildings, Scott identifies those doing essential work, provides unrestricted resources, and quietly steps away -- proving that extreme fortune can be redistributed as quickly as it was built.



Have Lunch With an Elderly Person. Pic - Flourish

Stray Thoughts

Have Lunch With an Elderly Person

Not out of obligation. Not out of pity. Do it because they carry entire lifetimes inside them.

Sit across the table and really listen.

They've lived through things you only read about in history books. They remember a world without cell phones, without social media, before the "swipe left" mentality.

They know what it was like to wait for letters in the mail, to work jobs that demanded grit, to love in a time when commitment meant something deeper.

Ask about their childhood. Their first love. Their biggest mistake. Watch how their eyes light up when they share moments most people have long forgotten.

They can teach patience in a world that rushes everything. Resilience without naming it. How to survive heartbreak, loss, financial hardship -- and still wake up each morning with gratitude.

An elderly person can show you what truly matters. Rarely money. Rarely status. Almost never the things we stress about. It's relationships. Faith. Family. Memories.

Lunch might cost an hour of your time. The wisdom you walk away with could shape the rest of your life.

Cody Bret

Philosophy and Ethics

The Grit of the Human Spirit

Reflections on Albert Camus' The Plague

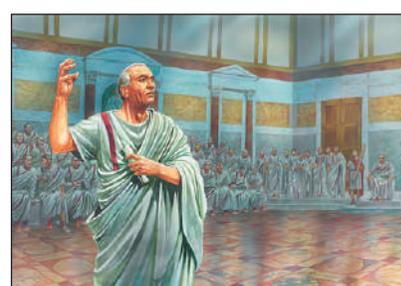
"It won't last, it's too stupid." Albert Camus wrote these words in *The Plague*, yet they feel like they could have been written this morning. While the book is famously a chronicle of a literal epidemic in Oran, its true power lies in its portrayal of "The Plague" as a metaphor for any force -- war, ideology, or disaster -- that catches humanity off guard.

Camus reminds us that "the pestilence is at work" precisely when we think we are too civilized or too "smart" for history to repeat itself. It is a timely, vital read for 2026 because it isn't just about survival; it's about the "grit" required to stay human when the world stops making sense.

The Timeless Art of Persuasion: Lessons from Cicero

In an era of viral sound bites and polarized digital debates, the ancient wisdom of Marcus Tullius Cicero feels remarkably refreshing. James M. May's translation of *How to Win an Argument* brings the Roman statesman's voice into the modern day, reminding us that true persuasion is not about "hacking" an opponent or scoring a cheap victory. Instead, Cicero treats rhetoric as a high-stakes civic duty where words have the power to shape nations.

Cicero's philosophy hinges on the idea that eloquence is inseparable from character. For him, the speaker's integrity -- their ethos -- is established long before they open their mouth. If the audience does not trust the speaker, even the most flawless logic will fail to land. He



teaches us that winning an argument is not about domination, but about aligning truth and ethics so that others choose to listen.

Mastering the Rhetorical Craft

To follow in Cicero's footsteps, one must balance the "head" and the "heart." While facts provide the foundation, understanding the audience's emotions is what drives a point home. Cicero also championed the

"invisible" work: rigorous preparation and a clear structure. A well-organized argument, featuring a logical case and a memorable closing, acts as a silent ally to the speaker.

Furthermore, Cicero emphasized the aesthetic of language. He believed that arguments should sing, not shout, utilizing rhythm and cadence to carry reason further than mere volume ever could. Above all, he argued that true rhetoric must serve justice and the common good.

Whether in a boardroom, a courtroom, or at a family dinner table, Cicero's guidance remains the gold standard. It transforms the act of arguing from a battle of egos into an art form rooted in responsibility, preparation, and the pursuit of a shared truth.

Networking

Stop asking "what do you do?": 8 better ways to start a conversation

We have all been there — standing in a crowded networking hall or sitting at a dinner party, facing the inevitable awkward silence of meeting someone new. For many, especially in professional circles, the reflex is to reach for the most standard icebreaker: "So, what do you do?"

However, as David Burkus argues in the Harvard Business Review, this question may actually be a barrier to building a meaningful connection. By immediately focusing on work, you set a narrow boundary that labels the other person solely as a "work contact," making it harder to find the deeper commonalities that lead to lasting relationships.

The Power of "Multiplex Ties"

To understand why "What do you do?" is a weak opener, we have to look at sociology. Researchers use the term multiplex ties to describe connections where people share more than one context — for example, a colleague who also attends your gym or sits on the same non-profit board.

According to Burkus, relationships built on these overlapping roles are richer, more trusting, and longer-lasting. A "work friend" who is also a "friend friend" is far more likely to stay in your life if one of you changes jobs. By starting with a non-work question, you increase the chances of discovering these multiple points of connection.



Better Ways to Build Rapport

If you want to turn a stranger into a friend (or a more trusted professional ally), Burkus suggests using open-ended questions that allow the other person to choose what they want to share. Here are eight alternatives:

1. **What excites you right now?** This is a versatile question. It allows the person to talk about a professional project, their children, a new hobby, or a recent vacation.

2. **What are you looking forward to?** This forward-looking question gives the speaker a wide range of positive topics to choose from.

3. **What's the best thing that happened to you this year?** A great way to elicit a positive story and learn about someone's values.

4. **Where did you grow up?** This invites a narrative about their background and how they became the person they are today.

5. **What do you do for fun?** This deliberately steers the conversation away from the office, revealing their passions outside of a paycheck.

6. **Who is your favorite superhero?** While it sounds playful, Burkus notes that the reason someone chooses a character often reveals deep-seated personal values.

7. **What's the most important thing I should know about you?** This is a bold, forthright question that gives the other person total control over their introduction.

The Goal: Connection Over Contact

The objective of these questions isn't to avoid work topics forever — the context of the event will likely lead back to professional talk eventually. Instead, the goal is to establish a human connection first. By asking open-ended questions, you aren't just adding a contact to your phone; you are potentially making a new friend.

Health Watch

Decoding Your Body's Signals: What Frequent Urination Reveals

Frequent trips to the bathroom often signal a shift in your body's internal balance

One of the most frequent health-related questions across various life stages involves changes in urinary habits. While increased frequency is often a temporary response to lifestyle choices, it can occasionally be the body's way of signalling an underlying shift that warrants attention before it becomes a chronic issue, writes Paul Frysh of WebMD.

The "Goldilocks" Rule of Hydration

The most straightforward reason for frequent urination is often the most overlooked: fluid intake. While staying hydrated is essential for health, excessive water consumption can dilute the salt in your blood to unhealthy levels. Experts suggest following the "Goldilocks" rule — drinking enough to keep urine clear or light yellow, but not so much that it disrupts your daily responsibilities. Similarly, substances like alcohol and caffeine act as diuretics, suppressing hormones that normally tell your kidneys to conserve water, thereby increasing trips to the bathroom.

Common Clinical Causes

Beyond simple hydration, several common medical conditions can influence the bladder's capacity or the kidneys' workload:

- **Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs):** As



Pic - American Prostate

the most frequent cause of increased urgency, UTIs involve bacterial inflammation that prevents the bladder from holding its usual volume. This is often accompanied by cloudy urine or localized discomfort.

- **Metabolic Signals:** Frequent urination is one of the earliest signs of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. When blood sugar levels are high, the kidneys work overtime to filter the excess, drawing more water from the body in the process.

- **Hormonal Shifts:** Life stages such as pregnancy and menopause significantly alter urinary habits. During pregnancy, hormonal changes and physical pressure from the growing embryo impact the bladder. In menopause, declining estrogen levels can affect the sensitivity and strength of the urinary tract.

Physical and Structural Factors

The mechanics of the body also play a role. For men, the prostate gland often

enlarges naturally after age 25, which can compress the urethra and create a frequent, urgent need to go. For women, the weakening of pelvic floor muscles — often following childbirth — can lead to similar issues. Even temporary conditions like constipation can cause the bowel to press against the bladder, mimicking the feeling of urgency.

Identifying the Need for Assessment

While most changes in frequency can be managed with minor adjustments to diet or hydration, certain symptoms serve as "red flags" that require a professional evaluation. These include:

- The presence of blood in the urine.
- Persistent pain in the back, side, or groin (which may indicate kidney stones).
- Fever, chills, or nausea accompanying the urge to go.
- A sudden, drastic increase in volume (reaching up to 15 liters a day).

Maintaining awareness of your body's baseline allows you to distinguish between a temporary fluctuation and a meaningful health signal. By addressing these changes early, you ensure that your physical health remains a stable foundation for the year ahead.

BollyBytes

"Operation Sindoor": Vivek Agnihotri to helm film on India's 2025 deep strikes

On Thursday, March 26, 2026, powerhouse producer Bhushan Kumar of T-Series and filmmaker Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri officially announced their high-stakes collaboration: *Operation Sindoor*.

The film is set to document one of the most significant military responses in recent South Asian history — India's targeted strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) following the tragic Pahalgam terror attack of 2025.

Grounded in reality: The "Tiny" Dhillon Connection

Unlike many fictionalized war dramas, *Operation Sindoor* draws its technical and narrative strength from the memoirs of a man who lived the strategy. The film is based on the book *Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan* by Lt Gen K.J.S. 'Tiny' Dhillon (Retd).

Gen. Dhillon, a veteran of Kashmir operations, provides the foundational "how and why" behind the mission that redefined India's strategic resolve. Agnihotri, known for his "Files" trilogy (*The Kashmir Files*, *The Tashkent Files*, and *The Bengal Files*), has emphasized that his team conducted extensive research across multiple



wings of the Indian Armed Forces to ensure a "truthful" and "unsettling" depiction of modern warfare.

A response to tragedy

The genesis of the real-world *Operation Sindoor* was the 2025 Pahalgam massacre, a dark day in which 26

people, primarily innocent tourists, were killed by militants. The makers describe the film as a "cinematic response" to that tragedy, illustrating how India pivoted from a policy of restraint to one of precision-guided retribution.

"This is not just a film; it is a revelation," Agnihotri stated during the Mumbai announcement. He noted that the film aims to show how India demonstrated its might in modern warfare while maintaining strategic clarity — a move he describes as an "edge-of-the-seat cinematic experience" built on facts rather than noise.

The announcement comes at a time when Indian audiences are showing an insatiable appetite for military procedurals. With the recent record-breaking success of Aditya Dhar's *Dhurandhar* on Netflix (amassing 215 million views), *Operation Sindoor* enters a market primed for high-octane, patriotic storytelling.

Producer Bhushan Kumar highlighted the responsibility of documenting events of such magnitude: "Some stories are not chosen, they choose you. *Operation Sindoor* is one such story — one that demands to be told with honesty."



Dhurandhar: Ranveer Singh Shatters Netflix Global Records

Ranveer Singh's high-octane thriller, *Dhurandhar*, has officially rewritten the history books for Indian cinema on streaming platforms. As of March 20, 2026, the Aditya Dhar directorial has amassed a staggering 215 million views, setting an all-time record for the most-watched Indian film in the Netflix Global Top 10 for post-theatrical releases since 2024.

The film's performance is a testament to its "incredible legs." While most blockbusters see a sharp decline after the first month, *Dhurandhar* has maintained a firm grip on the Global Top 10 for six consecutive weeks. In doing so, it has surged past previous record-holders like the heist comedy *Crew* (17.9M) and the critically acclaimed *Laapataa Ladies* (17.1M).

Even at home in India, the film remains a juggernaut, holding the #4 spot on the domestic charts despite the arrival of several newer titles. This sustained success cements Aditya Dhar's reputation for delivering high-stakes spectacles that resonate far beyond the Indian diaspora.

The success of *Dhurandhar* represents a significant shift in the global appetite for Indian action cinema. By sustaining a month-and-a-half-long dominance on the international stage, Ranveer Singh has solidified his status as a global digital powerhouse. Industry analysts suggest that the film's blend of high-stakes tension and Singh's charismatic performance has created a "repeat-watch value" rarely seen in big-budget spectacles. As it continues its record-breaking run, *Dhurandhar* has set an almost insurmountable benchmark for future Indian releases on the platform.

Kangana Ranaut slams Nora Fatehi song 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke'



The new song 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke' from the upcoming pan-India Kannada film *KD: The Devil*, featuring Nora Fatehi and Sanjay Dutt, has sparked intense backlash for its suggestive lyrics and choreography. Actor and politician Kangana Ranaut has now joined the chorus of critics, accusing Bollywood of crossing the limits of "vulgarity."

Speaking to news agency ANI, Kangana Ranaut expressed her disdain for the current state of the industry. "Bollywood has crossed all limits with vulgarity, tactics, and attention-seeking. The entire country is condemning and reprimanding them. But I don't think they have any shame," she stated. She further called for stricter regulations, adding, "There needs to be even more strictness about the display of such vulgarity and obscenity... I think some strict rein will have to be put on Bollywood."

Industry and legal backlash

Kangana is not the only prominent figure to voice concerns. Singer Armaan Malik also shared his shock on X (formerly Twitter), stating that commercial songwriting has hit a "new low." He noted

that he had to replay the clip to believe what he was hearing.

The controversy has moved beyond social media and into the legal sphere:

- **CBFC Complaint:** An advocate has approached the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) seeking an immediate ban and removal of the song, alleging that the lyrics and visuals are "highly vulgar, sexually suggestive, and obscene," particularly harmful to minors.

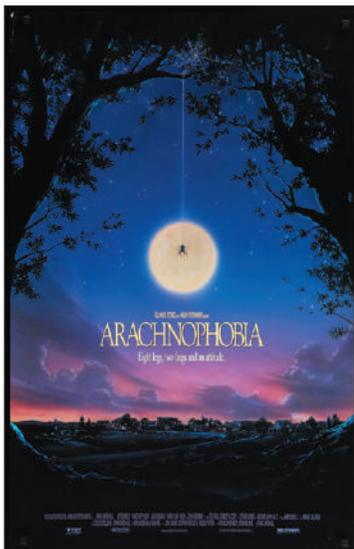
- **Police Action:** A separate criminal complaint has been filed with the Delhi Police Cyber Cell regarding the song's content.

Song details and removal

Directed by Prem and featuring music by composer Arjun Janya with lyrics by Raqeeb Alam, the song's opening verse has been criticized as a graphic double entendre. While the song was originally released in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada, the Hindi version was removed from YouTube as of Wednesday following the mounting pressure.



Vendredi 27 Mars - 20.30



Samedi 28 Mars - 20.30



Dimanche 29 Mars - 20.10



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 27 mars

MBC 1

06.16 Serial: Le Roman De La Vie
08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: La Voix Du Succès
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Helena
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: Abduction
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: Arachnophobia
22.14 Tele: Helena
23.04 Tele: Happily Ever After
23.30 Le Journal

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
11.30 Local: Couleur Marine
12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
13.02 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.14 Local: Profil
15.00 Local: Saveurs
15.33 Local: Parkour
16.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.01 Local: La Societe
18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Sur Prise
19.45 Local: Retoruvizer
21.30 Local: La Societe
22.00 Local: Music Tour 2025
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.32 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
23.49 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
00.11 Local: Nos Aines

MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Excerpts From Durga Nawmi
10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Khoj
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
15.49 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Excerpts From Holi Festival
19.54 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
21.13 Serial: Crime Patrol
21.59 Serial: Mere Sai
22.47 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
23.10 Local: Mati Ke Mol
23.36 Excerpts From Holi Festival
00.02 Humni Ke Sitaare
00.58 Local: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Asia 2050
07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today
10.41 Mag: Carnet De Sante
11.15 Mag: Eco India
11.55 Mag: Business Beyond
12.38 Mag: Tomorrow Today
14.32 Ammunition From The Sea
15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.20 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
16.00 Les Enquetes De Maelys
16.24 D.Anime: Jungle Boo Special
16.32 D.Anime: :Luna, Chip & Inkie
16.56 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.39 Doc: BRGRS
17.51 Doc: Japan Video Topics
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
18.26 Doc: Delicious Morning
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: Lawaaris
Cast: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
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: Lawaaris
Cast: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff

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03.32 Serial: Quantico
04.15 Serial: Elementary
06.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.26 Serial: SPY Among Friends
07.30 Serial: Nautilus
08.15 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
09.10 Serial: Quantico
09.55 Serial: Elementary
10.41 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Serf Meselesi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Arachnophobia
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: The Mountain Between...
22.17 Serial: Nautilus
22.59 Tele: Terra Nostra
23.30 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.21 Local: Tous Egau
06.53 Local: Nos Aines
07.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.11 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
10.15 Local: Metie
11.00 Local: Friday With Jerry
12.00 Local: Arsiv MBC
13.24 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
15.15 Local: Tous Egau
15.31 Local: Saveurs Plus
18.05 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.35 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.00 Local: Music Tour 2026
21.30 Local: Festival Du Film Au Feminin Reunion
23.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.33 Local: Tous Egau
23.40 Local: Saver Kiltirel
00.08 Local: Palette

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Excerpts From Holi Festival
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol
12.48 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
13.38 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Tenu Webs Manu Returns
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
18.58 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
19.13 Local: Ubhaan Ki Kahani
21.00 Film: Darwaza
Cast: Aftab Shivdasani, Isha Sharvani
22.46 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.12 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
06.45 D.Anime: Not Quite Narwhal
07.09 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau Renard
08.21 D.Anime: Madagascar
08.56 D.Anime: Dino Ranch
10.44 Serial: The Worst Witch
11.50 Doc: Galapagos
14.29 Doc: The Secrets Of The...
15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
15.14 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
16.04 D.Anime: Les Enquetes De...
16.30 D.Anime: Jungle Book...
16.47 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie
17.35 Doc: BRGRS
18.00 Doc: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Delicious Morning
19.02 Mag: Business Africa
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.53 Doc: Museums
21.45 Film: The Happening
23.21 Doc: The Battle Of Th...

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: 8 X 10 Tasveer
With: Akshay Kumar, Ayesha Takia, Jaaved Jaferi, Girish Karnad
21.00 Beyhadh 2
21.30 Crime Patrol

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03.21 Film: The Happening
04.47 Doc: BRGRS
04.56 Doc: Quotes By Famous...
06.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.30 Film: The Mountain Between...
08.20 Serial: Elementary
09.10 Film: Bowfinger
10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.34 Film: Winchester 73 Western
14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: The Mountain Between...
17.30 Doc: Country Dreams
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: The Impossible
22.13 Serial: S.W.A.T.
23.00 Terra Nostra
23.30 Le Journal

08.44 Local: Profil
09.04 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.30 La Barre De Recherche
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
11.50 En Direct De La Place Saint-Pierre, Chapelle Papale
14.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
15.00 Local: Teresa Mere De La Charite Comedie Musicale
17.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
18.00 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.43 Local: Tous Egau
20.30 Local: Les Klips
21.22 Festival Du Film Au Feminin...
22.52 Local: Clin D'oeil
23.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin
23.33 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne
00.15 Local: Zenn Aktif

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.20 Local: Puranya Pakwan
10.38 Serial: Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Divya Shakti
Starring: Ajay Devgn, Raveena Tagore
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Local: Puranya Pakwan
15.41 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
16.47 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mehfil-E-Ghazal
19.47 Kathak Recital Dedicated...
20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
20.52 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.23 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
23.31 Local: Mehfil-E-Ghazal
00.23 Local: Hunarbaaz
00.47 Kathak Recital Dedicated To Lord Shiva

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
08.10 D.Anime: Madagascar
08.33 D.Anime: Word Party
10.00 D.Anime: Handico
10.32 Serial: The Worst Witch
14.00 Doc: Twin Sisters
15.04 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
15.14 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.20 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
15.56 D.Anime: Rockabye Island
16.07 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic
16.36 D.Anime: Jungle Book
16.50 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie
17.13 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
18.00 Mag: Rev Special
18.26 Doc: Delicious Morning
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
21.49 Film: Cyrano De Bergerac
Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Anne Brochet

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
16.21 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Achanak
Cast: Govinda, Manisha Koirala, Raj Babbar, Salim Ghouse, Shakti Kapoor

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04.08 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
04.36 Tele: Lying Heart
06.15 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour
07.04 Serial: Hawaii
07.45 Tele: All The Flowers
08.09 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Cyrano De Bergerac
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Helena
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
19.30 Le Journal
20.18 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
21.00 Serial: Berlin Station

09.24 Local: Tous Egau
09.38 Local: Clin D'Oeil
10.00 Film: Rivka
11.50 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
12.30 Serial: L'Expiation
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.03 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
16.00 Local: Les Klips
16.52 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 Egau
21.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.53 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
22.11 Local: Paroles Agricoles
22.35 Local: Grand Titre
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Amar Akhbar Anthony
Cast: Vinod Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor
15.00 Samachar
15.51 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
18.57 Hindi Poet's Meet
19.24 Excerpts From Durga Nawmi
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Basera
Cast: Shashi Kapoor, Rekha
23.14 Mere Sai
00.23 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.24 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein

06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.21 Mag: Arts Unveiled
07.47 Doc: Une Femme A La Tete...
09.26 Doc: Africa
11.59 Mag: Rev Special
12.13 Mag: Travel
12.24 Doc: A La Reconquete Des...
13.16 Mag: Arts Unveiled
15.00 Serial: Momolu Et Ses Amis
15.15 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
15.20 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
16.00 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic...
16.33 D.Anime: Jungle Book
16.50 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie
17.40 Doc: BRGRS
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.31 Mag: Choices
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.30 Live: News
20.53 Tele: Asintado
21.40 Film: Lady Of The Manor

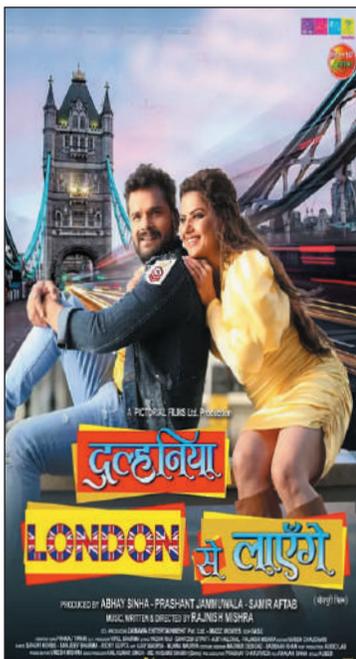
14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.26 Film: Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi
Starring: Sonakshi Sinha, Diana Penty, Jimmy Shergill
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan



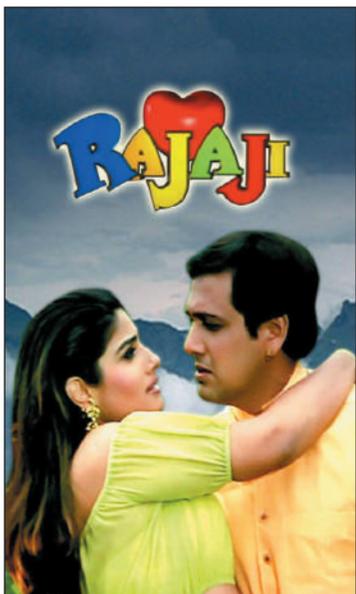
Mardi 31 Mars - 21.15



Mercredi 1 Avril - 21.40



Mercredi 1 Avril - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 31 mars	04.15 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 04.38 Tele: Lying Heart 05.23 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour 07.00 Serial: Quantico 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Lady Of The Manor 11.36 Tele: Happily ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Savage Dog 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.40 Film: Par-Dela La Nuit 21.07 Film: Made in Mauritius 21.15 Film: Highlander II	09.40 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.01 Film: The Story Of Jesus For Children 11.32 Local: Grand Titre 13.03 Emotion En Avant Plan 14.57 Local: Feminin Pluriel 15.19 Local: Coin Jardin 16.02 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 20.33 Local: Priorite Sante 21.30 Local: Parliamentary... 22.41 Local: Arsiv 265 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Fee Main 23.33 Local: Music Tour 2026	08.20 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Sabse Bada Rupaiya Cast: Moushmi Chatterji, Vinod Mehra 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Sajanwa 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: Souten Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Tina Ambani, Padmini Kolhapure 23.42 Mere Sai 00.30 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.46 Doc: The Baobab 09.41 Doc: Rivers At Risk 10.23 Doc: Between The Rains 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 16.55 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie 17.18 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 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: Museums 20.53 Tele: Asintado 21.38 Mag: Initiative Africa 23.01 Doc: Euromaxx 23.27 Doc: Confronting Climate... 00.09 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Chintuji Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 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: Chintuji Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa
mercredi 1 avril	06.16 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour 08.16 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Highlander II 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Par-Dela La Nuit 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 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 21.50 Serial: Helena 22.40 Serial: Happily Ever After 23.02 Mag: Video Killed The Radio... 23.30 Le Journal	09.10 Local: Le Mag 10.00 Film: La Vie Jésus Selon L'Evangile De Jean 11.29 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 12.30 Serial: Tetelestai 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.05 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.46 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2026 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.35 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.22 Local: Grand Titre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.02 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.22 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.37 Local: Friday With Jerry	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: April Fool 12.30 Serial: Tetelestai 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.46 Radha Mohan 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Sunderkand Paath 19.47 Local: Virasat 19.48 Local: Virasat 20.30 Serial: Dharm Yoddha Garub 21.00 Film: Dulhania London Se Layenge Cast: Khesari Lal, Madhu Sharma 23.27 Serial: Mere Sai 00.18 Wagle Ki Duniya	09.04 Mag: Euromaxx 09.31 Doc: Confronting Climate... 11.49 Mag: Made In Germany 12.45 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.07 Mag: Euromaxx 14.33 Doc: Pandemic? 15.00 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 15.14 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.20 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.31 D.Anime: Les Quiquois 15.45 D.Anime: Rockabye Island 17.02 Serial: Luna, Chip & Inkie 17.40 Doc: BRGRS 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 20.50 Doc: Museums 20.55 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Rajaji Starring: Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Shakti Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Udne Ki Aasha 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 Adhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Rajaji Starring: Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Shakti Kapoor
jeudi 2 avril	05.41 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour 08.13 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.28 Film: The Impossible 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Serial: Asintado 15.30 Film: Patch Adams 17.20 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.12 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.15 National Innovation... 20.29 Film: Jab We Met Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor 22.48 Tele: Helena	09.10 Serial: Tetelestai 10.03 En Direct De La Cathedrale St Louis Messe Chrismale 12.03 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 12.31 Local: En Toute Intimite 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.09 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.10 Local: Son Ladan Mem 15.32 Enregistree A La Basilique... 17.36 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.59 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.30 Messe Se La Cene Du Seigneur Basilique Saint - Jean 23.08 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard..	08.00 Rangmanch Ki Awaaz 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Hira Aur Patthar Cast: Ashok Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Shabana Azmi 15.22 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.40 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 16.32 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.50 Local: Yatra 20.09 Hunarbaaz 20.16 Tenali Rama 21.03 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.32 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.53 Serial: Mere Sai	06.25 Mag: Travel 08.43 Doc: Troubled Teen Industry 10.17 Doc: Robert Wilson 11.04 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.57 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.42 Doc: Close Up 13.30 Focus On Europe 13.47 Doc: Troubled Teen... 15.07 Momolu Et Ses Amis 15.14 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 16.04 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic 17.10 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.39 Mag: Travel 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.45 Mag: Transforming Business 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 New 20.54 Tele: Asintado 21.39 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.10 Film: Saatwan Aasman Stars: Pooja Bhatt, Shekhar Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 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: Saatwan Aasman Stars: Pooja Bhatt, Shekhar Kapoor



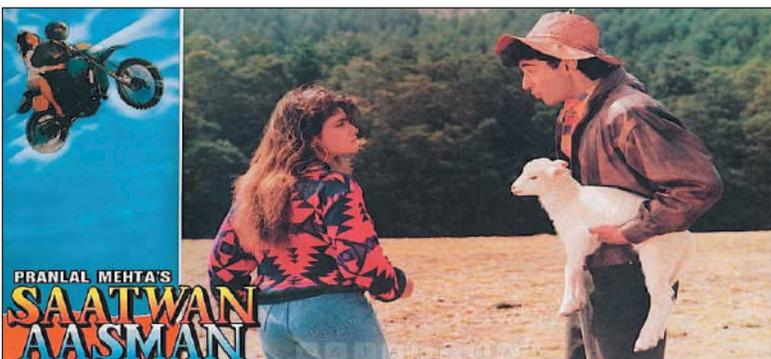
Jeudi 2 Avril - 15.30

Stars: Pooja Bhatt, Shekhar Kapoor



Jeudi 2 Avril - 20.29

Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor





Kaajal Luckraz

The Chemistry of Choice

Friday!!! Fri-nally!!! The teenager of the family has been feeling a little sluggish — so not-cheugy mummy decided to take him to the doctor for a check-up. The doctor's verdict is shocking, but in line with the Mauritian reality — the teenager is pre-diabetic! And not-cheugy mummy thinks... if only I grabbed the opportunity to send him to those swimming classes, to go to gym that we both liked, to...

Health Is Chemistry

As a pharmacist with a love for chemistry, I see health through the lens of science. Chemistry is the study of transformation — molecules meet, bonds break, and new compounds form. In our bodies, the same principle applies. Small changes in diet, lifestyle, or medication adherence can transform our future health.

Every day in the pharmacy, I meet people at different stages of this transformation. Some act early, making small adjustments that prevent disease. Others arrive only when illness has already progressed. The difference lies in choice.

Preparation: Choosing Your Reactants

No chemical reaction begins without reactants. In life, preparation serves as the essential reactant. Education, discipline, experience, and curiosity all accumulate quietly over time.

In health, preparation is the first choice we make. Preparation means building good habits before illness strikes — choosing balanced meals, regular exercise, and routine check-ups. It also means keeping a record of your medicines and knowing your family health history. I always encourage



In health, preparation is the first choice we make. Preparation means building good habits before illness strikes — choosing balanced meals, regular exercise, and routine check-ups. Pic - Fitness Passport

patients to track all medicines and supplements they take. This simple choice prevents harmful drug interactions and ensures safe prescribing.

Environment: Choosing Support

Reactions depend on their environment — temperature, pressure, catalysts. Human potential behaves in much the same way. Supportive communities, mentors, institutions, and workplaces create the environment in which opportunity can flourish.

Human health thrives in supportive environments too. Pharmacies are one of the most accessible healthcare spaces, where advice and some screenings are available without appointments. Choosing to use your pharmacy as a resource creates fertile ground for healthier living. You can also explore online resources — credible ones. These days, you can even access games like Level One for Type 1 diabetic young-

sters — which have been conceived specifically for today's generation.

Timing: Choosing the Right Moment

Many reactions need activation energy — the spark that sets transformation in motion.

In health, timing matters. Choosing to act now rather than later can change the course of your wellbeing. Even medicines depend on timing — whether taken in the morning or evening, with food or without. Pharmacists are here to guide you on how timing affects your treatment. Ask your pharmacist.

Courage: Choosing to Speak Up

Catalysts accelerate reactions without being consumed. In life, courage plays this role.

Courage means choosing to ask questions when you don't understand instruc-

tions, speaking up about side effects, or admitting when you struggle with adherence. Pharmacists welcome these conversations — they often prevent complications and lead to better outcomes.

Recognising the Choice

Just like in laboratories, reactions often begin subtly — a change in colour, a faint release of heat; in health, opportunities appear just as quietly. Choosing water instead of soda, walking instead of driving, taking the stairs rather than escalators, changing the timing of your medicines for optimal benefit, considering new molecules to treat chronic diseases. As pharmacists, we are trained to notice small signals too — like frequent requests for cough syrup, or reliever inhalers; or delayed prescription refills — that may point to bigger health issues. Talk to us, and we can help you make an informed choice — we will take away the digital noise and give you scientifically sound information.

A Final Reflection

The chemistry of choice reminds us that transformation rarely happens by chance. It emerges when preparation meets the right environment, when timing meets courage, and when awareness allows us to act.

As a pharmacist, I see daily how small choices — lifestyle changes, medication reviews — can protect health long before illness strikes. Prevention is always better than cure. If you are waiting for a sign to make better choices for your health — this is it.

The chemistry of Choice is in your hands. Choose wisely, choose today.

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



Niranjana Karthigairajan



Tree of Knowledge

The Enchanting Rama

The name 'Rama' means "one who bestows happiness." True to this meaning, Sage Vashistha named Him Rama because His very presence brought boundless joy to everyone who beheld Him.

Dasharatha's Beloved Child

To King Dasharatha, Rama was not merely the Almighty; He was a cherished son. When Sage Vishwamitra arrived at the court and requested Rama's help to protect his sacrificial ritual (*Yagna*) from demons, Dasharatha replied hesitantly:

ūnaṣoḍaśavarṣo me rāmo rājīvalocanaḥ | na yuddhayogyatām asya paśyāmi saha rākṣasaiḥ || (1-20-2)

This translates to:

"My Rama is but a young boy, not even sixteen years of age. I do not see him as fit to engage in battle with demons."

Dasharatha further describes Rama as 'Raajeevalocanaha' — the one with lotus-like eyes. Just as a lotus [closes its petals when the sun sets, Rama was accustomed to sleeping early. Since demons are night-stalkers



who fight in the darkness, Dasharatha argued that his tender son would be of no use in such a gruelling conflict.

The Beauty that Moved Vishwamitra

Despite knowing Rama's true divine prowess, even the great Sage Vishwamitra succumbed to His charm. While leading Rama and Lakshmana through the forest, they encountered the ogress Tataka. Sage Vishwamitra — who had earlier testified to Dasharatha about Rama's supre-

macy — suddenly felt a surge of protective instinct and uttered:

svasti rāghavayor astu jayaṃ caivābhyabhāṣata || (1-26-14)

Here, 'Svasti' means auspiciousness or well-being. The very Sage who insisted to Dasharatha that "nothing can harm the Supreme Lord" was now so moved by Rama's grace and beauty that he began to pray for Rama's safety.

Blessing the Eternal

When Jatayu was breathing his last — his wings clipped by Ravana while trying to rescue Sita — he encountered Rama and Lakshmana in the forest. Even during his final moments of agony, Jatayu forgot his own pain as he was engrossed in the sight of Rama. He addressed Rama as:

yāṃ oṣadhīm ivāyuṣṣman anveṣasi mahāvane | (3.67.15)

The word 'Ayushman' means "May you live a long life." It is a profound paradox: a mortal bird wishing a long life to the eternal Supreme Being. Such was the effect of Rama's enchanting beauty; it evoked a natural desire in everyone to protect Him.

If we look at Rama through the lens of mere knowledge (*Gnana*), He appears only as the Supreme (*Paramatma*). However, when we view Him through knowledge infused with love and devotion (*Bhakti*), we realize He is the Enchanting One who captivates the hearts of all.