

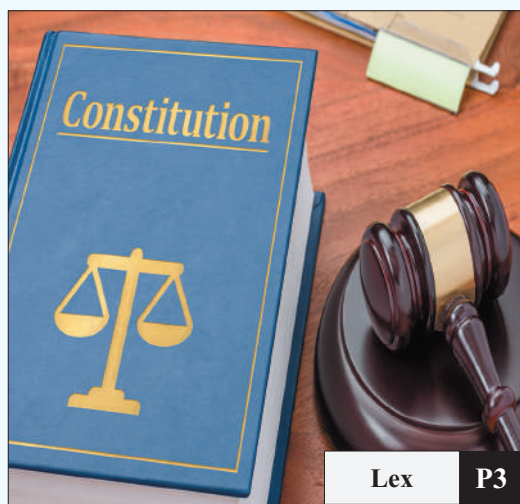
MAURITIUS TIMES

● "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come." —Dwayne Johnson

Qs & As

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"Le Best Loser System n'est pas parfait, mais il est un moindre mal"

'Le BSL n'est pas un système communaliste. Il est au contraire un outil, plutôt symbolique, de la prise en compte par l'État de la diversité de sa population'

● 'Un candidat aux élections est là où il est parce qu'il est ce qu'il est. Son identité, il le porte sur son front et non pas sur une fiche'

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Political Representation and BLS: The Dilemma of Reform



The announcement following the Cabinet meeting of April 24, 2026, marks a pivotal, if precarious, moment in the constitutional history of Mauritius. Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam, the government has signalled its intent to move forward with the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and the Constitutional Review Commission Bill. These legislative steps aim to decouple individual candidacy from ethnic classification — a long-standing demand of reformers — while simultaneously establishing a commission to overhaul the broader democratic framework.

Mauritius stands once again at a historic crossroads. As we revisit the Best Loser System and the requirement to declare one's ethnicity, we aren't just debating electoral rules — we are soul-searching to discover what truly holds our diverse nation together. In our pursuit of a modern, "post-ethnic" democracy, we must ask ourselves: are we building a bridge to a unified future, or are we dismantling the very scaffolding that has prevented our diverse society from collapsing into discord?

The Utopian Ideal vs. The Empirical Reality

For the younger generation and the genuine secularists among us, the requirement to categorize oneself into one of four constitutional "communities" (Hindu, Muslim, Sino-Mauritian, or General Population) feels like a relic of a bygone era. It is easy to sympathize with the lofty ideal that a citizen should stand for election simply as a Mauritian. This sentiment echoes the critiques of scholars like Professor Stanley de Smith, who argued that ethnicity should never have been hard-coded into our supreme law. Indeed, British colonial "divide-and-rule" tactics often left new nations with constitutions that encouraged people to think in terms of their ethnic groups rather than as a single nation.

Yet, a distinction must be drawn between the ideal and the functional. Since 1968, Mauritius has enjoyed a level of political stability that is the envy of the region. This stability was not an accident; it was the result of a calculated, albeit imperfect, "fragile alchemy." The BLS was designed as a corrective mechanism to ensure that no community felt entirely excluded from the halls of power.

As the Cabinet notes indicate, the crux of the matter remains the adequate representation of all recognized communities. Without a practical mechanism to guarantee this, many citizens view the abolition of ethnic declarations not as progress, but as a threat to their visibility and voice. We are still a nation "groping towards nationhood," where empirical realities show that politics and ethnicity remain deeply intertwined. To ignore this is to invite the very instability we have worked so hard to avoid.

The Warning of "Wounded Identities"

In this week's interview, veteran journalist and political observer Jean-Claude de l'Estrac has provided a sobering perspective that should give every reformer pause. Citing the French-Lebanese writer Amin Maalouf, he warned: "When identities are wounded, they become murderous."

De l'Estrac's shift from a staunch nationalist proponent of abolition to a cautious defender of the BLS is instructive. He argues that in an increasingly volatile global climate, the inability to manage diversity and respect minority rights is the primary driver of conflict. In the Mauritian context, the BLS serves as a symbolic and psychological "insurance policy." It reassures minorities that the state acknowledges their presence and guarantees their participation.

The government's current proposal — allowing candidates to opt out of ethnic declaration while using historical data from 1976 to calculate "Best Loser" seats — has been criticized as a form of "bricolage" (tinkering). If a significant number of candidates do not declare their community, it becomes statistically impossible to measure under-representation accurately. As JC de l'Estrac rightly points out, there is a profound hypocrisy in this: a candidate's identity is often "written on their forehead" in the eyes of the electorate, yet the law would pretend it does not exist. By removing the data but keeping the corrective system, we risk creating a "blind" mechanism that results in genuine grievances, particularly among the General Population, who may find themselves further marginalized.

The Mandela Precedent: Unity through Accommodation

In seeking a path forward, we might look to the example

of Nelson Mandela. To bring peace to a fractured South Africa, Mandela did not demand the immediate erasure of all sub-national identities; instead, he chose to accommodate Zulu nationalism and other diverse interests within a unified framework. He understood that unity is not the same as uniformity.

In Mauritius, we have lived with ethnic and religious pluralism for over two and a half centuries. To believe we can suddenly transcend this through a legislative stroke is a form of "utopianism" that ignores our history. The fact that municipal elections operate without the BLS is often cited as a counter-argument, but this misses the point. Power resides in the National Assembly. It is there that the stakes are highest, and it is there that the "horse-trading" of candidate selection reveals the enduring potency of ethnic sentiment.

Three Pillars for the Constitutional Review Commission

As the newly proposed Constitutional Review Commission prepares to take up its mantle, its members must navigate three hard truths:

- 1. Avoid Crystallization:** In a multi-ethnic society, ignoring the aspirations of any group leads to the intensification — rather than the dilution — of ethnic sentiment.
- 2. The Identity Phase is Not Over:** The hope that national loyalty would completely override communal identity has not yet been realized. We must design systems for the society we have, not the one we wish we had.
- 3. The Global Trend:** Around the world, ethnic and identity-based politics are on the ascendancy, even in the most "modern" democracies. Mauritius is not immune to these global currents.

A Plea for Prudence

The Alliance du Changement's significant electoral mandate provides the legal power to amend the Constitution, but power must be tempered with prudence. The goal of "Mauricianism" is noble, but it must be built on a foundation of trust, not on the forced removal of safeguards.

The Best Loser System is not the source of communalism; it is a response to it. It is a "lesser evil" that has facilitated a peaceful power-sharing arrangement for decades. If the government wishes to move toward a system where ethnicity is irrelevant, it must first build "something better" to take its place — a system that guarantees fairness without requiring labels. Until that "better" mechanism is devised and tested, we should be wary of dismantling the existing one.

Our history teaches us that in the delicate balance of Mauritian society, a "perfect" idealistic system is often the enemy of a "good" stable one. For now, maintaining ethnic balance is not a sign of weakness, but a recognition of our shared reality. True progress will come when every Mauritian feels represented, not because the law ignores who they are, but because the law ensures they are never forgotten.

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**K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally
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28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),
Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301 / Tel/Fax: 212 1313

mtimes@intnet.mu; www.mauritiustimes.com;

facebook.com/mauritius.times

Rewriting the Rules: Mauritius at the Crossroads of Constitutional Reform

“Constitutional & Electoral Reform Need a Clear Public Mandate”

In the wake of Cabinet’s 24 April 2026 announcement on constitutional and electoral reform, Mauritius appears to be entering a prolonged phase of legal rethinking and national consultation. From the possible removal of community-based candidate classification to the creation of a Constitutional Review Commission, the scope of proposed changes is both ambitious and sensitive. Lex examines the legal, political and institutional implications of a reform process that could reshape the foundations of the Republic.

LEX

* Following its meeting on Friday 24 April 2026, Cabinet announced plans to remove community-based requirements for election candidates and establish a Constitutional Review Commission, which will examine broad reforms, including fundamental rights and the strengthening of national institutions. Given the scale and complexity of the mandate and the absence of a fixed schedule, we seem to be looking at a lengthy period of consultation. Is such a deliberate pace justifiable, or even essential, for reforms of this magnitude?

The obligation to mention the community to which a candidate belongs is provided for in Paragraph 3 of the First Schedule to the Constitution, which reads: “Every candidate for election at any general election of members of the Assembly shall declare, in such manner as may be prescribed, which community he belongs to, and that community shall be stated in a published notice of his nomination.” This is done in order to enable the Electoral Supervisory Commission to proceed with the nomination of candidates who qualify as best losers. If a candidate does not declare the community to which he or she belongs, the Nomination Paper is declared invalid. To determine the appropriate community, the law provides that the population of Mauritius shall be regarded as including a Hindu community, a Muslim community, and a Sino-Mauritian community, and every person who does not appear, from his way of life, to belong to one or other of those three communities shall be regarded as belonging to the General Population, which shall itself be regarded as a fourth community. Given the above considerations, the procedure may be long and complex.

* **Our Constitution was originally drafted by colonial-era experts like Professor de Smith and others. Do you think we should again call in foreign experts for the proposed constitutional review, considering that local legal practitioners might lack both the historical memory and the detachment from partisan politics necessary to undertake a truly independent and unbiased review?**

The proposal to engage foreign experts for the review of the Mauritian Constitution aims to secure independent and objective analysis, addressing concerns that local practitioners may lack the necessary historical detachment and political impartiality. However, this must be balanced with international best practices and local context, as the



“The proposal to engage foreign experts for the review of the Mauritian Constitution aims to secure independent and objective analysis, addressing concerns that local practitioners may lack the necessary historical detachment and political impartiality. However, this must be balanced with international best practices and local context, as the Constitution is a 58-year-old Westminster-derived document that requires modernisation...”

Constitution is a 58-year-old Westminster-derived document that requires modernisation.

* **If the Commission’s work is to be seen as truly independent and not a political tool, what mechanisms should be in place for the selection of its members? Should the appointments be made solely by the Executive, or should there be a consultative process involving the Leader of the Opposition and civil society to ensure a pluralistic composition?**

To ensure that the Mauritius Constitutional Commission is perceived as truly independent and not as a political tool, it is widely recognized that appointments should not be made solely by the Executive. An independent constitutional commission requires legitimacy, which stems from a selection process that is bipartisan, consultative, and focused on expertise rather than political allegiance.

* **Many scholars argue that traditional fundamental rights are too broad to address modern threats. This has sparked calls for “new generation” rights — including the right to a healthy environment, digital privacy, internet access and digital literacy, environmental protection, etc. How can we balance these collective safeguards with established individual liberties?**

While individual rights focus on protecting the person from state excess, new generation rights often necessitate state action to create collective safeguards. Rather than viewing collective rights as a threat to individual liberties, they should be seen as necessary conditions for the exer-

cise of those liberties.

For example, a healthy environment is a prerequisite for the right to life and health. Similarly, digital data protection enables freedom of expression by allowing individuals to operate online without fear of unlawful surveillance.

* **In the context of “new generation rights”, should the review also address the modernization of the Judiciary? Specifically, is there a need for a specialized Constitutional Court or a distinct division to handle the increasingly complex cases involving digital privacy, surveillance, and cyber-rights that the 1968 framework could not have anticipated?**

Yes, the Constitutional Commission should address the modernisation of the Judiciary, specifically regarding the inclusion of new-generation rights (environmental, digital, socio-economic) in the Constitution. Modernisation includes streamlining judicial review and considering a dedicated constitutional division within the Supreme Court to handle these complex new rights efficiently.

* **Past experience has shown that reviews of this nature and complexity often end up as another ‘report on a shelf,’ much like others produced in the past. Do you think the recommendations of such a Commission should be binding, or merely advisory to the National Assembly?**

Determining if the Constitutional Commission’s recommendations should be binding or advisory is a delicate balancing act for Mauritian democracy. A report of this magnitude should never be shelved. However, since binding

powers may infringe upon the prerogative of Parliament, the process should favour a transparent transition: once the report is released, a healthy national debate must precede the implementation of its recommendations.

* **Most Constitutional Reviews eventually grapple with the balance of power between the Prime Minister and the President. Should the Commission explore a shift toward a more executive presidency, or conversely, should it focus on strengthening the President’s role as a “guardian of the Constitution” with specific, autonomous powers over key appointments?**

In Mauritius, the President is not directly elected; if granted more powers, to whom would he be accountable? While mechanisms exist to check a President who oversteps, the fact that the office is essentially the Prime Minister’s choice makes parliamentary sanctions difficult to achieve.

Conversely, an executive President elected by direct suffrage would hold a mandate independent of Parliament, potentially diluting the Prime Minister’s concentrated power. However, this shift risks a “conflict of legitimacy” between two leaders — one with a popular mandate and the other commanding a parliamentary majority. Without precise checks, it could simply replace one form of unaccountable leadership with another.

Under the current Constitution, the President is the “guardian of the Constitution,” yet remains a product of the parliamentary majority — an inherent contradiction that often reduces the office to a mere “rubber stamp.”

* **One could argue that, given the depth and breadth of a constitutional review, it should obtain the support of the electorate and form part of the manifesto of the party or parties proposing such deep reforms. What is your take on that?**

Proposals for comprehensive reform of the electoral system and the Constitution are often viewed as requiring a clear mandate from the electorate to avoid what are termed “false starts” or reforms that only serve narrow political interests.

“Constitutional & Electoral Reform Need a Clear Public Mandate”

☞ **Cont. from page 3**

Since a Constitution is meant, above all, for the people, there should be public engagement: any deep, transformative change should involve wide consultations to be truly representative of the people's will.

*** On the other hand, as indicated in the Cabinet decision highlights, electoral reforms will be addressed “separately” from the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. What are the legal risks or rationale for “decoupling” the way we classify candidates from the broader reform of the electoral system? Can we effectively address one without the other?**

The decision to decouple candidate classification (specifically the communal declaration via the Best Loser System - BLS) from broader electoral system reforms — such as proportional representation (PR) or gender quotas — as suggested by Cabinet highlights presents a complex interplay of political strategy and legal considerations.

*** How would the removal of community-based classification for candidates impact the current “Best Loser System”? Can the latter survive if the former is abolished, or are we looking at a total structural overhaul of the First Schedule?**

The BLS is a constitutional mechanism designed to ensure fair representation of minority communities by allocating up to eight additional seats to “best loser” candidates based on their community classification.

The removal of community-based classification for candidates — whereby they are no longer required to declare their affiliation to one of four recognized groups (Hindu, Muslim, Sino-Mauritian, or General Population) — would fundamentally alter, and likely necessitate the abolition of, the current Best Loser System.

The removal of this classification would require replacing the BLS with a new system that ensures minority representation without relying on communal categories, such as a proportional representation (PR) list system.

*** How much weight should the “report of public consultations” carry in a legal drafting process? Is there a risk that popular sentiment might conflict with established, core constitutional principles?**

The report of public consultations acts as a crucial evi-

dentiary tool in the legal drafting process, designed to provide democratic legitimacy, technical expertise, and social acceptance for new laws.


While highly valued for improving the quality of regulations, the report is typically advisory, and its weight is balanced against constitutional requirements, expert knowledge, and the overarching public interest.

*** For reforms of this magnitude — specifically regarding the “Best Loser System” and fundamental rights — should there be a requirement for a national**

referendum? Is a three-quarters majority in the National Assembly sufficient, or does the legitimacy of a new Constitution require a direct popular mandate?

The current constitutional framework allows for reform through a parliamentary supermajority. However, given the weight of these changes, there is a growing and justifiable demand for a more inclusive process. Ensuring that such reforms possess lasting legitimacy requires more than just a legal vote — it requires the explicit mandate of the people.

LEX



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING for the Consultancy Services for the Review of Existing Retail and Marketing Activities for STC's Selected Food Commodities

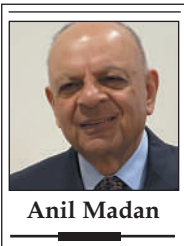
Procurement Reference: **ONB/STC/2026/06**

1. The State Trading Corporation (STC) is inviting bids from eligible bidders for the Consultancy Services for the Review of Existing Retail and Marketing Activities for STC's Selected Food Commodities as per requirements contained in the bidding document.
2. Bidding document may be downloaded from the website of the STC, <https://www.stcmu.com> free of charge.
3. Bids must be submitted, through the following by **12 May 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Mauritian Time) at latest:**
 - i) Deposited in Bid Box H located in the Registry Section at State Trading Corporation, Ebene, Mauritius;
 - ii) Sent by registered post to the General Manager, State Trading Corporation, Ebene, Mauritius; and
 - iii) Sent by email on tender-services@stcmu.com.
4. Bids received after the submission deadline and/or submitted to any other email address shall not be considered.
5. Bids will be opened at the State Trading Corporation, Head Office, Ebene, on **12 May 2026 at 14.10 hrs** in the presence of bidders/representatives who may choose to attend.
6. Any request for clarification in respect of the bids shall be submitted at latest two (2) working days prior to the deadline set for submission of proposals on the email address: a.shewraj@stcmu.com
7. The STC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

28 April 2026



“Proposals for comprehensive reform of the electoral system and the Constitution are often viewed as requiring a clear mandate from the electorate to avoid what are termed “false starts” or reforms that only serve narrow political interests. Since a Constitution is meant, above all, for the people, there should be public engagement: any deep, transformative change should involve wide consultations to be truly representative of the people's will...”



Anil Madan

The Iran War: Winning, Losing And Ending

The war's energy impact will outlast any cease-fire, shaping global politics and economics for years

Even as the ceasefire in the Iran war stretches out, there is the uneasy feeling that an agreement between the US and Iran is far, far, away and perhaps impossible to achieve. Meanwhile, for the Iranian people, for the Gulf States, and indeed for the world, the devastating effects are compounding. For the Iranian regime, even with the ceasefire in effect, they face an existential crisis. For Israel, the prospect of an Iranian nuclear arsenal is existential. In Lebanon, destruction continues and part of its territory has been invaded by Iran. For the US, this war has meant a significant depletion of munitions, a significant erosion of support from allies, and in some ways, for the Republicans, an existential threat in the upcoming midterm elections in November.

It has been said that the Iranians are masters of not negotiating while seeming to negotiate. David Sanger of *The New York Times* wrote: "President Trump views himself as the master of coercive diplomacy, forcing his opponents to capitulate quickly to American demands or face the threat of attack. But in dealing with Iran over the past six weeks, Mr Trump has discovered that he is up against a nation that prides itself on resilience and delay."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz was less charitable. The "Americans clearly have no strategic plan," he said. "Especially since the Iranians are negotiating very skillfully — or rather, very skillfully not negotiating. And then letting the Americans travel to Islamabad, only to send them back without any results. An entire nation is being humiliated by the Iranian leadership, especially by these so-called Revolutionary Guards."

Both sides proudly declare that they are not negotiating, but their statements are a way of negotiating in the ether and communicating their views of a successful end to the war.

So, is there a winner? Is there a loser? The clearest answer is that ceasefire notwithstanding, the war has not formally ended and therefore, it is premature to declare a winner and a loser. Nevertheless, the adage that war leaves only losers, not winners, seems to be true this time too.

President Trump's bottom line is that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon. He wants Iran to agree to stop enriching uranium and to give up its stockpile of enriched uranium. Iran insists that it has the right to enrich uranium and that it will not part with the stockpile.

In a post on his social media platform, referring to the deal that President Obama negotiated, President Trump posted: "The DEAL that we are making with Iran will be FAR



“Both sides proudly declare that they are not negotiating, but their statements are a way of negotiating in the ether and communicating their views of a successful end to the war. So, is there a winner? Is there a loser? The clearest answer is that ceasefire notwithstanding, the war has not formally ended and therefore, it is premature to declare a winner and a loser. Nevertheless, the adage that war leaves only losers, not winners, seems to be true this time too...” Pic - economictimes.indiatimes.com

BETTER than the JCPOA. It was a guaranteed Road to a Nuclear Weapon, which will not, and cannot, happen with the deal we're working on." If we measure the success of America's negotiation by that standard, there is no victory. Yet. But note that Mr. Trump does convey the idea that he is working on a deal; in other words, negotiating.

Iran's bottom line includes control of the Strait of Hormuz including the right to charge fees for transit of tankers, a guarantee that the US and Israel will not attack it again and postponing the issue of its nuclear enrichment activities to a later date. The first and third are non-starters for the US. It is not clear who can give Iran the guarantee it seeks, or why it would be willing to accept Israel's and America's word on the subject. After all, one of Iran's laments is that the US and Israel are unreliable because they attacked it twice while ostensibly negotiating with the regime.

The Iranian people are clearly losers as Iran's economy has imploded. The Gulf States are losers as their energy exports have dwindled, their energy infrastructure has been severely damaged by Iranian attacks, and the carefully built aura of safe and secure havens for investment and tourism has gone up in smoke.

The world's economies teeter on the precipice of a cliff from which there seems to be no retreat. There are losers all around.

The principal strategic issue is control and future of the Strait of Hormuz which is now a global chokepoint carrying roughly a fifth of the world's oil and LNG and its continued closure has become the central pressure point in the conflict.

Iran closed the strait and attacks ships that don't pay or

comply; the US responded with a naval blockade of Iranian ports, effectively weaponizing the same geography from the opposite direction. These dual coercive pressures have severely curtailed oil and LNG supplies and shut down trade in essential commodities transiting the strait to and from the Gulf region.

The result has been a collapse of ship traffic. Total ship transits fell to 35 last week, down from 78 the week before and down from about 130 per day before the war.

Iran wants to retain control and even charge transit fees; the US insists on full freedom of navigation and rejects any "Suez Canal-style" arrangement. There is no negotiating room between these extremes. One possibility is a regional authority run jointly by Iran and the Gulf States with revenue

to be used for reconstruction of the damage in Iran and the Gulf States. If this includes funds for repairs to American bases damaged by Iran, US agreement is more likely.

The second important strategic issue from the US perspective is blockade, pressure, and coalition-building. Trump has chosen an extended blockade over renewed bombing or withdrawal, judging it the least risky path that still preserves leverage. He has called the blockade "genius" and "100% foolproof," and believes it is pushing Iran toward a "State of Collapse." Trump said he was willing to maintain the blockade and continue the war 'unless they agree that there will be no nuclear weapon.'

The latest US initiative is a proposed Maritime Freedom Construct, a US led coalition to share information, coordinate diplomatically, and enforce sanctions. A US State Department cable appealing to prospective participant nations, says: "Your participation will strengthen our collective ability to restore freedom of navigation and protect the global economy. Collective action is essential to demonstrate unified resolve and impose meaningful costs on Iranian obstruction of transit through the Strait."

This new overture conflicts with Trump's earlier positions that the Europeans should go get their own oil and even take the strait, and also his subsequent position that American would go it alone. Viewed in its best light, it is a recognition of the importance of the strait to the rest of the world.

The third strategic issue revolves around Iran's economic crisis and political resilience. Iran has suffered major economic damage. The war has thrown one million, and perhaps as many as two million people directly and another one million indirectly out of work. Some economists suggest that Iran could lose millions of additional jobs. Inflation has reportedly hit 67%; bombing has caused an estimated \$270 billion in reconstruction needs, nearly the size of Iran's annual GDP. One positive note here is that if Iran can sell oil to China, it could be paid in Yuan and use the proceeds for contracts with Chinese companies to rebuild the country.

One measure of how serious the situation in Iran has become is that the deeply unpopular government has appealed to Iranians to do their part by limiting their consumption of water, electricity and gas. Tehran residents were encouraged to drive less and use public transportation instead.

The political calculus is intriguing. Iran's leadership frames resistance as national pride and believes it can absorb hardship longer than the US can tolerate high energy prices and global economic risk. But the same economic pressures that fuelled prewar protests are intensifying, raising the risk of renewed unrest once the immediate war pressure eases.

The Iran War: Winning, Losing And Ending



“It has been said that the Iranians are masters of not negotiating while seeming to negotiate. David Sanger of *The New York Times* wrote: “President Trump views himself as the master of coercive diplomacy, forcing his opponents to capitulate quickly to American demands or face the threat of attack. But in dealing with Iran over the past six weeks, Mr Trump has discovered that he is up against a nation that prides itself on resilience and delay...”

Pic - discoveryalert.com.au

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The fourth strategic issue revolves around the stalled peace talks and the nuclear/strait sequencing problem

The core disagreement is framed as follows:

● **Iran wants:**

- End of the war
- Lifting of the US blockade
- Control or co-management of the strait
- Nuclear talks postponed to a later phase

● **The US wants:**

- Nuclear concessions (e.g., long-term suspension of enrichment) embedded in any framework
- Freedom of navigation in the strait without Iranian veto or fees
- Iran stops funding and arming its proxies

The talks are failing because the Trump administration sees Iran's sequencing — first end the war and blockade, then talk nuclear — as stripping away US leverage. Iran sees US demands as “maximalist” and refuses to concede on the nuclear file while under blockade.

The fifth strategic issue concerns global energy disruption and long-term damage to oil capacity.

The immediate shock effects are seen in the soaring price of oil. The Brent crude spot price has surged to just under \$120 per barrel. Traffic in and out of the Gulf is “close to a standstill,” and the closure is lasting longer than initially expected.

The long-term damage to oil wells and infrastructure cannot be overstated. Shutting down thousands of wells quickly has damaged infrastructure and will slow any restart. For example, in neighbouring Iraq, production fell from 4.9 million barrels/day to 1.6 million, and some fields may never fully recover. Damage to wells will have to be repaired and equipment such as submersible pumps make have to be replaced to bring production back. Even if the strait reopened tomorrow, analysts expect months or years before Gulf production returns to prewar levels.

This means the war's energy impact will outlast any cease-fire, shaping global politics and economics for years.

The sixth strategic issue concerns US military strain and political costs. The US has expended large stocks of

precision munitions and air defenses, forcing redeployments from other theaters (like Asia) to the Middle East. This weakens deterrence elsewhere and raises questions about sustainability if the conflict drags on.

On the domestic political stage in the US, the blockade and war have driven up gas prices and hurt Trump's poll numbers, darkening Republican prospects in the midterms.

Business leaders close to Trump worry that a prolonged energy shock could be a “political death knell.”

Trump is caught between hawks urging continued pressure and businessmen and political advisors focusing on economic and political realities pushing toward de-escalation.

Anil Madan



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

EXTERNAL VACANCY

The Central Electricity Board (CEB) invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **Head of Finance**.

Qualifications

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Be registered with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA); and
- Be proficient in computer accounting packages and spreadsheets.

Possession of a postgraduate qualification in Management or an MBA (Finance) is desirable.

Experience

Candidates must reckon at least fifteen (15) years of post qualification experience, out of which at least ten (10) years should be at Senior Accountant level.

Age Limit

Candidates should not have reached their **50th birthday** by the closing date.

Salary

Rs 181,500 per month (flat rate)

Main Responsibilities and Duties

Prospective candidates are invited to visit the CEB website (<https://ceb.mu>) to consult the detailed vacancy notice, including the full scope of duties, responsibilities and other conditions attached to the post.

Mode of Application

Applications must be submitted electronically via the CEB website (<https://ceb.mu>).

Applicants are required to upload all relevant supporting documents, including:

- Birth Certificate
- National Identity Card
- Academic and professional qualifications
- Evidence of work experience claimed

Candidates are strongly advised to read carefully the “**NOTES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE APPLICATION**” and to strictly follow the procedures outlined therein. Incomplete, inadequate, or incorrectly completed application forms may result in elimination of the candidate.

For technical support or further enquiries, please contact the CEB Helpdesk at: cebonlinejobapplication@ceb.mu

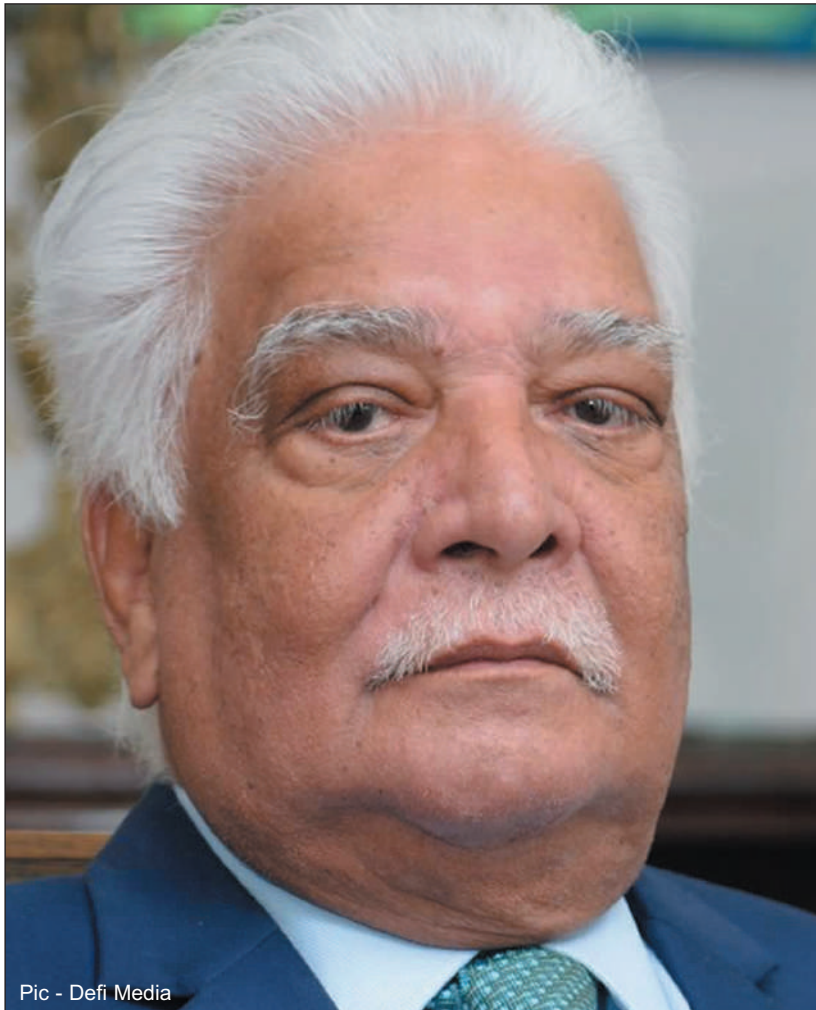
Closing Date

The closing date for the submission of applications is **Tuesday 12 May 2026**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Note:

1. Candidates who do not meet the qualification requirements are kindly requested NOT to apply.
2. Only the best qualified candidates will be shortlisted for the selection exercise.
3. All applications will be treated in strict confidentiality.
4. The CEB reserves the right to make alternative arrangements or not to proceed with the filling of the vacancy.
5. Failure to submit the documents as required under “**Mode of Application**” and applications not made on the prescribed Online Application Form will entail rejection of the application.
6. Submission of a **Certificate of Character** is mandatory and must be produced prior to assumption of duty, if selected.
7. The onus for the submission of equivalence of qualifications (if applicable) from the relevant authorities rests on the candidates.

General Manager
28 April 2026



Pic - Defi Media

Jean Claude de l'Estrac

“Le Best Loser System n'est pas parfait, mais il est un moindre mal”

‘Les guerres sont la conséquence de la difficulté à gérer les différences, à respecter les identités, à assurer les droits des minorités’

Le débat sur le *Best Loser System* (BLS) et la déclaration communautaire des candidats revient hanter l'actualité politique. Pour Jean Claude de l'Estrac, le projet actuel du gouvernement s'apparente à un «bricolage» qui risque de créer des «humiliés» au sein des minorités, notamment la Population Générale. Entre la pression des alliés politiques et les impératifs constitutionnels de «représentation juste et adéquate», il dénonce l'hypocrisie du système actuel. Il propose un détour par le modèle singapourien pour sortir de l'impasse et nous met en garde: toucher aux équilibres de 1968 sans vision globale pourrait transformer nos identités sereines en armes redoutables.

Mauritius Times: Dans votre article sur la réforme électorale — et plus précisément sur le projet de l'actuel gouvernement — paru dans *L'express* mercredi dernier, vous expliquez avoir longtemps prôné l'abolition des déclarations identitaires par conviction nationaliste, avant de devenir plus prudent. Quel a été l'élément déclencheur, ce “moment de rupture”, qui vous a fait craindre qu'une telle réforme puisse produire des «humiliés» plutôt que des citoyens?

Jean Claude de l'Estrac: Une réponse courte : c'est l'état du monde. Partout, dans toutes les contrées, des guerres meurtrières opposent des nations, divisent les citoyens d'une même société. Quand on cherche à en connaître les causes, une évidence apparaît : les guerres sont la conséquence de la difficulté à gérer les différences, à respecter les identités, à assurer les droits des minorités. En clair, c'est l'intolérance à la diversité.

“Le système électoral décidé à la Conférence de Lancaster House de 1965 se voulait une garantie de la représentativité de chaque communauté en vertu de son poids démographique. Cette formule a plutôt bien servi la nation, sauf sur le plan politique, la distorsion que le FPTP a provoqué à plusieurs reprises par les sinistres 60-0. C'est cela qui doit être corrigé par l'injection d'une dose de proportionnelle dans le système ou tout autre mécanisme de type singapourien...”

Je travaille sur un texte, provisoirement intitulé «*Le communalisme et les identités guerrières*» et j'ai consulté pléthore d'ouvrages sur la question. De la part de tous, le même constat formulé par l'écrivain franco-libanais Amin Maalouf: «Quand les identités sont meurtries, elles deviennent meurtrières».

* En citant Amin Maalouf, craignez-vous que notre système électoral, s'il est mal réformé, ne transforme des identités culturelles sereines en «identités meurtrières» par simple sentiment de menace ou d'agres-

sion?

Parfaitement! C'est la loi de Murphy sur ce qu'on nomme une «*unintended consequence*» que les Français traduisent comme «la loi de l'emmerdement maximum». Il y a dans le projet de réforme une volonté vertueuse de promouvoir le mauricianisme, de combattre le communalisme, mais je crains fort que certains aspects de la réforme ne provoquent, au contraire, des raidissements identitaires.

Je m'explique : dans sa transposition technique, la réforme qui concerne le *Best Loser System* (BSL) s'éloigne de l'obligation constitutionnelle de garantir une «*fair and adequate representation*» des quatre communautés reconnues. Si des candidats aux élections peuvent, à leur discrétion, ne plus déclarer leur appartenance communautaire, il devient impossible, statistiquement, de mesurer avec précision d'éventuelles sous-représentations communautaires.

Le moyen alternatif proposé, qui est de s'appuyer plutôt sur les résultats des élections depuis 1976, est injuste. Il pénalisera au moins deux communautés minoritaires, et plus particulièrement la *General Population*, déjà nettement sous-représentée au Parlement comme au Conseil des ministres.

Et franchement, à la réflexion, tout ça est d'une grande hypocrisie. Un candidat aux élections est là où il est parce qu'il est ce qu'il est. Son identité, il le porte sur son front et non pas sur une fiche.

* Si le communalisme transforme l'identité en arme, le *Best Loser System* est-il la source de ces tensions ou, au contraire, le bouclier indispensable pour empêcher que les identités minoritaires ne se sentent exclues et ne deviennent «guerrières»?

Ma thèse est justement que le BSL n'est pas un système communaliste. Il est au contraire un outil, plutôt symbolique, de la prise en compte par l'État de la diversité de sa population, telle que reconnue par la Constitution, qui exige la juste représentation de chaque communauté à l'Assemblée nationale.

Je dis qu'il est d'ordre symbolique puisque la preuve a été faite que les parlementaires repêchés par le BLS devien-

nent des parlementaires comme les autres et non des représentants ethniques. À la fin, il est seulement une sorte d'assurance, et il rassure justement. Mais s'il est symbolique philosophiquement, il est obligatoire constitutionnellement.

* Vous qualifiez d'«absurde» la volonté de corriger une sous-représentation tout en supprimant le critère (la déclaration) qui la détermine. Le gouvernement est-il en train de vider le BLS de sa substance par un «bricolage» permanent sans oser l'abolir de front?

“Partout, dans toutes les contrées, des guerres meurtrières opposent des nations, divisent les citoyens d'une même société. Quand on cherche à en connaître les causes, une évidence apparaît: les guerres sont la conséquence de la difficulté à gérer les différences, à respecter les identités, à assurer les droits des minorités. En clair, c'est l'intolérance à la diversité...”

Exactement, et cette fois encore pour des impératifs politiques.

Il faut se rappeler que cette mesure avait été introduite en 2014 à travers un amendement à la Constitution, la *Constitution (Declaration of Community) Temporary Provisions) Act*. La formule avait été trouvée, un peu en catastrophe, pour répondre aux admonestations du Comité des droits de l'homme des Nations unies, sollicité par le parti *Resistans ek Alternativ*, qui avait estimé que le pays avait le choix entre l'actualisation du recensement de 1972 ou trouver un nouveau système électoral aucunement basé sur les communautés.

C'est en attendant ce nouveau système électoral, et uniquement pour les élections de 2014, que cette formule bâtarde a été conçue. On veut maintenant pérenniser une formule qui est injuste, arbitraire, discriminatoire.

À la fin, je me suis dit le mieux est l'ennemi du bien. Le BSL n'est pas parfait, mais il est un moindre mal.

☞ Suite en page 8

'Un candidat aux élections est là où il est parce qu'il est ce qu'il est.

Son identité, il le porte sur son front et non pas sur une fiche'

☞ Suite de la page 7

* Pourquoi, selon vous, le gouvernement choisit-il de traiter la classification des candidats en urgence, tout en renvoyant la réforme électorale globale et le rapport des consultations publiques à plus tard? Est-ce une manœuvre politique liée au prochain calendrier électoral?

Si mes informations sont exactes, le Premier ministre est sous pression de son allié *Resistans ek Alternativ*, qui commence à ruer dans les brancards, et qui demande la prise en compte d'une de ses exigences électorales. Mais je n'ai pas le sentiment que toutes les conséquences de cet amendement ont été correctement évaluées, et je ne vois pas l'urgence d'une réforme partielle.

À titre personnel, je doute d'ailleurs que les consultations publiques nous apportent quoi que ce soit de nouveau, au-delà de ce que nous savons déjà après la présentation de tous les rapports d'experts électoraux que nous collectionnons depuis des décennies.

* Il existe le sentiment que le *First-Past-The-Post* favorisant la majorité, on risque, en supprimant les déclarations communautaires, d'aboutir à un Parlement qui ne reflète plus la diversité réelle du pays. Quels sont les obstacles juridiques majeurs que la Commission électorale pourrait opposer à ce projet?

C'est effectivement le risque. La Constitution est on ne peut plus claire : le pays est composé de quatre communautés. Ces communautés ont droit à une «*fair and adequate*» représentation à l'Assemblée nationale. C'est dans ce but que le BLS a été institué pour corriger, éventuellement, des déséquilibres qui pourraient naître du scrutin uninominal à un tour, le *First-Past-The-Post* (FPTP).

Historiquement, l'on a pu constater que ce FPTP assure adéquatement la représentation de la communauté majoritaire et que les communautés minoritaires ont pu bénéficier, plus ou moins, d'une *fair representation* grâce au BLS.

«Le Best Loser System a été institué pour corriger, éventuellement, des déséquilibres qui pourraient naître du scrutin uninominal à un tour, le *First-Past-The-Post* (FPTP). Historiquement, l'on a pu constater que ce FPTP assure adéquatement la représentation de la communauté majoritaire et que les communautés minoritaires ont pu bénéficier, plus ou moins, d'une *fair representation* grâce au BLS...»

Le Bureau du Commissaire électoral et la Commission ont la grande responsabilité de faire respecter techniquement cette obligation constitutionnelle telle que stipulée dans la section 5(8) qui reste en vigueur.

* Au vu de votre expérience, comment garantir que la *Constitutional Review Commission* ne soit pas un simple «outil politique»? Et, quelle institution mauricienne a, selon vous, le plus besoin d'être «sauvegardée» ou modernisée par cette instance?

Par expérience, j'ai appris, depuis longtemps, que ce sont les hommes qui font les institutions. Pour l'essentiel, le pays possède toutes les institutions nécessaires à son bon



Pic - lexpress.mu

fonctionnement même s'il est vrai que certaines méritent d'être dépoussiérées.

Ce dont nous avons désespérément besoin, c'est la disparition du clientélisme politique et la contribution de gens véritablement compétents et indépendants. Cette promesse nous a été faite par l'Alliance du Changement. Elle tarde à se matérialiser.

* Vous remettez en question la suffisance d'une simple majorité parlementaire pour engager de telles réformes, susceptibles de provoquer des bouleversements majeurs. Plaidez-vous pour qu'un projet touchant aux fondements de la nation soit soumis directement au vote des Mauriciens par voie de référendum?

Non, je ne critique pas le fait que la majorité parlementaire exerce ses droits. Je vais provoquer des cris de putois, mais je ne crois pas aux vertus de la foule. Et si les réseaux sociaux sont le reflet de la culture mauricienne, il vaut mieux se faire flinguer. Les parlementaires ont mandat de décider en notre nom, qu'ils assument leurs responsabilités.

* En comparant 1968 à aujourd'hui, parachevons-nous l'œuvre des fondateurs ou sommes-nous en train de détruire, par ignorance, un équilibre qu'ils ont mis des décennies à bâtir?

Même si le contexte de l'introduction du BLS était très différent — dans un pays en devenir, extrêmement fragmenté électoralement et ethniquement, et face aux perspectives incertaines de l'indépendance — le système électoral décidé à la Conférence de Lancaster House de 1965 se voulait une garantie de la représentativité de chaque com-

«On peut estimer que notre société est effectivement une mosaïque tenue par le ciment de valeurs partagées. Tous les Mauriciens sont attachés aux valeurs de la démocratie, tous célèbrent la liberté d'expression, tous sont respectueux des diversités ethniques et religieuses, tous prônent la justice sociale. Il y a quelques brebis galeuses qui sévissent, on connaît leurs noms et leurs prénoms...»

munauté en vertu de son poids démographique.

Cette formule a plutôt bien servi la nation, sauf sur le plan politique, la distorsion que le FPTP a provoqué à plusieurs reprises par les sinistres 60-0. C'est cela qui doit être corrigé par l'injection d'une dose de proportionnelle dans le système ou tout autre mécanisme de type singapourien pour garantir, en toutes circonstances, une juste représentation politique et communautaire.

* Vous affirmez que si vous étiez «aux affaires», vous choisiriez le modèle de Singapour. Pourquoi cette approche de représentation proportionnelle et de personnalités non-partisanes vous semble-t-elle plus apte à garantir la stabilité que le modèle mauricien actuel?

Je me base sur les résultats obtenus par Singapour en matière de coexistence pacifique. C'est un État plus petit que Maurice qui compte 5 millions d'habitants — des Chinois, des Malais, des Indiens. Je vous donne un exemple de ce que l'État singapourien est prêt à faire pour assurer la juste représentation et la bonne entente entre les communautés : pour assurer la cohésion du pays, le *Housing Development Board* singapourien pousse la règle jusqu'à s'assurer que des étages des ensembles immobiliers soient systématiquement occupés par des familles d'origines diverses.

Sur le plan électoral, leur système me semble ingénieux. Il est, comme ici, basé sur le FPTP mais doublé d'un *Non-Constituency Member of Parliament*, variable qui garantit un nombre minimum de sièges à l'opposition. Et puis, à l'opposé de la pratique clientéliste mauricienne, la Constitution singapourienne prévoit la nomination de personnalités non-partisanes sur une base essentiellement méritocratique. On peut rêver!

* Votre prochain ouvrage, intitulé '*Le Communisme et les Identités Guerrières*', semble souligner un enjeu de société actuel. Considérez-vous cela comme une invitation faite aux responsables politiques à privilégier la recherche d'un socle de valeurs communes plutôt que l'exploitation des replis identitaires?

A vrai dire, au bout de trois siècles de cohabitation sur notre petite parcelle de terre, on peut estimer que notre société est effectivement une mosaïque tenue par le ciment de valeurs partagées.

Tous les Mauriciens sont attachés aux valeurs de la démocratie, tous célèbrent la liberté d'expression, tous sont respectueux des diversités ethniques et religieuses, tous prônent la justice sociale.

Il y a quelques brebis galeuses qui sévissent, on connaît leurs noms et leurs prénoms.



Vijay Makhani

The Middle East Crisis: A Ceasefire of Sorts... Then What?

From Hormuz to the Indian Ocean, the crisis widens as diplomacy stalls

The ceasefire has been extended, but negotiations remain uncertain and diplomacy remains stalled. As proposals are dismissed and tensions shift to sea, the crisis deepens beyond its origins — bringing its consequences ever closer to small states like Mauritius.

The ceasefire has been extended. Indeed! But the crisis has not paused — it has deepened.

Negotiations that were expected to begin have yet to take shape. Diplomatic initiatives have faltered even before they could be tested. And most tellingly, proposals put forward by Tehran to move the process forward have reportedly been dismissed.

This is definitely not a pathway to peace. It is a widening space of uncertainty.

In earlier reflections, I had warned that this conflict would not remain confined to its immediate theatre. Its consequences, I argued, would extend through energy markets, maritime corridors and supply chains — reaching states with no direct involvement in the crisis. What we are witnessing today is not a departure from that trajectory, but its confirmation.

What began as a confrontation centred on Iran, Israel and the United States has now extended into the arteries of global commerce. The Strait of Hormuz — through which a significant share of the world's energy flows — has become a zone of pressure: interdictions, counter-measures (blockades), maritime incidents.

But beyond Hormuz lies a wider geography. The Indian Ocean — long regarded as a corridor of trade — is now part of the strategic equation. And further east, the Strait of Malacca has re-entered calculations of vulnerability. This is no longer a contained conflict. It is a systemic one.

Energy, exposure and strategic recalibration

This shift carries immediate implications. For major economies, particularly China, the vulnerabilities are clear. Disruptions at Hormuz affect supply. Risks at Malacca affect delivery. Together, they revive long-standing concerns about dependence on maritime chokepoints. The response has been predictable: a search for alternative sources — North Africa, West Africa, and beyond. But such adjustments do not signal stability. They reflect strain.

The implications may extend further — to the internal cohesion of OPEC itself. Signals emerging from key producers such as the United Arab Emirates suggest that long-standing arrangements are under strain. A gradual loosening of discipline within this exclusive petroleum exporting countries' club or a formal rupture is bound to lead to the question, which is no longer hypotheti-



“For Mauritius — and for small states across the Indian Ocean — this is not a distant crisis as I have underscored before. It is already being felt. We are seeing an upward pressure on fuel prices, a higher freight and insurance costs, an increased uncertainty in supply chains and a broader economic vulnerability. These are not theoretical risks. They translate into the daily realities of households and businesses. As I have noted in earlier articles, small states are often the most exposed to external shocks of this nature — not because they are involved, but because they are integrated...” — Pic - ANC Digital

cal: will the cartel survive this era of geopolitical fragmentation?

And if one moves, who follows?

Who blinked first?

Much attention has been given to the extension of the ceasefire. But the accompanying developments suggest a more complex reality.

Washington's decision to prolong the ceasefire may indicate recognition of the limits of escalation. Yet the dismissal of diplomatic proposals and the cancellation of planned engagements suggest hesitation.

Iran, for its part, has broadened its diplomatic outreach — across Pakistan, Oman and Russia — seeking to strengthen its position before entering any structured negotiation. The involvement of Oman is not incidental.

So who blinked first?

Neither side, decisively, though there is a tendency to suggest that Washington went first.

But more importantly, what we are witnessing is more like a phase of testing — of positions, of limits, and of resolve.

What we are not witnessing however, is a transition to peace.

Instead, we are witnessing managed instability. The ceasefire holds — formally. The tensions persist — practically. Diplomacy is invoked — but not yet engaged.

Meanwhile, pressure continues through maritime actions, economic leverage and strategic signalling.

Why this matters to Mauritius

For Mauritius — and for small states across the Indian Ocean — this is not a distant crisis as I have underscored before. It is already being felt.

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As I have noted in earlier articles, small states are often the most exposed to external shocks of this nature — not because they are involved, but because they are integrated.

Geography, in such circumstances, is not protection. It is exposure.

The case for a broader diplomatic framework

If the current trajectory is to be altered, diplomacy must evolve. Existing channels — bilateral, indirect, episodic — are proving insufficient. There is definitely merit in considering a broader framework, anchored in legitimacy and capable of diffusing pressure.

A United Nations-led or UN-supported process could provide such a platform — by reducing the personalisation of the conflict, offering a neutral space for engagement, enabling a face-saving pathway for all parties and structuring a phased return to stability. A move in that direction would re-establish the prominence of multilateralism and enhance the credibility of the UN itself.

The extension of the ceasefire has created time. But time, in itself, is not a solution.

It must be used to build confidence, clarify positions and establish a credible roadmap. Otherwise, it becomes merely an interval between crises.

The crisis has moved beyond its origins. It now spans sea lanes, economies and strategic calculations far removed from the battlefield. For countries like Mauritius, the implications are immediate. The question is no longer whether the crisis can be contained. It is whether it can be resolved.

A ceasefire that extends without direction does not bring peace closer. It merely delays the moment when choices must be made.

Opinion

Mauritius: A House of Cards?

By Samad Ramoly

Mauritius is at a crossroads. Our current “extractive” economic model — built on a tiny landmass with lopsided ownership — is a high-risk gamble. While flashy GDP figures look good on paper, the foundation is cracking under the weight of a tax-haven reputation, a weakening currency, and a rampant drug crisis. We are trading long-term stability for short-term capital, creating a “planning to fail” scenario.

The Structural Red Flags:

- **The Offshore Trap:** We are hyper-vulnerable to tax avoidance, money laundering, global regulations and sudden capital flight.
- **Emptying Plates:** Prioritising real estate over local farming has left us dangerously dependent on global food markets.
- **The Death of Industry:** By abandoning manufacturing for finance, we've hollowed out our long-term production and job market.
- **The Elite Gap:** This “ultracapitalist” cycle enriches a small circle of landowners while the environment and local labour force pay the price.

A Republic of Equals: Why the National Assembly Must Speak in Many Voices

The languages that built this republic are neither foreign nor ancestral. They are home

Mauritius is in the middle of a debate about whether Kreol Morisien should become a language of proceedings in the National Assembly. The debate has generated heat, competing press releases, and strong opinions on all sides. But beneath the immediate debate lies a question that most of the commentary has not yet asked, and it is the question that matters most. Not whether Kreol Morisien should be in Parliament, but what happens to the languages that are excluded from this institutional and constitutional recognition when it gets there. To answer that question, two countries come to mind, Wales and Singapore, because they show us both sides of the coin.

By S. Chidambaram

In 1536, Henry VIII signed the Acts of Union that bound Wales to England. Among their provisions was a clause that would, over the following four centuries, nearly destroy one of the oldest living languages in Europe. Welsh was excluded from all courts and official proceedings. It was not banned in homes or chapels. It was simply declared unfit for the institutions where power operated. No one ordered Welsh to die. The institutional logic did the rest.

By 1961, Welsh was spoken by fewer than one in four people in Wales. The mechanism of its near-destruction was not a single one or borne out of hatred. It was the accumulated signal, delivered through schools, courts, and public life across generations, that Welsh belonged in private ceremony but not in the spaces where the nation governed itself.

Parents made rational choices. Teachers enforced norms that no statute required. Children grew up understanding, without being explicitly told, that their language was not adequate for the institutions that shaped their futures.

The Fallacy of Numerical Primacy

Just before we proceed, I want to be clear about what I am NOT saying. I am not against Kreol Morisien (KM). It is a living, constitutive feature of Mauritian public life, and the desire to include it in parliamentary proceedings is a legitimate democratic aspiration. It is an aspiration which I share.

But I also share this aspiration for Tamil, and for Bhojpuri and for Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Urdu, and Mandarin. I share it for every language that different communities brought to this island, some under indenture, some through trade, and maintained across generations of hardship, displacement, and institutional indifference.

To see these languages as foreign, as belonging in some distant country of origin rather than in the soil of this Republic, is to deny the most basic fact of Mauritian history: that this country was not built despite these languages, but through them, by the people who carried them. Tamil, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Urdu, and Mandarin are not foreign languages that happened to wash up on our shores. They are Mauritian languages. They became Mauritian in the hold of ships, in the fields of sugar estates, in the markets and temples and homes of people who had no other country to belong to. They are as Mauritian as Kreol Morisien, and they deserve the same institutional recognition that that



status demands.

A recurrent theme in the debate is that KM is spoken by 90+ percent of Mauritians, that it is the language of national unity, that parliamentary proceedings in Kreol will make democracy more accessible to more people. These are valid arguments. However, the argument from numerical dominance does not become a constitutional principle simply because the numbers are large. In a plural republic, numerical size does not confer the right to institutional primacy over the languages of communities who did not choose the majority language as their own.

And yes, nobody denies that Kreol Morisien is spoken by all communities, and nobody denies that it is spoken not just across them but within them, whether in Tamil homes, in Bhojpuri households, between people who share the same ancestral heritage. But this fact, and particularly the reason for it, makes the case for putting the other languages on equal footing stronger, not weaker.

Taking the Injury as Proof

We must recognize here the historical reasons for the marginalization of languages of indenture and trade. These languages declined as primary domestic languages during the 1950s and 1960s for the numerically small ones, and 80s and 90s for the relatively large ones like Bhojpuri. This did not happen because anyone issued an order. It happened because families made rational calculations about which languages carried futures for their children, and the institutional environment told them, consistently and without malice, that these languages did not.

For many families of indenture, Kreol Morisien has indeed become the primary language of daily life even within the home. But this did not happen because these communities chose to abandon their languages. It happened because generation after generation received the same institutional signal: your language belongs in the temple, not in the institution. Intra-community use of Kreol Morisien is not proof that these communities are represented by it.

Many of us know stories of our elders being turned back

from educational institutions because they spoke their language of indenture or trade and not French or Kreol. It is the most visible consequence of the marginalisation this article is describing. In fact, to argue that the fact that many communities use Kreol Morisien to communicate instead of their 'ancestral language' is to take the injury as proof that the injury does not exist.

The Singaporean Alternative

The Singaporean model provides the contrast to this. Singapore became independent in 1965 with four distinct linguistic communities in a territory smaller than Mauritius. Its founding leaders faced exactly the argument being made here today: that a single shared language would promote unity, that multiple official languages would create administrative complexity, that the majority language was the most practical vehicle for democratic governance. They rejected that argument because they understood that a state which tells a community its language does not belong in the institutions of power is a state that has already begun to tell that community it does not fully belong.

Singapore designated Tamil, Mandarin, Malay, and English as official languages from independence. Tamil, spoken by roughly 3 to 4 percent of the population, an even smaller share than the languages of indenture represent collectively in Mauritius, has been an official language for sixty years. Tamil MPs address Parliament in Tamil as of right and it does not matter whether they do or not. The signal that Singapore's institutional landscape sends to Tamil-speaking Singaporeans, and to their children, is unambiguous: your language belongs here.

Today, Singapore is one of the most cohesive, economically successful, and patriotic societies on earth. Its multilingualism has not divided it but has been the foundation of its remarkable stability. Unity built on equal recognition of all its communities has proven more durable than unity built on the administrative convenience of elevating one language above the rest.

☞ Cont. on page 11

A Republic of Equals: Why the National Assembly Must Speak in Many Voices

Despite its small size, Singapore has four official languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil.



“Singapore designated Tamil, Mandarin, Malay, and English as official languages from independence. Tamil, spoken by roughly 3 to 4 percent of the population, an even smaller share than the languages of indenture represent collectively in Mauritius, has been an official language for sixty years. Tamil MPs address Parliament in Tamil as of right and it does not matter whether they do or not. The signal that Singapore’s institutional landscape sends to Tamil-speaking Singaporeans, and to their children, is unambiguous: your language belongs here...” - P - Instagram

☞ Cont. from page 10

Today the question or debate is which language in addition to English and French should be permitted within the walls of the National Assembly, our primary constitutional and democratic space. This is not a question of practicality or accessibility. It is a constitutional question about which communities the Republic recognises as equal participants in its own governance.

Kreol Morisien in the National Assembly, on the day that Bhojpuri, Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, Telugu, Urdu, and Mandarin stand beside it on equal terms: yes, without hesitation.

Kreol Morisien in the National Assembly while the languages of indenture and trade remain outside: that is not the recognition of all communities. That is the recognition of what colonial institutional pressure produced, while the languages it displaced are left to complete their disappearance without anyone having to issue the order.

A Debt of Foundation and Sacrifice

The people who carried the languages of indenture to this island did not arrive as guests. They arrived in the hold of ships, shackled by systems of indenture that gave them no choice about where they went or what awaited them. They built with their bodies an economy and a nation that they would eventually claim as their own. The traders who followed navigated oceans with nothing but their networks, their courage, and the languages in which they kept their accounts, conducted their prayers, and raised their children.

The languages of indenture were not brought here for cultural decoration. They were the living breath of the people who built this country, carried through back-breaking labour, through grief and death, through the long patience of communities that refused to be erased. Every road, every field, every institution of this Republic stands on the foundation of that sacrifice. The languages of indenture and trade did not survive because they were protected. They survived because the people who carried them refused, generation after generation, to let them go.



These languages became Mauritian languages the minute their speakers set foot on this soil, and they became more Mauritian with every generation that was born here,

buried here, and built here. They are not heritage languages. They are not ancestral languages kept alive in a museum of identity. They are home languages, the languages of this Republic’s founding labour, its founding sacrifice, its founding refusal to be nothing. To look at Tamil, at Bhojpuri, at Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Urdu, and Mandarin and see foreign languages that belong somewhere else is not merely a historical error. It is a moral failure. It is to deny that the peo-

ple who speak them are fully, unconditionally, and irreversibly Mauritian.

And a Republic that cannot extend to these languages the same institutional recognition it is now prepared to extend to Kreol Morisien has not yet finished reckoning with what it owes to the people who made it possible.

S. Chidambaram

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1. The State Trading Corporation (STC), trading arm of the Republic of Mauritius, falling under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, is inviting bids from eligible bidders for the Supply of canned products as per requirements contained in the bidding document.
2. Bidding document may be downloaded from the website of the STC, <https://www.stcmu.com> free of charge.
3. Bids must be submitted, in PDF format, through STC’s secured email address tender@stcmu.com by latest **07 May 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Mauritian Time)**.
4. Bids received after the submission deadline and/or submitted to an email address other than the above-mentioned secured email address shall not be considered.
5. Bids will be opened at the STC, Head Office, Ebène, on **07 May 2026 at 14.01 hrs** in the presence of bidders/representatives who may choose to attend.
6. Any request for clarification in respect of the bids shall be submitted by **30 April 2026** on the email address: query-food@stcmu.com
7. The STC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, split, annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

24 April 2026

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Putin warned Trump of 'damaging consequences' of fresh military action on Iran, says Kremlin



Putin's entry in Iran war confirmed. Pic - HT

Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov on Wednesday said that Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the US against "damaging consequences" of a new military action in Iran. In a phone call between Putin and US President Donald Trump, both leaders discussed the Iran war and the possibility of a ceasefire in Ukraine, reports HT.

The phone call that lasted more than an hour and a half was described as "friendly, frank and businesslike," by Kremlin aide.

Putin "highlighted the inevitable and extremely damaging consequences not only for Iran and its neighbours, but also for the entire international community, should the US and Israel resort to military action once again," Yuri Ushakov

was quoted as saying.

Ushakov said the discussion focused mainly on Iran, and Russia offered some proposals that could help resolve the conflict over Tehran's nuclear program. He didn't elaborate or mention Trump's response.

Putin supported Trump's decision to extend ceasefire

Putin said he supported Trump's decision to extend a truce with Iran to allow time for more negotiations and help in 'stabilising the situation,' Ushakov said.

He added Russia was "firmly committed to providing every possible assistance to diplomatic efforts" on the Middle East war, and said the call was held at Moscow's initiative.

Putin's warning comes amid reports that US Central Command is preparing for a 'short and powerful' wave of strikes to push Iran towards a deal. Trump on Wednesday posted an image of him holding a gun along with the words 'No more Mr Nice Guy.' On the social media platform Truth Social, he wrote, "Iran can't get their act together. They don't know how to sign a non-nuclear deal. They'd better get smart soon."

The war that began with the US-Israel's attack on Iran in February has spread to the Middle East with both sides currently in a fragile ceasefire. Peace talks between the two countries have ended in a deadlock over disagreement on Iran's nuclear programme and control of the Strait of Hormuz.

New chapter for Hormuz, Gulf: Iran Supreme Leader's 'bottom of the water' warning for US

Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, on Thursday stated that a "new chapter" for the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is taking shape amid the ongoing war with the United States and Israel.

In his written message, broadcast on state TV, the Supreme Leader added that Tehran would secure the Gulf region and eliminate "the enemy's abuses of the waterway."

Khamenei added that the new management of the Strait of Hormuz would bring calm, progress and economic benefits to all Gulf nations.

"Ninety million proud and honourable Iranians inside and outside the country regard all of Iran's identity-based, spiritual, human, scientific, industrial and technological capacities -- from nanotechnology and biotechnology to nuclear and missile capabilities -- as national assets, and will protect them just as they protect the country's waters, land and airspace," Khamenei wrote in his message.

The Iranian supreme leader added that "foreigners who come from thousands of kilometres away to act with greed and malice there have no place in it - except at the bottom of its waters."

"By God's help and power, the



Bottom of its waters: Mojtaba Khamenei issues chilling warning to US as Iran claims new control over Strait of Hormuz. Pic - The Indian Express

bright future of the Persian Gulf region will be a future without America, one serving the progress, comfort and prosperity of its people," he added further.

"The US's flimsy bases lack the resilience and capability even to ensure their own security, let alone provide any hope for US' dependents and the US-worshippers in the region," he said on X.

In response to the US blockade, Iran announced it would once again be closing the Strait of Hormuz, stranding several vessels in the sea yet again.

Due to the disruption, oil prices continue to rise, with Brent crude surging past \$120 per barrel, the highest it has been since it crossed \$130 a barrel in March 2022 during the Ukraine war.

Across the Globe



Kalshi's CEO speaking at the Semafor World Economy. Lexi Critchett/Semafor

Prediction markets help disease tracking

Prediction market speculators have bet millions on the next US measles outbreak, potentially helping public health systems track the disease's spread. The markets sell shares in outcomes, which pay out if they occur; the idea is to harness the wisdom of the crowd. They have successfully done so in disease prediction and, while "the ethics are murky," often outperform epidemiological modelling, New Scientist reported. The markets gained particular attention after gamblers predicted the Iranian supreme leader's assassination, and a soldier was arrested for insider trading on the Venezuelan president's capture. Foreign leaders

"should probably be checking their removal probability on Polymarket every few minutes," Bloomberg's Matt Levine noted, in case "it's someone on the helicopter getting in one last trade."

US, China join to combat "pig butchering"

US and Chinese authorities joined a major international operation led by Dubai police combating "pig butchering" scam centres. The effort, in which 276 people were arrested, marked a rare instance of cooperation between Washington and Beijing, underscoring the threat posed by the online scams, which are largely carried out from Southeast Asia.

"Pig butchering" is a long-term, high-yield investment fraud where scammers build fake romantic or friendly relationships—"fattening" the victim—before persuading them to invest in fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes. These scams, often run by organized crime groups, have caused billions in losses and frequently begin with wrong-number texts or social media messages.

China this year executed 11 ring-leaders, while Washington has said Americans have lost \$16.6 billion to the scammers. Experts warn, however, that the conditions that have helped "pig butchering" to proliferate -- namely corruption and illicit trade in Southeast Asia, and lawlessness in parts of Myanmar in particular -- mean it is unlikely to abate significantly.



Unicef warned that Australia's social media ban might encourage children to visit less regulated parts of the internet. Photo: dpa

Aussie teens bypass social media ban

Most Australian teenagers are still able to access social media despite a government ban on under-16 users.

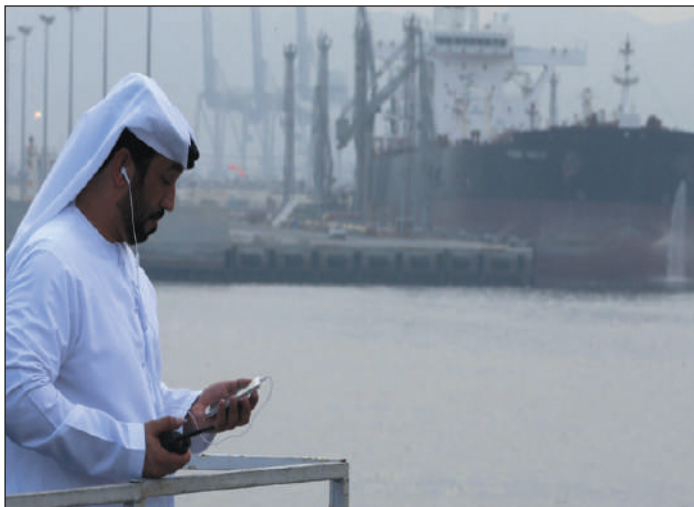
Canberra restricted access to platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram last year, and similar measures are being considered elsewhere. However, a survey found that 60% of underage users continue to access these platforms. Enforcement remains difficult: similar restrictions in the UK led to increased use of VPNs. Australia reports that 5 million accounts have been deactivated, but authorities are considering further action against companies that do not comply.

Your anonymity isn't long for the world'

AI tools are increasingly able to identify authors based on writing style, making online anonymity harder to maintain. A test showed that Claude Opus 4.7 could correctly identify a writer from short unpublished samples. Similar experiments confirmed the finding, though accuracy varies across models and is lower for individuals without a public writing record. The technology is improving rapidly, raising concerns that anonymous online posts could soon be easily traced back to their authors.

* Contd on page 14

Tensions with Saudi, Trump's praise, next move: Deep dive into UAE's decision to leave OPEC



Trump cheers UAE's exit from OPEC, says move will calm oil prices. Pic - Daily Sabah

Uncertainty has clouded the oil and gas trade that mainly flows through West Asia amid the war in Iran, which spilled over across the region. Adding to this, the United Arab Emirates decided to quit the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the larger OPEC group starting May 1.

By going independent, UAE can now make its own decisions regarding its oil production and sales. UAE is currently one of the world's top 10 producers of oil and has the capability to enhance its production significantly. With rising crude prices due to the Strait of Hormuz blockade, the move is being seen by many as a way to control the rising oil prices. However, the long and short impact of the move remains to be seen, reports HT.

What is OPEC and OPEC+?

The Organization of the

Petroleum Exporting Countries is a global organisation of oil-producing countries founded in 1960 in Iraq. The founding countries included Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were later joined by other oil-producing countries.

According to OPEC, its bloc's objective is "to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry."

The group has a major control on worldwide oil production and thus, can impact oil prices.

After UAE's exit, the core group will be left with 11 members.

OPEC+ is a larger group of oil-producing countries that includes countries such as

Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. This was formed in 2016 so that more countries could come together to settle on oil production and keep oil prices steady.

Rift with Saudi in play behind UAE's exit?

Saudi Arabia is often seen as the de-facto leader of the bloc and according to analysts, UAE's underlying tensions with Saudi may have played a part behind Abu Dhabi's decision to step away from the group.

They said that the UAE's move has much more behind it than just policy, particularly the relationship between UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"There is something seriously happening in the Saudi-UAE relationship... a much more serious rift than we think," news agency Reuters quoted Fawaz Gerges of the London School of Economics as saying.

"What we're seeing now is a kind of breakdown between the two most powerful leaders in the Gulf," he added.

According to UAE analyst Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, the bloc was mostly controlled by Saudi and Russia, with little space for other voices. "Saudi Arabia and Russia are dictating and manipulating (decisions)...they are doing everything to advance their own interests at the expense of others. They're not listening to anybody," he said.

tum is "entirely thanks to exports," with domestic growth stagnant, an analyst told The Wall Street Journal.

Kenya eyes World Bank help

Kenya is eyeing around \$600 million in emergency funds from the World Bank in a bid to soften the impact of the Iran war, which is upending economies across the continent. The East African nation is particularly vulnerable given it imports the vast majority of its fuels from the Gulf. And while Nairobi has already eased energy taxes in a bid to help consumers, pump prices have nonetheless surged. The Iran war has hastened calls for greater industrial investment on the continent to reduce its reliance on imports.

Across the Globe

Dedicated women's soccer stadium in UK

The English soccer club Brighton & Hove Albion will build the country's first dedicated women's stadium. Women's soccer has taken off in England in recent years: Arsenal, the dominant team, regularly sees crowds of 36,000, and total attendance hit 1 million last seasons, up 40% year-on-year. Revenues have soared 73% in the same period. But most crowds are still too small to fill their men's stadium and teams often play miles away at smaller grounds. Brighton is betting that a dedicated venue will unlock suppressed demand. Women's sports is increasingly big business worldwide: Deloitte predicts that global revenue will reach \$3 billion this year, a 340% increase in four years.



Brighton & Hove Albion confirmed plans for the UK and Europe's first purpose-built women's soccer stadium. Brighton & Hove Albion

Germany accelerates military spend

Germany is planning to boost defence spending to reach new NATO targets well ahead of schedule, seeking to bolster self-reliance amid fracturing ties with the US. Under the proposal, Berlin would increase its budget by one fifth in 2027 compared to this year, requiring it to borrow upwards of \$200 billion to revive its military industry and modernize crumbling infrastructure. Germany joins other European nations seeking to break from dependence on the US, but the transition could take years -- and they may never fully stand on their own, experts said. The US military commitment to Europe may be fraying, the Financial Times' Gideon Rachman wrote, "but the two sides remain locked in an unhappy marriage for now."

AI solves unproved problem

An amateur mathematician used AI to solve a 60-year-old problem that had challenged leading experts. Mathematician Paul Erdős left more than 1,000 conjectures -- unproven mathematical statements -- and while AI has solved some, they were generally simpler or less studied, Fields Medalist Terence Tao told Nature. Erdős problem #1196 was different: it had been studied extensively, yet a 23-year-old using ChatGPT identified a short proof that others had missed, apparently by reframing the problem. AI is "changing the job description" of mathematicians, Tao said, and those who do not use it may miss opportunities.

Europe faces stagflation risk



Photo by Matt Brown / Unsplash

New data suggested the Iran war was pushing Europe into a toxic mix of low growth and high inflation. The eurozone grew just 0.1% in the first quarter, while inflation accelerated to 3%, and falling consumer sentiment hints at collapsing demand. It may be "the early stages of a stagflationary shock," HSBC warned in a note.

Germany -- already grappling with poor growth -- expects to borrow a record €200 billion next year, its finance minister said, as the "irresponsible war... affects our economic development." Berlin has been outspoken about the war: Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Iran had "humiliated" Washington, a comment which apparently led President Donald Trump to threaten to withdraw US troops from Germany.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

Asian economic growth hit by war

The Asian Development Bank sharply downgraded its growth forecasts for the continent as the Iran war drove energy prices higher. The high cost of oil has pushed the rupee down, despite the Indian central bank burning through reserves and attempting to stop investors fleeing to the dollar.

South Korea and Japan both saw petrochemical and refinery activities slow, ING noted, although the impacts were offset by growth in other sectors. Shipbuilding, an East Asian strength, is also being hit by materials shortages. China's factories suffered less than others, suggesting it is weathering the war. But even there, surviving economic momen-

A Voice for the Voiceless

The Journalistic and Social Legacy of B. Ramlallah

Special Edition of Indradhanush on 'Beekrumsing Ramlallah - A Man at the Service of the Downtrodden'

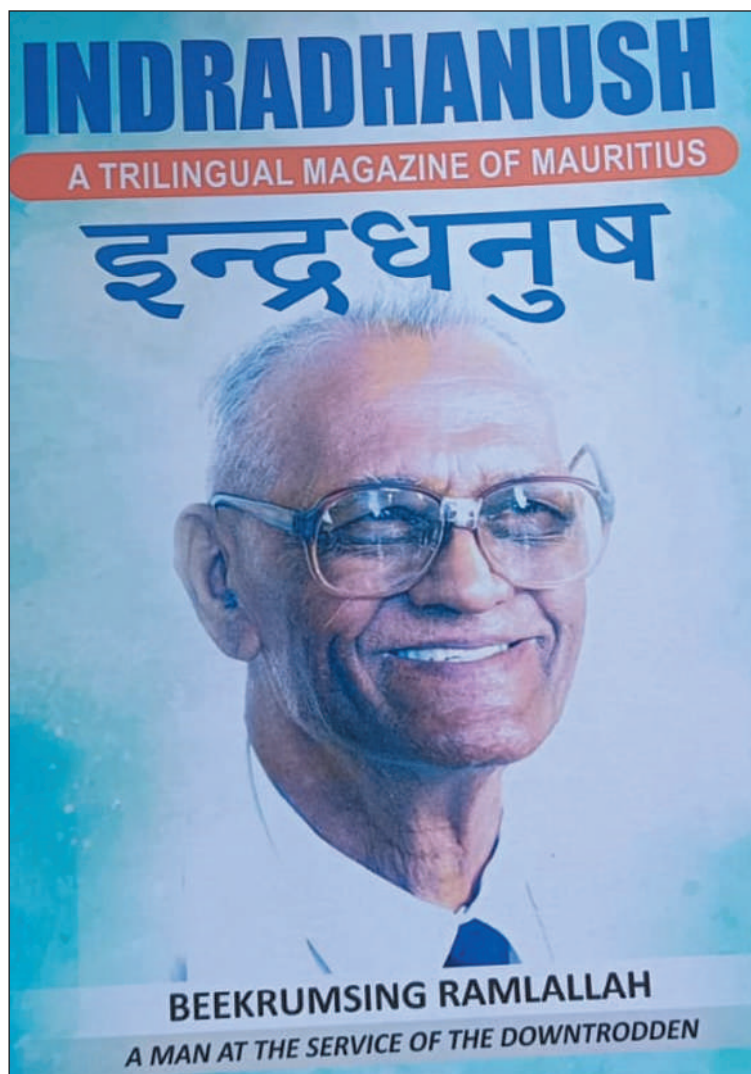
On Saturday 25 April 2026, a distinguished gathering of intellectuals, cultural figures, public officials, and members of civil society convened to mark a significant literary and historical moment: the launch of a Special Edition of *Indradhanush* dedicated to the life and legacy of Beekrumsing Ramlallah. With this special issue, Beekrumsing Ramlallah joins a select group of individuals who contributed tremendously and selflessly to the preservation of our culture, language, politics, and social values: Mahatma Gandhi, Manilal Doctor, Prof Ram Prakash, Marcel Cabon, John de Lingen-Kilburn, Pandit Atmaram Vishwanath, Dr Jugroo Seegobin, Surya Prasad Mungur Bhagat, Malcolm de Chazal, Anauth Beejadhur, Pandit Cashinath Kistoe, Leoville L'Homme, Dookhee Gungah, Mohullal Mohith, and many others.

More than a commemorative publication, this 40th issue stands as a testament to a man whose journey — from humble beginnings to national prominence — embodies the very spirit of service, resilience, and intellectual awakening that has shaped modern Mauritius. The initiative, spearheaded by Pahlad Ramsurrun, Chief Editor of *Indradhanush* and Chairman of the *Indradhanush* Sanskrit Parishad, reflects years of dedication to preserving the cultural and historical memory of the nation. In his editorial, Pahlad Ramsurrun presents Beekrumsing Ramlallah as “a man at the service of the downtrodden,” a phrase that captures both the ethos of the man and the central thread running through his life's work.

Born on 2 September 1915 in Long Mountain, Beekrumsing Ramlallah emerged from modest circumstances shaped by hardship and historical upheaval. The son of Seenarainsing Ramlallah — a small planter and market trader — he inherited not wealth, but a spirit of perseverance and a deep-rooted commitment to community upliftment. His early years coincided with a period of profound transformation among Indo-Mauritians, marked by socio-political awakening and the rise of cultural movements. These formative influences would leave an indelible mark on the young Beekrumsing.

Despite limited formal schooling, he cultivated a formidable intellect through self-education, balancing studies with work at the Central Market in Port Louis. His early exposure to struggle and responsibility — taking charge of his family at a young age — instilled in him a lifelong empathy for the underprivileged. This empathy would later translate into action across multiple spheres: education, social reform, journalism and politics.

Pahlad Ramsurrun's editorial in the *Indradhanush* special edition carefully traces the genealogical and geographical roots of the Ramlallah's family, situating his story within the broader narrative of Indian immigration to



Mauritius. From his grandfather's arrival from Uttar Pradesh in the late 19th century to the family's settlement in Malinga and Long Mountain, the account highlights the harsh realities faced by early immigrants. It also underscores how these communities gradually forged pathways toward dignity through education, organisation and cultural assertion.

Central to this evolution was the influence of reformist movements such as the Arya Samaj, which played a pivotal role in shaping Indo-Mauritian identity. Seenarainsing Ramlallah's involvement in these movements — and his role in founding educational institutions — provided a model of civic engagement that Beekrumsing would emulate and expand upon.

One of the most striking aspects of Beekrumsing Ramlallah's life, as highlighted in both the editorial and the speech by his son, Madhukar Ramlallah, at the launch is his unwavering commitment to social service. In 1942, he founded the Sewa Samiti, a social organisation aimed at fostering leadership, self-reliance and community spirit. At a time when access to knowledge was limited, he took the initiative to import books from India, eventually establishing the Nalanda Bookshop in 1946. This modest venture would grow into a vibrant intellectual hub, providing affordable educational resources and nurturing a generation of thinkers and activists.

The same year, he established the Nalanda Press, laying the groundwork for what would become one of his most enduring contributions: the founding of the *Mauritius Times* in 1954. Conceived in response to the

biases of sections of the local press, the newspaper quickly became a powerful platform for advocacy and reform. Through its pages, Beekrumsing Ramlallah championed causes such as access to education, social justice, and political representation, while defending the dignity and aspirations of the common man.

The *Mauritius Times* was not merely a publication; it was a movement. Its campaigns — most notably “Admit Our Children” and the opposition to Proportional Representation — mobilised public opinion and influenced policy decisions. The paper's use of political cartooning and its willingness to confront entrenched interests made it a formidable voice in the struggle for a more equitable society.

Beekrumsing Ramlallah's transition into politics was a natural extension of his activism. Elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1959 with an overwhelming mandate, he served as Parliamentary Secretary in key ministries, including Health and Commerce. His tenure was marked by a series of forward-thinking initiatives: promoting preventive healthcare, advocating for consumer protection, supporting small-scale industries, and introducing measures to improve education. Yet, true to his principles, he eventually chose to step away from parliamentary politics, returning to journalism where he felt he could speak more freely and effectively.

Perhaps one of his most lasting legacies lies in the preservation of the Aapravasi Ghat.

At a time when the historic Immigration Depot was neglected and its invaluable records left to deteriorate, he recognized its significance as a symbol of ancestral heritage. Through persistent advocacy, he mobilised support to restore the site, culminating in its recognition as a national monument in 1987 and later as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006. His efforts ensured that future generations would have a tangible link to their past.

The Special Edition of *Indradhanush* not only chronicles these achievements but also situates Beekrumsing Ramlallah among a pantheon of Mauritian figures who rose from humble origins to leave an enduring impact. As Madhukar Ramlallah noted in his address, the true measure of such individuals — especially public figures dedicated to politics or social work — lies in what outlives them: the institutions they build, the ideas they champion, and the lives they transform.

Beekrumsing Ramlallah was defined by his integrity, courage, and vision, as well as by his remarkable ability to unite people across divides. His life was guided by the principle of “simple living and high thinking” — a philosophy that informed both his personal conduct and his public service.

In bringing out this Special Edition, *Indradhanush* has performed a vital cultural function: preserving memory, inspiring reflection, and reaffirming the values that underpin national progress. It is also a reminder of the power of the written word — not only to document history, but to shape it.

When Journalism Meets Espionage

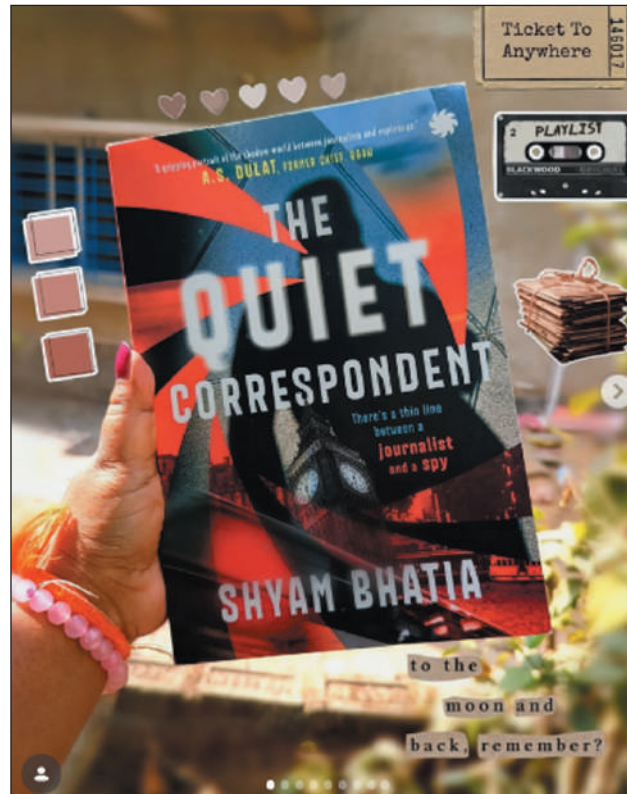
Insights from 'The Quiet Correspondent'

**The Quiet Correspondent -
By Shyam Bhatia**

Publisher: Juggernaut Books (2026)



Shyam Bhatia



There are novels about espionage, and then there are novels about the *conditions* that make espionage possible. *The Quiet Correspondent* by Shyam Bhatia firmly belongs to the latter category. In doing so, Bhatia delivers a debut work of fiction that feels less like an invention than an excavation of truths long buried beneath the official narratives of war, diplomacy, and journalism.

Shyam Bhatia's credentials as a veteran foreign correspondent are not merely decorative; they are the bedrock upon which the novel stands. Having reported from some of the world's most volatile regions — from the Middle East to South Asia — and having interviewed figures as formidable as Saddam Hussein and Yasser Arafat, he writes with an authority that cannot be faked. His earlier works, such as *Nuclear Rivals* and *Bullets and Bylines*, established him as a chronicler of geopolitical complexity. Here, however, he turns inward, using fiction to probe the moral ambiguities that journalism itself often conceals.

At the heart of the novel is Amol Batty, a British-Indian war correspondent whose career thrives on access — to conflict zones, to political elites, and to the shadowy intermediaries who connect the two. Amol is no caricature of the swashbuckling reporter; rather, he is a thinking, doubting presence, acutely aware that proximity to power is both a privilege and a liability. As he moves through Beirut, Jerusalem, London, and the Balkans, he becomes entangled in a web of influence that challenges his sense of professional

integrity.

The plot, while ostensibly structured as an espionage narrative, resists the conventions of the genre. There are no dramatic car chases or high-tech gadgets. Instead, the tension emerges from conversations, silences, and incremental compromises. A seemingly innocuous meeting with a Kurdish bomb-maker on a Greek island spirals into a deeper involvement with intelligence networks, particularly those operating under the discreet veneer of diplomatic institutions. The "action" of the novel is psychological rather than physical, unfolding in the corridors of embassies and the quiet corners of war-torn hotels.

What distinguishes *The Quiet Correspondent* is its insistence on moral complexity. Shyam Bhatia is less interested in what his protagonist does than in *why* he does it — and, crucially, what it costs him. The novel explores the subtle pressures exerted on journalists: the flattery of being "trusted," the implicit threats of exclusion, the seductive logic of "national interest." As Shyam Bhatia himself notes, the boundary between journalism and espionage is often porous, not by design but by circumstance. In this grey zone, good intentions can be quietly repurposed into instruments of power.

This thematic preoccupation is deeply rooted in Shyam Bhatia's own experiences. His reporting career unfolded during a time when journalists frequently operated in proximity to intelligence agencies, sometimes knowingly, often not. The

novel captures this ambiguity with remarkable precision. It portrays espionage not as an extraordinary activity but as an extension of everyday interactions — an accumulation of small, seemingly insignificant decisions that gradually alter one's ethical landscape.

Equally compelling is the novel's meditation on the nature of truth. In a world where information is both currency and weapon, the journalist's role becomes fraught with paradox. Amol is constantly negotiating between what he witnesses and what he is allowed — or encouraged — to report. The rise of disinformation, a recurring theme in the book, is not treated as a modern aberration but as a long-standing feature of geopolitical

conflict. Shyam Bhatia suggests that the real danger lies not in outright falsehoods but in the manipulation of partial truths.

Stylistically, Shyam Bhatia adopts a restrained, almost austere prose that mirrors the emotional tenor of the narrative. There is little embellishment, no gratuitous dramatisation. This sparseness is deliberate, reinforcing the sense that the

most significant events often occur beneath the surface. The novel's pacing is measured, but this deliberate tempo allows the reader to fully engage with the ethical dilemmas at its core.

For readers familiar with Shyam Bhatia's journalistic work, the novel offers a fascinating extension of his intellectual concerns. For newcomers, it serves as a compelling introduction to a writer who understands that the most important stories are often the ones that resist being told. In an age dominated by speed and sensationalism, *The Quiet Correspondent* is a reminder of the value of patience, nuance, and moral reflection.

Ultimately, this is a novel about conscience — about the quiet, often invisible negotiations that define a life lived close to power. It asks uncomfortable questions: What does it mean to bear witness? Where does responsibility end? And can one remain an observer in a world that demands participation?

Shyam Bhatia does not pretend to have definitive answers. Instead, he offers a space for contemplation. In doing so, he has crafted a work that lingers in the mind long after the final page is turned.

'The Quiet Correspondent' is available for purchase on Amazon.

Ministry of Local Government Employees Union

Reg No 95

Annual General Meeting 2025-2026

All members of the above-named union are kindly invited to attend the AGM for the year 2025-2026 on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 at 11.00 hr at the Field Services Unit, Mgr Leen Street, La Butte.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome address and report of President.
2. Reading and approval of the last minute of proceedings.
3. Treasurer's Report and approval of the final accounts for the year ending December 2025.
4. Election of office bearers to sit on the Managing Committee for the year 2026.
5. Appointment of Auditors for 2026.
6. AOB

Members willing to stand as candidates for election of office bearers must inform in writing to the Secretary, Mr Baume, c/o FSU La Butte Port Louis by latest Monday, 18 May 2026. In case of lack of members, the AGM will be held on Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

Secretary
K.R Baume

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in
Mauritius Times Digital Editions

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- General Assembly
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- Corporate - Company Notices

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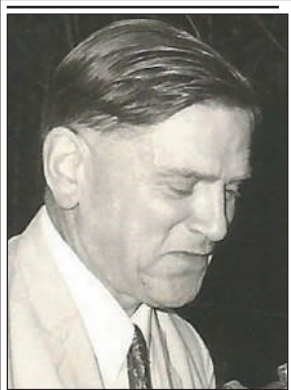
Contact us: Tel: 212 1313 -- 5 2929301
Email: mtimes@intnet.mu

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

7th Year No 335

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 3rd February, 1961

• *Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet. — Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

Peter Ibbotson

Gandhi and Social Education

In his *Basic Education*, Gandhiji outlined his belief that one of the chief reasons for the many troubles of India was the education system imported into India by Britain. This foreign education system created two groups of people: the Haves and the Have-nots, the small literate elite and the massive illiterate

majority.

The elite, argued Gandhiji, used their literacy to exploit the life, labour and even leisure of the illiterate masses; even literate Indians behaved like foreigners among their own countrymen. They were the janissaries of the Raj: between them and the illiterates there was no social bond, no living cohesion. Social disunity was fostered by the provision of education only for the few.

Gandhiji wanted to remove this disparity by means of a widened opportunity of education; and he wanted to see not a spread of the bookish, academic education imported from Britain, but a new concept of education, a basic education for the many, a *Nai Talim* ("New Education") as he called it. Gandhiji believed that education should be holistic, focusing on the development of the body, mind, and spirit through practical, hands-on labour.

That which Gandhiji criticised about the system of education practised in India under the British, existed also in the UK, where in the nineteenth century there was plenty of educational opportunity for the few but little opportunity for the many. Since the nineteenth century the picture in the UK has changed somewhat, but the British education system still puts a premium on class consciousness in education. Thanks to the hierarchical structure of schools in England and Wales, education in the UK still tends to create class division instead of national unity.

Gandhiji wished to see education as an instrument of national unity, of class cohesion. His *Nai Talim* was aimed at the creation of a socio-economic educational revolution which would, he said, "lay the foundation of juster social order in which there is no unnatural division between the haves and the have-nots and everybody is assured of a living wage and the right to freedom. And all this would be accomplished without the horrors of a bloody class war or a colossal capital expenditure..." (*Basic Education*).

The traditional way of life in Indian villages was one of self-help, cooperation, mutual understanding and tolerance. Community life flourished. But under British rule this community life was neglected and ruined; the education system imported from England aimed at developing the student's individuality without considering the use to which that developed individuality could best be put. And often, too often indeed, it was used to exploit others, often on behalf of the Raj. Mutual strife replaced mutual understanding: community life was replaced by individual rivalries. People no longer asked instead "What can I do for my village? What can I do for India?" they asked instead "What is my village going to do for me? What is my country going to do for me?"

We have seen that same process at work in Mauritius. Too many people taking their cues from the arch-anarchs of the IFB, are asking "What is the Government going to do for me?" Read the debates in Hansard and what do you find?



Pic - Medium

Over and over again the lunatic fringe of the Legislative Council benches asks the Government to do this, that, and the other for the people of Mauritius. Seldom, if at all, do those myopic monomaniacs who call themselves 'Independent' and 'Forward' say for a change "What can I do for Mauritius?" Seldom do those intellectually anaemic

Destroyers say to their constituents "How does your village stand? Is it making progress? If it is, are you satisfied with the degree of that progress? If it isn't, why isn't it? The Government can't do everything for you; you must help yourselves by making an effort to improve your own surroundings". On the contrary, the individualists are content to ask the Government to do something, to sit back and wait for it to be done and to grumble if it isn't done at once. They are not prepared to lift a finger to help themselves; they want it all done for them; they want it all handed to them on a plate.

This is just the attitude which Gandhiji aimed at eradicating with his *Nai Talim*. He wanted every village to be restored to its previous spirit of tolerance and self-help through education. Gandhiji would have approved of the means adopted by the National Fundamental Education Centre in India to get every village interested in social education and an all-round improvement of its social situation.

The Centre has drawn up a 'social education checklist' which every village is asked to consider and complete. Then the village has to pick out the targets it would like to achieve. Next year, the checklist is again considered and completed and the number of additional affirmative answers to questions indicates the amount of progress the village has made during the year.

These social education checklists could well be used by the Village Councils in Mauritius. If they were, every village would be able to see how to progress without always running off to the Government to ask for this and that. If the social checklist system were introduced, it would go a long way to help to create a true spirit of cooperation, a real spirit of mutual understanding and tolerance among villagers of different races and creeds.

Dr Benedict found a high degree of cooperation among Hindu and Muslim villagers who were members of village

councils; but this degree of cooperation is under fire from the anarchic agents of the racial Parti Mauricien who follow the classic tactic of dividing and conquering. For the future of Mauritius, every village must get together and work in harmony.

What sort of questions are asked in the social education checklists?

Questions on education; on organisations; on economic development; on citizenship; on family life; on health. The education questions deal with adult literacy; school attendance; village libraries; secondary schools; adult education through discussion and literacy groups.

Organisational questions deal with men's, women's and youth clubs; the economic questions ask about farming techniques and crops. Citizenship questions deal with the various topics in which a Village Committee might interest itself and with whether every V. C. member can read a newspaper. Health, home and family life matters include, among others, questions about inoculations, vaccinations and sanitation.

Once accepted, the social education checklist can help the village to measure its progress every year. What about it?

Al Furqan Society

Avenue Colline No. 1, Morcellement Raffray, Pailles

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday the 15th of May 2026 at 08:00 pm at the seat of the association.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of last Annual General Meeting
2. Report of the President
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Approval of estimate expenditure
5. A.O.B

Z. Peerbaye
The Secretary

CONSEIL DES SYNDICATS

Affiliates of Conseil Des Syndicats are invited to attend its Annual Delegates Meeting, to be held on Thursday 28 May 2026 at 9.00 am at GTU House, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1st Session

1. Welcome address.
2. Approval of minutes of last ADM & matters arising.
3. Finance (Treasurer).
4. Amendments to Rules (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election of Office-Bearers.

2nd Session: 10.30 am

Brainstorming on "Artificial Intelligence & its impact on workers".

3rd Session

- 11.30 am – Welcome address by outgoing CDS President.
- 11.40 am – Address by Hon. Reza Uteem, Minister of Labour.
- 12.15 pm – Vote of Thanks by outgoing General Secretary.
- 12.20 pm – LUNCH. CLOSE DOWN.

Adeel MONIARUCH
General Secretary



Wastewater Management Authority

VACANCIES

The WMA is looking for dynamic, motivated and result-oriented candidates to fill the following positions:

1. TECHNICAL OFFICER (CIVIL)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. A Cambridge School Certificate with credit in at least five subjects including English Language, Mathematics and Physics obtained at not more than two sittings or Passes not below Grade C in at least five subjects including English Language, Mathematics and Physics obtained at not more than two sittings at the General Certificate of Education "Ordinary Level" provided that at one of the sittings, passes have been obtained either (i) in five subjects including English Language with at least Grade C in any two subjects or (ii) in six subjects including English Language with at least Grade C in any one subject.

NOTE:

Candidates not possessing a credit in English Language at the Cambridge School Certificate will also be considered provided they possess passes in at least two subjects at "Principal Level" and one subject at "Subsidiary Level" as well as the General Paper obtained on one certificate at the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations.

- B. A Cambridge Higher School Certificate or Passes in at least two subjects obtained on one certificate at the General Certificate of Education "Advanced Level".
C. A Diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognized institution.

OR

Equivalent qualifications to A, B and C above acceptable to the Board.

- D. Candidates should be computer literate.
Qualification at A above should have been obtained prior to qualification at B above.

SALARY

Rs 31365 x 400 - 31765 x 425 - 33040 x 560 - 35840 x 725 - 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 49000 x 1100 - 54500 x 1450 - 58850 x 1750 - 60600

2. CLERICAL OFFICER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. A Cambridge School Certificate with credit in at least five subjects including English Language, French and Mathematics obtained at not more than two sittings or Passes not below Grade 'C' in at least five subjects including English Language, French and Mathematics obtained at not more than two sittings at the General Certificate of Education 'Ordinary Level'.

NOTE:

Candidates not possessing a credit in English Language at the Cambridge School Certificate will also be considered provided they possess passes in at least two subjects at "Principal Level" and one subject at the "Subsidiary Level" as well as the General Paper obtained on one certificate at the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations.

- B. The General Certificate of Education with passes at 'A' Level in at least two subjects.

OR

An equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

- C. Be computer literate.

SALARY

Rs 25745 x 300 - 26945 x 320 - 28865 x 350 - 30965 x 400 - 31765 x 425 - 33040 x 560 - 35840 x 725 - 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 45930

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANT- (SHIFT)

QUALIFICATIONS:

3.1 Technical Assistant (Mechanical) - (Shift)

- (i) Show proof of having read up to Form V; and
(ii) Possess the Mechanical and Electrical and Electronics Technicians Diploma awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute or the 'Brevet de Technicien' in Maintenance and Production Mechanics or Automobile Mechanics awarded jointly by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in

conjunction with the Technical School Management Trust Fund and the Lycée Polytechnique of Flacq or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

3.2 Technical Assistant (Electronic/Instrumentation) - (Shift)

- (i) Show proof of having read up to Form V; and
(ii) Possess the "Brevet de Technicien" in Electrotechnics/ Electronics awarded jointly by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in conjunction with the Technical School Management Trust Fund and the Lycée Polytechnique of Flacq or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

Practical experience in electronics is desirable

3.3 Technical Assistant (Electrical) - (Shift)

- (i) Show proof of having read up to Form V; and
(ii) Possess the Technician Diploma in Electrical/ Electronic Engineering awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institutes or the "Brevet de Technicien" in Electrotechnics/ Electronics awarded jointly by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in conjunction with the Technical School Management Trust Fund and the Lycée Polytechnique of Flacq or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

NOTE:

Technical Assistants – (Shift) will be required to work on a shift system on a 24-hour basis including night duty, Sundays and Public Holidays.

SALARY

Rs 25445 x 300 - 26945 x 320 - 28865 x 350 - 30965 x 400 - 31765 x 425 - 33040 x 560 - 35840 x 725 - 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 47950

4. GENERAL WORKER (ROSTER DAY & NIGHT)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- (i) Candidates should possess the Certificate of Primary Education; and
(ii) have a good health and a sound physique

SALARY

Rs 18700 x 200 - 18900 x 225 - 20925 x 250 - 22175 x 270 - 22445 x 300 - 26945 x 320 - 28865 x 350 - 30965 x 400 - 31365

AGE LIMIT

Post 1- 3: Candidates, unless in the Public Sector or Parastatal Organisation, should not have reached 45 years.

Post 4: Candidates, unless in the Public Sector or Parastatal Organisation, should not have reached 48 years.

MODE OF APPLICATION

- Application forms and detailed list of duties are available at the Human Resource Section of the WMA and can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.wmamauritius.mu>

- Qualified candidates should submit the application form duly filled in and signed together with copies of all academic and professional certificates and written evidence of knowledge/experience claimed to:

The General Manager, Wastewater Management Authority, Jerningham Street, Curepipe.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION

The closing date for submission of application is not later than **07 May 2026 at 15.30 hrs.**

- NOTE: 1.** Only the best qualified candidates will be considered.

- The WMA reserves the right not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.
- The post applied for should be clearly marked on the left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Late/incomplete application not made on the prescribed form will not be considered.
- Candidates who possess an equivalent qualification to the prescribed qualification are requested to submit an Equivalence Certificate from Mauritius Qualification Authority or Higher Education Commission, as appropriate.

Wastewater Management Authority

Jerningham Street, Curepipe

Tel: 206 3000/206 3056

21 April 2026

Sacred Emergence

How the Nile shaped the foundations of Karnak Temple

In the heart of Luxor, the Karnak Temple complex stands as a testament to the grandeur of ancient Egypt. However, new geoarchaeological research from Uppsala University suggests its location was chosen for reasons far deeper than mere convenience. It appears the temple was intentionally built upon a rare geological feature that transformed an ancient creation myth into a physical reality.

The Myth of the Primeval Mound

Ancient Egyptian cosmogony often centres on the "primeval mound" -- the first piece of land to emerge from the "Waters of Chaos" at the dawn of time. According to a study published in *Antiquity*, the landscape of Karnak roughly 4,000 years ago mirrored this sacred narrative with startling accuracy.



By analyzing 61 sediment cores and tens of thousands of ceramic fragments, researchers reconstructed a prehistoric environment that was largely uninhabitable. Before **2520 BCE**, the site was a volatile floodplain, regularly submerged by

the Nile's fast-moving waters. However, as river channels shifted, they carved out a natural terrace, leaving behind a rare island of high ground.

Engineering the Sacred

This elevated "island" provided a stable foundation for the first structures of the Old Kingdom. Dr. Angus Graham, who led the research team, notes that the site was unique in the region for being a mound of high ground encircled by water. This likely led Theban elites to view the spot as the literal dwelling place of the creator god, **Ra-Amun**.

The study also revealed how the Egyptians actively managed this landscape:

- **Expansion:** As river channels silted up, the Egyptians accelerated the process

by dumping desert sands into the water to expand the temple's footprint.

- **Persistence:** A previously overlooked eastern river channel remained active until the Roman period, meaning that for much of its history, Karnak truly felt like a sacred island rising from the Nile.

A Symbolic Landscape

The annual retreat of the Nile floods would have reinforced this religious symbolism every year. As the floodwaters receded, the temple grounds would "emerge" from the water once again, mimicking the original act of creation. This discovery shifts our understanding of Karnak from a purely architectural achievement to a profound example of "mythic urbanism," where the physical earth was chosen to validate the divine.



Are multiverses real? An astrophysicist explains why it depends on how you define 'real'

While direct evidence of multiple universes is hard to come by, indirect evidence raises intriguing possibilities.

The idea of a multiverse – a hypothetical collection of all possible universes – is one that science fiction fans love to explore. But does the multiverse actually exist?

To answer the question of whether the multiverse is real, we first need to agree on what it means for something to be real. As an astrophysicist who studies cosmology – the large-scale history and structure of the universe – and the philosophy of physics, I've thought about this question more than a few times over my career.

The most immediate definition of "real" might be that you can see and touch it. My lunch is real in this sense, because I can taste it and you can hear me chewing it (hopefully not too loudly). So "real" might be defined as something you can perceive with at least one of your five senses.

But that would leave out a lot of things that are also real. The microwaves that heat up your food are real, but you can't directly perceive them – only their effect, heated food. So some real things you can "see" only indirectly by the evidence they leave behind. The existence of dinosaurs is another example – you can see only their fossils.

So, you can ask two versions of the question of whether the multiverse is real. One: Can you see, hear, touch, smell or taste it? Two: Even if you can't, is there any evidence of its effects?

Quantum mechanics of the multiverse

The answer most researchers would offer to whether you can perceive the multiverse with your five senses is probably not. But there are lots of real things that aren't real in this sense, such as microwaves. So can we see any indirect evidence of the multiverse, such as the effects it might have on the observable

world?

The short answer is yes, sort of.

The multiverse is one way to understand the behavior of very, very small things, such as atoms and subatomic particles. Scientists call the rules governing how these very small objects behave quantum mechanics. In quantum mechanics, it's never certain what the outcome of an experiment will be. You can only write down the chance – that is, the probability – of something happening.

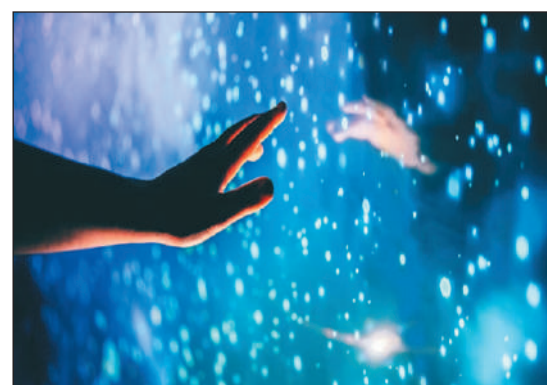
It's like rolling dice: You can't be sure what number you'll get, but you can say you have an equal chance of getting one, two, three, four, five or six on top of the dice. However, if you knew enough information about the dice – such as its exact shape and mass, the air patterns around it and the exact way you threw it – you could predict exactly what side it would land on. It might take a big computer simulation to crunch the numbers, but it's possible.

Now imagine really, really, really small dice. Even if you had a very powerful computer, you wouldn't be able to predict which side this super small dice would fall on. That's because it's governed by quantum mechanics, where you can't predict outcomes with complete certainty. You can predict only probability.

Many worlds and the multiverse

Quantum mechanics is only somewhat random – not everything has an equal chance of happening. We can predict the chance of each scenario happening, but not the actual outcome. In the case of quantum dice, all we could know about it is that there's a 1 in 6 chance of it landing on any face.

One way scientists have interpreted this strange property of quantum mechanics is that each possible scenario



actually does happen. But when it does, it creates another universe. This is called the many-worlds view of quantum mechanics.

In the case of our quantum dice, the many-worlds view would say there's a 1 in 6 chance of rolling each number because six universes are created every time we roll the dice. Although we stay in one of them – say, the world where the dice comes up three – five other universes are also created where the dice comes up as one of the other numbers.

In this picture of quantum mechanics, universes branch off with every scenario. Of course, we cannot really make a quantum mechanical dice and roll it – just interacting with the dice would destroy its quantum nature.

Does this mean quantum mechanics is evidence that the multiverse is real? I would say no. While it's a fascinating way to imagine quantum mechanics, it's just one interpretation, not undeniable evidence of the multiverse.

The multiverse and string theory

Another relevant aspect of the multiverse is its role in string theory. String theory argues that the fundamental particles that make up matter are themselves

made of vibrating strings of energy. Think of an elastic band vibrating inside each particle.

String theory also argues that the universe has more than three dimensions. Different string theories predict different numbers of extra dimensions. This means physical constants such as the speed of light and the charge of electrons could have different values. So could the amount of stuff in the universe, such as matter.

That suggests a landscape of possible different universes, each with different conditions – a multiverse.

So far, there isn't definite evidence of a multiverse based on string theory. These universes probably wouldn't connect to each other, otherwise they wouldn't count as separate universes – just part of our own. So even if they do exist, we may never get direct evidence for their existence.

However, there could be indirect evidence of the existence of multiple universes. For instance, string theory can help scientists predict the results of very high-energy experiments in our own universe. It can also make predictions for how matter behaves on very, very small scales. If these predictions turn out to be true, that could be evidence for string theory. And if string theory is possibly real in our universe, this indirectly means the multiverse may also be real.

While there hasn't been any definitive evidence in our own universe for string theory, who knows what the future may hold.

Zachary Slepian

Associate Professor of Astronomy,
University of Florida



A Particular Taste

A woman, while enjoying a game of bridge with her friends one afternoon, suddenly noticed the time and exclaimed, "Oh no, I have to rush home and fix dinner for my husband! He will be furious if it's not ready in time."

When she reached home, she realized she hadn't found the time to go to the supermarket as she had planned. Searching the kitchen, she found that all she had was a wilted lettuce leaf, an egg, and a can of cat food. In a panic, she opened the can, stirred in the egg, and garnished it with the lettuce just as she heard her husband's car pull up outside. She greeted him with apprehension as he sat down to the improvised meal.

To her amazement, he really enjoyed it. "Dear, this is the best dinner you've made in ages. We must have it again!" Naturally, she did not reveal the ingredients.

From then on, every bridge afternoon, she prepared the same dish. She eventually told her bridge friends about it, and they were horrified. "You'll kill him!" they warned. A few months later, her husband died.

At the next bridge gathering, one woman lost her temper. "I warned you that you'd end up killing him!" she told the widow. "Feeding the poor man cat food every week! How can you just sit there calmly playing bridge, knowing you are responsible for his death?"

"I didn't kill him," the widow stated calmly. "He fell off the window ledge while he was licking himself."

* * *

The Silver Lining

A kid confided to his school friend, "My poor grandmother has had Alzheimer's for some time now. But I guess I should be grateful for the \$10 I get for my birthday every week."

* * *

Short Memory

A man collecting donations in a shopping mall



asked a lady for a contribution to an Alzheimer's charity. She replied, "But I already gave just now! Don't you remember?"

* * *

Creating Opportunities

Sir Gwilym and his men returned to the King's castle carrying bags of gold and the spoils of plundering the countryside for a week.

"Where have you been all this time, Sir Gwilym?" the King questioned.

"I have been robbing and pillaging on your behalf, Sire, burning the villages of your enemies in the North."

"But I don't have any enemies in the North!" the King exclaimed.

"You have now, Sire," Sir Gwilym replied.

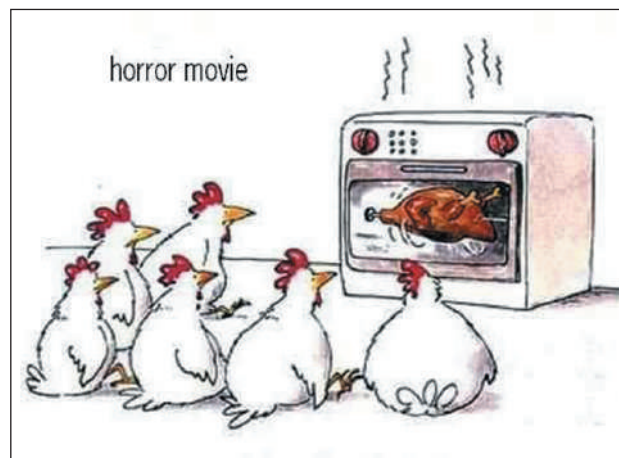
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New Evidence

A lawyer stood before the appeals court judge and declared, "Your Honour, I wish to appeal my client's case on the basis of newly discovered evidence."

"And what is the nature of this evidence?" asked the judge.

The lawyer replied, "I discovered that my client still has a lot of money left."



* * *

The Secret to Longevity

A man congratulated an elderly gentleman on his 101st birthday.

"Actually," the man replied, "I'm only eighty-one. But since my wife passed away three weeks ago, it feels like every day is my birthday."

* * *

Enjoying the Truth

The crusty old managing partner finally passed away, but his law firm kept receiving calls asking to speak with him.

"I'm sorry, he's dead," was the standard answer.

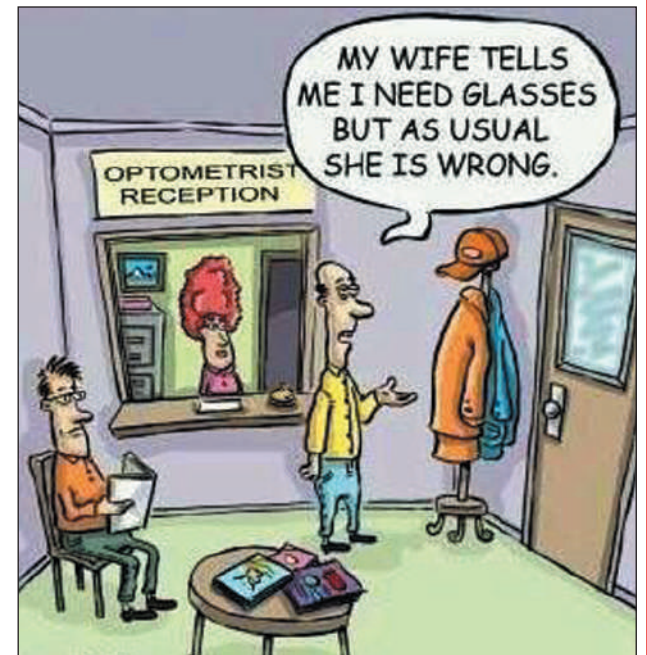
Finally, the receptionist noticed it was always the same voice. Curious, she asked who it was and why he kept calling.

The caller replied, "I used to be one of his junior associates... and I just like to hear you say it."

* * *

The One Question That Mattered

A young man named Murphy applied for an engineering position at an Irish firm in Dublin. An American applied for the same job. Both candidates had identical qualifications and were asked to take a test by the department manager.



After completing the test, both men had only missed one question. The manager went to Murphy and said, "Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give the job to the American."

Murphy asked, "Why? We both got nine questions correct. This is Ireland, and I'm Irish -- I should get the job!"

The manager replied, "Our decision wasn't based on the number of correct answers, but on the question you missed."

Murphy asked, "And how could one wrong answer be better than the other?"

The manager smiled: "Simple. The American wrote on question #5, 'I don't know.'"

* * *

The Most Painful Part

A group of guys and one girl are sitting together at a ball game. During the game, the guys notice that the girl knows just as much about baseball as they do -- and they're impressed.

After the game, they ask her, "How do you know so much about baseball?"

She replies, "Well, I used to be a guy and had a sex change."

The guys are amazed, but curious about the process.

"What was the most painful part? Was it when they cut it off?"

"That was very painful, but it wasn't the most painful part."

"Was it when they cut off your balls?"

"That was very painful, but it wasn't the most painful part."

"What was the most painful part?"

"The part that hurt the most was when they cut my salary in half!"

* * *

Knowing When to Quit

As the end of the day drew near, the handsome executive called his newly hired assistant into his office.

"Do you know what time we quit around here?" he asked.

"Sure!" the girl nervously giggled. "Whenever somebody knocks on the door."

Life Stories

The Solomon Warning: Why Wisdom Without Discipline Is a Death Sentence

History remembers King Solomon as the man who had everything. He was the architect of an empire, the wealthiest figure of his era, and a man whose intellect was so profound that rulers travelled across deserts just to hear him speak. Yet, Solomon's legacy isn't just a blueprint for success; it is a mirror reflecting a devastating truth:

What a man builds with wisdom, he can lose through desire.

Solomon's story is not a distant history lesson; it is a live broadcast for every man today who believes that intelligence or status makes him invincible.

The Illusion of Control

Solomon was surrounded by a thousand voices — seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. He didn't

observe the complexities of desire from a distance; he lived at the center of them. Despite his unrivalled insight, he fell into the trap he himself warned against. In Proverbs, he wrote that the lips of a seductive woman "drip honey," but her end is "bitter as wormwood."

He knew the danger. He understood the cost. Yet, he allowed the sweetness of the moment to erode the mission of a lifetime. The lesson here is sharp: beauty is never free, and desire is rarely innocent. A man's purpose can be buried by the very things he refuses to restrain.

The Architecture of Collapse

We often want to blame external forces for our failures, but Solomon's downfall was an inside job. He wasn't destroyed by women; he was destroyed by the version of himself that stopped



exercising restraint. He began to justify small compromises. He relaxed his standards when he should have held the line.

Discipline is the only thing that keeps a kingdom — or a life — from crumbling. Solomon proves that brilliance is not a shield against self-sabotage. When a man stops guarding his mind, his purpose fractures. Little by little, the man who ruled nations became a man who could

no longer rule his own impulses.

The Final Standard

Solomon's life serves as a direct warning to guard four pillars: Mind, Purpose, Standards, and Discipline. Without these, a man is exposed to every distraction that looks like a destination.

The unfiltered truth is that your purpose must be stronger than your cravings. If you cannot govern your own appetite, you will eventually be controlled by whatever satisfies it. To be a man who wins, you must master yourself before you attempt to master the world. Solomon had the wisdom to move nations, but he lost the discipline to move himself. Don't let that be your story. Master your choices, or your choices will eventually master you.

Stray Thoughts

She's Saving Herself

Not because she doesn't long for love, but because she does.

She craves affection, connection, and depth. But she's reached a place where temporary people no longer get access to her mind, her body, or her spirit.

From the very first conversation, she can tell who's genuine and who's just passing time. And she no longer entertains the latter.

She's done pouring into shallow conversations. Done giving pieces of herself to people who never had the capacity to hold her properly in the first place. She has finally realized just how precious her time is.

Over the years, she's faced trauma that shook her foundation and tested her strength. It changed her, strengthened her, and taught her countless lessons.

One thing she promised herself: she will never again sit across from someone who makes her question her worth.

She knows exactly how valuable she is.

She'd rather walk alone in peace than walk beside someone with hidden intentions. She's not afraid of solitude, she's afraid of settling.

The truth is... she's a rarity in this generation. A woman who believes in depth, loyalty, and genuine intentions. Her heart carries a love that can't be measured, and her soul... her soul reaches far beyond what most can even understand.

She's not hard to love. She's just no longer easy to access.

Cody Bret



Philo Thoughts

Darkness as Our Country

I hope you live without the need to dominate, and without the need to be dominated. I hope you are never victims, and that you hold no power over others. And when you fail, are defeated, in pain, or in the dark, I hope you remember that darkness is your country -- where you live, where no wars are fought and no wars are won, but where the future resides.

Philosophy and Ethics

Roots in the Nourishing Dark

By Ursula K. Le Guin

I hope you live without the need to dominate, and without the need to be

Life can be better

Discipline Over Distraction



temptation that crosses your path.

Real masculinity isn't a performance; it's a practice. It is discipline when the room is empty. It is restraint when your emotions demand control. It is the work you do in silence while others are auditioning for attention online.

The world does not reward potential. It rewards execution.

Excuses are a currency that buys you nothing.

Feelings don't build empires; systems do. Talk is cheap — action is the only thing that moves the needle.

The Blueprint:

- Forge the Body:** Physical discipline is the foundation of mental clarity.
- Sharpen the Mind:** Knowledge with out application is just noise.
- Command Your Desires:** If you cannot control yourself, you cannot control your future.
- Build Wealth:** Move with the quiet confidence of a man who provides.

No noise. No drama. No begging for a seat at the table. Just results.

Most men don't fail because they lack strength. They fail because they lack focus

You aren't weak; you're distracted. You are distracted by people who haven't earned your time. You are distracted by validation from people who don't matter. You are distracted by a level of comfort that is quietly killing your ambition.

Stop searching for motivation. Start enforcing standards.

A man without standards is a magnet for chaos. You cannot claim to want respect while tolerating disrespect. You cannot claim to want success while protecting your leisure. You cannot claim to value loyalty while entertaining every

dominated. I hope you are never victims, but I hope you have no power over other people. And when you fail, and are defeated, and in pain, and in the dark, then I hope you will remember that darkness is your country, where you live, where no wars are fought and no wars are won, but where the future is.

Our roots are in the dark; the earth is

our country. Why did we look up for blessing — instead of around, and down? What hope we have lies there. Not in the sky full of orbiting spy-eyes and weaponry, but in the earth we have looked down upon. Not from above, but from below. Not in the light that blinds, but in the dark that nourishes, where human beings grow human souls.



Relationships

Understanding Pathological Lying

Managing a relationship with someone who lies frequently is emotionally exhausting

Lying is a common human behaviour, often serving as a social lubricant or a tool for self-protection. Most people are familiar with "white lies" -- trivial untruths told to avoid hurting feelings -- or "gray lies" told to escape trouble. However, when dishonesty becomes a compulsive, lifelong pattern without clear benefits, it enters the realm of pathological lying.

Also known as pseudologia fantastica or mythomania, pathological lying is a complex psychological phenomenon. While it is not an official diagnosis in the DSM-V, it is a recognized condition that can devastate careers and personal relationships.

What Defines a Pathological Liar?

Unlike typical liars who lie for a specific gain -- such as avoiding a speeding ticket or impressing a date -- pathological liars often tell extensive, elaborate stories for no apparent reason. Experts generally identify the condition through four key characteristics:

- Excessive Frequency:** The lying is constant and becomes the person's most defining trait.
- Lack of Clear Motive:** The stories often don't benefit the liar and may even lead to negative consequences when the truth is revealed.
- Long-Term Pattern:** The behavior typically begins in the teenage years and persists for decades.
- Independence from Other Illnesses:** While it can coexist with personality disorders (like Narcissistic or Antisocial Personality Disorder), pathological lying is considered a distinct condition rather than just a symptom of another mental illness.

3 Signs Someone Is Lying to You

Detecting a lie isn't always about watching for "shifty eyes." Instead, look for these specific narrative patterns:

- **Contradictory Stories:** Frequent liars often lose track of their own fabrications. If details of a story change significantly between retellings, it is a major red flag.

- **Unverifiable Details:** To make a lie seem authentic, a person may pepper the story with specifics that are impossible to check or confirm.

- **Over-the-Top Drama:** Pathological lies are frequently long and overly dramatic, often featuring the liar as a hero or a victim in an intense, unlikely scenario.

Living with and Treating the Condition

Managing a relationship with someone who lies frequently is emotionally exhausting. If you are in this situation, it is vital to **stay calm** and avoid reacting with anger, which can trigger further defensiveness. Most importantly, **do not engage with the lie**. Acknowledging the untruth and ending the conversation prevents the behavior from being reinforced.

Treatment is challenging because the patient may lie to the therapist, but long-term **psychotherapy** remains the best option. A qualified therapist can help the individual uncover the root causes of their compulsion and develop healthier communication habits. Identifying the problem is the first step toward rebuilding trust and moving toward a more honest life.

Health & Life Hacks

5 Foods to Combat Belly Fat and Bloat

Stubborn midsection fat is more than a cosmetic concern; it is a significant risk factor for heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. While exercise is vital, these five "superfoods" can jump-start the metabolic process:

- 1. MCT Oil:** Unlike other fats, medium-chain triglycerides are burned for energy rather than stored as fat. Subjects using MCT oil in studies lost significantly more weight than control groups.

- 2. Healthy Fats:** Avocados, nuts, and oily fish provide the protein and fats your body needs to function, preventing it from breaking down muscle tissue for energy.

- 3. Sauerkraut:** Probiotic-rich fermented foods promote a "happy gut," which is directly linked to an efficient metabolism.



- 4. Whole Grains:** Swapping refined white bread for quinoa, barley, or brown rice reduces inflammation and prevents the blood sugar spikes that lead to snacking.

- 5. Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV):** Drinking a diluted tablespoon of ACV can balance gut pH and increase stomach acid, which improves digestion and nutrient absorption.



Why Soaking Your Almonds is a Game-Changer

While raw almonds are a convenient snack, "pre-soaking" them unlocks a host of biological benefits that raw nuts simply can't provide. If you've wondered why many cultures insist on soaking almonds overnight, the answer lies in chemistry.

Breaking the Nutrient Barrier

The brown skin of an almond contains

tannin, which serves as a natural defense for the nut but acts as a nutrient inhibitor in the human body. Soaking the almonds for about **8 hours** allows the skin to slip off easily, removing the tannins and making the nutrients more "bioavailable."

Top Health Benefits

- 1. Digestive Aid:** Soaking triggers the release of *lipase*, an enzyme essential for breaking down fats.

- 2. Weight Management:** The mono-unsaturated fats in soaked almonds are more effective at curbing appetite and preventing binge-eating.

- 3. Heart & Cancer Protection:** These nuts are rich in Vitamin E (antioxidants) and Vitamin B17, which are linked to fighting inflammation and inhibiting tumor growth.

- 4. Blood Pressure & Sugar:** Regular consumption helps regulate glucose levels and maintain healthy blood pressure.

To start, simply cover a handful of almonds in water for 8 hours, drain, peel, and store. They stay fresh for up to a week and provide a significantly more nutritious crunch.

The 5-Minute Fix for Anxiety: Diaphragmatic Breathing

When a stressful work situation or overwhelming responsibilities trigger an "activated" nervous system, your body often defaults to "reverse breathing" -- where the belly pulls in on an inhale. Yoga expert Ally Bogard suggests that the quickest way to halt this anxiety is through **diaphragmatic breathing**.



The Technique
To release built-up tension in just five minutes, follow these steps:

- 1. Lower Belly:** Lie down and breathe through your nose, letting your belly extend outward on the inhale for 10 breaths.

- 2. Navigation:** Place one hand on your navel to feel the engagement of the diaphragm.

- 3. Lateral Expansion:** Move a hand to your ribs and feel them widen as you inhale.

- 4. The High Breath:** Finally, bring your breath up toward the collarbone.

- 5. The Cycle:** Visualize each breath going **deep, wide, then high** before a full exhale. This simple shift signals to your brain that you are safe, stopping the "fight or flight" response in its tracks.

BollyBytes

Tanushree Dutta alleges "Bollywood Mafia" involvement in Rajput and Khan deaths

Actress Tanushree Dutta has once again highlighted what she describes as a dark reality within the Indian film industry. In a candid interview with *Meri Saheli*, Dutta linked an alleged "Bollywood mafia" to the tragic deaths of stars Sushant Singh Rajput and Jiah Khan, reports Money Control.

Dutta questioned the official narrative of suicide, stating, "I don't believe they died by suicide." She argued that even if they did, the industry's power structures likely pushed them to that brink. "If there was no mafia, these talented, upcoming stars would still be here," she remarked.



Dutta emphasized that career setbacks alone rarely lead to such extreme steps, suggesting instead a "concentrated effort" to harass those who work independently.



Sameera Reddy announces Bollywood comeback

After a long hiatus following her marriage and a move to Goa, actress Sameera Reddy is returning to the big screen. The 47-year-old actress, known for her roles in *Jai Chiranjeeva* and *Ashok*, is set to appear in the upcoming film *Aakhri Sawal* alongside Sanjay Dutt. Reddy has recently shared her fitness journey and weight loss transformation with fans, stating she is now focused on "meaningful roles" that showcase her acting abilities.

Bollywood icons featured on TIME 100 global influence list

The global influence of Indian cinema is being celebrated as Ranbir Kapoor joins the prestigious TIME 100 list for 2026. This milestone follows a legacy of Bollywood stars who have graced the list:

- **Ranbir Kapoor (2026):** Recognized for shaping global culture and societal influence.
- **Priyanka Chopra Jonas (2016):** A trailblazer who appeared on an iconic TIME cover.
- **Aamir Khan (2013):** Honored as a pioneer for his transformative and



socially impactful cinema.

- **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (2004):** One of the earliest Indian actresses to be featured, representing Indian grace on the world stage.

Mona Singh reflects on a career with "No Plan B"

Actor Mona Singh is enjoying a prolific year in 2026 with projects like *Happy Patel* and *Border 2*. Reflecting on her journey, Singh stated she never had a backup plan: "I always wanted to act." She credited streaming platforms (OTT) for giving her the "wings" to experiment with complex, resilient female characters. She also noted a "full-circle" experience with Aamir Khan, having transitioned from playing his co-star in *3 Idiots* to his mother in *Laal Singh Chaddha*, and now his daughter in *Happy Patel*.



Beyond the Filter: How Bollywood's Flawless Stars Tackle Real-World Acne

In an era of high-definition cameras and social media filters, it is easy to assume that Bollywood celebrities are born with naturally airbrushed skin. However, the reality behind the scenes is often quite different. For many of the industry's biggest stars, the journey to a clear complexion has been a battle with stubborn breakouts and teenage acne.

While luxury treatments are always an option, several celebrities have turned to traditional, kitchen-staple remedies to manage their skin. Here is how five Bollywood stars handled their acne struggles — and which of their DIY hacks actually pass the expert test.



1. Priyanka Chopra: The Power of Yoghurt and Turmeric

The global icon has never shied away from her "desi" roots when it comes to beauty. Priyanka relies on a traditional **yoghurt and turmeric** facial.

- **The Science:** This is a powerhouse combination. Yoghurt contains **lactic acid**, a mild Alpha Hydroxy Acid (AHA) that gently exfoliates dead skin cells, while turmeric is famed for its **anti-inflammatory** and antibacterial properties.

- **Verdict:** Highly effective for a natural glow and calming redness.



2. Adah Sharma: The Classic Multani Mitti

Adah Sharma dealt with persistent acne throughout her teens and remains a staunch advocate for **Fuller's Earth** , popularly known as **Multani Mitti**.

- **The Science:** This clay is a natural absorbent. It effectively pulls out excess sebum (oil) and draws impurities from deep within the pores, making it an ideal treatment for those with oily or congested skin.

- **Verdict:** A time-tested remedy that

remains a gold standard for oil control.

3. Shraddha Kapoor: The Toothpaste Hack

Shraddha once surprised fans by admitting she used to dab **toothpaste** on her pimples to dry them out overnight.

- **The Science:** Toothpaste often contains ingredients like silica or baking soda, which can indeed dehydrate a blemish. However, the flavoring agents (like menthol) and fluoride can cause significant chemical burns or irritation on sensitive facial skin.

- **Verdict:** Proceed with caution. Most dermatologists suggest avoiding this in favor of targeted spot treatments.

4. Malaika Arora: Gentle Minimalism

Malaika Arora, known for her age-defying radiance, attributes her skin health to **gentle, consistent routines**. Rather than chasing "quick fixes" or harsh chemicals, she focuses on mild natural ingredients that support the skin barrier.

- **The Science:** Over-treating acne often leads to a compromised skin barrier, which actually triggers more breakouts. A minimalist approach allows the skin to heal itself.

- **Verdict:** A sustainable strategy that works for almost every skin type.



5. Tamannaah Bhatia: A Controversial Choice

Perhaps the most unusual revelation came from Tamannaah Bhatia, who shared that she used **morning saliva** to dry out pimples during her younger years.

- **The Science:** While there is a folk belief that enzymes in saliva have healing properties, medical experts are quick to debunk this. The human mouth is home to a vast array of bacteria; applying saliva to an open or inflamed pore can significantly increase the risk of infection.

- **Verdict: Avoid.** This DIY is more likely to worsen an infection than cure it.

The Takeaway: Acne is a universal experience, even under the bright lights of Mumbai. While stars like Priyanka Chopra and Adah Sharma prove that traditional wisdom can be effective, others like Tamannaah remind us that not every "home remedy" is a safe one. When in doubt, the best routine is one that is gentle, consistent, and backed by dermatological science.



Vendredi 1 Mai - 20.30



Samedi 2 Mai - 20.45



Dimanche 3 Mai - 20.45



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 1 mai

MBC 1

06.38 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour
08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Highlander II
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Helena
13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Valentina
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Tele: Love Of My Life
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: The Devil Wears Prada
22.10 Tele: Helena
23.04 Tele: Happily Ever After

MBC 2

09.00 En Direct De Notre Dame Du Bon Secours, Trou D'Eau Douce Messe Du Travail
12.09 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
12.51 Local: Retrovizor
13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.25 Local: Profil
15.14 Local: Saveurs Plus
15.39 Local: Koz Zom
16.31 Local: Prog Culinaire
17.00 Local: La Sosiete
18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Sur Prise
19.45 Local: Evasion
20.15 Local: Fun Friday With Jerry
21.15 Local: MRIC
21.46 Local: La Sosiete
22.17 Local: Arsv 246
22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Amrit Vani
10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Babu
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
16.08 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Local: Dil Se Talat Aziz...
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 Local: Dil Se Talat Aziz
00.46 Local: Khel Khiladi
01.13 Local: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
06.30 Doc: China Farm
07.20 Film: Spies In Disguise
08.37 Film: Operation Grizzly
10.12 Doc: Animal Invaders
12.06 Doc: Eco India
12.43 Doc: Greek Islands
13.20 Film: Le Mystere Du Livre...
14.55 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien...
15.21 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
15.43 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
15.54 D.Anime: Growing Up
16.07 D.Anime: Jurassic World
17.16 Les Lames Des Gardiens
17.30 Mag: Eco India
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
18.30 Doc: China Farm
19.00 Doc: Saving The Moors In...
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Tele: Valentina

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Partner
Cast: Salman Khan And Govinda
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: Aladdin
23.30 Film: Partner
Cast: Salman Khan And Govinda

samedi 2 mai

06.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.30 Serial: The Lazarus Project
07.20 Serial: For Life
08.05 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
09.05 Serial: Quantico
09.50 Serial: Elementary
10.35 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions
11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Film: Seref Meselesi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: The Devil Wears Prada
17.15 Doc: Country Dreams
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 National Innovation...
20.30 Local: Deba Klima
20.45 Film: Love Again
22.44 Serial: For Life
23.33 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.30 Local: Tous Egaux
06.45 Local: Point Culture
07.36 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.10 Local: Sur Prise
09.40 Local: Metie
12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.05 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
13.34 Local: Sur Prise
14.14 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
15.30 Local: J'ai Faim
15.59 Local: Tous Egaux
18.05 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Local: Bhastrika
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Music Tour 2026
21.30 Local: Glwar Dantan
22.00 Local: Strictly Sugar 2025
23.27 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.32 Local: Tous Egaux
23.48 Local: Saver Kiltirel

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Abhyas Yog
08.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
09.20 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Kohra
Cast: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.32 Local: Puranya Pakwan
19.12 Local: Virasat
19.35 Local: Ayush
20.09 Yeh Shaam Mastani
20.51 Serial: Dance Deewane
22.47 Mag: Indradhanush
23.11 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.37 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
23.52 Local: Virasat
00.15 Local: Ayush
00.42 Yeh Shaam Mastani

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
06.43 D.Anime: Agent 203
07.05 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
09.57 Serial: The Worst Witch
11.35 Doc: China Farm
13.29 Doc: By Train Along The East
14.11 Doc: My Body, My Heart
15.00 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien...
15.13 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
16.20 D.Anime: Yetilii
16.35 D.Anime: Jungle Book
17.06 D.Anime: Les Lames Des Gardiens
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Carribean Cruise On...
19.00 Mag: Initiative Africa
19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.45 Tele: Love Of My Life
22.20 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge

08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.08 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Eana Meena Deeka
With: Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla



21.30 Beyhadh 2
22.00 Crime Patrol

dimanche 3 mai

06.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.30 Film: Love Again
08.31 Serial: Elementary
09.20 Serial: Colombo
10.42 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.35 Film: Seven Ways From Sundown
13.59 Doc: Not About Music
14.37 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Love Again
17.25 Doc: Country Dreams
17.51 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Local: Koz Serye
20.45 Film: Le Hussard Sur Le Toit
22.49 Serial: S.W.A.T.

08.05 Rodrig - Kot Nou
09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
10.35 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
12.47 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
14.46 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse
15.00 Local: La Sosiete
15.40 Local: Priorite Sante
16.05 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
17.00 Local: Deba Klima
17.41 Local: Glwar Dantan
18.00 Tele: Wildflower
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
19.46 Local: Tous Egaux
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.00 Local: Benjamin Piat En Concert A L'IFM
22.31 Local: Clin D'Oeil
22.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard

06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan
08.26 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
08.55 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.30 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Housefull 2
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
15.47 Local: Virasat
16.10 Local: Ayush
16.37 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Sayings Radha Krishna
18.31 Musical Evening
19.28 Humni Ke Sitare
19.57 Hunarbaaz
20.30 Tenali Rama
20.51 Crime Patrol
22.22 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
23.27 Mag: Eco India

06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
07.58 D.Anime: Dragons
08.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
09.26 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
09.57 Serial: The Worst Witch
11.18 Carribean Cruise On The...
13.40 Doc: The New Face
14.59 Waffle, Le Chien Waouh
15.12 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
15.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.24 D.Anime: Yetilii
16.35 D.Anime: Jungle Book
17.00 Serial: The Avatars
18.00 Mag: REV Special
19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
21.42 Film: Night In Paradise
Cast: Um Tae-goo, Jeon Yeobeen, Cha Seung-won

08.00 Dhruv Tara
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Dance Deewane
14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Zanjeer
Cast: Ram Charan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Sanjay Dutt



21.30 Beyhadh 2
22.00 Mahabharat
22.50 Dhruv Tara

lundi 4 mai

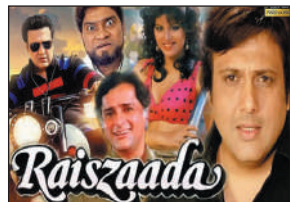
05.02 Tele: Lying Heart
05.27 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour
06.58 Serial: Hawaii
07.45 Tele: All The Flowers
08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Le Hussard Sur Le Toit
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Helena
13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Valentina
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge
17.29 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Live: Grand Titre
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
21.01 Serial: Berlin Station

09.25 Local: Clin D'Oeil
09.40 Local: Finals Of The Public..
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.07 Local: Tous Egaux
14.20 Local: Music Tour 2025
15.33 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
16.02 Local: Les Klips
16.54 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 Journal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.34 Local: Tous Egaux
21.15 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.45 Local: 19 Minutes
22.15 Local: Paroles Agricoles
22.38 Local: Grand Titre
23.58 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: Dahleez
Cast: Jackie Shroff, Raj Babbar, Meenakshi Sheshadri
15.00 Samachar
15.48 Kundali Bhagya
16.30 Local: Aaj Ke Charcha
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
18.57 Local: Theatre
19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.09 Local: Charcha
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: An Evening In Paris
Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Sharmila Tagore, Pran
23.37 Mere Sai
00.26 Wagle Ki Duniya

07.23 Mag: Arts Unveiled
07.49 Doc: La Chine Du Futur
09.27 Doc: The Microchip War
10.52 Doc: Hotel Metalurg
11.54 Mag: Travel
13.03 Doc: Arts Unveiled
14.25 Doc: Little Britain In The...
15.00 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien...
15.11 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
15.31 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
16.00 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.33 D.Anime: Jungle Book
17.03 Serial: The Avatars
17.53 Doc: Eye On SADC
18.30 Doc: China Farm
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.30 Live: News
20.53 Tele: Valentina
21.40 Film: Burnt
Cast: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud



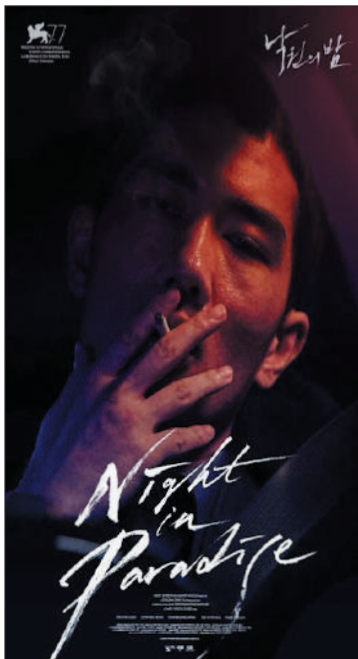
15.30 Film: Raiszaada
Starring: Govinda, Sonam
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
21.00 Anupamaa



Mardi 5 Mai - 15.30



Mercredi 6 Mai - 21.30



Mercredi 6 Mai - 15.00



Programme TV



mardi 5 mai

MBC 1

04.37 Tele: Mademoiselle
05.30 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour
07.00 Serial: Quantico
08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Love Again
11.30 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: Valentina
15.30 Film: Le Hussard Le Toit
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
20.50 Le Theatre De Port Louis
20.58 Film: Baraz
21.05 Film: Shanti

MBC 2

09.40 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
11.36 Local: Grand Titre
12.30 Rodrig: Kot Nou
14.00 Local: Feminin Pluriel
14.42 Local: Coin Jardin
15.32 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.30 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.10 Rodrig: 26em Edision Festi..
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
19.45 Local: Toc Toc Doc
20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog
20.15 Local: Metie
21.15 Local: Son Ladan Mem
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Sur Prise
23.25 Local: Music Tour 2026
00.18 Local: Parlons Sante Senior

MBC 3

08.28 Local: Charcha
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Krodhi
Cast: Dharmendra; Shashi Kapoor; Zeenat Aman; Hema Malini
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.29 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
16.08 Serial: Dharam Patni
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.10 Dharam Patni
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
18.57 Local: Natya Kala
19.54 Local: Prakriti
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Gaban

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
06.25 Doc: China Farm
06.50 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.20 Mag: In Good Shape
08.59 Doc: The New Face
11.10 Mag: Eco Africa
12.31 Mag: In Good Shape
13.40 Mag: Tomorrow Today
15.00 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien...
15.11 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
16.22 D.Anime: Yetili
17.00 Serial: The Avatars
17.23 Doc: Japan Video Topics
18.00 Mag: REV
18.26 Doc: China Farm
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.45 Tele: Valentina
21.35 Mag: Business Africa
22.06 Doc: Eco Heroines
22.58 Doc: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Andaz Apna Apna
Starring: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla
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 Serial: Aladdin
23.20 Film: Andaz Apna Apna
Starring: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla

mercredi 6 mai

06.11 Serial: Sépare Par L'Amour
08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Violence A Jericho
11.34 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: Valentina
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Patch Adams
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
20.20 Serial: New Amsterdam
21.02 Serial: S.W.A.T.
21.50 Tele: Helena
22.35 Tele: Happily Ever After

09.17 Local: Priorite Sante
09.49 Local: Nu Servis An Aksion
10.23 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.30 Local: Les Petits Genies
12.01 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne
12.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.18 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.50 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.03 Local: Music Tour 2026
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan
19.30 Rodrig Spor
20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
20.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
20.45 Local: National Innovation
21.15 Le Telephone Portable A L'Ecole
22.09 Local: Les Klips
23.01 Local: Grand Titre
23.41 La Journee Sous Le Regard

08.00 Local: Natya Kala
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Dharam Patni
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Kangan
Cast: Mala Sinha, Sanjeev Kumar, Ashok Kumar
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.47 Radha Mohan
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.10 Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 MBC Prod Wenesday
18.58 Udhaan Ki Kahani
20.00 Local: Kaam Daam
20.39 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.01 Film: Aashiqui
23.09 Mere Sai
23.56 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.19 Mag: Zarkash
01.09 Udhaan Ki Kahani

07.00 Mag: Made In Germany
09.30 Doc: Haiti
11.108 Mag: REV: The Global Auto
12.31 Mag: Global US
13.23 Doc: Eco Heroines
14.20 Mag: Euromaxx
15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
15.25 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
15.34 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
15.46 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.19 D.Anime: Yetili
16.33 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm
16.57 Serial: The Avatars
17.30 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.36 Doc: China Farm
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.34 Doc: Healing Gardens
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Tele: Valentina
21.40 Film: Night In Paradise

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Shatranj
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Juhi Chawla
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
22.00 Dhruv Tara
22.24 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.54 Aladdin
23.30 Film: Shatranj
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Juhi Chawla

jeudi 7 mai

05.27 Tele:Separe Par L'Amour
07.56 Tele: All The Flowers
09.03 Tele: La Desalmada
09.40 Serial: Columbo
11.30 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: Valentina, My Special...
15.30 Film: La Momie (1999)
17.15 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...
20.42 Film: Masti
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani
23.16 Tele: Helena

09.10 Le Telephone Portable A...
10.11 Local: Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
11.45 Local: Les Klips
11.37 Local: Grand Titre
12.20 Local: Glwar Dantan
13.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
15.32 Local: Saver Lokal
16.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard
18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.37 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.00 Local: Chef On Faya
21.30 Local: Music Tour 2025
22.20 Local: Klip Seleksion
23.10 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.32 La Journee Sous Le Regard..
23.45 Local: Palette

08.00 Local: Udhaan Ki Kahani
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Nadiya Ke Paar
Cast: Sachin Pilgaonkar, Sadhana Singh
15.48 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
16.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Local: Amrit Vani
18.43 Local: Sri Rama Katha
20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.30 Tenali Rama
21.00 Shiv Shakti
21.15 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
21.36 Mere Sai
22.23 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.54 Mag: Eco India

06.25 Doc: China Farm
08.10 Mag: Focus On Europe
10.05 Doc: Good Hair Day
12.12 Mag: Arts Unveiled
12.38 Doc: Healing Gardens
13.00 Mag: Close Up
13.32 Mag: Focus On Europe
14.40 Mag: Healthy Living
15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
15.12 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
16.19 D.Anime: Yetili
16.35 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm
17.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Doc: China Farm
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.30 New
20.50 Tele: Valentina
21.35 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Jigar
Stars: Ajay Devgn, Karishma 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 Aladdin
23.31 Film: Jigar
Stars: Ajay Devgn, Karishma Kapoor



Jeudi 7 Mai - 15.30

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Karishma Kapoor



Jeudi 6 Mai - 20.29

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Le travail à l'heure du bien-être: entre rêves écolos et réalités de terrain

La jeune génération de diplômés est peu susceptible de se stresser inutilement en attendant un emploi car, tôt ou tard, le poste recherché leur tombera entre les mains, pensent-ils. À les voir si confiants, il est certain qu'ils n'ont aucune idée de ce que la génération de leurs parents a traversé: les horizons ternes, les portes fermées et la ruée vers le moindre poste vacant. En décrocher un était un véritable jackpot, et on s'y accrochait comme une huître à son rocher de peur de le perdre.

Prendre la voie de sortie du cocon familial, valise à la main pour trouver un appartement — à l'instar des jeunes des pays avancés —, n'est pas dans les mœurs locales. Cette perspective de l'éloignement du foyer, où leur vie est facilitée par les mille soins apportés au quotidien par les parents, les effraie. Le revers de cette dépendance est qu'ils perdent en maturité et ils piétinent au seuil de l'émancipation. Cependant, un regain d'incertitude économique et de chômage dans les grands pays a poussé les jeunes adultes à prolonger leur séjour sous le toit familial, se retrouvant dans cet état d'«adulthood» qui a toujours été la norme dans les petits pays tels que Maurice.

Est-ce que les jeunes cadres de grosses sociétés locales ont le loisir de quitter une compagnie pour une autre au gré de leur convenance personnelle? Ou tout simplement d'accepter un emploi moins prenant, quitte à être moins bien rémunérés? Ce n'est pas si évident. L'expérience de la Covid en 2020 a enclenché le phénomène du *Big Quit* aux États-Unis, lorsque les cadres trentenaires se sont rendu compte du surmenage que leur imposaient les entreprises dans une poursuite acharnée de rentabilité. Ils ont eu le sentiment d'être les rouages d'une machine à broyer leur énergie. Beaucoup ont quitté leur emploi pour migrer vers d'autres États à la recherche d'une vie au ralenti. Il faut dire que la Covid fut le déclencheur d'une prise de conscience de la fragilité de l'existence.

Ici, l'exiguïté du territoire et le nombre limité d'entreprises freinent quelque peu les velléités des plus hardis à plier bagage. Certains préfèrent un travail de bureau dans le secteur privé plutôt qu'un métier d'enseignant face à 40 élèves. La fonction publique, garante de la pérennité de l'emploi, perd de son attrait dans le secteur administratif. À Maurice, l'effet de la Covid a laissé des traces chez ceux qui furent contraints à dispenser des cours en ligne et/ou à effectuer du *telework*. À défaut d'une «Grande Démission», s'est dessinée ici une aspiration à une vie différente, aux contours encore flous: peu d'engouement pour les contraintes matrimoniales, moins de matérialisme que chez les aînés et peu d'attrait pour l'endettement à long terme.

Certains rêvent de vie communautaire ou de maisons écolos. Rêves réalisables, certes, mais les terrains disparaissent à vue



d'œil. Quant aux containers transformés en maisons — idée à la mode —, l'offre paraît séduisante, pourvu qu'un faux plafond soit prévu. Dans une ère où les «bonnes énergies» influencent les choix, chacun sait que la tôle n'est pas ce qu'il y a de plus positif... La perspective d'une vie alternative semble parfois peu réjouissante, mais il faut espérer que ces rêves se réalisent d'une manière ou d'une autre.

* * *

Le cumul d'activités: une réalité persistante

Le phénomène de cumuler *multiple jobs* n'est pas prêt d'être rangé aux archives. Si, dans les années 80, le développement rapide du pays offrait des opportunités pour améliorer les conditions de vie, aujourd'hui, ce cumul colle à la peau de ceux qui n'ont pu suivre un cursus d'études prolongées.

- Je suis débordé de tous les côtés, avoue Samir, habitant de Triolet.

Il a interrompu ses études au collège pour suivre des cours à l'ex-IVTB (MITD), l'éducation formelle n'étant pas sa tasse de thé.

- J'ai fait plusieurs formations: plomberie, électricité, menuiserie, peinture, entre autres, poursuit-il.

Il s'occupe de l'entretien chez une quinzaine de personnalités de la classe politique.

- Ils me font confiance, ajoute-t-il humblement.

Le problème? Il a ouvert une tabagie et peine à recruter.

- Et la main-d'œuvre étrangère? lui ai-je demandé.

- C'est compliqué. Il faut loger la personne, cotiser à la Sécurité sociale, etc. Tous les *self-employed* ne peuvent se le permettre.

Son fils l'accompagne désormais, ayant lui aussi quitté le collège pour apprendre à être un *'Jack of all trades'*. Samir a également tenté de recruter une aide pour faire des rotis, mais le coût de la main-d'œuvre (Rs 700 pour 2 heures) rend l'opération peu rentable. Résultat: sa femme est mise à contribution. Ils se lèvent à 3 heures du matin pour cuisiner

jusqu'à 9 heures. Ensuite, Samir repart sur les routes.

À bientôt 50 ans, il en paraît à peine 30, mais il sent le besoin de ralentir. On en conclut qu'il serait tout aussi bien que le fils se munisse, lui aussi, de solides diplômes techniques.

* * *

Retraite et ennui: le débat de la pension

La grogne suscitée par le passage de la pension de vieillesse à 65 ans est réelle, mais la mesure a ses défenseurs.

- C'est une bonne mesure. Après 60 ans, les gens peuvent encore travailler, insiste Soodesh dans son magasin à Pointe-aux-Piments.

Il le dit sérieusement. Je l'interroge sur les métiers pénibles (maçons, laboureurs).

- C'est différent, mais les autres peuvent continuer. Moi, à 70 ans passés, je continue.

Ancien planteur, gérant de magasin et guérisseur à ses heures perdues, Soodesh est l'exemple même de la polyvalence. Pendant qu'il parle, un Mauricien l'appelle d'Italie pour demander son aide. Rien que ça!

S'il reconnaît que son rythme lui a valu un problème cardiaque il y a dix ans, il ne s'arrête pas. Pour lui, le travail est le remède à l'ennui.

- Beaucoup de gens s'ennuient à la retraite. Alors, autant qu'ils continuent de travailler!

Non loin de là, un maître d'école retraité arpente la rue, citant Shakespeare (*Le Roi Lear*, *Macbeth*) au détour d'une conversation. Son regard s'éclaire à l'évocation de la littérature, mais Soodesh remarque:

- «Vous voyez, lui, il s'ennuie. Il a toute sa tête mais ne sait pas quoi faire de son temps»

L'ennui des Seniors: c'est un véritable problème de société. Si la solution n'est pas forcément de rester dans le même domaine professionnel, il manque aussi cruellement de structures, de lieux d'échanges et de places publiques, notamment dans les villages. Un vaste chantier reste à explorer pour combler le vide d'une vie sociale épanouissante pour nos aînés.

Tree of Knowledge



The Importance of Napping

The desire for a short nap during the day does not arise from laziness, but rather from the body's need to rejuvenate.

In the modern world, we are often compelled to be as productive as possible for as many hours of the day as we can. While this can lead to great feats of accomplishment, we may become exhausted and find ourselves craving rest and rejuvenation. We may feel like taking a nap but then feel guilty about indulging in even ten minutes of rest. This need for personal downtime, which many people experience in the early afternoon, is not a sign of laziness, nor is it necessarily related to how much sleep you had the night before. There was even a time when taking a nap was considered a natural part of everyone's day.

Napping is a pleasurable yet brief period of sleep when our minds and bodies can take a break. Though judged by many to be a pastime for children or the elderly, napping can benefit people of all ages. The desire to nap is a trait shared by many mammals, and napping is still an important part of the day in some countries. Snoozing for half an hour can be an enjoyable way to promote physical well-being, and naps have been known to improve your mood and memory. A 20-minute nap can sharpen your senses and revitalize you, while a ten-minute nap can leave you feeling more cheerful.

Falling into a light sleep during the daytime can feel meditative. The thoughts you have as you are taking a nap and the dreams you experience may offer you insights into your life that you may not have at night when you are in a deep sleep. In order to fully enjoy the benefits of napping, you may need to give yourself permission to nap. Feeling guilty about snoozing or worrying about your to-do list will not do you much good when you are trying to take a nap, because your thoughts or feelings will keep you awake. Try to nap at the same time each day, and use an alarm clock to ensure that you do not sleep for too long. Learning to nap and enjoy its restorative benefits can help you wake up restored, rejuvenated, and ready for the rest of your day.

Daily Om