

MAURITIUS TIMES

• *Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed. — Mahatma Gandhi*

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A Decade of Daylight Robbery

A recent announcement in Parliament is so shocking that it should cause a national scandal, not just a simple debate. In response to a parliamentary question, the Prime Minister disclosed a figure that defies both logic and fiscal decency: between 2014 and 2024, the State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) wrote off a staggering Rs 14.34 billion in toxic loans.

To put this in perspective, during the preceding decade (2004–2013), write-offs totalled a relatively modest Rs 1.12 billion. We are witnessing a more than tenfold increase — a geometric explosion of “loss” that suggests something far more sinister than simple market fluctuation. This was not a systemic failure of the banking sector; this was the systematic dismemberment of a national institution.

The Myth of the “Professional”

For years, the public was led to believe that the SBM was in the hands of the “best and brightest” — seasoned financiers and career bankers. Current data raises questions about the effectiveness of their management and decision-making during this period.

When Rs 9 billion of that toxic debt is concentrated in just three foreign entities — NMC Healthcare, Pabari Group, and Renish Petrochem FZE — granted without adequate collateral, the narrative of “bad luck” evaporates. It is replaced by a grim reality of “crony lending.” These were not errors in judgment; they appear to be deliberate acts of dilapidation. While the bank’s profitability plummeted to a pathetic Rs 15 million in 2019 (down from Rs 2.7 billion in 2013), a select circle of “friends,” relatives, and political protégés were reportedly being minted as millionaires and billionaires at the shareholder’s — and taxpayer’s — expense.

The Turning Tide: Corrective Measures

However, there are signs of a shift in the institution’s trajectory. Since his appointment, Chairman Manou Bheenick has spearheaded a rigorous campaign to restore integrity and strengthen governance at the State Bank of Mauritius. Under this new leadership, the bank has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward malpractice, most recently demonstrated in April 2026 by the suspension of twelve employees, including several high-ranking managers. This decisive move followed an internal investigation into “massive and unusual” withdrawals reportedly linked to the bank’s reward system.

This internal “cleanup” is part of a broader effort to address the legacy of nearly Rs 5 billion in toxic loans issued between 2018 and 2020. By establishing formal disciplinary committees and cooperating closely with the Financial Crimes Commission, the Board is working to dismantle the culture of “tacit complicity” that previously compromised the institution. The bank’s leadership has made it clear that these investigations will proceed without interference, signalling a firm return to strict banking principles and the safeguarding of public deposits.

The Silence of the Watchdogs

Despite these recent steps, the most damning aspect of this decade of decadence remains the historical collapse of oversight. Where was the Bank of Mauritius? The Central Bank is the ultimate sentry of our financial borders, yet it seemingly stood by while the vaults were emptied in broad daylight. How is it possible to dilapidate a Tier-1 bank for ten consecutive years without the regulator sounding a single alarm?

The rot, however, does not stop at the regulator’s door.



We must scrutinize the entire architecture of our state institutions:

- **The Board of Directors and Senior Management:** Those who occupied the seats of the Board Credit Committee and the Management Credit Forum held a fiduciary duty to safeguard the bank’s assets. Instead, it looks very much like they oversaw a “total disregard of basic banking principles.”
- **The Audit Trail:** Where were the internal and external auditors? A write-off of Rs 1.3 billion annually should have triggered red alerts in every reporting cycle.
- **The Institutional “Icons”:** The MRA, the Ministry of Finance, and the now-defunct ICAC — an institution that became an icon of incompetence, a “laissez-faire” monument that allowed fraud to flourish by looking the other way.

A Pattern of Kleptocracy

The SBM saga is not an isolated incident; it is a symptom of a deeper malady that has infected our State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). From the suspicious leasing decisions at Air Mauritius to the collateral-free giveaways at the Development Bank of Mauritius, the pattern is identical: political appointees acting with impunity to serve their “political masters” rather than the long-term viability of the nation.

Our SOEs, once the “Jewels in the Crown,” have been transformed into private ATM machines for the well-connected. The result is a capital base so eroded that it requires fresh injections of public money — money that should be going toward hospitals, schools, and infrastructure — just to keep the doors open.

The Hour of Reckoning

The Prime Minister has promised that “such crimes will not go unpunished” and that a special investigative team is at work. While the recovery of Rs 2.6 billion is a start, it is a drop in the ocean of the Rs 14 billion lost. The population must demand more than just “investigations” that drag on until the next election cycle. We need:

1. **Asset Seizure:** The patrimony of those who authorized these loans and the “friends” who benefited must be reclaimed.
2. **Accountability Beyond Employment:** Perpetrators must face the full force of the law regardless of whether they have already left the bank. There must be no “golden parachutes” for those who steered the ship into an iceberg.
3. **Border Controls:** We cannot allow those responsible for this decade of plunder to flee the country with their ill-gotten gains.

A Call to the People

Perhaps the most painful realization is that this happened because we, the population, have accepted “dilapidation” as a standard feature of governance. We have watched as institutions were hollowed out, assuming that someone else would fix it.

The “revolution” required is one of radical accountability. We must demand a permanent, independent Select Committee to oversee SOEs to ensure that never again can billions of rupees vanish behind a veil of “commercial confidentiality.” The time for passive observation has ended. If we do not demand justice today, we are merely inviting the next generation of “experts” to finish what their predecessors started.

Mauritius Times

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The PM's Prerogative vs The Democratic Spirit of the Constitution

Deputy Prime Minister: The office should not remain vacant indefinitely

Following the resignation of Paul Bérenger in March 2026, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister has remained vacant, sparking a rigorous legal debate over the interpretation of Section 59(1) of the Constitution. This analysis by Lex explores whether the constitutional “shall” mandates an immediate appointment to prevent a succession vacuum, or if it merely outlines a structural framework that allows for a reasonable transition period.

LEX

* Section 59(1) of the Constitution states: “There shall be a Prime Minister and a Deputy Prime Minister...” In constitutional law, does the word “shall” impose an absolute duty to fill the post immediately, or does it merely describe the structure of a complete government?

In constitutional law, specifically regarding Section 59(1) of the Constitution of Mauritius, the word “shall” is generally interpreted as imposing an **imperative duty** rather than merely describing the structure of government. However, this duty is typically understood as requiring that the posts be filled within a **reasonable time** to ensure the proper functioning of the State, rather than necessitating the **instantaneous**, second-by-second filling of a post upon a vacancy.

* Similar to the DPM, the Constitution says there “shall” be an Attorney General. If that post were vacant for a month, would your legal analysis be the same, or is the DPM post unique due to its succession function?

While the Constitution of Mauritius dictates that there “shall” be an **Attorney General (AG)** [Section 69] and a **Deputy Prime Minister (DPM)** [Section 59], the legal analysis of a one-month vacancy for the AG post differs from that of the DPM post. This is because the DPM holds a unique, **time-sensitive succession function** that the AG does not — in other words, this means that the Deputy Prime Minister is next in line to take over if the Prime Minister is unable to



lead, a critical role in maintaining stable leadership that the AG simply does not share.

* In fact, Section 60(5) provides that the DPM performs the Prime Minister’s functions during the latter’s absence or illness. Without a DPM, does the Prime Minister have the unilateral power to designate any Minister to act in his stead, or does the absence of a DPM create a “succession vacuum”?

Under the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy, the absence of a Deputy Prime Minister does not create a legal succession vacuum; while the Prime Minister does not have unilateral power to make this appointment, he possesses the authority to advise the President to appoint

any other Minister to act in his stead.

* Could a citizen or a Member of Parliament petition the Supreme Court to compel the Prime Minister to pick a new Deputy Prime Minister, or is the appointment of a DPM a “purely political” matter that the Judiciary would be reluctant to interfere with?

Under the Constitution of Mauritius, one could petition the Supreme Court to compel the Prime Minister to appoint a new Deputy Prime Minister (DPM); however, such a petition faces significant legal hurdles. Legal experts in Mauritius argue that the use of “shall” makes the appointment of a DPM a mandatory provision rather than a discretionary one, meaning the office should not remain vacant indefinitely. A citizen or Member of Parliament could argue that the Prime Minister is acting in breach of the Constitution by failing to appoint a DPM. Theoretically, the Court could issue a writ of mandamus — a judicial order compelling the PM to fulfil a legal duty — based on this constitutional requirement.

* Mauritian political convention suggests that the office of the DPM is traditionally held by the leader of the junior partner in the governing alliance. Given that the MMM remains the second-largest party, would it be a departure from democratic norms to appoint a DPM from outside its ranks?

While the MMM remains the second-largest party, it might be a departure from tradition not to appoint one of its members as Deputy Prime Minister (DPM).

However, appointing a DPM from the Labour Party would not be considered unconstitutional or unparliamentary.

* With Paul Bérenger citing the Prime Minister’s dual role as Finance Minister as a reason for his resignation, does the current vacancy of the DPM post — combined with the lack of a stand-alone Finance Minister — create a “concentration of power” that might be viewed as contrary to the democratic spirit of the Constitution?

Combining the roles of Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, a practice adopted by Dr Navin Ramgoolam after the November 2024 elections, remains a contentious tradition in Mauritius.

Critics argue that this concentration of power threatens the Constitution’s democratic safeguards. By reducing institutional checks and balances, the arrangement often shifts vital economic decision-making away from the necessary specialized oversight.

Bramer Bank Fraud

Sentencing Disparities: Poverty, Wealth, and the Integrity of the Legal System

As the DPP appeals for harsher penalties in the Bramer case, the Judiciary must decide if time-lapsed justice undermines the spirit of the FIAMLA. Lex explores whether small fines for multi-million rupee laundering offenses deter future white-collar crime or merely set a precedent that financial fraud is “profitable” even when caught.

* Under Section 10 of the Constitution, every person is entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time. In the Bramer Banking Corporation fraud case, the offences date back to 2011. Legally, does a 15-year delay create a “right” to a lighter sentence, or is it merely a discretionary factor for the Magistrate?

A 15-year delay is generally recognized as a severe impairment to justice, leading many jurisdictions to provide significant

reductions in — or even the suspension of — custodial sentences. Legally, such a delay does not automatically create an absolute “right” to a lighter sentence; however, it serves as a powerful mitigating factor that courts frequently acknowledge as a basis for reducing a sentence.

Furthermore, a delay of this magnitude can be interpreted as a breach of constitutional rights — specifically the right to a trial within a reasonable time — which may compel an appellate court to reduce a sentence as a form of compensation.

* How do past rulings help judges decide when a long delay by the authorities should lead to a reduced sentence for a serious financial crime?

Judicial precedents guide courts in determining whether a prolonged delay by authorities warrants a sentence reduction for serious financial crimes. These rulings establish that an “inordinate” or “unrea-

sonable” delay — provided it is not caused by the defendant — functions as a mitigating factor. Through case law, it is well-settled that sentencing judges retain the discretion to reduce or even suspend a custodial sentence to ensure the interests of justice are met. However, these rulings also emphasize that the gravity of financial crimes necessitates punishment; consequently, any reduction for delay must be balanced so as not to be excessive or undermine the principle of general deterrence.

* In his appeal against the judgement, the DPP argues that these sentences harm the “integrity of the financial sector.” Legally, does the need to keep the country’s reputation “clean” matter more than the personal circumstances of the person being sentenced?

Legally, the personal circumstances of an offender generally carry more weight in sentencing than a broad interest in maintaining a “clean” national reputation. Justice systems prioritize proportionality relative to the crime and the offender’s culpability. However, in cases of high-profile corruption or foreign bribery, courts may place a higher premium on deterrence to safeguard na-

tional integrity. Regardless of how a crime impacts a country’s reputation, prisoners and the accused must be treated with dignity, ensuring that punishment never descends into inhuman treatment.

* One of the defendants escaped prison partly by paying Rs 1.9 million to the liquidator. This suggests a troubling disparity: if a defendant can afford to pay, they receive a fine; if they cannot, they go to jail. Is this true “restitution,” or is it simply a way for the wealthy to avoid the harshest punishments?

Restitution is compensation paid directly to the victim for damages, whereas fines are punitive payments made to the state. When an accused individual cannot afford a fine, they are often incarcerated. For a wealthy person, even a large fine may function merely as a “business expense,” allowing them to escape the stigma and loss of freedom associated with prison.

Conversely, if a defendant cannot afford to pay, a court may revoke their probation and sentence them to prison. Critics argue that this practice effectively jails individuals for their poverty rather than the crime itself.

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Bramer Bank Fraud Sentencing Disparities: Poverty, Wealth, and the Integrity of the Legal System

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* There was a debate regarding one of the defendant's previous 2018 fraud conviction and a subsequent presidential pardon. If someone is pardoned for a past crime, does the judge have to treat them as if they have a perfectly clean record?

No, a judge is not required to treat a pardoned person as if they have a perfectly clean record. While a pardon forgives the crime and restores civil rights, it does not erase the conviction from the person's criminal history; consequently, the facts of the case can often be considered by a judge in future proceedings.

* In an appeal against "undue leniency," will the Supreme Court re-evaluate the facts of the 2011 fraud, or will they strictly limit their review to the principles the Magistrate used to determine the sentences?

In an appeal against "undue leniency" in a financial crime case, an appellate court generally does not re-evaluate the facts of the underlying fraud; instead, it limits its review to the principles the trial court used to determine the sentence. Rather than acting as a trier of fact, the court focuses on whether the trial magistrate committed errors in law or applied incorrect sentencing principles.

Specifically, the appellate court checks whether the sentencing judge considered relevant aggravating or mitigating factors, adhered to mandatory sentencing guidelines, or failed to properly weigh the severity of the financial crime.

* For a laundering offense involving Rs 80 million, is a fine of Rs 1.3 million consistent with the spirit of the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA), or does it set a precedent that money laundering can be "profitable" even if caught?

A fine of Rs 1.3 million for large-scale money laundering is generally considered inconsistent with the spirit of the FIAMLA. Such a low penalty relative to high laundered amounts risks being viewed as a "cost of doing business," thereby undermining the FATF-compliant legal framework designed to punish, deter, and strip profits from financial crimes.

The spirit of FIAMLA aims to combat money laundering rigorously by focusing on the confiscation of proceeds and penalizing offenders heavily to maintain the integrity of the financial system.

* If the Supreme Court increases these sentences, what does it signal to the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) and other investigative bodies currently dealing with long-standing "cold cases" from the previous decade?

It will signal a strong shift toward stricter accountability, acting as a directive to the FCC and other investigative bodies to pursue "cold cases" with renewed vigour and higher severity expectations.

Such an increase would signal to investigative bodies that the judiciary views financial crimes as serious threats to public order, moving away from lenient, non-custodial penalties toward custodial sentences for white-collar crimes.

* Finally, does a monetary penalty for a laundering conviction send the wrong signal to international regulators?



Pic - lemauricien.com

Yes, relying primarily on monetary penalties for money laundering convictions can send the wrong signal to international regulators; it is often interpreted as "liquidity before compliance" or a mere cost of doing business rather than serious enforcement.

While massive fines are designed to punish and deter, they sometimes fail to ensure the personal accountability for executives that international bodies, such as the FATF, emphasize as necessary for an effective anti-money laundering (AML) regime.

LEX



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD MAURITIUS



RECEPTIONISTS

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (EDB)

The Economic Development Board (EDB) is the Government of Mauritius' apex institution responsible for:

- Investment promotion, export promotion, and business facilitation;
- Positioning Mauritius as an international financial centre and business hub;
- Supporting structural reforms that improve the business environment.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The receptionist is responsible for managing the front desk, receiving and assisting visitors, handling incoming calls and correspondence, and providing administrative support to ensure the smooth operation of the reception area.

The receptionist serves as the first point of contact for visitors and is expected to maintain a professional and welcoming environment at all times.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- School Certificate and Higher School Certificate or equivalent qualifications acceptable to the Board.
- At least three (3) years relevant working experience.

MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates are invited:

- ☞ To download the requirements and responsibilities for the above-mentioned position by accessing the following link: <https://www.edbmauritius.org/vacancy>
- ☞ To submit their applications by **Monday 04 May 2026**, at latest. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Only the best qualified candidates will be convened for interview.

EDB reserves the right not to make any appointment following this advertisement.

17 APRIL 2026

Ground Floor, 7 Exchange Square, Wall Street, Ebene, 72201, Republic of Mauritius | Tel: +230 203 3800 | www.edbmauritius.org



Anil Madan

The Iran War: A Comprehensive (sort of) Review

It is undeniable that wars are easy to start. What the Iran war has taught us — once again — is that wars are sometimes, also easy to stop. All it takes is for the parties to agree to a ceasefire. And often, the unlikeliest mediator emerges as the catalyst for the ceasefire. Pakistan was instrumental in getting the initial ceasefire organized and then in convincing President Trump to extend the ceasefire.

Similar success in getting to a ceasefire in Ukraine has been elusive. But perhaps there is hope. Now, there is news that President Zelensky is seeking Turkiye's assistance in bringing about an end to that war, perhaps even a face-to-face meeting with Putin.

The Iran war has caused devastation and hardship to third parties, the Gulf nations have suffered missile, and drone strikes and destruction of their energy infrastructure and other facilities. Nations around the world are feeling the shock of the sudden interruption of energy supplies, and critical supply chain materials, with inflated prices for what little is available.

The Strait of Hormuz is the war's fulcrum. At times, it appears that Iran and the US are each sitting on opposite ends of a seesaw. Iran has effectively closed the strait, and the US has responded with a naval blockade of Iranian ports. Both sides close a strait that each demands remain open.

The key dynamics include:

- Iran is seizing or firing on commercial vessels (e.g., MSC Francesca, Epaminondas, Euphoria).
- The US Navy is blocking ships entering or leaving Iranian ports.
- The British maritime agency has recorded 34 security incidents since March 1.
- Commercial shipping is nearly paralyzed; oil and LNG flows have collapsed.

Iran's semi-official news agency stated: "Disrupting the order and security of the Strait of Hormuz is our red line."

Global Aftershocks: Economic Collapse and Supply Chains

The strategic impact is that Iran uses the closure of the strait to pressure the global economy and force concessions. The US uses the blockade to strangle Iran's oil revenue and force negotiations.

The military situation is that we have a war paused but not officially ended. Even with an indefinite extension of the ceasefire, the entire Middle East quivers in an uneasy state between war and peace.

Each side acts as if it has won the war and although expressing a willingness to



“The strategic impact is that Iran uses closure of the strait to pressure the global economy and force concessions. The US uses the blockade to strangle Iran's oil revenue and force negotiations. The military situation is that we have a war paused but not officially ended. Even with an indefinite extension of the ceasefire, the entire Middle East quivers in an uneasy state between war and peace. Each side acts as if it has won the war and although expressing a willingness to talk, maintains that it has no appetite for compromise...” Pic - vaticannews.va

talk, maintains that it has no appetite for compromise. The posturing is to be expected. What remains unknown is the severity of reports suggesting America has suffered a serious depletion of its missile and interceptor stocks. Similarly, the quantity of usable missiles and drones Iran possesses, as well as the number of launchers it has stored underground, remains unclear. Neither side wishes to confront the reality of its own situation, and the world would rather not know.

Israel's role should not be overlooked. The IDF conducted extensive strikes on Iranian infrastructure, including petrochemical plants, steel mills, and gas processing hubs.

The resulting military reality is that both sides are escalating at sea despite the cease-fire. Each interdiction risks reigniting full-scale war.

The diplomatic landscape is that the talks seem frozen, while Iran and the US intensify their leverage games.

But there is more here than meets the eye. Trump said he made the decision to hold off on attacking at the request of Pakistani officials mediating the talks. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, lent credence to this when he issued a statement on X thanking Trump “for graciously accepting our request to extend the ceasefire to allow ongoing diplomatic efforts to take their course.” Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, said Tuesday evening that talks would resume

only after Washington ends the blockade. “I think the next round of the negotiations will take place in Islamabad,” he said. He called the naval blockade a violation of the ceasefire and reiterated that lifting it is a condition for new negotiations to take place.

So, at least we seem to have negotiations about negotiations. That is often the best starting point to get to an agreement.

President Xi of China is increasingly vocal, calling for reopening the strait, warning against “the law of the jungle,” balancing ties with Iran and Gulf states as he had a call with Saudi Crown Prince MBS. Keep in mind that China is highly motivated as 40% of its oil passes through Hormuz.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if China steps up, declares that it will honour the independence of Taiwan, and calls on Russia to end the war on Ukraine, and Iran to abandon its quest for nukes, join the world's nations as a responsible player and major trader? Xi would go down in history as a great man.

The Gulf states are in shock. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are rethinking their security assumptions. They expected consultation before a US-Iran war. They now see Israel having more influence over Trump than they do.

Auditioning for the role of mediator continues apace. Pakistan is in the driver's seat. Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, and Gulf states are trying to restart talks. Progress is minimal except to the extent that Sharif and Munir seem to have Trump's ear.

The economic impact on Iran has been severe, possibly existential as it has suffered

catastrophic damage to its industrial base and infrastructure. Direct war damage includes 17,000+ targets hit by US and Israeli strikes. Petrochemical plants, steel mills, ports, and energy hubs have been destroyed. One source put the estimated reconstruction cost at over \$270 billion.

Iran's economic collapse could mean some 2 million jobs already lost and up to half the workforce, or 12 million jobs at risk. Iran's currency is in free fall and the Internet blackout — a measure aimed to keep the citizenry in the dark — creates economic paralysis.

The oil crisis affects not only Iran and the Gulf states as producers and refiners, but the whole world. For Iran, the US blockade may force it to shut down oil wells within weeks. Iran's storage capacity is nearing “tank tops.” The danger is that shut-ins could permanently damage reservoirs and make it nearly impossible or extremely costly to revive the oil production. The process of rebuilding and restoring oil flow could take years.

As one example, Qatar was hit by 700+ Iranian missile/drone attacks. LNG production at its Ras Laffan facility was shut down; repairs may take 5 years. This represents a \$20 billion annual revenue loss.

The Strategic Endgame: Diplomacy or Disaster

From a political standpoint, the conflict is existential for the Iranian regime. Those in charge will want to give the impression that they are unlikely to “blink.”

The suffering of the Iranian public is immense, the leadership is expected, however, to prioritize its own survival. Could this be the stress point that results in real regime change?

This war has caused a global economic shock that is slowly evolving and likely to get worse even if there is a peace agreement tomorrow. It will take months, even years to restore energy production and supply chains. This is the worst since the 1973 Oil Crisis.

Some 10 million barrels/day of oil are bottled up, with tankers unable to navigate the strait. Oil prices are up nearly 80% since the war began. LNG disruptions are hitting Asia the hardest, but Europe too is at risk. Fertilizer, helium, and aluminum supply chains are collapsing.

There is a severe shortage of jet fuel around the world. Europe has 6 weeks of jet fuel left. Lufthansa, the German airline has announced that it will cancel 20,000 flights this summer. Similarly, KLM, TAP, Norse, easyJet are all reducing routes or raising prices.

Christine Lagarde suggested that Europe may face food rationing due to the shortage of fertilizer.

The theory of victory

Finally, let us look at what seems to be the strategic logic of both sides. Iran's theory of victory seems to be that the global economy cannot tolerate a closed strait, Trump cannot tolerate high gas prices in an election year.

The Iran War: A Comprehensive (sort of) Review

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And Iran can endure more pain than the US or global markets. The Iranians want to believe that Trump cannot hold on for more than a few weeks, perhaps a month at most.

The US theory of victory seems to be that Iran's economy will collapse under the blockade, Iran's oil storage capacity will fill; its oil wells will be damaged, and Iran will be forced to negotiate to avoid economic ruin.

the waters of the strait with catastrophic environmental damage, a different miscalculation at sea, an attack by Iran on US forces, or the US boarding the wrong vessel at sea, raise dangerous possibilities.

In the final analysis, this war is now primarily economic. While the US and Iran are locked in a mutual pressure campaign, the strait is the battlefield, the global economy is suf-

fering collateral damage. Diplomacy is chaotic and fragile. It takes two to tango. Despite the protestations from various spokespersons, it appears that the Iranians are ready to come to the dance. A *danse macabre* by either the US or Iran, while issuing threats is of no value.

Cheerz...
Bwana



“The Strait of Hormuz might remain a tollway, perhaps under international supervision.


China could be the catalyst here. The revenue would be used to fund reconstruction in Iran and the Gulf states. A charge of \$10/barrel on oil at \$60 or \$70 is not outlandish. If it revives the economies of Iran and the Gulf states, it will be a smart investment by the world. A second possibility is renewed war. In my view, this is unlikely. Iran will probably get a nuclear arsenal sooner rather than later. The prospect of renewed war in that case is out of the question...” Pic - akkaias.com

It is difficult to say who is right. But we know that Iran has faced economic ruin for a long time. Is this time different? Perhaps when oil wells must be shut down, reality will sink in.

The emerging endgame is most likely a negotiated deal which results in reopening the strait, lifting or easing the blockade (but see below); limits on Iran's uranium enrichment; a mechanism for the timed release of frozen Iranian funds. (Parenthetically, I note that once people have found a way to make money, they are unlikely to abandon it. The Strait of Hormuz might remain a tollway, perhaps under international supervision. China could be the catalyst here. The revenue would be used to fund reconstruction in Iran and the Gulf states. A charge of \$10/barrel on oil at \$60 or \$70 is not outlandish. If it revives the economies of Iran and the Gulf states, it will be a smart investment by the world.

A second possibility is renewed war. In my view, this is unlikely. Iran will probably get a nuclear arsenal sooner rather than later. The prospect of renewed war in that case is out of the question.

A third possibility is a prolonged state of limbo. The risk of a ship damaged by the US or by Iran and sinking in



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OPEN INTERNATIONAL BIDDING FOR SUPPLY OF REFINED EDIBLE OIL

Procurement Reference: **STC/EO/2026/03**

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 Refined Edible Oil 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 edibleoil@stcmu.com by latest **6 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 **6 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 **29 April 2026** on the email address: query@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.

20 April 2026

De la gestion de crise à la restructuration profonde du paysage mondial

Par A. Bartleby

Alors que nous franchissons la mi-avril 2026, l'équilibre mondial semble basculer. Nous quittons une phase de réaction immédiate aux crises pour entrer dans une période de restructuration à long terme. Deux moteurs principaux dictent ce changement : une stabilisation précaire des chocs géopolitiques récents et un pivot massif, presque forcé, vers l'indépendance énergétique.

Analyse des faits saillants de la semaine: perspectives et trajectoires pour le prochain trimestre:

1. Stabilisation géopolitique et «l'effet Ormuz»

Après une période de volatilité intense qui a mis les nerfs des investisseurs à vif, les marchés mondiaux font preuve d'une résilience surprenante. Le franchissement historique de la barre des 7 000 points par l'indice S&P 500 cette semaine témoigne d'un optimisme prudent.

Cette euphorie boursière fait suite à l'annonce d'un cessez-le-feu fragile impliquant l'Iran, permettant une réouverture progressive du détroit d'Ormuz. Si les prix du pétrole ont chuté de manière significative — le brut WTI redescendant autour de \$83 le baril — les cicatrices de ce blocage éphémère ne sont pas effacées pour autant.

L'impact à venir : Bien que le pétrole baisse, les dommages subis par les infrastructures au Qatar vont maintenir une pres-



Le Royaume-Uni et d'autres nations ont annoncé des étapes majeures dans le domaine du nucléaire. L'énergie propre est désormais perçue comme le remède miracle à la vulnérabilité des routes maritimes de combustibles fossiles. P - Virgule

sion durable sur les prix du gaz naturel en Europe. Cette situation risque de rendre l'inflation particulièrement «collante» dans l'UE, forçant la Banque Centrale Européenne à maintenir des taux d'intérêt élevés plus longtemps que la Réserve fédérale américaine.

2. Perspectives économiques: l'ombre de la guerre

Les mises à jour d'avril 2026 du FMI et de la Banque mondiale décrivent une économie mondiale «faible mais stable». La croissance mondiale pour l'année a été révisée à la baisse, s'établissant désormais à 3,1 %.

Un phénomène inquiétant émerge : la «dominance budgétaire». Les gouverne-

ments donnent désormais la priorité aux dépenses de défense, qui augmentent en moyenne de 2,7 % du PIB mondial, souvent au détriment des programmes sociaux.

L'impact à venir : Nous allons assister dans les prochains mois à un effet d'éviction. Les investissements publics dans l'éducation et la santé risquent de stagner pour financer la sécurité nationale. Pour les marchés émergents, le fardeau du service de la dette restera un risque critique jusqu'à la fin de l'année, exacerbé par la fragmentation du commerce mondial.

3. Le grand pivot énergétique (Jour de la Terre 2026)

À l'occasion du Jour de la Terre, ce 22 avril, le discours mondial a glissé des préoccupations purement environnementales vers les enjeux de sécurité énergétique souveraine. La puissance militaire de l'Iran n'a jamais prétendu égaler celle des États-Unis ou d'Israël ; pourtant, Téhéran a su mobiliser une arme redoutable dans le conflit qui l'oppose à ces deux puissances en jouant sur les flux énergétiques.

Le Royaume-Uni et d'autres nations ont réagi en annonçant cette se-

maine des étapes majeures dans le domaine du nucléaire, notamment le déploiement des réacteurs modulaires (SMR) de Rolls-Royce. L'énergie propre est désormais perçue comme le remède miracle à la vulnérabilité des routes maritimes de combustibles fossiles.

L'impact à venir : Le nucléaire et les énergies renouvelables ne sont plus seulement des objectifs climatiques, mais des impératifs de sécurité nationale. D'ici le milieu de l'été, attendez-vous à une vague de nouvelles politiques industrielles «vertes» et à une multiplication des annonces de programmes nucléaires à travers les pays du G20.

4. Productivité de l'IA: la phase d'observation

Si les valeurs technologiques continuent de porter les marchés, une note de prudence s'est glissée dans les analyses cette semaine. L'investissement dans l'IA est à son apogée, mais l'explosion de productivité attendue n'est pas encore suffisante pour compenser le frein économique causé par les coûts énergétiques élevés.

L'impact à venir : Les prochains mois constitueront une période de vérité pour l'IA d'entreprise. Les sociétés devront démontrer un retour sur investissement tangible pour justifier les dépenses massives en calcul effectuées en 2025 et début 2026. Faute de résultats concrets d'ici le troisième trimestre, une correction du marché technologique est à prévoir.

En conclusion, l'année 2026 marque la fin de l'insouciance logistique. Le pouvoir appartient désormais à ceux qui contrôlent leur propre production d'énergie et leurs chaînes de valeur. Dans ce monde où tout est devenu un levier de négociation, l'indépendance n'est plus une option, c'est une condition de survie.

Le détroit d'Ormuz : quand l'influence devient l'arme suprême

La puissance militaire de l'Iran n'a jamais prétendu égaler celle des États-Unis ou d'Israël. Pourtant, Téhéran a su mobiliser une arme redoutable dans le conflit qui l'oppose à ces deux puissances: la géographie. En menaçant de bloquer le détroit d'Ormuz, point de passage de 20 % du pétrole et du gaz naturel liquéfié mondial, l'Iran a ébranlé l'économie globale, doublant le prix du baril de brut et provoquant une onde de choc sur les prix du carburant, du chauffage et de l'alimentation.

La théorie des jeux

Selon Renaud Foucart, maître de conférences en économie, Lancaster University Management School, cette situation illustre un principe classique de la théorie des jeux, souvent appelé la «négociation de Rubinstein». Selon ce concept, dans un conflit, la force d'une partie dépend de sa capacité à supporter l'absence de résolution et de son degré d'impatience. Si l'Iran souffre des bombardements, une dictature peut se permettre d'être patiente en réprimant la dissidence. À l'inverse, face aux milliards de dollars dépensés et à la colère des électeurs devant la hausse des prix à la pompe, la Maison-Blanche — avec des élections de mi-mandat en ligne de mire en novembre — pourrait perdre patience bien plus rapidement.



Le Brexit ayant affaibli Londres et l'UE, un retour au marché unique paraît probable. P - Toute l'Europe

La quête d'un levier stratégique

Le détroit d'Ormuz démontre que, dans un monde où les alliances traditionnelles s'effritent, le pouvoir réside désormais dans la capacité à contrôler ce dont les autres ne peuvent se passer. Pour prospérer, chaque pays doit créer sa propre version de ce «verrou».

- La Chine s'appuie sur sa domination manufacturière mondiale.
- L'Afrique subsaharienne dispose de ressources naturelles critiques, comme le cobalt, et d'une démographie jeune et croissante.
- L'Union européenne a longtemps puisé sa force dans son marché unique, bien que cette position soit menacée par la croissance de l'Inde ou de l'Indonésie.

Par ailleurs, le Brexit a affaibli la position de négociation du Royaume-Uni et de l'UE, illustrant la raison pour un retour britannique vers le marché unique, fort probablement.

Dans cet environnement d'interdépendance extrême, où des pétroliers immobilisés en Iran peuvent entraîner une pénurie de saucisses de porc dans les supermarchés britanniques, la réussite repose sur deux piliers: ne pas dépendre d'un partenaire unique et offrir un service ou un produit indispensable.

À l'avenir, les nations dominantes seront celles qui parviendront à établir leur propre «détroit» stratégique, tout en s'assurant de ne jamais avoir à naviguer dans celui d'un autre.

➔ Voir plus en page 16

Mother Tongue, Mobility and the Mauritian Language Dilemma

Failure to ensure decent linguistic competence risks not only linguistic fragmentation but a profound social fracture in the coming decades

U. Dasin

Few educational debates generate as much passion as the question of language in schooling. For more than seventy years, international educational research has largely supported the principle that children learn best when they begin schooling in their mother tongue. Yet many countries remain hesitant to fully implement such policies. Mauritius illustrates why the issue is far more complex than the theoretical debate sometimes suggests.

The modern argument for mother-tongue education gained international prominence in the early post-War period, particularly following the influential UNESCO report that emerged from the 1953 conference on the use of vernacular languages in education. The conclusion seemed straightforward: children grasp concepts more easily when taught in a language they understand. Early literacy, comprehension and classroom participation all improve when instruction begins in the learner's first language.

Over the decades this principle became widely accepted among linguists and educational researchers. International initiatives promoting multilingual education culminated in UNESCO's recognition of linguistic diversity and the establishment of International Mother Language Day in 1999. In academic circles, the pedagogical case for initial instruction in the mother tongue is rarely disputed.

Yet the politics of language rarely follows the logic of pedagogy alone.

Across Europe, countries that experimented with extensive mother-tongue support for immigrant populations in the late 20th century have gradually moderated these policies. Governments in the United Kingdom, France and Germany increasingly emphasize rapid acquisition of the national language as a condition for social integration. Policymakers have become concerned that schooling conducted too extensively in minority languages may unintentionally reinforce social separation, creating linguistic communities that struggle to participate fully in the economic and civic life of the wider society.

This tension between educational idealism and socio-economic pragmatism becomes particularly visible in multilingual societies such as Mauritius.

Mauritius possesses a remarkably layered linguistic ecology. For most Mauritians, Kreol Morisien is the language of everyday communication. French dominates much of the media landscape and carries significant cultural capital. English, meanwhile, functions as the official language of administration and the principal language of schooling. From the first day of primary school, Mauritian

children must therefore navigate not one but several linguistic systems simultaneously.

The debate over the place of Kreol in education emerges from this complex reality.

Advocates of mother-tongue education argue that early instruction in Kreol could strengthen foundational learning. When young pupils understand the language of the class-



“Designed to reflect the phonetic structure of the language, Grafi Larmoni facilitates early literacy by aligning written forms with spoken pronunciation. Words such as *lekol*, *travay* and *boukou* are immediately accessible to learners familiar with spoken Kreol. Yet the phonetic nature of Grafi Larmoni also distances Kreol spelling from the French etymological forms from which many words originate. Some educators worry that this may obscure lexical connections that could otherwise serve as bridges toward French vocabulary and grammatical structures...” — Pic - College Xpress

room, they are better able to grasp new concepts, ask questions and develop confidence as learners. Difficulties encountered in early schooling are often attributed not to lack of ability but to the linguistic distance between the language spoken at home and the language used in formal education.

However, critics raise an equally serious concern: the possibility of a linguistic ceiling. In societies where economic mobility depends heavily on mastery of international languages, delaying exposure to those languages may unintentionally disadvantage the very students educational reforms aim to support. English and French remain the languages of higher education, professional advancement and international communication. If pupils do not acquire strong competence in these languages, their opportunities for social mobility may be constrained.

In Mauritius, this concern is amplified by the introduction of a standardized orthography for Kreol known as **Grafi Larmoni**. Designed to reflect the phonetic structure of the language, this spelling system facilitates early literacy by aligning written forms with spoken pronunciation. Words such as *lekol*, *travay* and *boukou* are immediately accessible to learners familiar with spoken Kreol.

Yet the phonetic nature of Grafi Larmoni also distances Kreol spelling from the French etymological forms from which many words originate. Some educators worry that this may obscure lexical connections that could otherwise

serve as bridges toward French vocabulary and grammatical structures. If those bridges become less visible, students with limited exposure to French outside school may find it harder to transition into the language domains where French remains socially powerful.

The Mauritian language debate therefore revolves around a central dilemma: how to balance accessibility and aspiration.

On the one hand, education must be accessible to all learners, including those whose home language is Kreol. On the other, it must also equip them with the linguistic tools necessary for participation in a globalised world where English and French retain significant prestige and utility.

International experience suggests that the most successful systems avoid framing the issue as a choice between languages. Instead, they adopt transitional models in which the familiar language supports early understanding while the language of wider communication is introduced progressively. In such models, the mother tongue functions as a scaffold rather than as a replacement.

In practice, the deeper challenge in Mauritius may not lie in the choice of language alone but in the nature of language learning itself. Many students develop reasonable conversational fluency in both French and English yet struggle with the forms of abstract, structured expression required by academic writing and examination systems. The gap between oral communication and academic language remains one of the most persistent obstacles in Mauritian education.

Ultimately, the debate about Kreol in schools touches on questions that go far beyond linguistics. It raises broader concerns about equity, identity, social mobility and the purpose of education itself. Should the education system prioritise immediate comprehension or long-term linguistic capital? How can it ensure that reforms designed to empower disadvantaged learners do not inadvertently restrict

their future opportunities?

These are major questions we will have to consider as a politically correct discourse privileges the instruction in mother tongue education and blind sides us from investigating the linguistic pedagogy which prevents the acquisition of English and French in the mainstream system. Replacement might not be the only solution. We might have to introduce new learning methodologies. However, all who have been involved with the local education system must have experienced the extreme lethargy which exists at all levels of the educational hierarchy with systemic reluctance to acknowledge and integrate new methods.

In theory, rational argumentation should work as the evidence falls from the pages of analysis. However, in practice it might take conviction and determination to power through reform notwithstanding all forms of pressures which can come from all directions, thwarting the successful planning and implementation of policy visions.

In short, we have played too much politics with language over the last five decades. If we do not realize the urgent imperative of ensuring decent linguistic competence, both written and spoken, among the majority of our student population—and not merely the elite or a privileged sub-group—we are setting the scene not merely for linguistic fragmentation, but for a far deeper social fracture in the coming decades.



Vijay Makhani

Diplomacy or Patronage? Lessons from London, Questions for Port Louis

Mauritius must decide whether its diplomacy is an instrument of statecraft — or an extension of patronage

A controversial diplomatic appointment in the United Kingdom, made despite security concerns and swiftly reversed, raises uncomfortable but necessary questions. For Mauritius, the issue is no longer abstract: how are those chosen to represent the state abroad selected, and to what standards are they held?

The ongoing controversy in the United Kingdom surrounding the appointment and dismissal of Peter Mandelson as Ambassador to Washington has exposed fault lines that go well beyond one individual. His nomination, it later emerged, had proceeded despite his apparent failure to secure a clean security clearance. Reports suggest that the appointment was nonetheless advanced through an overriding decision within the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, with indications that even the Prime Minister may not have been fully apprised of the extent of those concerns at the time.

The credibility of a state's representation abroad cannot be divorced from the integrity of the process by which that representation is determined. It is precisely this principle that invites reflection within the Mauritian context. Over time, the appointment of Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Mauritius has come to reflect a pattern that is increasingly difficult to ignore. Political affiliation appears, too often, to have become a decisive — if not the decisive — criterion. The result is a perception, increasingly voiced in private and now surfacing in public discourse, that meritocratic considerations have been relegated to the margins.

This is not an argument against political appointments **T**hese exist in many democracies and can, in certain circumstances, bring added value — access, political insight, or strategic alignment. Indeed, during my two tenures as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, there was a deliberate balance, albeit not perfect, between political appointees and career diplomats in ambassadorial postings, reflecting an understanding that both could, when appropriately deployed, serve the national interest.

But where such appointments become the norm rather than the exception, the balance tilts. And when that balance tilts too far, the very purpose of diplomacy is at risk of being misunderstood.

Diplomacy is not ceremonial theatre. It is the craft of negotiation, the management of crises, the patient construction of influence. It requires familiarity with international law, multilateral processes, economic diplomacy, and the subtleties of protocol and representation. These are not incidental skills; they are acquired over time, often through years of service and exposure.

Which brings us to a set of questions that cannot indefinitely be avoided.

- Are nominees to ambassadorial posts in Mauritius subjected to any structured vetting — academic, professional, or security-related?
- Is there a minimum threshold of knowledge in diplomatic practice?
- Do appointees undergo any form of pre-posting training to prepare them for the responsibilities they are about to assume?
- Or does the system rely, implicitly, on the hope that individuals will grow into roles for which they may not have been initially prepared?



“Over the past few years, I have consistently argued — when addressing the broader direction of Mauritius' foreign policy and external relations — that greater reliance should be placed on career diplomats for key postings, particularly in our major multilateral missions — the United Nations in New York and Geneva, the African Union in Addis Ababa, and our mission to the European Union in Brussels. These are not ceremonial postings; they are arenas of constant negotiation, coalition-building, and technical engagement, where experience is not merely desirable — it is indispensable...” - Pic - UN

If the answers are uncertain, then the issue is not simply one of individual suitability. It is systemic. There is, moreover, an institutional dimension that deserves careful attention.

Mauritius does possess a cadre of trained, career diplomats — men and women who have spent decades navigating the complexities of international relations, representing the country in multilateral fora, and building the quiet networks upon which effective diplomacy depends. To overlook such a cadre is not merely a question of fairness; it is a disservice to the national interest.

Institutional memory, once diluted, is not easily restored. A foreign service that sees its most experienced officers routinely bypassed risks not only demoralisation, but also a gradual erosion of coherence in its external engagements. I grant that not all may perform up to the desirable standard.

It is telling, and perhaps troubling, that currently, only one career diplomat appears to have been assigned as Ambassador abroad. If this is indeed the case, it speaks to a pattern rather than an exception — and patterns, in matters of governance, matter.

Over the past few years, I have consistently argued — when addressing the broader direction of Mauritius' foreign policy and external relations — that greater reliance should be placed on career diplomats for key postings, particularly in our major multilateral missions — the United Nations in New York and Geneva, the African Union in Addis Ababa, and our mission to the European Union in Brussels. These are not ceremonial postings; they are arenas of constant negotiation, coalition-building, and technical engagement, where experience is not merely desirable — it is indispensable.

The issue, then, is not whether Mauritius should abandon political appointments. It is whether such appointments should be disciplined by a framework that safeguards competence and credibility. Such a framework need not be elaborate to be effective. It could include:

- A structured vetting process assessing qualifications and suitability.
- A measure of independent or parliamentary oversight, even if limited in scope.
- Mandatory pre-posting training, drawing on tailored national programmes, and importantly, a clear recognition of the role of career diplomats, ensuring that experience and expertise are not systematically sidelined.

These are not constraints. They are safeguards — designed not to restrict choice, but to elevate it.

Mauritius has, over the years, built a reputation that far exceeds its size. From its principled stance in international legal fora to its active engagement in regional and global diplomacy, the country has demonstrated that small states can exercise influence when they combine clarity of purpose with quality of representation. That reputation, however, is not immune to erosion.

In a world where diplomacy is increasingly transactional, where credibility is tested in real time, and where the margin for error is narrow, representation matters. The individuals who speak for Mauritius abroad do not merely occupy positions; they embody the state.

The debate in London will run its course, as such debates do. But its resonance should not be lost on us.

For Mauritius, the question is no longer whether reform is desirable. It is whether the cost of inaction — subtle at first, but cumulative over time — is one the country can afford.

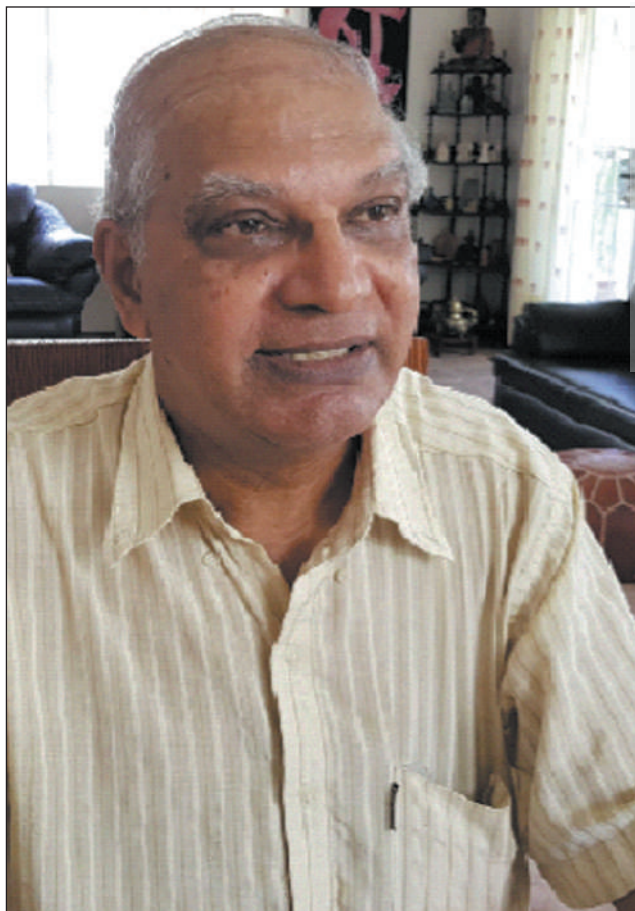
In diplomacy, representation is not a reward — it is a responsibility. When that distinction blurs, the cost is borne not by those appointed, but by the country itself — in credibility diminished, influence diluted, and standing quietly eroded.

Mauritius must decide whether its diplomacy is an instrument of statecraft — or an extension of patronage.

Virendra Proag - Former Associate Professor in Civil Engineering at the UOM

Is Mauritius Running a 21st-Century Economy on 1950s Water Infrastructure?

“Water bills should match electricity and telecom costs to reflect the vital importance of the resource”



Mauritius Times: Every time rainfall is low and reservoirs run dry, we face the same cycle: official warnings, water cuts, and a lack of long-term solutions. Why does this story never change?

Virendra Proag: When a child touches a hot object, they immediately learn a lesson that is rarely forgotten in a lifetime. Are we, as a society, spendthrifts? A spendthrift is one who spends recklessly or wastefully, often exceeding their means. Are we truly taught to save our money — or our resources?

In January 2026, newspapers announced that the island had largely moved away from the “acute water stress” of 2025, when reservoir levels languished at just **42.1%**. Levels had reportedly climbed to **71.3%**, a significant leap from the dire conditions of the previous year. Yet now, in April 2026, as levels begin to dip, the narrative has shifted: “Water usage restrictions are being considered... If no action is taken, reserve levels could fall by **22% to 23%** by mid-June, necessitating emergency protocols.”

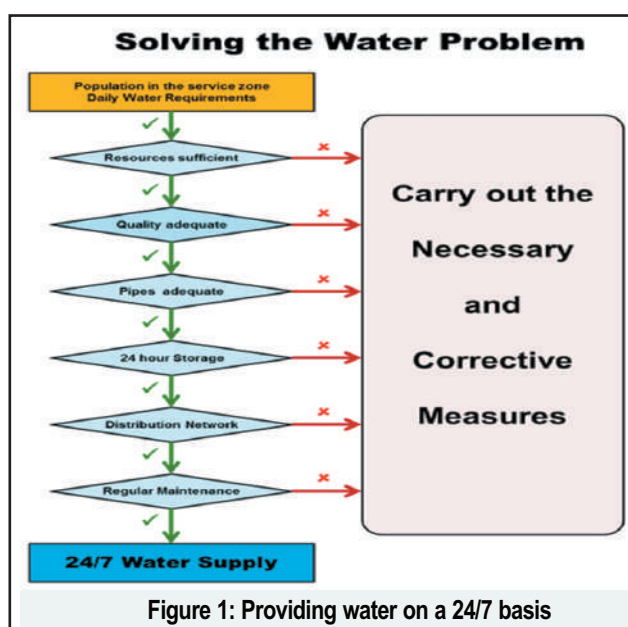
Should we ask why there is such a drastic change between January and April? The issue isn't just the rain that didn't fall, but how we managed the water we had. Were we ever taught not to be spendthrifts?

*** Beyond the lack of rainfall, how much of this cycle is driven by our ageing infrastructure? With non-revenue water (NRW) levels — driven by leaks and frequent pipe bursts — reportedly remaining high, we must ask: is the problem truly a lack of supply, or is it a**

As Mauritius grapples with the familiar sting of water restrictions and dwindling reservoir levels, a weary public is once again asking why the “water crisis” remains a permanent fixture of national life. While official narratives often point to climate change and staggering 60% leakage rates, the reality beneath the surface is far more complex.

In this insightful interview, Virendra Proag, former Associate Professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Mauritius, challenges the conventional wisdom surrounding our water management. From the “statistical ghosts” of unaccounted-for water to the stark disparity in reservoir capacity between urban and rural sectors, Proag argues that the solution lies not just in waiting for rain, but in a fundamental shift in how we value, fund, and distribute our most precious resource.

systemic failure in delivery?



As illustrated in **Figure 1**, once a service zone is identified for water delivery, a rigorous six-point checklist must be satisfied: (1) sufficiency of available resources, (2) adequacy of water quality, (3) integrity of pipes from source to treatment, (4) availability of 24-hour service storage, (5) efficiency of the distribution network, and (6) a robust plan for regular maintenance.

Any deficiency in these areas inevitably leads to supply failures. Ultimately, the system is only as strong as its weakest link; if one element fails, the entire chain of delivery to the consumer breaks.

*** Is the current capacity of our impounding reservoirs actually sufficient for a growing population and increasing commercial demand, or are we trying to run a 21st-century economy on 1950s infrastructure?**

While our population growth may be stagnating due to negative demographics, water demand continues to rise as urban development expands.

When growth occurs in a previously undeveloped area, the requirements of **Figure 1** apply in full. However, even when existing zones undergo new additions — whether within or outside current parameters — **Figure 1** must be revisited. Existing components are often inadequate for the

increased demand of a new supply zone. To ignore this is to act like an ostrich with its head in the sand.

In some instances, we must increase our raw resources; in others, it is the pipelines or service reservoirs that require reinforcement. Furthermore, inadequate maintenance — likely fuelled by insufficient revenue — does more than just damage the network; it erodes public trust.

This brings us to a difficult truth regarding costs. Have you ever compared your bills for electricity, telephony, and water? People often complain that their water bills are high, yet the reality is exactly the opposite.

*** We rely heavily on surface water from impounding reservoirs and groundwater. From an engineering standpoint, why haven't we seen a more aggressive shift toward alternative solutions, such as large-scale desalination or advanced wastewater recycling, to buffer the impact of delayed rainy seasons?**

The main reason is cost: The minimum cost for desalinated water starts at around 1 \$ US per cubic metre! Conveyance cost, for pipelines and pumping from the coast to inland supply zones, should not be forgotten! Mauritian hotels mention a cost of Rs55-80 per cubic metre. In Rodrigues the cost of production at the desalination plant is Rs60 per cubic metre - in a country where the charge is Rs22 annually! You might wish to wonder how the Rodrigues Public Utilities Corporation (RPUC) pays for the production costs!

Advanced wastewater recycling is likely just as costly. Namibia has pioneered this technology since the 1980s, injecting treated water directly into the potable network.

☞ Cont. on page 11

« The Government should certainly consider a more reasonable tariff. When residents in Rodrigues are willing to pay Rs 4,000 for just one or two truckloads of water a year, we must consider what that truly represents. Admittedly, water is an essential service, but Rs 4,000 is equivalent to more than Rs 300 per month. Should the water bill not be at least comparable to those for electricity or telecommunications, if only to emphasize the vital importance of water in our daily lives?»

The '60% water loss' narrative is a statistical ghost rather than a physical reality

☞ Cont. from page 10

While we must move toward these technologies if no alternatives exist, progress is impossible unless the government finds a way to fund both the initial outlay and the ongoing operational costs.

*** Climate patterns are becoming increasingly unpredictable. Are our current water management protocols based on historical data that no longer applies, and what technical solutions can we put in place now to stop water cuts from happening every year?**

Over the long term, water never truly leaves Planet Earth; it evaporates, cycles through the atmosphere, and eventually returns. Technology has sharpened our awareness of these cycles, but it has not necessarily changed our behaviour.

In 1960, Cyclone Carol taught us a permanent lesson: how to construct buildings capable of resisting cyclonic winds. We subsequently faced severe droughts in 1987, 1999, 2009, and 2025. Yet, unlike the lessons of Carol, we have failed to turn our crisis-driven water conservation into permanent habits.

We do not need treated, chlorinated water to water flowers, wash yards, or grow vegetables. Rainwater harvesting at the household level for these purposes would not only lower individual water bills but also significantly reduce the strain on our national distribution network.

*** According to official figures, the CWA pipe network loses more than 60% of the water it produces. What is your opinion on this?**

"There are lies, damned lies, and statistics," Disraeli famously said. According to official figures from Statistics Mauritius, in 2024, the Central Water Authority (CWA) produced approximately **332 million cubic meters (Mm³)** of water but sold only **115 Mm³** — scarcely more than a third.

Year	Water Volume Produced VP (Mm ³)	Water Volume Used VU (Mm ³)
2015	245	98
2016	247	100
2017	261	105
2018	285	109
2019	295	110
2020	304	109
2021	315	108
2022	320	113
2023	313	111
2024	332	115

Table 1: Water Produced and Used (Mm³)

This staggering discrepancy naturally leads many to ask: with such massive losses in the CWA network, why should the average citizen bother to save a single drop?

On the surface, this point of view seems plausible. However, let us scrutinize the data. **Table 1** outlines water production and sales figures over a ten-year period, from 2015 to 2024. If we were to plot these figures — Sales (VU) on the vertical axis and Production (VP) on the horizontal axis — as any SC or Form V student would do, we would obtain two potential straight lines.



« We are faced with a paradox. Complaints about our water supply are numerous and loud, ranging from irregular service to frequent interruptions and visible leaks. While the supply is far from perfect, it remains functional enough to sustain life. However, we must recognize that the reasons for an inadequate supply are not uniform across the islands; the challenges we face are as varied as the localities they affect...»

Unfortunately, statistical theory reveals a sobering truth: both are interpretations of **incorrect models**. Even the narrative showing a **60% loss** fails to capture the full, complex reality of our water crisis.

*** The table clearly shows that the volume of water produced is far higher than the volume billed. Surely, one might conclude, this difference represents physical losses, right?**

The significant gap between these two figures — while confirming a massive discrepancy — does not necessarily equate to system losses. The fundamental error lies in the assumption that this "missing" water has simply leaked away.

At best — assuming the figures are even accurate — they indicate a volume better described as "Unaccounted-for Water." There are numerous reasons for this gap that have nothing to do with burst pipes: for instance, domestic meters may be significantly under-metering consumption, while production figures at the source may be grossly overestimated.

*** If the domestic meters are under-metering, an immediate conclusion is that the official consumption of 115 Mm³ is really underestimated, and that the consumption in Mauritius is much more! Now, is it possible to have zero water loss?**

Let us examine a few facts:

(1) In Rodrigues, except in Port Mathurin, all pipes are laid on the ground surface. And very rarely do we find leaking pipes, or any water accumulation on the ground. There is no reason to believe that Rodriguan plumbers are better skilled than their Mauritian counterparts.

(2) Photo 1 shows a pool of water, arising from a litre of water. This shows a wet patch of already a few square



Photo 1 : A litre of water spreads over a wet patch of several square metres besides a car!

metres. If some 60% of water produced is lost between two neighbours, then at least one cubic metre would be lost between them! Can you imagine the wet patch (1 mm thick) which should form if a water loss of 1m³ (1,000 litres) occurred? At least 1,000 square metres: on a 7-metre-wide road, this would amount to a length of 140 metres! But we never see wet patches on such a large scale.

(3) Is it possible that the leaking water or being lost travels underground? Yes, but there is no evidence that there is a network of caverns and underground canals that channel the water away. Sooner or later, this water should emerge as a water source somewhere, or if the soil is saturated, it comes out bubbling. Again, how many of these sources have you encountered?

(4) Water flows under pressure in the water networks. Should a leak occur, this water pressure should send the leaking water as a water jet somewhere, at least several metres high. How many such jets did you see today?

Given the absence of visible evidence for such massive systemic failure — and while acknowledging that some leaks are inevitable — it is difficult to accept the narrative of exceptionally high-water loss. While we must account for the reality of old pipes, it stretches credulity to believe that more than half of our treated water simply vanishes into the earth without a trace. It appears, therefore, that the '60% water loss' narrative is a statistical ghost rather than a physical reality.

*** There are many areas where people complain of not receiving enough water, or a 24/7 water supply. Why does this occur?**

Let us start with the basics. Water distribution is carried out, in Mauritius, through six main networks which have developed following geographical and hydrological parameters. These networks are the following:

- **MaV Upper.** (Upper Mare aux Vacoas), which distributes water to the high-altitude regions of Plaines Wilhems and a part of Moka.
- **MaV Lower** (Lower Mare aux Vacoas), which supplies the low altitude regions of Plaines Wilhems and the Black River zone.
- **Port Louis**, which feeds Port Louis and the suburbs of Pointe aux Sables, of Petite Rivière, of Pailles and Vallée des Prêtres.
- **North**, supplying the zones of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart.
- **East**, sending water to Flacq, a part of Moka and the south-east coastal zones.
- **South**, which delivers water to the Grand Port and Savanne zones.

☞ Cont. on page 12

'People must realize that nothing is truly free.'

If no money is given to the government (of the people), then no money is available for development (for the people)

Cont. from page 11

We are faced with a paradox. Complaints about our water supply are numerous and loud, ranging from irregular service to frequent interruptions and visible leaks. While the supply is far from perfect, it remains functional enough to sustain life. However, we must recognize that the reasons for an inadequate supply are not uniform across the islands; the challenges we face are as varied as the localities they affect.

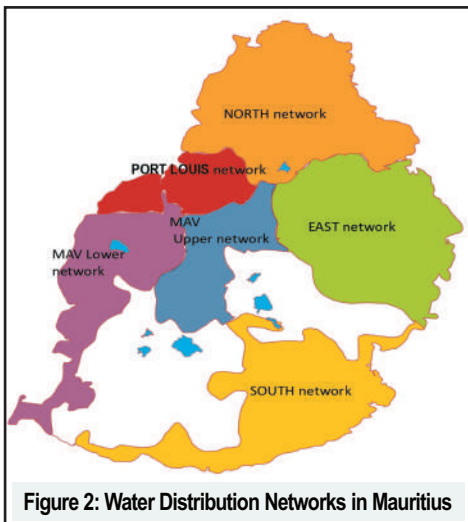


Figure 2: Water Distribution Networks in Mauritius

A comparison of the networks — relative to total population, CWA subscribers, reservoir capacity, and total production — is detailed in Table 2. The data reveals a startling disparity: there is a massive gap in total service reservoir capacity between urban and rural regions. This remains true even when the population size, number of subscribers, and total water production are essentially the same.

	MaV Upper	MaV Lower	P. Louis	North	East	South	TOTAL
Regional Population		620,000			590,000		1,210,000
No. of Subscribers		173,000			142,000		
Total Service Reservoir Capacity (m³)		203,580			82,390		285,970
(2020-21) Total Production (m³/d)		422,134			405,713		827,847

Table 2: Comparison of water distribution networks

It is likely futile to debate why or how this situation arose. However, a correlation should be drawn between the limited supply hours in rural regions and the lack of reservoir capacity, especially given that regional populations, subscriber numbers, and total water production remain comparable.

*** So, do you think that service reservoirs need to be built in the rural areas?**

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, many people installed small water tanks on their roofs for this very purpose: to ensure a supply when the mains were cut. However, apart from storing a significantly larger volume of



« Given the absence of visible evidence for such massive systemic failure — and while acknowledging that some leaks are inevitable — it is difficult to accept the narrative of exceptionally high-water loss. While we must account for the reality of old pipes, it stretches credulity to believe that more than half of our treated water simply vanishes into the earth without a trace. It appears, therefore, that the '60% water loss' narrative is a statistical ghost rather than a physical reality...»

water (\$1,000\$ to \$6,000\$ m³), a service reservoir fulfills several critical roles in proper water distribution. When such a reservoir functions correctly, household tanks become unnecessary, as residents receive water the moment they open their taps. Notably, before the 1960s, I do not recall any water cuts occurring during the day.

*** How does the presence of a service reservoir help?**

Among the many advantages of a service reservoir, there is pressure and flow regulation. As the outlet of the service reservoir is at a given elevation, this determines the maximum pressure available, in the pipeline, during distribution to the consumers. The inlet of the reservoir is fed from a source of water, with a more or less constant average hourly flow. In contrast, the flow at the outlet varies from a minimum of nearly zero — when only one tap (at night) is open in the network to **several times (peak flow factor)** the average hourly flow — when all consumers are opening their taps — in the morning or evening!

Without a reservoir, the network cannot satisfactorily accommodate such wide variations in flow, causing the water supply service

to suffer. Furthermore, consider what happens during the day when no one is using water and every tap is closed — perhaps because everyone is out? Naturally, each local supply zone must be thoroughly investigated to determine the correct reservoir capacity required to serve that specific area.

*** You are basically saying that the Government needs to invest massively on a metering programme and the construction of service reservoirs in many (rural) localities in Mauritius. This certainly requires quite a lot of money?**

It is worth noting that the last water tariff

increases in Mauritius took place in 2012. Since then, consider how much salaries and the cost of goods have risen.

People must realize that nothing is truly free; even 'free' healthcare in public hospitals carries a significant cost. One only needs to visit a private clinic for the same treatment to see the difference; even if that private invoice were divided by two or three, the underlying cost of healthcare is far from negligible.

Ultimately, the government has no money other than what the population provides. If no money is given to the government (of the people), then no money is available for development (for the people).

*** Are you saying that subscribers must put their hands in their pockets for a considerable contribution to the water supply sector?**

Many parents today easily spend Rs 500 monthly on phone credit for their children, simply so they can speak to friends they already see every day. Similarly, there is a growing trend among young employees to frequent shopping mall food courts at lunchtime. When one considers what they spend there each month, it is clear that the days when their parents quietly ate home-made 'pain fourré' are long gone.

If these consumers added just Rs 100 to their monthly CWA bill, it would amount to Rs 1,200 per year, per subscriber. With 350,000 subscribers, this would generate an additional Rs 420 million annually for the CWA. Over five years, that would result in a total additional contribution of more than Rs 2 billion.

*** And you believe that people would agree to pay?**

In Rodrigues, the current tariff of water with Rodrigues is an annual fixed price of Rs 22. When I spoke to a few of them, I learnt that some people spend between Rs 4000 and Rs10,000 (as transport costs) annually to buy water coming from private water trucks (the water is obtained **free** from the Mourouk production plant).

In several other countries, this purchase from water vendors or private carriers bringing water on their premises was a good pretext for privatizing the water sector.

*** So, do you think that we should privatize the water sector?**

Heaven forbid! Certainly not. However, unfortunately, for several decades, successive

governments have been reluctant to increase water tariffs. Consequently, subscribers do not fully understand the true cost of water production and distribution, nor do they appreciate its value, leading to inevitable wastage.

As the saying goes, 'one cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs,' and a reliable distribution network requires adequate infrastructure. If the public expects high-quality service, it is necessary to contribute to its cost in one way or another — preferably through a proper tariff structure.

*** Do you have any suggestions?**

The Government should certainly consider a more reasonable tariff. When residents in Rodrigues are willing to pay Rs 4,000 for just one or two truckloads of water a year, we must consider what that truly represents. Admittedly, water is an essential service, but Rs 4,000 is equivalent to more than Rs 300 per month. Should the water bill not be at least comparable to those for electricity or telecommunications, if only to emphasize the vital importance of water in our daily lives?

With a minimum wage of Rs 20,000, a monthly bill of Rs 200 accounts for only 1% — yet the World Bank recommends even higher percentages. Taking another approach: in France, where the minimum wage is approximately 1,500 Euros, domestic water costs about 1.50 Euros per cubic metre, with an equivalent cost for the sewerage network. Essentially, the price of one cubic metre of water there is equal to the minimum wage divided by one thousand!

*** What do you think about the future of water supply in Mauritius?**

Strategic thinking and sectoral reorganisation are certainly necessary. However, any Master Plan will remain a mere dream unless it is accompanied by an estimated budget and a rigorous implementation schedule. As the saying goes, 'money does not grow on trees,' and we must have a clear strategy for fund mobilisation. Even when friendly nations provide grants for infrastructure, Mauritius must be prepared to fund the ongoing operational and maintenance costs.

Furthermore, when consumers consider Rs 6 for a cubic meter of water (1,000 litres) to be expensive, how can we even contemplate desalination, which costs Rs 60 per cubic meter? Consider the shift in Rodrigues: whereas hotel rates once included bottled water as standard, last year I was charged Rs 100 plus VAT for a small 300 mL soft drink.

In Mauritius, a 500 mL bottle of water typically costs Rs 50 at a local shop. How is it that people find these prices acceptable, yet balk at the cost of utility water? When comparing bills for electricity, telecommunications, and water, it becomes clear that the water bill is the lowest of all — despite claims to the contrary.

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Across the Globe



UK PM Starmer's domestic woes mount. Pic- Yahoo

Starmer's domestic woes mount

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's mounting domestic woes could have wider geopolitical implications. Starmer faced a hostile Parliament Monday over his appointment of the disgraced Peter Mandelson as US ambassador; the premier blamed civil servants, a high-risk strategy given that one of those civil servants will be questioned by lawmakers today.

Starmer is unlikely to face an imminent party coup, but his weakened authority may mean he lacks political capital at home for a planned pivot toward Europe, the Financial Times reported, despite talks to "reset" relationships with Brussels and perhaps rejoin the customs union. Starmer has also pushed Europe's involvement in Ukraine, and domestic distractions may limit his diplomatic and political bandwidth on the issue.

Hormuz standoff intensifies

Iran tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz, as US peace talks remained distant. Just one ship passed through the waterway Tuesday; on Wednesday, more ships tried, and Iran attacked two and reportedly seized

two more. The White House played down the episode, but it demonstrated Tehran's continuing stranglehold, The New York Times reported.

Progress toward reopening the passage remains stalled: Iran's parliament speaker said the US blockade was "bullying" and a "flagrant breach of the ceasefire," adding that negotiations would not resume with it in place. US President Donald Trump said the blockade would continue, but he may be on the clock: presidents can wage war without Congressional approval for 60 days, a deadline which expires May 1.

Largest World Cup might also be priciest

The upcoming FIFA World Cup in the US is the largest ever with 48 nations, but it may earn another, more dubious superlative: the priciest. FIFA said last week that New Jersey's plan to charge \$150 for a train ticket that is usually \$13 would create a "chilling effect," but the state, citing \$48 million in additional public transit costs caused by the tournament, is merely emulating FIFA, a Wall Street Journal columnist argued: The soccer body is charging up to \$39,000 for ticket packages and expects to clear \$11 billion during the tournament. FIFA's president defended the prices, telling Semafor World Economy it was a "very special market" and that "nobody complains" about ticket prices for concerts or NFL games.

More hope in treating pancreatic cancer

Seven out of eight early-stage pancreatic cancer patients who responded to a new immunotherapy treatment are still alive six years later. That's unusual: Most patients die within months. Sixteen patients were given an mRNA vaccine that trains the immune system to attack cancer cells. Half of them saw an immune response, and of those that did, most lived; all but two of the other eight died. Given the small trial, experts cau-

tioned that more research was needed, but the results hold promise. Pancreatic cancer is highly resistant to treatment, including immunotherapy, and little progress has been made even as other cancers have become treatable. It follows reports of another drug extending the life of pancreatic cancer patients by several months.

Panama Canal fees surge

The Iran war has sent prices for crossing the Panama Canal to record highs, as Asian oil and gas buyers seek new routes through which to source energy, though analysts cautioned the waterway risks becoming another global chokepoint. Auction prices for some crossings jumped almost tenfold after Iran and the US effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, through which 80% of Asia's oil imports passed before the war.



Strait of Hormuz blockade drives up costs at Panama Canal. Pic - France24

The Iran war has underscored how reliant the global economy is on certain passages — virtually all seaborne trade passes through just five waterways — raising fears of their vulnerability: if the Malacca Strait were to close, the Hormuz shutdown would be "just a dry run" by comparison, Singapore's foreign minister said.

Trump envoy wants FIFA to replace Iran with Italy in upcoming World Cup

Italy might still have a chance to play in the upcoming FIFA World Cup. A Donald Trump envoy wants the global football body to swap out Iran, a qualifying nation, with Italy — which missed out on qualifying for the third time in a row.

"I confirm I have suggested to Trump and (FIFA president Gianni) Infantino that Italy replace Iran at the World Cup. I'm an Italian native and it would be a dream to see the Azzurri at a US-hosted tournament. With four titles, they have the pedigree to justify inclusion," said U.S. special envoy Paolo Zampolli.

The reported move comes after President Donald Trump and Italy PM Giorgia Meloni had a falling out over POTUS' attacks on Pope Leo XIV, reports HT.

Italy's ouster this time had come at the



hands of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the Azzurri lost 4-1 in penalty shootouts in the qualifying playoff final.

What are the rules of replacing a team

in the World Cup?

If Iran were to withdraw, then Article 6.2 of FIFA's regulations states that they would be replaced 'with a nominated alternate, often the direct runner-up from the relevant qualifying playoff or highest-ranked non-qualified team from that confederation'.

Thus, it would be likely for Iran to be replaced by the United Arab Emirates, who reached the Asian play-off stage where they lost. However, FIFA can also use its 'sole discretion' in this regard. Speculation about Italy making its way back to this competition reportedly stemmed from ex-Manchester United

reserve boss Rene Meulenstein, currently assistant manager of Iraq.

He had told talkSPORT "Through the AFC, we are the highest-ranked team. So we would then take Iran's place. And then UAE might step in to replace us to play the winner of Suriname and Bolivia." The manager had added "But there's also rumors that if FIFA makes the final decision, they might push the highest-ranked FIFA team to replace Iran, which is Italy."

What has Iran said about playing in the World Cup?

Iran reportedly said in a statement that they were prepared for the tournament and had plans to participate, as per FT.

Earlier, they had said in April they'd decide on the World Cup participation, if FIFA responded to their calls for the matches to be moved from the US to Mexico. The FIFA World Cup 2026 is slated to start on June 11.

* Contd on page 14

Across the Globe



US allies are scrambling to buy Ukraine's counter-drone tech, but gear alone isn't enough to defeat the Shahed threat. Pic - Yahoo

US adopts cheap anti-drone tech

The US military has reportedly started using Ukrainian anti-drone technology to protect an air base in Saudi Arabia, highlighting a broader shift in defence away from expensive solutions to low-cost threats. The "Sky Map" system detects incoming attacks, often cheap Iranian Shahed drones, and responds with its own interceptors, according to Reuters.

Ukraine has become a leader in anti-drone countermeasures after four years of facing mass-produced Russian ordnance. The US move follows President Donald Trump last month saying, "We don't need their help in drone defence." Existing US anti-air systems, though capable, are expensive: a \$5 million Patriot missile destroying a \$50,000 Shahed is not cost-effective. "We cannot keep throwing Ferraris at frisbees," a US lawmaker told Congress yesterday.

Robot makes table tennis history

A robot beats elite human players at table tennis, a landmark victory in a competitive sport. Sony Ace defeated top amateurs in three matches out of five, although it lost twice against pros. It follows a running robot beating the human half-marathon record, albeit in a highly controlled environment. Ace had it easy to some extent — it has no legs, so needn't worry about balance, and has nine video cameras around the table, while humans tend to have only one head and two eyes. But it could herald rapid progress in robotics, much as DeepMind's autonomous Go player did in AI in 2016. Physical AI is a growth area: Tesla announced plans to boost robotics spending this year.

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transit costs caused by the tournament, is merely emulating FIFA, a Wall Street Journal columnist argued: The soccer body is charging up to \$39,000 for ticket packages and expects to clear \$11 billion during the tournament. FIFA's president defended the prices, telling Semafor World Economy it was a "very special market" and that "nobody complains" about ticket prices for concerts or NFL games.

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Satellite internet may be key in Africa

Satellite internet providers have made moves to expand their services across Africa, where hundreds of millions lack access to the web. Just 36% of the continent's population can access the internet, roughly half the global average, a major hindrance to Africa's development. Though traditional internet operators have struggled to expand, satellite providers such as SES and Elon Musk's Starlink argue that they can help huge numbers of users in Africa leapfrog broadband, while Amazon and Vodafone recently signed an agreement to expand their services there. The knock-on effects could be huge — one estimate suggests satellite technology could unlock \$900 million in annual agricultural productivity gains for the continent — but skeptics note significant pricing and technological access barriers remain.



Satellite communications for Africa. Pic - satsig.net

Brazil's 80-year-old Lula hits the treadmill to ease voter concerns about age



Brazil's 80-year-old Lula hits the treadmill to ease voter concerns about age. Pic - WRAL.com

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is pumping up his re-election bid at age 80 by looking jacked in workouts that his critics say are more popular than the man himself.

While Brazilians are divided over whether he should run for his fourth non-consecutive term, there is a rare consensus regarding his commitment to run on a treadmill every day, reports AP.

"He is a bit too old to campaign again. We'd better have someone else running. But his workouts are indeed a good example for people like me," said Marcela Peres, 63, as she exercised in a hotel gym in Brasilia on Wednesday.

Lula's attempt to show himself full of energy has led his main rival, Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, a son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, to show his moves too.

Some voters have expressed concern that Lula might follow the path of former U.S. President Joe Biden, who withdrew from the 2024 race over questions about his health and age. But Lula is flexing his muscles to challenge supporters to stick with him again.

"One of these idiots said it was

not me, that it was a clone," Lula said in March, days after his wife, Rosângela da Silva, posted a video of his workout routine. "Go to the gym. Get ready. Drink less and work to see what happens. I want to live 120 years."

Lula's main rival is almost half his age

The president frequently played soccer during his first two terms, maintained a workout regimen throughout his 580 days in prison and has advocated for exercise since he ran in 2022 to beat then-incumbent Bolsonaro, a former Army captain in poor health.

If Lula wins in October, he will beat his own record as the oldest man to be elected Brazilian president.

His main rival is almost half his age.

Bolsonaro, the 45-year-old son of the former president, recently mocked Lula by comparing him with an old Chevrolet Opala that is "all backward" and "drinks a lot (of fuel)."

Lula, who has appeared on nearly every presidential ballot since the end of the military dictatorship in 1985, brushed off the insult by describing himself instead as a "turbo car." In the last election, Lula won with just 50.9% of the vote, the narrowest margin in the country's history.

The number of Brazilians above age 60 who are eligible to vote grew from 20.8 million in 2010 to 36.2 million in March of this year, according to researcher Nexus, citing figures of Brazil's top electoral court.

US eases cannabis for medical use: Access, research, and regulation explained

The United States government on Thursday eased restrictions on the medical use of cannabis, reclassifying the drug to allow wider patient access and expand research into its safety and effectiveness, reports HT.

Marijuana has been reclassified as having moderate to low addiction potential, "expanding patients' access to treatments and empowering doctors to make better-informed healthcare decisions," acting attorney general Todd Blanche said.

What are the changes made to medical use of cannabis?

The drug was previously listed

under Schedule I — a category reserved for substances with "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse," including heroin and methamphetamine, according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

It has now been moved to Schedule III, the third tier in the five-level classification system.

The Department of Justice said the move follows up on US President Donald Trump's December executive order aimed at increasing research into medical marijuana.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

The Chimera of Return: A Deep Dive into 1921

'Redevenir l'Isle de France?

Un récit politique' — By Lindsay Rivière

History is often written by the victors or the status quo, frequently glossing over the “mad” deviations that failed to change the map. In *Redevenir l'Isle de France?*, veteran journalist Lindsay Rivière rescues one such deviation from the footnotes of Mauritian history: the “Retrocession” movement. Launched exactly a century after the 1921 elections that marked the movement's peak, the book explores the bold, arguably utopian demand for Mauritius to be returned to France after over a hundred years of British rule.

A Utopian Agenda

The premise of the Retrocessionists — led by figures like Dr Maurice Curé and the journalist Edouard Laurent — was as simple as it was provocative: exchange Mauritius for the French enclave of Pondichery. For a small group of “idealists,” the goal was to trade British subjects' status for French citizenship under the Tricolore.

Lindsay Rivière masterfully dismantles why this “chimera” gained such traction. While modern readers might find the idea of reversing 110 years of history “farfetched,” the author illustrates how it became a vessel for the deep-seated frustrations of the *Gens de Couleur* (People of Colour). This community, caught between a “haughty” British



administration and a dominant Franco-Mauritian sugar oligarchy, viewed French Republican ideals as a path to the civil rights and social dignity that were systematically denied to them under the Union Jack.

The Sandwich of Identity

At the heart of Lindsay Rivière's analysis is a poignant study of the *Gens de Couleur*.

He describes them as a community “suspended between two worlds,” intellectually elite yet politically marginalised. Despite attending the prestigious Royal College, they were often capped at intermediate professional levels, excluded from the high spheres of the civil service, and socially shunned by the white sugar-estate owners.

The book does not shy away from the darker nuances of this struggle. Lindsay Rivière notes with candour that the movement was partly fuelled by an apprehension toward the rising demographic and political weight of the Indo-Mauritian community. The Retrocessionists dreamed of a “Greater French Indian Ocean” colony — comprising Mauritius, Reunion, and Madagascar — where the “Indian element” would be diluted by a larger Francophone population. It is this “introspective and sometimes painful” honesty that gives Lindsay Rivière's work its journalistic weight; he is not just writing history, but the “history of the everyday” mentalities.

Geopolitical Naivety vs. Colonial Iron

One of the most striking aspects of the narrative is the “surprising naivety” of the Retrocessionist leaders. Lindsay Rivière points out that they fundamentally misunderstood the British Empire's intent. Britain did not seize Isle de France in 1810 for mere prestige; they took it for its strategic command of the route to India and its economic

potential as a sugar powerhouse.

The author highlights the role of Sir Winston Churchill, then a key minister, who made it clear that England was in Mauritius to stay. Meanwhile, France viewed this “unsolicited display of affection” with considerable embarrassment, having no desire to jeopardize its diplomatic relations with London over a distant colony.

A Legacy of Resilience and Emigration

Lindsay Rivière, who succeeded André Masson as editor of *Le Mauricien* at just 24, brings a personal sensitivity to the text. Having seen his own family depart for Australia during the massive waves of emigration in the mid-20th century, he writes about the “latent bitterness” that eventually decimated the local community of colour.

Redevenir l'Isle de France? is an essential read for understanding the slow, difficult journey toward the universal suffrage of 1959 and independence in 1968. It sheds light on a period that prefigured the modern Mauritian landscape — one defined by complex alliances and a “love-hate relationship” between the sugar oligarchy and the rising political class.

Ultimately, Lindsay Rivière's work is an invitation to look at history “without complexes.” By documenting this forgotten quest to return to the past, he helps us better measure how far the Mauritian nation has travelled toward its own unique future.

The Microcosm of Tromelin: A Study in Cruelty and Resilience

'Les Fantômes de l'île Tromelin'

— By Jean Claude de l'Estrac

The history of the Indian Ocean is often told through the lens of grand colonial ambitions, maritime strategies, and the sugar industry. However, in his latest work, *Les Fantômes de l'île Tromelin*, Jean Claude de l'Estrac pivots away from the macro-history of empires to focus on a visceral, human tragedy that remained buried beneath the coral sands of a tiny islet for centuries. Part historical investigation and part evocative narrative, the book breathes life into a story that is as haunting as it is heroic.

A Journey from the High Lands to the Abyss

JC de l'Estrac begins his narrative not on the decks of a ship, but in the heart of Madagascar. This is a crucial distinction. By detailing the lives of the captives in the Imerina highlands, the author restores their identity before they became “cargo.” He meticulously explores the social structures of the time — the Andriana (nobles), Hovas (commoners), and Andevo (slaves) — providing a rare glimpse into the cultural and spiritual world these individuals were violently uprooted from.

The journey of 340 kilometres to the



'Les Fantômes de l'île Tromelin': An essential addition to Indian Ocean literature, fostering reconciliation by honouring those the world forgot

coast, with captives on foot and traffickers in filanjana (palanquins), is described with a “chilling precision” that highlights the complicity and cruelty of the era. The reader is forced to confront the grim reality of the slave trade: a chain of human exploitation involving both foreign captains and local intermediaries.

The Wreck of the Utile

The core of the tragedy unfolds in 1761, when the French East India Company ship, L'Utile, carrying a “contraband” shipment of Malagasy slaves destined for Isle de France (now Mauritius), shattered against the reefs of Tromelin (then known as Isle de Sable). Of the survivors, 122 were French sailors and 90 were Malagasy captives.

The ensuing cohabitation on a desert island — a mere kilometre of sand with no trees and no fresh water — serves as a stark microcosm of human nature. JC de l'Estrac depicts the “collapse of empathy” that occurred when the French sailors constructed a makeshift vessel from the wreckage. While they promised to return for the Malagasy survivors, they sailed away, leaving 88 souls to a fifteen-year exile in the middle of the ocean.

Fifteen Years of Fire and Resilience

Perhaps the most moving aspect of the book is JC de l'Estrac's refusal to treat the abandoned Malagasy as mere victims. Instead, he portrays them as “resistants.” For fifteen years, against all odds, they maintained a fire that never went out, built stone shelters, forged tools, and even sustained new life — a child was born on that desolate

bank of sand.

By the time Captain Jacques de Tromelin finally arrived in 1776, only seven women and a nursing infant remained. Through JC de l'Estrac's prose, these “ghosts” are finally given a voice. He transforms a sordid colonial anecdote into an epic of human dignity, exploring the profound spiritual grief of these survivors who feared they would never be buried in the ancestral lands of their forefathers.

A Mirror to the Present

Jean Claude de l'Estrac, a seasoned journalist and former diplomat, uses his deep knowledge of the region to bridge the past and the present. He does not shy away from the complexities of history, including the uncomfortable truths regarding internal complicity in the slave trade.

Les Fantômes de l'île Tromelin is more than a book; it is a “sepulcher of paper.” It arrives at a time when sovereignty over Tromelin remains a point of contention between France and Mauritius, but JC de l'Estrac reminds us that the island's true legacy belongs to those who suffered and survived there. This work is an essential contribution to Indian Ocean literature, offering a necessary path toward reconciliation by honouring the humanity of those the world chose to forget.

Suren Dayal: Le coût financier d'un combat contre l'ancien pouvoir

L'interminable feuilleton judiciaire opposant Suren Dayal au trio d'élus de la circonscription n°8 (Moka/ Quartier Militaire) connaît un nouveau rebondissement, cette fois sur le terrain civil et financier. Alors que le pays a tourné la page des élections de 2019, les conséquences matérielles de cette lutte acharnée remontent à la surface.

Six propriétés dans le viseur de la justice

Le 6 avril 2026, la nouvelle est tombée: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Leela Devi Dookun Luchoomun et Yogida Sawmy-naden ont officiellement saisi la Cour suprême. Leur objectif est d'obtenir l'autorisation d'inscrire une hypothèque judiciaire sur six biens immobiliers appartenant à Suren Dayal.

Cette démarche n'est pas une simple

formalité, mais une garantie de paiement pour une somme s'élevant à £94 914,22 (soit environ 4,5 millions de roupies). Ce montant représente les frais de justice alloués après le rejet définitif de la pétition électorale de Suren Dayal. Les propriétés ciblées témoignent de l'ampleur de la saisie potentielle: un local commercial, un appartement et plusieurs terrains répartis stratégiquement à Mahébourg, Moka, Vacoas et Surinam.

Un héritage juridique gravé dans le marbre

Pour comprendre cette offensive financière, il faut remonter à octobre 2023. Le «Judicial Committee of the Privy Council» (JCPC), siégeant à Londres en tant que plus haute instance d'appel pour Maurice, avait alors rejeté à l'unanimité l'appel de Suren Dayal. Les «Law Lords» avaient



Défiant un MSM au faite de sa puissance, Suren Dayal a perdu sa bataille légale mais a imposé la question de l'équité démocratique dans le débat public. P - Le Mauricien

tranché: les promesses électorales de 2019, notamment l'augmentation de la pension de retraite, relevaient de la politique nationale et non de la corruption électorale.

En ce mois d'avril 2026, ce jugement demeure la «norme d'or» du droit électoral mauricien. Il a établi un seuil extrêmement élevé pour prouver une «influence indue», redéfinissant ainsi la manière dont les partis politiques cadrent leurs manifestes pour le cycle électoral actuel. Si l'affaire est juridiquement close (*res judicata*), ses

secousses se font encore sentir dans les couloirs de la Cour suprême.

Un enjeu politique et moral

Au-delà des chiffres, cette affaire revêt une dimension symbolique forte. Suren Dayal a mené ce combat à une époque où le MSM était au faite de sa puissance, disposant de l'appareil d'État. Pour de nombreux observateurs, bien qu'il ait perdu sa bataille juridique, son action a ouvert la voie à un débat nécessaire sur l'équité démocratique à Maurice.

Le constat dressé par le Bureau National d'Audit (NAO) dans son dernier rapport de conformité, publié en mars 2026, est sans appel: la lutte contre la pauvreté à Maurice est marquée par un gaspillage massif des ressources publiques. En dix ans, le ministère de l'Intégration sociale a englouti environ Rs 4,2 milliards dans des programmes dont l'efficacité s'avère, au mieux, décevante.

Le verdict du NAO tombe comme un couperet: le ministère ne s'est pas conformé aux dispositions essentielles de la *Social Integration and Empowerment Act* de 2016. Derrière les chiffres, se cache une réalité sociale figée: sur la période examinée, seuls 2 853 ménages ont réussi à quitter le registre social (SRM). Un calcul rapide révèle une statistique singulière: le coût moyen pour sortir une famille de la pauvreté s'élève à Rs 1,2 million, sans que la durabilité de cette sortie ne soit toujours garantie.

Un registre social (SRM) obsolète et incomplet

Le premier pilier de la lutte contre la pauvreté, le *Social Register of Mauritius* (SRM), est sévèrement critiqué. Censé être un outil de recensement exhaustif, il ne comptait que 25 350 individus en décembre 2023, alors que Statistics Mauritius estime à environ 101 900 le nombre de personnes vivant dans une pauvreté relative.

Le rapport pointe plusieurs failles systémiques.

Informations obsolètes: Aucun plan de maintenance n'était en place pour mettre à jour les données.

Technologie dépassée: Le système repose sur une technologie Oracle hors d'âge, freinant la modernisation promise par le projet *e-Social Security*.

Manque de proactivité: Le ministère s'est reposé sur l'auto-enregistrement des familles au lieu d'aller activement vers les plus vulnérables.

L'aide versée à des bénéficiaires inéligibles

L'un des points les plus polémiques du rapport concerne l'allocation des fonds. En l'absence d'une définition officielle de la «pauvreté absolue» à Maurice, le ministère utilise un seuil dérivé de la pauvreté relative, créant un flou conceptuel majeur.

Plus grave encore, le test d'éligibilité («Proxy Means Test») repose sur des données de consommation datant

Audit sur la pauvreté: Le naufrage d'un système à Rs 4,2 milliards



Sans supervision ni expertise technique, les milliards contre la pauvreté entretiendront la dépendance au lieu de favoriser l'ascension sociale. P - Sunday Times

de 2012. Ce décalage de quatorze ans signifie que les aides sont distribuées sans tenir compte de l'évolution réelle des revenus ou du coût de la vie actuelle. Le NAO souligne également l'incapacité du ministère à croiser ses fichiers avec la Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) ou la NLTA, augmentant le risque de verser des aides à des personnes n'y ayant pas/plus droit.

Le mirage de la formation et de l'autonomisation

Le rapport d'audit est particulièrement accablant sur le volet de la formation, censé être le moteur de l'autonomisation. Les résultats sont qualifiés de médiocres: sur 108 bénéficiaires formés au MITD entre 2018 et 2024, seuls 14 ont franchi le seuil de pauvreté.

L'audit identifie un décalage profond entre les formations proposées et les besoins réels du marché du travail. Le manque de suivi post-formation et la faible motivation de certains bénéficiaires transforment ces initiatives en dépenses vaines. À titre d'exemple, sur trois ans (2021-2024), seuls quatre individus formés ont effectivement franchi le seuil de la pauvreté.

Une gestion axée sur le court terme

La critique de fond du NAO porte sur la philosophie même de l'intervention étatique. Jusqu'en 2025, le ministère n'avait mis en place aucun mécanisme robuste de suivi ou d'évaluation. Les programmes ont fonctionné en «pilotage automatique», se concentrant sur un soulagement financier immédiat plutôt que sur une stratégie de sortie durable.

Une enquête interne du ministère confirme ce constat d'échec: 89,9 % des ménages aidés depuis 2016 restent dépendants des prestations sociales, piégés dans un cycle d'emplois instables et de logements informels.

Les recommandations pour un nouveau départ

Malgré ce tableau sombre, le NAO note que des efforts de redressement ont été entamés depuis le début de l'année 2025, notamment avec l'approbation d'un nouveau cadre de suivi comprenant 171 indicateurs.

Pour rectifier le tir, l'Audit réitère des recommandations strictes:

- **Refonte totale** des programmes de formation pour les aligner sur la demande du marché.
- **Mise à jour urgente** du seuil de pauvreté et des critères d'éligibilité.
- **Institutionnalisation d'évaluations régulières** pour passer d'un modèle d'assistance à un modèle d'autonomisation réelle.

Le rapport de l'Audit met en lumière une dure vérité: sans une supervision rigoureuse et une capacité technique accrue, les milliards injectés dans la lutte contre la pauvreté continueront de financer une dépendance chronique plutôt qu'une véritable ascension sociale.

A. Bartleby

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

8th Year No 334

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 27 January, 1961

• To bring nations to surrender themselves to new ideas is not the affair of a day. -- John William Draper



Dr Philippe Forget

Pour résoudre un problème national

Tout dépend de notre tolérance

Sil est impensable que le litige qui divise les Mauriciens au sujet du contrôle des naissances ne puisse être réglé, il est au moins inconcevable que la solution du litige puisse jamais s'obtenir par une conversion de tous à une commune conviction.

C'est pour avoir placé le problème dans le cadre d'un débat

d'opinion que la perspective en a été temporairement faussée. Il ne saurait y avoir de débat là où le critère demeure la conscience et l'orientation religieuse, au plus intime de chacun de nous. Par contre, placé dans le cadre qu'il n'aurait jamais dû quitter, celui de la liberté de conscience et de la tolérance confessionnelle, le contrôle des naissances devra assurément, comme le divorce, prendre la place qui lui est due dans la structure de la société.

Il convient, tout d'abord, de rappeler les faits qui situent le problème.

L'accroissement de la population Grâce à un taux de natalité des plus élevés du monde, 38.5 par 1000 habitants en 1959, la population de l'île Maurice augmente actuellement de 3 % par an. Alors que pour la période de 20 années, 1925-1945, elle n'avait augmenté que de 25 000 âmes (400 000 à 425 000), l'accroissement pour la seule année 1959 a été de 17 000 âmes. Au taux d'accroissement actuel voici les chiffres que la mission Titmuss prévoit pour l'avenir :

1959	--	630 000
1982	--	1 365 000
2000	--	3 000 000

Ceux d'entre nous qui ont aujourd'hui moins de 20 ans connaîtraient vraisemblablement une île Maurice où la densité moyenne de la population dans toute l'île atteindrait 4 000 par mille carrés. Rappelons que la densité de la population en France est de 75 par mille carrés, en Inde de 300 par mille carrés. Alors, écrit le Professeur Titmuss, l'île Maurice ne sera qu'un «vaste camp de concentration».

Diminution du Revenu par Tête d'Habitant

Grâce à une disparité grandissante entre le Revenu National et la Population, le revenu par tête d'habitant n'a cessé de diminuer depuis 1953.

Voici les Chiffres:		
	Revenu national Rs (million)	Revenu par tête d'habitant Rs
1953	604	950
1954	599	925
1955	618	915
1956	647	903
1957	662	868
1958	666	836

Ainsi, au cours de ces 6 années, bien que le Revenu National ait augmenté de 10 %, le Revenu par tête d'habitant a diminué de 12 %.

Expansion économique future

Au taux d'accroissement actuel de la population on ne peut concevoir que, dans un petit pays aussi dépourvu de richesses naturelles que le nôtre, l'expansion économique future puisse jamais être adéquate pour maintenir le présent revenu par tête d'habitant.

Pour seulement **maintenir** le revenu par tête d'habitant au niveau déplorablement bas où il se trouve aujourd'hui il faudrait en effet que d'ici l'année 1982 le Revenu National soit doublé, et, d'ici l'année 2000, **quintuplé**. Une telle majoration est, nul ne l'ignore, **irréalisable**.

Ces faits demeurent. Nul ne peut leur échapper. Nier leur existence

ou travailler à les cacher à la conscience publique constituerait une action déroutante de mauvaise foi.

D'autre part, il y a une relation inévitable entre le revenu par tête d'habitant et, non seulement les conditions matérielles, mais aussi la teneur esthétique, morale et spirituelle de l'existence. Le Minimum Vital, et le progrès Esthétique, Moral et Spirituel de la population mauricienne ne peuvent donc s'obtenir sans une stabilisation de cette population.

Et enfin, puisque d'une part, l'émigration de notre surplus de population s'avère irréalisable aux émissaires mauriciens (tant politiques que religieux) et que, d'autre part, sauf cataclysme non souhaitable, le taux de mortalité actuel (le plus bas jamais atteint dans l'histoire du pays) ne saurait augmenter, la stabilité de la population dépend donc uniquement de la réduction du taux de natalité. Cette réduction peut s'obtenir par les moyens suivants : -

1. Retarder l'âge de la nuptialité
2. Réduire la fréquence des naissances illégitimes
3. Espacer les conceptions des couples mariés.

L'importance de l'âge de la nuptialité et celle des naissances illégitimes peut s'illustrer par des chiffres. En 1959, pour chaque 1000 mariages contractés dans la population dite générale, 16 hommes et 316 femmes étaient âgés de moins de 21 ans.

Pendant la même année, 1959, des 1339 mariages enregistrés parmi la population dite générale, 234 (c'est-à-dire 18 %) rendaient légitimes des enfants nés avant le mariage. Le nombre d'enfants affectés était de 557 (2.4 enfants par mariage en moyenne).

Pour la section de la population de descendance indienne les statistiques sont incomplètes du fait qu'en dépit de l'*Indian Marriage Ordinance* de 1912 une proportion importante de mariages sont célébrés religieusement sans enregistrement civil. Le recensement de 1952 donne toutefois une idée plus complète en ce qui concerne l'âge

de la nuptialité lorsqu'il démontre que 40 % des Mauriciennes âgées de 15 à 19 ans vivaient en union soit religieuse, soit civile ou consensuelle.

On sait aussi que la mission Titmuss considère l'avenir de l'île Maurice comme indésirablement sombre à moins que les familles mauriciennes n'acceptent volontairement de se limiter à 3 enfants par famille en moyenne.

Les moyens visant à réduire le taux de natalité concernent les hommes et les femmes de Maurice. Eux seuls peuvent les prendre. Sans leur décision d'étendre la pratique d'un ou plusieurs de ces moyens le taux de la natalité ne baissera pas, le revenu par tête d'habitant n'augmentera pas, le Minimum Vital ne sera jamais réalisé, le Progrès Moral, Spirituel et Esthétique du Mauricien sera indéfiniment arrêté.

On remarquera qu'aucune de ces mesures n'est praticable, sans la décision prise par les couples dans l'intimité de leur vie privée, une décision incontrôlable, inattaquable, prise par eux, parce que, selon eux, la mesure est nécessaire, louable, permise. Cette décision devrait être le résultat de la considération impartiale des faits, des conseils librement recherchés sur les plans économiques, philosophiques ou religieux et, en dernier ressort, du jugement de chaque Mauricien et de chaque Mauricienne adulte, selon sa religion, sa conscience, son intelligence et son sens du devoir.

Libre aux couples de consulter qui ils voudraient, d'accorder l'importance relative que leur dicte leur conscience aux divers aspects du problème, mais ce dont chacun digne d'être humain ne peut accepter de se passer c'est du respect d'autrui pour sa décision. Pas de respect d'autrui pour votre décision si vous n'êtes pas prêt à respecter la décision d'autrui.

Pas la tolérance de vos compatriotes pour votre décision, prise d'après votre conscience, en face du problème, si vous le premier, vous n'êtes pas prêt à tolérer la décision d'autrui prise d'après sa conscience et avec autant de bonne foi que vous y avez mis vous-même.

Rien d'autre que la tolérance et le respect de la décision d'autrui ne peut être exigé de chacun. Rien d'autre. Mais rien de moins.



AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

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Email: amb@ambmauritius.mu.

COMMUNIQUE – NOTICE OF VACANCY

The **AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (AMB)** is a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and it deals in Controlled Products and related Agri-Business.

With a view to further strengthening its team, applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the hereunder posts, on permanent and pensionable basis:-

- 1) **Clerk/Word Processing Operator;** and
- 2) **Technical Operator (Shift).**

Qualified candidates are requested to log on <https://ambmauritius.mu> to view further details on the vacancies and to submit their application/s **electronically**.

Closing date: **Monday 11 May 2026.**

AMB reserves the right:

1. to convene **only** the best qualified candidates for interview; and
2. not to make any appointment following this advertisement.

Moka
21-Apr-26



Japan's collapsing birthrate

Japan's birth rate in 2025 will likely fall below even the most pessimistic forecasts. Preliminary data suggest 2025 will see fewer than 670,000 babies, the lowest since records began in 1899. Demographers had expected 749,000 and did not project births to fall so low until 2041.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has

called the fertility crisis Japan's "biggest problem," especially given the country's deep skepticism about inbound migration. Falling birth rates are a near-global phenomenon, but East Asia has seen the most dramatic collapse. On current trends, South Korea's population will fall two-thirds in the next century, despite moderately successful efforts to boost births; those efforts are utterly swamped by structural factors discouraging parenthood, Works in Progress reported.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21): Optimism and enthusiasm open doors to new opportunities, possibly linked to travel or learning. Stay disciplined to avoid distractions. Financial prospects improve, but careful planning is still necessary. Positive energy surrounds your efforts. **Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 17, 22, 28, 40

Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19): Your hard work begins to show results, bringing recognition or rewards. Be cautious before taking on new commitments. Personal relationships improve through patience and thoughtful communication. Focus on steady progress. **Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 16, 23, 29, 35

Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18): Fresh ideas inspire new opportunities. Collaboration and teamwork bring success but avoid overcommitting yourself. A small but welcome financial gain may occur. Stay flexible and open-minded. **Lucky Numbers:** 1, 7, 13, 18, 26, 34

Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20): Your intuition is strong, guiding you toward the right choices. Focus on emotional balance and inner growth. Creative or spiritual activities bring satisfaction. Avoid taking unnecessary risks, especially financially. **Lucky Numbers:** 6, 12, 20, 24, 30, 38

Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19): Momentum builds steadily, especially in career matters where stalled plans begin moving again. Midweek brings clarity on a pending issue. Be careful with impulsive spending or quick judgments. In relationships, open and calm communication improves understanding. **Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 14, 22, 31, 38

Taurus (Apr 20–May 20): A sense of stability returns, allowing you to focus on practical goals. Financially, this is a week to consolidate rather than take risks. Family matters may require patience, but your calm approach will resolve tensions. Long-term planning is favored. **Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 15, 19, 27, 36

Gemini (May 21–Jun 20): Your communication skills shine, bringing opportunities through calls, emails, or meetings. Networking proves beneficial but avoid scattering your energy across too many tasks. Pay attention to minor health issues—rest will help maintain balance. **Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 17, 23, 29, 34

Cancer (Jun 21–Jul 22): Emotional clarity helps you take confident decisions, especially in personal matters. Financial improvement is possible but avoid overthinking opportunities. Family bonds strengthen, offering support and comfort. Trust your intuition — it guides you well this week. **Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 16, 21, 28, 35

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22): Confidence and charisma attract attention and recognition. Leadership opportunities may arise, but avoid ego clashes with colleagues. A creative idea could turn into a rewarding project if pursued seriously. Stay grounded despite success. **Lucky Numbers:** 1, 7, 13, 20, 26, 33

Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22): Your ability to organise and focus on details leads to progress. A work-related breakthrough is likely if you stay disciplined. Avoid overworking — rest is essential to maintain productivity. Health and routine need attention. **Lucky Numbers:** 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 39

Libra (Sep 23–Oct 22): Balance becomes your key strength. Decisions in relationships require fairness and clear thinking. Financial caution is advised—avoid unnecessary expenses. Social interactions bring good news or helpful connections. **Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, 32

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21): Your intensity helps you stay focused on goals but avoid being overly secretive. Career matters progress steadily. A surprising development could change your plans — adaptability will be your advantage. Trust your instincts. **Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 14, 19, 25, 37



VACANCY NOTICE

SECTION HEAD, HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), established by the MRA Act 2004, is a body corporate and acts as an agent of the State for revenue collection, management of the Revenue Laws and the provision of an enhanced service to the business community and taxpayers. As an equal opportunity employer, the MRA endeavours to attract and retain the services of high calibre employees to attain its objectives.

MRA is looking for qualified and experienced candidates, with proven integrity, for the post of **Section Head, Human Resources and Training Department**, on a contract basis.

Qualifications

A university degree in Human Resource Management/Development, IT/IS/Computer Science, and Communication or an equivalent qualification.

Experience

Minimum of 12 years' experience in Human Resource Management of which at least 5 years should be in a senior management position.

Work experience on ORACLE Platform (HRMS) or any other HR Software would be an advantage.

Knowledge, Skills & Attitude

Knowledge

- Sound knowledge of human resource policies, practices and trends.
- Practical knowledge in organisation development & change management.
- Knowledge of the MRA business & core activities will be an advantage.

Skills

- Skills in organising resources and establishing priorities.
- Skills in facilitating and leading strategic planning and organisational development interventions.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Time Management and Project Management skills.
- Demonstrate Digital Literacy including Proficiency in Microsoft Office Tools and HRMS (e.g Oracle, SAP, Fusion)
- Experience in HR Digital Transformation, e-Learning Content/Platform Tools, HR Analytics/Dashboards

Attitudes

- Proactive and good team player.
- Flexible, dedicated and result-oriented.
- Caring and supportive nature.

Age Limit

Candidates, unless already in the service of the MRA, should not have reached their 55th birthday by the closing date, for the submission of applications, for the above post.

Mode of Application

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications, **online**, together with all relevant scanned documents, through MRA Website: www.mra.mu under the "Careers" tab, where all information is available. Candidates are also advised to read the **Instructions to Candidates** posted on the same platform.

Closing Date: Friday 08 May 2026

MRA reserves the right:

- to call only the **best qualified and experienced** candidates for the selection exercise; and
- not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

17 April 2026

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius

T: +230 202 0500 | E: humanresourcesandtraining@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



Nature's filter

The hidden science of how coconuts get their water

The coconut tree is often celebrated as the "tree of life" or "nature's supermarket." Across tropical coastlines from Africa to Southeast Asia, every part of this iconic plant serves a purpose -- from thatched roofs made of leaves to medicinal roots. Yet, perhaps its most prized treasure is the refreshing, clear liquid hidden within the young green fruit.

How that liquid gets there is a marvel of biological engineering. As Gaston Adoyo, a food scientist and researcher at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, explains, coconut water is far more than just a drink; it is a sophisticated, nutrient-rich fluid meticulously crafted by the tree itself.

A Masterpiece of Natural Filtration

There is a common misconception that coconut water is simply trapped rainwater or perhaps seawater that has seeped into the fruit. According to Adoyo, the truth is much more impressive. The process begins deep underground, where the tree's extensive root system -- reaching up to five meters into the earth -- absorbs groundwater.

As the tree draws this water upward, it acts as a massive, living filtration system. The water, containing dissolved minerals from the soil, is transported through the trunk via specialized vascular tissue known as xylem. By the time this liquid reaches the fruit, it has been



purified and enriched, resulting in a sterile, clear sap that fills the coconut's internal cavity. Unlike most fruits that store moisture within individual cells or pulp, the coconut is unique for maintaining this large, liquid reservoir.

The Anatomy of a Reservoir

To understand the water, one must look at the "drupe"

-- the botanical classification of the coconut. It consists of three layers: the smooth green exocarp, the fibrous mesocarp (husk), and the woody endocarp (the shell). Inside this shell lies the endosperm, which we know as the white flesh.

In an immature, green coconut, the water serves as a vital nutritive fluid meant to nourish the developing seed. As the fruit matures over 12 months, the white flesh absorbs the liquid, eventually leaving the brown, ripe coconut with very little water remaining.

What's Inside the Drop?

While about **95%** of the liquid is water, making it a world-class hydrating fluid, the remaining **5%** is a complex cocktail of life-sustaining elements. Adoyo notes that coconut water contains:

- **Minerals:** Essential sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium to nourish nerves and muscles.
- **Proteins:** Enzymes and amino acids that aid metabolism.
- **Sugars:** Fructose and glucose, providing that signature subtle sweetness.
- **Vitamins:** Trace amounts of Vitamin C and B-complex vitamins.



Surviving the Inferno

The science behind the Artemis II re-entry

The successful conclusion of the Artemis II mission marks a historic milestone in human space exploration. Having carried four astronauts to a record-breaking distance of 406,771 kilometres from Earth, the Orion capsule faced its most harrowing challenge on April 10: a high-speed, hypersonic return through the Earth's atmosphere. As the spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific Ocean at roughly 8:00 PM local time, it ended a ten-day journey that pushed the limits of both human endurance and aerospace engineering.

According to Chris James from The University of Queensland, an expert in hypersonics, the physics of this return are nothing short of extreme. To safely deliver the crew home, the Orion capsule had to shed an immense amount of kinetic energy, transforming a 40,000 km/h "space bullet" into a vessel slow enough to deploy parachutes.

The Physics of the "Space Brake"

When Orion hit the upper atmosphere, it was travelling at 11 km/s -- roughly 40 times faster than a commercial passenger jet. As Chris James explains, the spacecraft possesses nearly 2,000 times the kinetic energy per kilogram of a standard airplane. To slow down, the capsule uses the atmosphere itself as a brake.

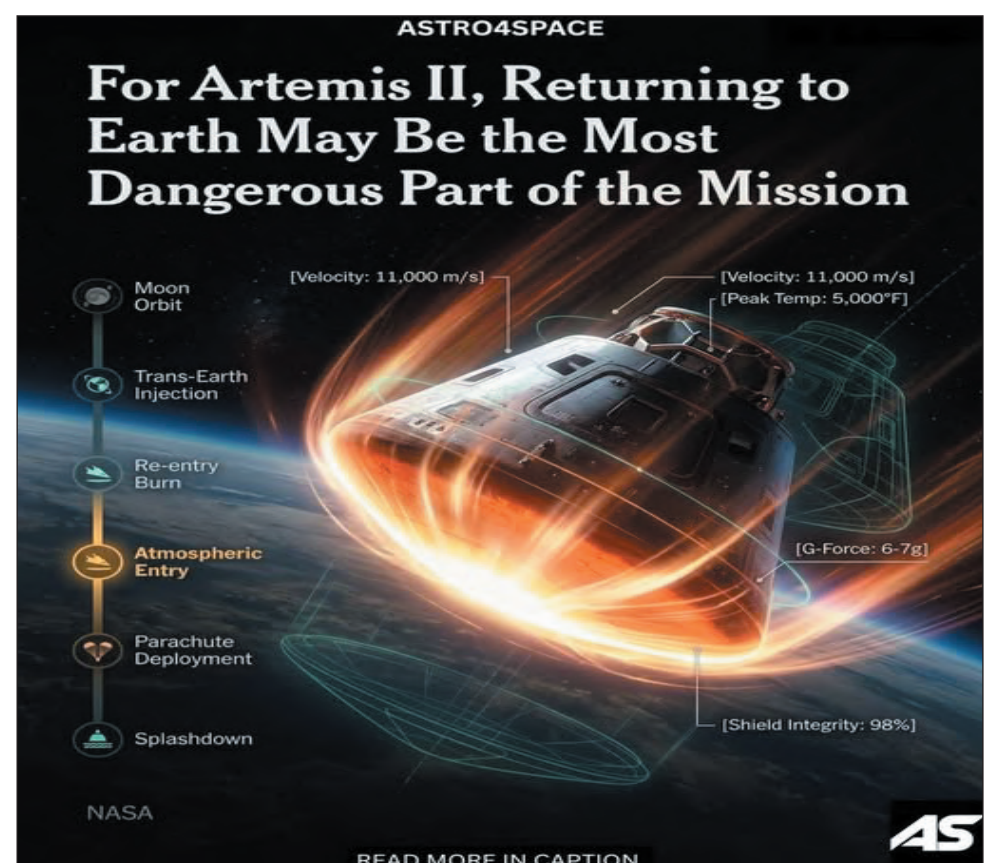
Unlike aircraft designed to be sleek and aerodynamic, re-entry vehicles are intentionally "un-aerodynamic." Their

blunt shapes maximize aerodynamic drag, forcing the thin air of the upper atmosphere to push back against the vehicle. While uncrewed capsules, such as OSIRIS-REx, can endure "barrel-in" descents with forces exceeding 100g, humans cannot. To keep g-forces at a survivable level -- similar to what a Formula One driver feels during a sharp corner -- Orion utilized lift forces to stretch the deceleration process over several minutes.

Braving the 10,000°C Plasma

The sheer speed of the capsule creates a shock wave so intense that the air surrounding the craft reaches temperatures of 10,000°C -- twice as hot as the surface of the Sun. This heat ionizes the air, turning it into an electrically charged plasma. This plasma creates a "blackout" period where radio signals cannot penetrate, leaving the astronauts in temporary silence during the most dangerous stage of their descent.

To prevent the crew from being incinerated, the capsule relies on a thermal protection system (TPS). As James details, the Orion capsule uses a specialized material called **AVCOAT**, a refined version of the ablative heat shield used during the Apollo era. These materials are designed to "ablate" -- meaning they char, melt, and flake away. This process carries heat away from the craft while injecting cooler gases into the flow along the surface. This ingenious design allowed



the vehicle to endure 10,000°C air while keeping the heat shield's surface at a manageable 3,000°C.

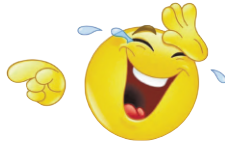
Learning from the Past

The Artemis II re-entry was particularly scrutinized following the Artemis I test flight, which saw unexpected "char loss" or chunks of the heat shield breaking away. Engineers, after extensive analysis, determined that internal pressure during a "skip" maneuver -- where the craft bounces off the atmosphere to cool down -- caused the damage. For the Artemis II

mission, NASA modified the trajectory to a less defined "skip," reducing internal stress on the AVCOAT material.

The safe return of the Artemis II crew is a testament to the precision of hypersonic engineering. As Chris James notes, while the mission achieved unprecedented distances, the true victory lies in the technological "blanket" that allowed four humans to survive a 3,000°C inferno and return to the cool waters of the Pacific.

Laughter is the
Best Medicine



A Love That Keeps Going Around

Did you hear about the couple who met in a revolving door?

They're still going round together.

* * *

The Informal Advice

When the formal private briefing of the attractive new teacher was finished, the vice-principal took a few puffs on his pipe and said:

"I have an informal piece of advice for you, Miss Bell. There's only one way you can get along in this school without submitting to the sexual advances of the principal."

"Oh my God... well, what is it?" she asked, alarmed.

"I'll explain it," he replied, "as soon as you've undressed."

* * *

God Walks Into a Bar...

Three guys walk into a bar -- one in a wheelchair, one who is blind, and one who appears perfectly normal. A couple of minutes later, God walks in for a beer. Seeing them, He feels compassion and decides to help.

He touches the blind man on the forehead, and his sight is instantly restored. He then touches the man in the wheelchair, and the man jumps up and walks away.

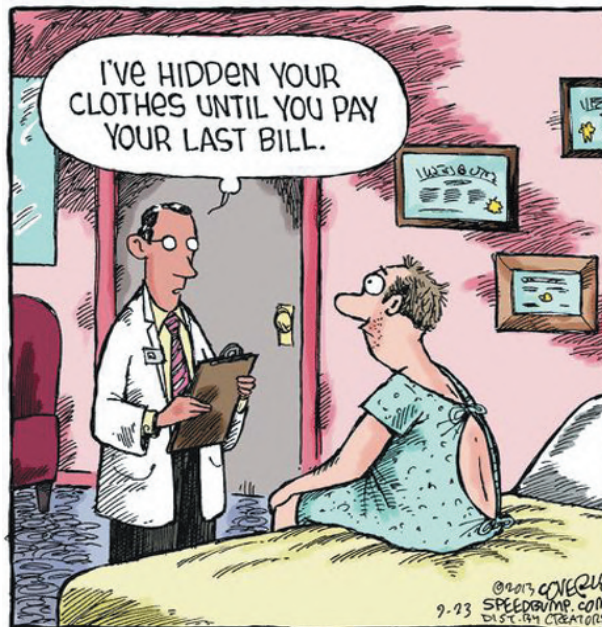
God then turns to the last man, but before He can do anything, the man quickly says, "Whoa, God! I'm on workmen's compensation!"

* * *

The Winking Salesman

A man was interviewing for a sales representative. One candidate would have been ideal for the position except for one disconcerting mannerism -- he kept winking.

"Look, I'd like to give you the job. You've got great references and experience," said the employer. "The problem is this constant winking -- it might put our



customers off."

"No worries," the candidate replied. "All I need is a couple of aspirins."

He began emptying his pockets. The employer was startled to see dozens of condoms -- multi-coloured, ribbed, heavy-duty, and every known brand.

"Here we are," said the candidate. He swallowed two aspirins, and the winking stopped instantly.

"That's all very well," said the employer, "but we couldn't hire a man who goes womanising all over his territory."

"Oh, I wouldn't dream of it. I'm happily married."

"Then how do you account for all these things?"

"Simple. Did you ever go into a chemist winking all the time and ask for a packet of aspirins?"

* * *

The Job of Worrying

Fresh out of business school, a young man answered a want ad for an accountant. He was interviewed by a very nervous man who ran a small business he had started himself.

"I need someone with an accounting degree," the man said, "but mainly I'm looking for someone to do my worrying for me."

"Excuse me?" the accountant replied.

"I worry about a lot of things," the man continued, "but I don't want to have to worry about money. Your job will be to take all my money worries off my back."

"I see," said the accountant. "And how much does the job pay?"

"I'll start you at eighty thousand."

"Eighty thousand dollars!" the accountant exclaimed. "How can such a small business afford a sum like that?"

"That," the owner said, "is your first worry."

* * *

Brain or Muscles?

A strong young man at a construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He repeatedly mocked one of the older workmen.

After several minutes, the older worker had had enough.

"Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he said. "I'll bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the young man replied. "Let's

see what you've got."

The old man reached out, grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles, and said, "All right. Get in."

* * *

It's Not a Big Deal

A man comes home from work one day and says to his wife:

"Honey, I got a new secretary. And guess what -- she wears red and white, the colours of my favourite football team. It's not a big deal, but it feels good."

The next day, his wife asks, "How was your day?"

"Fantastic!" he replies. "Now I've noticed she always matches her outfits to my favourite team. It's not a big deal, but it really feels good."

On the third day, the wife returns from work and the man asks, "And how was your day, honey?"

"Oh, nothing special," she says. "I've got a new boss now -- he supports my favourite team too. It's not a big deal... but it feels good."

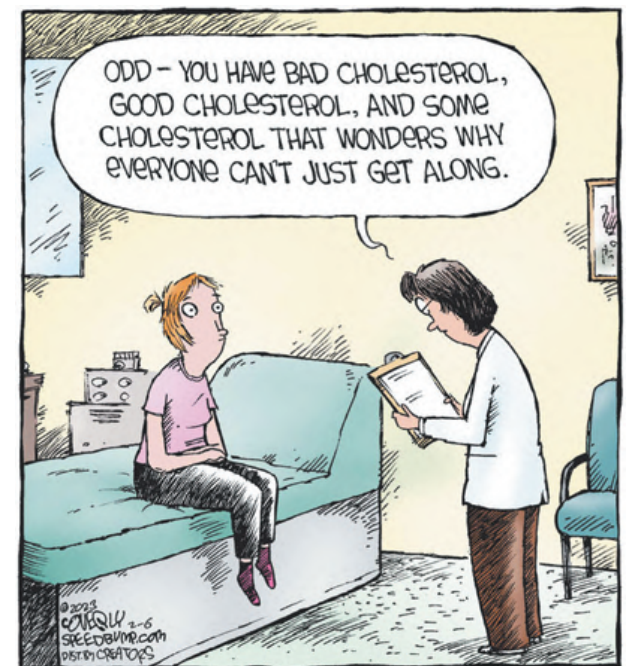
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The "Global Crisis" Special

A German man walks into a bar and orders a premium beer.

The bartender nods and says, "That will be 100 euros, please."

The German is stunned. "100 euros?! Yesterday it was only 10!"



"Well," the bartender sighs, "today it's 100."

"But why, damn it?"

The bartender leans in and explains: "It's simple math:

- 10 euros for the beer.
- 10 euros to help Iran.
- 20 euros in assistance for the Gulf countries.
- 20 euros in aid for the UAE.
- 30 euros for Israel.
- 10 euros for the EU gas subsidy and the sanctions fund."

Fuming with quiet indignation, the German pulls out a 100-euro note and slams it on the counter. The bartender takes the money, rings it up, and promptly hands the man back 10 euros.

The German is baffled. "Wait, you said the price was 100 euros. I gave you 100—why are you giving me 10 back?"

The bartender shrugs. "There is no beer."

Stray Thoughts**Being With a Man Who Works All the Time**

Being with a man who works all the time isn't for everyone. It's not always cute. It's not always romantic. It's early mornings, long days, and coming home worn out more often than not.

There will be times when he's quiet. Times he doesn't have the energy for long talks or late nights. Sometimes all he can give is a quick kiss, a tired smile, and his back hitting the pillow before the sun rises again.

But don't mistake that for lack of love. He's not distant -- he's determined. Every long shift, sore muscle, and callused hand is proof he's building something solid. He's not working to escape you; he's working for you. For the future. For stability. For life he promised to create.

Loving a hardworking man means understanding



that his love shows up in effort, in sacrifice, in responsibility. It's not always loud, but it's steady.

So don't take him for granted. A man who comes home tired from chasing a better life... is a man who would move mountains for the woman he loves.

Cody Bret

Life's Stories**The Indomitable Indira Gandhi**

Leaders as courageous and indomitable as Indira Gandhi are rare in world history.

In the winter of November 1971, Indira Gandhi met President Richard Nixon in America. As the conversation began, Nixon stated sharply, "If India pokes its nose into Pakistan's affairs, America will not sit quietly; we will teach India a lesson."



Indira Gandhi replied with calm dignity, "India sees America as a friend, not as a 'boss.' India is capable of writing its own destiny. We know how to handle the situation, and we are fully capable of doing so." With those words, she stood up.

She had spoken "straight to the eye" of the American President. The details of this exchange and her steadfast demeanour only came to light later, when Henry Kissinger detailed them in his memoir, *White House Years*.

According to the schedule, the Indian Prime Minister and the American President were meant to jointly address the media following their meeting. However, upon stepping out, Indira Gandhi immediately cancelled the program and walked straight toward her car.

Kissinger, who was escorting her, asked as he closed the car door, "Madam Prime Minister, don't you think you could have shown a little more patience toward the President?"

She replied, "Thank you for your suggestion, Mr Secretary. India may be a developing country, but our spine is straight and strong. We have the willpower and the resources to face oppression. We will prove that the days are gone when a power sitting thousands of miles away could rule or influence the governance of another country."

Upon her return, as soon as her Air India plane landed at Delhi's Palam Airport, Indira Gandhi invited the opposition leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to her residence. After a closed-door meeting, it was announced that Vajpayee had been given the responsibility of representing India's case at the United Nations.

At the time, BBC correspondent Donald Paul asked Vajpayee, "Indira Gandhi considers you her staunchest critic. Despite that, will you be able to raise your voice at the UN in support of her government?"

Vajpayee replied, "A garden's beauty comes from roses, but also from lilies and other flowers. Every flower feels the beauty exists because of it alone. But when the garden faces a crisis, all the gardeners -- big and small -- come together to protect it."

Just 15 days later, the Indian Army launched the campaign to liberate Bangladesh, and a new nation emerged on the world map.

— Hari S. Shekhawat

Philosophy and Ethics**The Alchemy of Hardship**

By Daniell Koepke

If I've learned anything from life, it's that sometimes, the darkest times can bring us to the brightest places. I've learned that the most toxic people can teach us the most

important lessons, that our most painful struggles can grant us the most necessary growth and that the most heartbreaking losses of friendship and love can make room for the most wonderful people.

I've learned that what seems like a curse in the moment can actually be a blessing and that what seems like the end of the road is actually just the discovery that we are meant to travel down a different path. I've learned that no matter

how difficult things seem, there is always hope. I've learned that no matter how powerless we feel or how horrible things seem, we can't give up. We have to keep going. Even when it's scary, even when all of our strength seems gone, we have to keep picking ourselves back up and moving forward, because whatever we're battling in the moment, it will pass, and we will make it through. We've made it this far. We can make it through whatever comes next.

Stray Thoughts**If He Never Posts You**

If your man never posts you... if he never acknowledges your relationship online, don't just brush it off. Pay attention. Silence can speak volumes.

More often than not, when someone goes out of their way to look single, it's intentional. Maybe he's flirting. Maybe he likes the attention. Maybe he wants the door cracked open so other women assume he's available.

And that "I'm private" or "I don't like drama" line? That's a shield -- a way to dodge accountability for how he behaves when you're not around.

When a man truly loves you, when he's serious about you, he won't hide you. He won't treat you like a secret. He won't dodge the idea of publicly claiming you. He'll want to. Not because you begged him -- but because it feels natural to celebrate what he values.

It's pride. It's gratitude. It's: "Look at what I'm blessed with."

A man who values his woman makes her feel seen. He doesn't tuck her away in the shadows while everything else is front and centre.

Not every relationship needs to be broadcasted. But there's a difference between protecting your peace and protecting your options.

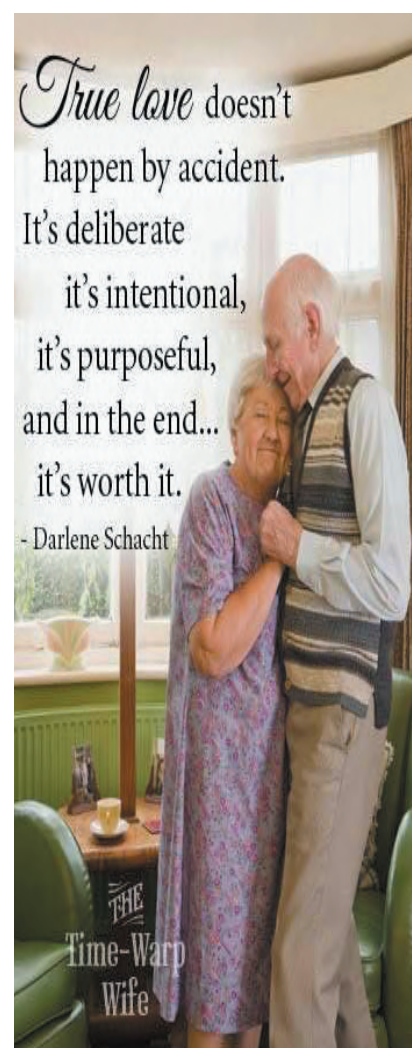
If he posts everything else -- his workouts, his fits, his food, his wins -- but never you... ask yourself why. Privacy isn't selective. Priority is. Healthy love doesn't fear acknowledgment. A good man protects the relationship -- but he doesn't pretend it doesn't exist.

You deserve to be loved. Not hidden. Not minimized. Not edited out.

And if he's committed to looking single... don't be surprised when you start feeling alone.

If he can showcase his lifestyle, he can showcase the woman in his life. And if he won't... trust me... someone else will.

Cody Bret



Keys to a Healthier Relationship: What Science Says Women Want

In the evolving landscape of 2026, where gender roles continue to shift and digital distractions often fragment our attention, the fundamental pillars of a healthy relationship remain surprisingly grounded in emotional intelligence and traditional effort. Understanding what women truly value in a partner is less about deciphering a mystery and more about mastering the art of attentive connection, suggests Shruthi N, MD of WebMD. Read on:

The Power of Emotional Presence

One of the most significant "secrets" to a lasting bond is the transition from being a problem-solver to being a witness. Men are often biologically and socially wired to be solution-oriented. However, when a partner is upset, she is rarely looking for a mechanical fix; she is looking for an ear. Research suggests that active listening -- accompanied by compassionate responses rather than unsolicited advice -- is a powerful aphrodisiac for emotional intimacy. A simple acknowledgment like, "I'm sorry you had such a difficult day," carries more weight than a ten-point plan to resolve a workplace conflict.

This presence extends to physical communication. While we live in a world of screens, nothing replaces eye contact. Whether during a serious "state of the



union" conversation about the relationship or during intimate moments, looking at a partner in the eye signals a level of honesty and vulnerability that builds profound trust.

Chivalry and Growth in the Modern Age

While women are entirely capable of independence, the nuances of "traditional" romance still hold a special place. Chivalry, in its modern form, is not about assuming a woman is incapable; it is

about demonstrating care. Small gestures -- opening a door or taking the lead during the "wooing" stage -- signal that a man is willing to put in the effort.

Equally important is the concept of personal growth. There is something deeply attractive about a man who recognizes his flaws -- be it a short temper or a tendency to withdraw -- and actively works to improve. Striving to be a "better man" is often more captivating than being a "perfect" one.

Redefining Romance and Intimacy

In the bedroom, the secret often lies in the "scenic route." While men may sometimes be inclined toward a direct path to physical intimacy, many women prioritize the feeling of being connected and romanced first. Foreplay is not just a physical prelude; it is a psychological requirement involving time, talk, and touch.

Furthermore, communication regarding performance or preferences should be seen as a shared journey rather than a source of shame. Openly discussing what feels good, practicing safe sex as a mutual priority, and offering reassurance during "off nights" strengthens the bond.

The Persistence of Simple Gestures

Romance should never be viewed as a task with a completion date. Whether a couple has been together for two months or two decades, the need for simple romantic gestures remains constant. Complimenting a new haircut, noticing a favorite dress, or even leaving a small note of appreciation are clichés for a reason: they work. In the end, the secret to a thriving relationship is consistency. By staying curious about your partner and remaining emotionally available, you ensure that the romance doesn't just survive, but flourishes.

Health & Life Hacks

Don't Toss the Peel: The Hidden Pharmacy in Your Produce

Most of us treat fruit and vegetable skins as disposable packaging, but we are essentially throwing away a goldmine of nutrition. From apples to bananas, the exterior of our favourite foods often contains higher concentrations of vitamins and antioxidants than the flesh inside.

The Power of the Peel

- **Apples & Potatoes:** An apple's skin holds half of its fiber and four times more Vitamin K. Similarly, potato skins pack **17 times more iron** and seven times more calcium than the interior.

- **The "Unconventional" Edibles:** You might usually avoid the fuzzy skin of a **Kiwi**, but it actually contains double the fiber and more Vitamin C than the fruit itself. Even **Eggplant** skin is vital, as it contains *n sunin*, a potent antioxidant that protects brain cells.

- **Metabolic Boosters:** Research suggests **Mango** skin contains compounds similar to Resveratrol, which helps inhibit fat cell production. Meanwhile, Citrus peels offer double the Vitamin C of the fruit; try grating them into salads or dressings to bypass the bitter texture.



Creative Consumption

Not all skins are easy to chew, but they can still be utilized. **Onion** skins can be simmered in stocks to release *quercetin*, and **Banana** peels -- rich in mood-boosting *tryptophan* and eye-healthy *lutein* -- can be blended into smoothies or boiled to soften their texture. Next time you prep dinner, reach for the scrubber instead of the peeler.

Health & Life Hacks

Beyond the Bubbles: 10 Surprising Household Uses for Coca-Cola

Since its debut in 1886, Coca-Cola has been the world's most recognizable soft drink. However, its unique chemical composition -- specifically its citric and phosphoric acid content -- makes it a versatile tool for household chores and first aid.

Cleaning and Maintenance

- **Windshield Defroster:** During winter, pouring regular Coke over an icy windshield can help melt the frost quickly.

- **Battery Terminals:** The acid in the soda is perfect for eating away the "crud" and corrosion that accumulates on car battery terminals.

- **Window and Toilet Cleaner:** Because it contains citric acid, Coke acts as an effective glass cleaner and a powerful stain remover for toilet bowls. Simply let it sit for 10 minutes before wiping or flushing.

Health and Garden Hacks

- **Jellyfish Stings:** Forget the myths; the acidity of Coca-Cola can provide nearly instantaneous relief from the pain of a sting.

- **Pesticide Alternative:** Placing small containers of Coke in your garden will



attract slugs and roaches with sugar, while the acid serves as a lethal trap.

- **Skunk Odour Neutralizer:** If a pet is sprayed by a skunk, a Coke "bath" can be more effective and less messy than the traditional tomato juice soak.

From curling straight hair to soothing a dog's worn paw pads, this pantry staple proves it is much more than just a refreshment -- it's a functional multi-tool for everyday life.

BollyBytes



Anupam Kher recalls not giving in to hair transplant

Anupam Kher was not the "ideal looking" hero when he entered the film industry; he was bald. In a recent conversation with Pinkvilla, the actor opened up about how numerous hair weaving companies and doctors approached him to undergo a hair transplant, even offering him money to do so.

What's happening

"I am every hair-weaving company's or doctor's

dream. And many people are ready to pay me to get a hair transplant done just once with them. But I never gave them that opportunity," Kher shared.

He emphasized his commitment to his natural appearance, stating, "No matter how much money I might need, I won't take it because I feel I wouldn't remain the same person."

The actor also recalled an anecdote from when his son, Sikandar, was very young. Kher was reading a newspaper and had not realized there was a hair oil advertisement on the page. "Sikandar thought I was looking at that ad, and he said, 'Dad, don't even think about it.' I am blessed to have a family that has a great sense of humour, that really helps," he added.

Kher further revealed his rapport with younger generations, noting that he prefers they call him either "AK" or "Anupam ji." He expressed his love for discussing a wide range of topics with youngsters, from AI to health and science.

Upcoming projects

Anupam Kher will next be seen in *Khosla Ka Ghosla 2*, directed by Prashant Bhagia. The film is a sequel to the 2006 hit *Khosla Ka Ghosla!* and features a returning cast including Ranvir Shorey, Parvin Dabas, Kiran Juneja, and Boman Irani. It is scheduled to release in theatres on August 28, 2026.

Varun Dhawan recalls his Bollywood debut journey

From assisting Karan Johar to starring in 'Student of the Year'

Varun Dhawan recently revisited the early phase of his career, sharing insights into his journey from working behind the scenes to making a successful debut in Bollywood. Speaking during an appearance on *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, the actor opened up about how his stint as an Assistant Director on *My Name Is Khan* became a stepping stone toward his acting career, reports Bollywood Hungama.



From behind the camera to the spotlight

Before stepping into the spotlight, Varun was keen on understanding the nuances of filmmaking. This led him to assist filmmaker Karan Johar on *My Name Is Khan*. Recalling that phase, Varun said, "I told my mother that I wanted to assist Karan Johar. I went and met him and eventually began assisting him." The experience gave him valuable exposure to both the creative and technical aspects of cinema, shaping his understanding of the craft.

Veteran filmmaker David Dhawan shed light on his son's dedication during those formative years. "He assisted Karan Johar on *My Name Is Khan*. Whatever work he was given, he did it sincerely. I was very busy at that time," David Dhawan emphasized, noting that Varun approached his responsibilities with a willingness to learn rather than taking shortcuts.

The turning point

The turning point came when Karan Johar decided to introduce fresh faces to Bollywood. According to David Dhawan, the filmmaker had already envisioned launching a new generation of actors and later presented the idea with a photoshoot featuring Varun, Sidharth Malhotra, and Alia Bhatt. Recalling that moment, David shared, "One day Karan said that next time he would come with photographs. He did a photoshoot with Siddharth and Varun, and Alia was also there. He showed the photos and said, 'This is the pair. I am going to produce and direct the film.'"

That vision translated into *Student of the Year* in 2012, marking Varun Dhawan's grand entry into Bollywood. The coming-of-age film quickly connected with younger audiences and established the trio as promising newcomers in the industry.

Current success and legacy

Over the years, Varun has carved a strong space for himself with a diverse filmography. Most recently, he was seen in *Border 2*, which received positive reviews from both audiences and critics and went on to perform well at the box office.

Looking back, Varun Dhawan's journey from an eager assistant director to a leading Bollywood star stands as a testament to persistence and the importance of understanding cinema both on and off screen.

Mira Rajput Kapoor is very happy to be in the audience in the back

In a film industry where the transition from "star wife" to "leading lady" is often seen as a natural progression, Mira Rajput Kapoor has firmly drawn her own line. Speaking at the Times Now Summit 2026 in Delhi on March 26, the entrepreneur and influencer addressed the recurring question of whether she would ever join her husband, Shahid Kapoor, on the silver screen.

Her response was a masterclass in professional humility and self-awareness, offering a refreshing perspective on the "craft" of acting versus the "celebrity" of the film world.

"A Disservice to the Art"

Mira, who married into one of Bollywood's most respected acting lineages, was candid about why she has never considered a film career. "I am part of a very talented family. I think I admire them and their drive so much," she shared.

However, she noted that witnessing the grit required at close quarters — the "relentlessness" and "skill" — made her realize that acting is not a hobby to be taken lightly. "To take it very lightly would be a disservice to the art form itself," she explained, adding that she is "very happy to be in the audience in the back."

Identity Beyond the "Star Wife" Label

Since moving from Delhi to Mumbai, Mira has been vocal about



maintaining an individual identity. Rather than seeing her roles as a wife or mother as limitations, she described them at the Summit as "feathers in her cap."

"Identity is a very strong part of who I am," she stated, emphasizing that women should take pride in their multifaceted roles while still "daring to dream beyond limits." This philosophy has clearly fueled her own professional trajectory outside of cinema.

The Entrepreneurial Path

While she may reject the greasepaint of a film set, Mira has built a formidable business empire in the wellness and beauty sectors. She currently balances two major ventures:

- **Akind:** Her co-founded skin-care brand.

- **Dhun:** A wellness platform focused on holistic living.

A Contrast in the "Dhurandhar" Era

Mira's comments come at a time when the Indian film industry is seeing unprecedented global reach, with titles like *Dhurandhar* shattering Netflix records this month. Her decision to remain a spectator and entrepreneur, despite the massive platform available to her, highlights a growing trend among Bollywood's elite: the pursuit of influence through enterprise rather than just entertainment.

Mira's stance serves as a poignant reminder that success in the modern age isn't about fitting a mold — it's about defining your own craft, whether that's on a movie set or in the boardroom.



Vendredi 24 avril - 20.30



Samedi 25 Avril - 20.45



Dimanche 26 Avril - 20.45



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 24 avril	06.45 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour 08.12 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: L'Armee Des 12 Singes 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Helena 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 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: Raison Et Sentiments 22.31 Tele: Helena 23.04 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles 10.52 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.17 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.44 Local: Couleur Marine 12.09 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.25 Local: Profil 15.14 Local: Mangeons Veg 15.39 Local: Parkour 16.31 Local: Music Tour 2025 17.26 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 21.36 Local: La Sosiete 22.00 Local: Generations J 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin	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: Saayba Mora 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	06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 06.30 Doc: China Farm 07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today 10.05 Doc: After Work 10.47 Doc: Surviving Globalisation 11.33 Doc: Eco India 12.54 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.20 Doc: Return To Penguin City 14.55 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien... 15.13 D.Anime: Les Quiquo 15.27 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 15.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.00 D.Anime: Abominable... 17.09 Les Lames Des Gardiens 17.30 Mag: Eco India 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 18.30 Doc: China Farm 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.45 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Rock on 2 Cast: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shradha Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Uдне 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: Rock on 2 Cast: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shradha Kapoor
samedi 25 avril	06.00 Tele: Lying Heart 06.45 Serial: The Lazarus Project 07.30 Serial: For Life 08.18 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 09.10 Serial: Quantico 09.55 Serial: Elementary 10.40 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: Raison Et Sentiments 17.35 Doc: Not About Music 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: The Equalizer 3 22.39 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.33 Le Journal	06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 06.21 Local: Tous Egaux 06.44 Local: Point Culture 07.36 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.00 Local: Sur Prise 09.46 Local: Metie 12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.34 Local: Sur Prise 14.32 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout 15.30 Local: J'ai Faim 15.59 Local: Tous Egaux 18.05 Tele: Wildflower 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.30 Music Tour 2026 21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite 22.00 Chinese Programme Music... 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan 08.30 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 09.20 Bollywood Unwind 10.30 Serial: Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Khatta Meetha 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Local: Puranya Pakwan 15.48 Local: Sita Jayanti Rediff 16.15 Bollywood Unwind 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 19.28 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 19.57 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 20.51 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.20 Sajanja Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 23.23 Yeh Shaam Mastani 00.19 Humni Ke Sitare 00.48 Local: Hunarbaaz	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: Hi-Tech Meets Wildlife... 14.11 Doc: Our Innate Rhythm 15.13 D.Anime: Les Quiquo 15.27 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 16.20 D.Anime: Rockabye Island 16.35 D.Anime: Jungle Book 17.06 D.Anime: Les Lames Des Gardiens 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Norway At Its Limit 19.00 Mag: Business Africa 19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.45 Tele: Love Of My Life 22.15 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge	08.00 Serial: Dhruv Tara 10.02 Kundali Bhagya 12.08 Dance Deewane 14.02 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Mr Joe B. Carvalho With: Arshad Warsi, Soha Ali Khan 21.30 Beyhadh 2 22.00 Mahabharat
dimanche 26 avril	06.00 Tele: Lying Heart 06.45 Film: The Equalizer 3 08.39 Serial: Elementary 09.20 Serial: Colombo 10.42 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 12.35 Film: Le Renard, L'Ours Et La Souris 12.50 Film: Violence A Jericho 14.37 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: The Equalizer 3 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: St Vincent 22.22 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.59 Rodrig - Coin Zen 08.30 Local: Fee Main 09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.24 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 12.47 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 14.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 15.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 15.30 Finals Of The Public Speaking Competition 17.00 Local: Deba Klima 17.41 Local: En Toute Intimite 18.00 Tele: Wildflower 19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 19.46 Local: Tous Egaux 20.00 Local: Les Klips 21.00 Local: Ale Maurice Sega Extravaganza 21.30 Rythm Weds Harmony 22.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard	06.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 08.26 Local: Abhyas Yog 08.55 aaj Ki Charcha 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.22 Dil Se Talat Aziz Concert 13.36 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Phool Aur Kante 18.00 Samachar 18.32 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.31 Puranya Pakwan 18.58 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.13 Local: Virasat 19.26 Local: Sita Jayanti Rediff 21.00 Film: Raavan 23.10 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.36 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 07.58 D.Anime: Badjelly 08.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 09.26 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 09.57 Serial: The Worst Witch 11.18 A Mediterranean Journey 13.23 Doc: Hot Times 14.59 Waffle, Le Chien Waouh 15.12 D.Anime: Les Quiquo 15.27 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 15.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 15.49 D.Anime: Growing Up With... 16.24 D.Anime: Rockabye Island 16.35 D.Anime: Jungle Book 17.00 Les Lames Des Gardiens 18.00 Mag: REV Special 19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.36 Film: What Dreams May Come Cast: Robin Williams, Max von Sydow	08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 10.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 12.10 Udaariyaan 14.00 Anupamaa 16.00 Shrimad Ramayan 18.30 Film: Pyare Mohan Cast: Vivek Oberoi, Fardeen Khan 21.30 Beyhadh 2 22.00 Crime Patrol 22.50 Porus
lundi 27 avril	05.12 Tele: Lying Heart 05.35 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour 07.05 Serial: Hawaii 07.45 Tele: All The Flowers 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: St Vincent 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 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 20.18 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 21.52 Serial: Berlin Station	09.25 Local: Clin D'Oeil 09.40 Local: Finals Of The Public.. 11.10 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 11.41 Local: Les Klips 12.33 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.25 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.07 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 15.33 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 16.02 Local: Les Klips 16.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.34 Local: Tous Egaux 21.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 21.30 Local: 19 Minutes 22.24 Local: Emotion En Avant... 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: Sajanja Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Dhool Ka Phool Cast: Mala Sinha, Rajendra Kumar, Nanda 15.00 Samachar 15.51 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: Ayush 19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.09 Local: Charcha 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Shikshaa Cast: Raj Kiran, Sushma Verma, Beena Banerjee 23.22 Mere Sai 00.11 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.15 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.43 Doc: La Chine Du Futur 09.21 Hallig Life In The Climate 10.49 Doc: Bomb Shelters And... 11.49 Mag: Travel 12.49 Doc: Arts Unveiled 14.11 Doc: Turning Vapor Into... 15.00 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien... 15.13 D.Anime: Les Quiquo 15.31 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 16.00 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.37 D.Anime: Jungle Book 17.00 Les Lames Des Gardiens 17.53 Doc: Japan Video Topics 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa 18.30 Doc: China Farm 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 Live: News 20.53 Tele: Asintado 21.30 Film: What To Expect When You're Expecting	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud  15.26 Film: Jeans Starring: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Nassar Lakshmi, Raju Sundaram, Radikaa Sarathkumar 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Uдне Ki Aasha 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan



Mardi 28 Avril - 20.50



Mercredi 29 Avril - 21.30



Mercredi 29 Avril - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 28 avril	05.07 Tele: Lying Heart 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: Winchester 73 Western 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: Asintado 15.30 Film: The Equalizer 3 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 Film: One Woman Show 22.19 Tele: Helena 23.04 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.40 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.36 Local: Grand Titre 12.30 Rodrig Mo Pei 14.20 Local: Feminin Pluriel 14.42 Local: Coin Jardin 15.32 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.53 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 20.33 Local: Priorite Sante 21.15 Local: Son Ladan Mem 22.30 Local: Point Culture 22.44 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 23.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.26 Local: Sur Prise	08.28 Local: Theatre Ram Leela 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Awaara Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis Dutt 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.29 Sajanja Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.49 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: Muqaddar Ka Faisla Cast: Raj Kumar, Raj Babbar 23.51 Mere Sai	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: Our Rivers 11.19 Mag: Eco Africa 12.40 Mag: In Good Shape 13.48 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien... 15.13 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 16.22 D.Anime: Rockabye Island 17.00 D.Anime: Les Lames Des... 17.21 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: Asintado 21.35 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.06 Doc: Chelsea's Greatest... 22.53 Doc: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Bezubaan Ishq Starring: Mugdha Godse, Sneha Ullal, Nishant Malkani 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 23.30 Film: Bezubaan Ishq Starring: Mugdha Godse, Sneha Ullal, Nishant Malkani
mercredi 29 avril	06.16 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Raison Et Sentiments 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: One Woman Show 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	09.10 Local: Priorite Sante 09.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.35 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 12.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.12 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 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 20.45 Local: National Innovation 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.37 Local: Les Klips 22.22 Local: Grand Titre 23.27 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil	08.00 Local: Natya Kala 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Asli Naqli Cast: Dev Anand, Sadhna 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 Darshan With Srila Bhakti... 18.58 Udhaan Ki Kahani 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.15 Local: Kaam Daam 21.01 Film: Bitiya Chaathi Maiya Ke 23.24 Mere Sai 00.12 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.34 Mag: Movies Music Masti	07.00 Mag: Made In Germany 09.30 Doc: The Raw Materials... 11.18 Mag: REV: The Global Auto 12.39 Mag: Global US 13.35 Doc: Chelsea's Greatest 14.25 Mag: Euromaxx 15.00 Waffle, Le Chien Waouh 15.25 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 15.36 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 15.46 D.Anime: Growing Up 15.59 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.33 D.Anime: Jungle Book 16.41 D.Anime: Not Quite Narwhal 17.30 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.36 Doc: China Farm 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Healing Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.45 Tele: Asintado 21.30 Film: St Vincent	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Dhanwaan Starring: Ajay Devgn, Manisha Koirala 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 Abhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Dhanwaan Starring: Ajay Devgn, Manisha Koirala
jeudi 30 avril	05.05 Tele: Lying Heart 07.53 Tele: All The Flowers 09.03 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 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: St Vincent 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: Shamitabh Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Dhanush, Akshara Haasan 22.55 Tele: Helena	09.10 Local: Agir Ensemble 10.35 Local: Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 11.28 Local: Les Klips 12.20 Local: Grand Titre 12.20 Local: Palette 12.45 Local: En Toute Intimite 13.34 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.14 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.42 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 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Chaque Goutte Compte 20.30 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..	08.00 Local: Udhaan Ki Kahani 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Pyar Kiye Jaa Cast: Sashi Kapoor, Kishore Kapoor 15.48 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.10 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 21.22 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.43 Mere Sai 22.31 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.54 Mag: Aqeedat Ke Rang	06.30 Doc: China Farm 08.10 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.13 In The Jaws Of The Dragon 12.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.34 Doc: Healing Gardens 12.55 Mag: Close Up 13.24 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.30 Doc: Animal Invaders 15.00 Serial: Waffle, Le Chien... 15.14 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 16.30 D.Anime: Yetili 16.44 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 21.30 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyaar Stars: Menekka Arora, Sarthak Bhasin, Sagar Chawla, R.Mumtaaz 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyaar Stars: Menekka Arora, Sarthak Bhasin, Sagar Chawla...



Jeudi 30 Avril - 15.30

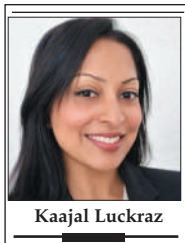
Stars: Menekka Arora, Sarthak Bhasin, Sagar Chawla, R.Mumtaaz



Jeudi 30 Avril - 20.29

Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Dhanush, Akshara Haasan





Kaajal Luckraz

Chemistry of Good and Bad Bacteria

A Pharmacist's Perspective on the Microbial Revolution

Friday!!! Fri-nally!!!

The family is welcoming its latest addition: Baby Bronny. And everyone is cooing in utter amazement at this miracle of life... Other than the physical features that Baby Bronny will inherit from not-cheugy mom, she will also seemingly inherit most of her bacteria from her mother's digestive tract – not the latter's vagina, as previously thought.

For decades, bacteria have been viewed as the enemy to eliminate with disinfectants and antibiotics. But a growing body of research is reshaping this narrative. Today, "good bacteria" are being recognised as essential partners in health, with profound effects on everything from digestion to immunity and even mental wellbeing. This shift is not just scientific — it is transforming how we, healthcare professionals, approach everyday health.

A Living Pharmacy Within

Under a microscope, and, as a pharmacist with a passion for chemistry, I see this miracle of life through the lens of science. You are essentially sterile when you are born. So it is a rather extraordinary moment for the immune system, because until that moment, all the body surfaces do not come into contact with microbes. The Babybiome study tells us that the first 1000 days after birth represent a critical window for gut microbiome development — which is essential for immune system maturation and overall health. The gut microbiome undergoes major changes during this period due to shifts in diet and environment.

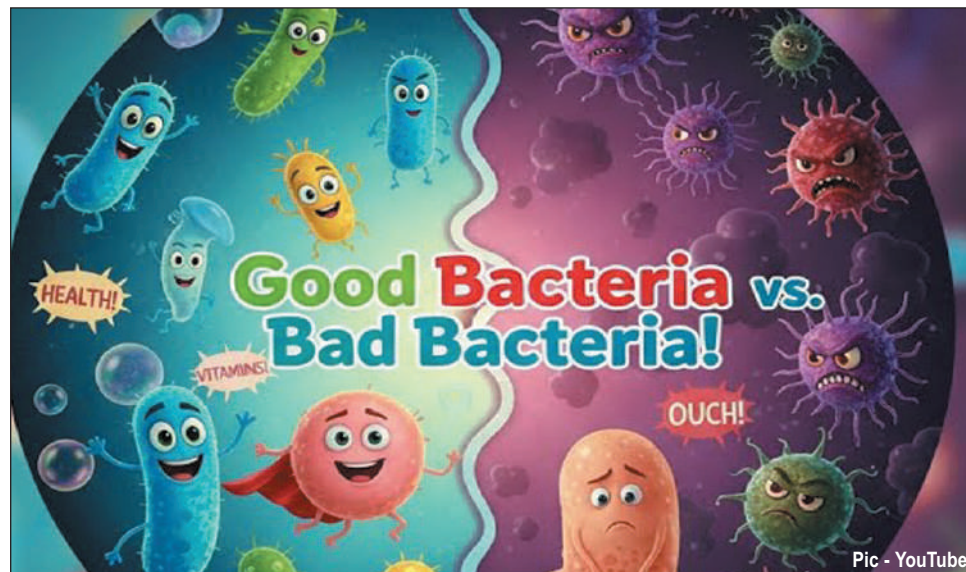
This ecosystem functions almost like a "living pharmacy" — producing vitamins, supporting metabolism, and regulating immune responses. They're meant to prevent and treat dysbiosis - an imbalance or a deficit of beneficial microbes in your microbiome. Did you know that the number of bacteria in your gut is almost 10 times more than the number of your own body cells? If you gathered your gut bacteria together, it would weigh around 1kg (over 2lbs)!

On the Frontline

In community and clinical settings, we are coming across more and more patients experiencing digestive discomfort, recurrent infections, or fatigue. Increasingly, these symptoms are being linked back to gut health.

Antibiotics

One of the most common scenarios involves the use of antibiotics. While antibiotics are lifesaving, they are non-selective and therefore eliminate both harmful and beneficial bacteria. If you speak to us, we can help:



Pic - YouTube

- Explain how to use your antibiotics appropriately
- Recommend timing strategies (e.g. spacing probiotics away from antibiotics)
- Support your microbiome recovery post-treatment

The Gut-Brain Connection

Emerging research into the gut-brain axis is proving to be particularly insightful. We are now seeing potential links between gut imbalance and conditions such as stress, anxiety, and low mood. Certain probiotic strains are being studied for their calming effects — sometimes referred to as "psychobiotics.", e.g., *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* and *casei*.

Probiotics in food

One of the most powerful ways to support good bacteria is through diet. The general recommendation is simply to add more fermented foods to your diet. Our Mauritian diet already provides for this.

- Pickles. Choose brands brined in water and sea salt instead of vinegar. Vinegar stops good bacteria from growing.
- Sourdough bread or 'Pain de Campagne'. This kind of bread is baked with fermented flour. Not all store-bought bread labeled "sour dough" uses it, so shop at an artisan bakery or specialty grocery store.
- Lassi — a natural probiotic drink made from fermented curd.

The more adventurous palates can try kefir, kimchi and kombucha — all available in specialists shops around the island.

Do not forget your prebiotics, which are like fertiliser for our gut microbes. Prebiotic-rich foods include garlic, onions, bananas and oats.

Probiotics as medicines

Probiotics are also available as health supplements. Different strains serve different

purposes:

- *Lactobacillus* for digestive balance.
- *Bifidobacterium* for immune support.
- *Saccharomyces boulardii* during and after antibiotics

How to choose you probiotic

You are looking for products that are backed by scientific data, and also which have good consumer reviews.

Check for the label -- it should have the name of the specific bacteria — the genus, the species and strain.

It should ideally state the potency until end of the shelf life.

Check for storage conditions as some require to be refrigerated.

Ensure there is contact information for the company to report issues or ask questions.

Remember, just as we are individuals, so are our microbiomes. When trying a new product, give it a month to assess its effectiveness. If it doesn't meet your expectations, you may need a different strain. Speak to your healthcare professional about it.

We live in a world where FMTs (fecal microbiota transplants) — whereby stool samples are collected from healthy donors to harness beneficial bacteria and processed into capsules — have been practiced at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston for the past fifteen years. Taken orally, they have been shown to save the lives of seriously ill patients. The future of biotics very likely lies in precision microbiome interventions, guided by the data from when you were born! Think of it as 'personalized microbial medicine', I dare opine.

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

Tree of Knowledge



Simple Serenity

Navel meditation can be done by a beginner by focusing your breath on your belly and your breathing.

Journeys of lifelong evolution often begin simply. No matter how complex the goal or desire we have nurtured in our souls, the first steps we take are nearly always basic and uncomplicated. Navel meditation, a creation of the Taoist tradition and the oldest form of meditation recognized in China and India, is a simple practice suitable for those experienced in the art of mediation, yet it is also a wonderful introductory meditation for novices. It utilizes the natural rhythms of the breath and the regular movement of the abdomen as a means to focus awareness and rid oneself of extraneous thoughts. As you concentrate on the breath, the chaos within reveals itself, allowing you to gently train your mind to accept stillness as its natural state.

To begin, assume a comfortable and natural seated position — either cross-legged on a cushion on the floor or in a chair with your legs facing forward. Maintaining an upright, balanced posture will ensure that you are physically centered and prevent fatigue. Close your eyes and relax your body gradually, starting at the toes and ending at the crown of the head. Take a moment to note any physical sensations you are feeling, such as the hardness of the floor under your legs or the weight of a piece of jewelry. When you are relaxed, breathe through the nose at your natural pace. With each inhalation, draw air deep into the abdomen, allowing the area surrounding your navel to rise and fall. Gradually focus your attention on the sensations caused by the inhalation and exhalation of breath. Feel the air flowing in and out of the nostrils as well as the expansion and contraction of the abdomen. If you find it difficult to concentrate on both sensations, concentrate only on the movement of the navel area.

As you endeavour to commune with the breath, you may notice that your mind strays. When this occurs, do not attach any significance to your thoughts. Simply bring your attention back to the flow of air into and out of your body and the rise and fall of your navel. Eventually, the torrent of mental noise flooding your mind will slow to a trickle, and you will learn to control the current of your thoughts until you are no longer at the mercy of your reactions. The more you practice this meditation, daily, if possible, the more you will be able to get back to this relaxed state easily throughout your day.

Daily Om