

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Followers who tell the truth, and leaders who listen to it, are an unbeatable combination. -- Warren Bennis

Interview: Kugan Parapen, Junior Minister of Social Security

“The role of government is to maximise welfare, not profits”

‘The government shouldn't seek private sector approval for social welfare goals that conflict with corporate profit motives’



• ‘This government is certainly an improvement over the previous one, yet it still has much to do to convince the population that they made the right choice at the polls’

P 7

Qs & As

Under the Microscope **Can the Competition Commission Rein in Private Clinic Costs?**



Pic - The Australian

LEX P3

Eclairages



Rémunération des élus: Entre éthique et économie

A. Bartleby P5

Crise mondiale et solidarité nationale: dépasser la symbolique des salaires parlementaires

Opinion

‘Les Raisons de la Colère’

By U. Dasin

P10

Opinion



Sameer Kumar Sharma P4

Mauritius Is Not Beyond Saving

Editorial



P 2

The Second Mandate Question

The first mandate must yield enough progress to convince the electorate that the longer journey is worth continuing

Opinion

The Middle East Conflict: A Strategic Pause in an Expanding Crisis



TRUMP SAYS IRAN WILL BE 'BLOWN OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH' IF US SHIPS ARE TARGETED

Vijay Makhan P11

The Second Mandate Question

The first mandate must yield enough progress to convince the electorate that the journey is worth continuing

In politics, timing often matters as much as policy. In Mauritius, where electoral cycles are intensely scrutinised and public sentiment can shift rapidly, Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's recent remarks at Arsenal have therefore attracted considerable attention. Less than two years after securing the "60-0" electoral victory of 2024, the Prime Minister has already begun speaking in terms that suggest the need for a second mandate to fully "redress the country."

From one perspective, the statement is entirely rational. Countries burdened by debt, institutional inefficiencies, declining productivity, and structural economic weaknesses cannot realistically be transformed within a single five-year mandate. Governments across the world often require extended periods to implement difficult reforms and allow them to bear fruit. In that sense, the Prime Minister's appeal for time reflects the realities of governance rather than simple political ambition.

Yet politics is not judged solely on economic logic. It is also judged emotionally, symbolically, and psychologically. For a population facing high living costs, rising anxiety about purchasing power, and growing impatience over the pace of visible change, the language of a "second mandate" can appear premature. To many citizens, it raises an uncomfortable question: if the current mandate is not even halfway complete, why is attention already turning toward the next one?

The Burden of the "60-0" Mandate

The overwhelming electoral victory of 2024 created extraordinary expectations. It was not simply a parliamentary triumph; it was interpreted by many voters as a national reset. After years of frustration, a long list of controversies, and economic unease, the electorate handed the new government an exceptionally strong mandate, expecting rapid corrective action.

However, the scale of the inherited challenges was equally significant. Mauritius emerged from successive crises with high public debt, widening fiscal pressures, persistent trade imbalances, and slowing confidence in several institutions. Economists have repeatedly argued that repairing these structural weaknesses requires long-term planning rather than quick political fixes.

The difficulty for the government is that macroeconomic recovery and public perception do not move at the same speed. Economic restructuring is often slow, technical, and invisible. Citizens, meanwhile, measure progress through immediate realities: food prices, utility bills, employment opportunities, and purchasing power. This gap between economic realities and public expectations has become one of the government's biggest political challenges.

The Politics of Patience

The Prime Minister's comments essentially ask the population for patience. Implicitly, they suggest that the reforms required to stabilise and modernise Mauritius cannot be completed within five years.

There is truth in that argument. Nations undergoing structural reform frequently experience a delayed political payoff. Fiscal consolidation, public sector restructuring, and institutional reforms often generate short-term discomfort before longer-term benefits become visible. Governments that embark on such programmes therefore need political continuity and sustained legitimacy.

But patience in politics is a limited resource. Citizens may accept temporary hardship if they believe a government has a clear strategy, demonstrates urgency, and delivers incremental improvements along the way. What they are less likely to tolerate is the perception of drift or complacency.

That is why reactions to the Arsenal speech have been so



mixed. For supporters, the Prime Minister was being realistic about the scale of the national challenge. For critics, the remarks sounded like an early justification for limited progress. Even among undecided voters, there appears to be growing concern about whether the government has moved quickly enough since taking office.

The Challenge of Perception

One of the administration's greatest difficulties is not necessarily economic policy itself, but political perception. There is a view among sections of the public that the early phase of the mandate was dominated by political consolidation, administrative reshuffling, and retrospective battles over the legacy of the previous regime. While governments often spend their first months auditing inherited systems and correcting institutional imbalances, voters generally expect visible action much sooner.

This perception problem matters because modern politics is shaped increasingly by immediacy. Social media reactions, public commentary, and online narratives now influence political momentum in real time. A government may be implementing reforms quietly behind the scenes, yet still appear ineffective if ordinary citizens do not feel tangible improvement in daily life.

The risk for the government is therefore less about the objective state of reforms and more about the public narrative surrounding them. Once a perception takes hold that momentum has slowed, it becomes politically difficult to reverse.

Preparing the Ground for Difficult Decisions

At a deeper level, the Prime Minister's remarks may also represent strategic political preparation.

Mauritius, like many small economies, faces difficult fiscal choices in the coming years. Rising public expenditure, pressure on social spending, global economic uncertainty, and the need for greater competitiveness may force the government to adopt measures that are politically sensitive. These could include tighter fiscal discipline, reforms within state-owned enterprises, changes in subsidies, or new approaches to taxation and investment.

By framing national recovery as a long-term process, the government may be preparing citizens psychologically for policies whose benefits will not be immediate. In effect, the message becomes: the current sacrifices are part of a broader national transition.

This is a common political strategy internationally. Governments undertaking structural reform often seek to extend the political horizon beyond a single electoral cycle. Doing so allows them to justify difficult measures while maintaining a narrative of continuity and long-term national interest.

At the same time, the discourse around a second mandate may also serve an internal political purpose. Leaders frequently

seek to project durability in order to prevent premature succession battles within their own political alliances. By openly discussing the need for another term, Navin Ramgoolam may be signalling that leadership transition is not currently on the agenda.

The Need for Tangible Delivery

Still, political narratives alone cannot sustain public confidence indefinitely. Ultimately, governments are judged by outcomes.

If the administration wishes to persuade Mauritians that more time is necessary, it must first demonstrate that the current mandate is producing measurable results. That means moving beyond rhetoric and institutional diagnosis toward visible implementation.

Several policy areas remain central to this challenge.

First, economic productivity and competitiveness continue to require urgent attention. Mauritius must modernise sectors that have become inefficient or overly dependent on state protection. Discussions surrounding the reform of certain state-owned enterprises, increased transparency, and improved governance structures are therefore likely to intensify.

Second, there is growing debate around how to encourage more productive investment. Policymakers and economists increasingly argue that capital should be channelled toward sectors that generate innovation, resilience, and long-term growth, including technology, renewable energy, food security, and advanced services.

Third, land use and speculative behaviour remain recurring concerns in economic discussions. Questions surrounding underutilised land, housing accessibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore in a country with limited physical space and growing social pressures.

These issues are not unique to Mauritius, but they have become central to the national debate about economic direction and social fairness.

The Credibility Question

Perhaps the most important issue facing the government today is credibility.

Supporters of the government point to ongoing efforts to strengthen governance, tackle illicit financial activity, and restore institutional discipline. Such initiatives may indeed have long-term significance. However, these achievements often remain abstract to households struggling with the everyday realities of inflation and stagnant purchasing power.

Public patience is rarely sustained by technical achievements alone. Citizens need visible evidence that policies are improving their lives in practical ways.

At the same time, the political argument that current difficulties are entirely the fault of the previous administration is gradually losing persuasive power. While voters may acknowledge inherited problems, they also expect governments to transition from opposition rhetoric to governing effectiveness within a reasonable period.

A Defining Political Moment

Navin Ramgoolam's remarks have therefore opened a broader national conversation about governance, expectations, and political legitimacy. He is correct in suggesting that rebuilding institutions and restructuring an economy are not short-term exercises. Yet political mandates are not renewed automatically because problems are complex.

The debate over a second mandate will be decided in households, workplaces, markets, and businesses across the country. Ultimately, the people will judge the government on whether economic anxiety is easing, opportunities are expanding, the law and order situation, particularly the drug scourge, has been effectively addressed, etc.

The Prime Minister has asked Mauritians to think beyond the immediate moment and adopt a longer horizon. The challenge now is to ensure that the first mandate produces enough visible progress to persuade the electorate that the longer journey is worth continuing.

Under the Microscope: Can the Competition Commission Rein in Private Clinic Costs?

For decades, the regulation of private clinics in Mauritius was largely a matter of “bricks and mortar” — ensuring that premises were sanitary and equipment was up to code under the Private Health Institutions Act 1989. However, as of April 2026, the rules of the game have fundamentally changed. With the Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM) launching its first-ever formal market inquiry into the sector, the focus has moved from medical standards to the “hidden” mechanics of the healthcare market.

The central question is no longer just about the quality of care, but the fairness of the cost. From “preferred-provider networks” that potentially sideline smaller clinics to the complex legal risks of vertical integration — where a single entity owns both the insurer and the hospital — the private healthcare sector is facing unprecedented scrutiny. This Q&A explores the legal powers of the CCM, the risks of restrictive business practices, and the potential for new, binding transparency rules, etc.

LEX

*** Apart from the Competition Act 2007, are there specific laws (e.g., Private Health Institutions Act) which currently regulate the commercial conduct and pricing models of private clinics in Mauritius?**

The commercial conduct and pricing models of private clinics in Mauritius are primarily regulated by the Private Health Institutions Act 1989, which is frequently updated to manage the sector. As of April 2026, the sector is under increased scrutiny, with the Competition Commission of Mauritius launching a market inquiry under the Competition Act 2007, specifically looking at high costs and lack of price transparency.

*** What would constitute ‘reasonable grounds’ under the Competition Act 2007 for the Commission to intervene in a market where no specific illegal act has yet been proven?**

Under the Competition Act 2007 of Mauritius, the Competition Commission can intervene in a market based on “reasonable grounds” even without proving a specific illegal act like a hard-core cartel. The Act focuses on the *effect* of conduct on market competition and consumers, allowing for intervention when a “restrictive business practice is occurring or about to occur”. The Competition Act 2007 empowers the Competition Commission to review a monopoly situation, where the conduct of an enterprise or group of enterprises is likely to prevent, restrict or distort competition or in any other way constitute an exploitation of the monopoly situation. The CCM can impose structural and behavioural remedies against the abuse of a monopoly situation.

*** The Competition Commission highlights “preferred-provider networks,” where deals between insurers and healthcare providers may sideline smaller clinics. If an insurance company sends patients only to one large hospital, does this**



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“A hybrid regulatory framework — fusing Hong Kong’s mandatory transparency laws with Singapore’s medical fee benchmark system — presents a compelling roadmap for our Ministry of Health. This dual approach would allow the State to curb escalating private healthcare costs without the administrative burden of rigid price controls. By replacing the current ‘price opacity’ with binding estimates and national benchmarks, Mauritius can address the very market failures that triggered the Competition Commission’s landmark inquiry in April 2026...”

breach competition laws and unfairly disadvantage smaller clinics that aren’t on the preferred list?

Yes, if an insurance company in Mauritius sends patients only to one clinic it can potentially breach competition laws, as it may constitute an anti-competitive practice that disadvantages smaller clinics. The Competition Commission of Mauritius can specifically investigate whether such “preferred-provider networks” restrict, prevent, or distort competition in the private healthcare.

*** What about cases where a single entity owns both an insurance company and a private hospital? What specific legal risks does this pose under the law, particularly the Competition Act? Could such vertical integration lead to conflicts of interest, preferential treatment, or the exclusion of competing healthcare providers?**

When a single entity in Mauritius owns both an insurance company and a medical clinic, it creates a vertical integration scenario. Vertical integration occurs when a company controls multiple stages of its supply chain rather than relying on external partners. While not illegal *per se*, this structure poses significant legal risks under the Competition Act 2007 — particularly concerning the abuse of a monopoly situation and the complexities of merger situations that may restrict market access for competitors.

*** If the inquiry uncovers a Restrictive Business**

Practice (like price-fixing or a cartel), can the Commission use its existing powers to issue directives (orders to stop the behaviour) or even impose financial penalties?

Should an inquiry by the Competition Commission uncover a Restrictive Business Practice — specifically collusive agreements such as price-fixing or cartels — the Commission is empowered to issue directives to halt the behaviour and impose substantial financial penalties. These interventions, categorized as behavioural or structural remedies, aim to immediately terminate anti-competitive conduct and rectify its market effects. Such measures may include orders to cease illegal agreements, the implementation of price control remedies, or, in extreme cases, mandated divestment of assets.

*** Are the ‘policy recommendations’ resulting from a Market Inquiry of the Competition Commission legally binding on private operators, or do they function merely as ‘advocacy’ for government action?**

Policy recommendations arising from a Market Inquiry by the Competition Commission are not legally binding on private operators. Instead, they serve as a blueprint for government or regulatory intervention.

The ultimate decision to implement these measures rests with the government, which must weigh competition concerns against broader national priorities, such as social equity or environmental sustainability.

☞ Cont. on page 26



Sameer Kumar Sharma

Mauritius Is Not Beyond Saving

It is time to stop the “Moody’s crap” and start the real work of economic recovery

Mauritius is currently navigating a period of profound “economic neurosis.” We find ourselves trapped in a cycle of alarmist headlines regarding Moody’s downgrades and a debt-to-GDP ratio hovering near 89.5%. While politicians and armchair commentators obsess over these metrics, they often fail to distinguish between superficial market noise and the underlying structural rot that actually drives capital markets. The reality is that our twin 7% deficits — fiscal and current account — are symptoms of a deeper malaise: a lack of productivity and a refusal to move beyond the policy paradigms of the 1980s.

For decades, we have treated the national budget as a simple accounting exercise. But a budget is not a spreadsheet; it is a steering wheel. It is a tool of fiscal policy intended to influence market behaviour, yet we continue to rely on a cadre of policy-makers who believe that “fixing the economy” simply means moving numbers from one column to another. We need a paradigm shift — a move toward structural reforms that embrace the markets, dismantle oligopolies, and use “carrots and sticks” to guide the private sector toward national productivity.

The Failure of the State as Manager: Time to Face the Music

If there is one lesson Mauritians should have learned by now, it is that politicians are historically poor managers of enterprise. Most state-run companies, often staffed by political nominees rather than meritocratic experts, have become productivity drags. Every five years, a new guard arrives, installs a fresh set of nominees, and the cycle of mismanagement resets.

A prime example is the Cargo Handling Corporation (CHC). While India is providing technology to enhance productivity, the underlying issue is state control. While our neighbours in Madagascar are aggressively modernising the Port of Toamasina — aiming for a 16-meter depth berth by March 2026 — our port remains a bottleneck. If we do not reform the CHC through strategic privatisation or listing, we will lose our transshipment status to regional competitors who understand that a port is a gateway, not a political playground.

The solution lies in a dual-track strategy of strategic privatisation: the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and, crucially, listings on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM).

Breaking the “Oligopoly” Myth in Privatisation

There is a facile theory in Mauritian discourse that divestment inevitably leads to “conglomerate takeovers.” This is an excuse for stagnation. We must implement strict concentration limits for new listings, similar to the “Open Shareholding” models used in

Scandinavia. By retaining a minority shareholding of 25% to 33%, the State maintains blocking rights and influence without the burden of management.

Data consistently shows that companies with open shareholding structures tend to have higher Returns on Capital Employed (ROCE) relative to their cost of capital compared to those held tightly by either the State or a single-family office.

The “Backstop” Model: De-Risking the Future

For critical infrastructure, the government should act as a silent backstop using First-Loss Guarantee (FLG) structures. Under this model, the State covers a “first-loss” tranche — perhaps 15% to 20% of initial losses — to alter the risk-return trade-off for private investors. This makes projects “investment grade” for global institutional capital without bloating public debt. The government sits on a supervisory board to ensure governance, acting as a backstop, not a bottleneck.

Tax Reform: The

“Israel-Singapore” Paradigm

We must use taxation to alter market behaviour. We propose increasing the corporate tax rate to 22%. However, following the Israeli and Singaporean models, this must be a two-tiered system:

The Carrot: Corporations that reinvest profits locally in high-value sectors (tech, food security, green energy) receive Qualified Refundable Tax Credits (QRTCs). This ensures that under OECD Pillar Two rules, the benefit stays in Mauritius rather than being “topped up” by foreign treasuries. This drops the effective rate to the 15% Global Minimum Tax floor.

The Stick: Companies that choose to keep capital idle or invest in luxury, foreigner-related real estate will pay the full 22%.

SMEs would be protected via a “Start-Up Tax Exemption” (SUTE), modelled after Singapore, ensuring the 15% floor is a baseline for entrepreneurship, not a burden.

Furthermore, we must impose a levy on idle FX deposits held over 12 months that are not required for operational needs. If you are a Mauritian entity, your capital must work for Mauritius.

Protecting the Jewel: The Offshore and Back-Office “Substance” Clause

We must address the elephant in the room: our International Financial Centre (IFC). Critics will argue that a 22% headline rate will drive our offshore business to Dubai or Singapore. But the era of the “zero-tax haven” is dead. To survive, our IFC must pivot from “Tax Optimization” to “Operational Excellence.”

I propose a “Substance-First” tier. Entities providing high-value back-office services — fund accounting, global legal processing



“The “politically impossible” argument — which is often an excuse for politicians to maintain a system of political patronage — was proven wrong when pension reforms were enacted. When they want to, our politicians can. The reforms suggested here are global best practices implemented in other small, concentrated economies...” Pic - Facebook

(LPO), and AI-driven analytics — will remain at the 15% floor, provided they meet strict Economic Substance Requirements (ESR). This aligns with the OECD Pillar Two “Substance-Based Income Exclusion” (SBIE) rules.

We are not interested in letterbox companies; we want the back offices of the world’s top firms anchored in Ebène. By automating our licensing via AI and removing the “EDB bottleneck,” we can offer something far more valuable than a low tax rate: speed, transparency, and a talent-rich ecosystem.

Land Value Taxation: Unlocking the Soil

We must eliminate “sticky” transaction taxes like registration duties and replace them with a recurring Land Value Tax (LVT). Unlike property taxes that penalize building, an LVT targets the unimproved value of the land, forcing it into productive use.

- The Threshold:** Small plots (below 120 toises) are exempt.
- Food Security:** Complete exemptions for active agricultural land.
- The Target:** Non-agricultural, idle land held for speculation.

In Denmark, land tax rates (Grundskyld) provide stable revenue without discouraging property improvements. By taxing “idleness,” we force owners to either farm, build, or sell to those who will.

Dismantling the Bureaucratic Bottleneck

Structural reform is not just about taxes; it is about the “ease of doing business.” We must embrace Digitalization and AI with a “human-in-the-loop” approach to automate licensing. It shouldn’t take months to get a license when AI can process rules-based

approvals in minutes.

Government procurement must be fully digitalized to eliminate political middlemen and ensure transparency.

The “Should” vs. the “Can”: A Question of Political Will

Critics often ask economists to pivot from what a government should do to what it can do, citing political feasibility. With a supermajority and a self-proclaimed state of economic emergency, there is no better time for reform. If we accept the logic that the State “can’t” act because it is beholden to lobby groups and conglomerates that fund elections, then we may as well close shop.

The “politically impossible” argument — which is often an excuse for politicians to maintain a system of political patronage — was proven wrong when pension reforms were enacted. When they want to, our politicians can. The reforms suggested here are global best practices implemented in other small, concentrated economies.

The question is not one of feasibility, but of will: Is the government a servant of the national interest, or a captive of private sector and socio-cultural lobby groups?

A New Paradigm

Mauritius is not beyond saving. We have the capital and the land. What we lack is a leadership willing to act as a backstop rather than a bottleneck. The era of the “1980s accountant” must end. We need a new social contract where the 15% tax rate is a privilege reserved for those who create local jobs, where the stock exchange is a tool for public ownership, and where land is a productive resource.

It is time to stop the “Moody’s crap” and start the real work of economic recovery.

Crise mondiale et solidarité nationale: dépasser la symbolique des salaires parlementaires

Par A. Bartleby

A lors que le conflit en Iran s'enlise, ses ondes de choc déstabilisent les fondations mêmes de l'économie mondiale. Avec un baril de Brent franchissant la barre psychologique des 120 dollars suite à la fermeture du détroit d'Ormuz, les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales sont en lambeaux. Pour le citoyen mauricien, comme pour ceux du monde entier, cette réalité se traduit par une inflation galopante et un coût de la vie qui devient, pour beaucoup, insoutenable. Dans ce contexte de "choc d'offre" rappelant les crises pétrolières des années 70, une question revient avec insistance sur le devant de la scène politique ici et ailleurs: est-il temps de ré-duire les salaires et les privilèges des membres du Parlement (MPs)?

Le dilemme de la "logique contre l'empathie"

Le débat a récemment été relancé par les propos de Kugan Parapen, économiste et membre du gouvernement. Interrogé sur son calcul mathématique montrant qu'une réduction des salaires des députés ne représenterait que "12 sous" de baisse sur le prix de l'essence, il a dû faire face à une critique acerbe: celle d'avoir privilégié la rigueur froide des chiffres au détriment de la "solidarité symbolique" attendue d'un dirigeant socialiste.

Dans l'interview qui paraît dans cette même édition, M. Parapen a clarifié sa position, affirmant n'avoir aucune objection à une baisse de salaire, soulignant d'ailleurs qu'il réclame une révision des *perks* parlementaires depuis le dernier budget. "Le point que je voulais souligner," explique-t-il, "est que la solidarité des seuls députés ne fera pas de différence réelle pour la population. Si le prix du pétrole baisse de 12 sous demain, cela changera-t-il la vie des gens?"

Pour l'économiste, le véritable enjeu réside dans l'élargissement du bassin de contributeurs. Il propose une redistribution fiscale plus agressive, ciblant les "Top 5%" des revenus pour compenser la suppression des prélèvements sur les carburants introduits en 2015. En somme, passer d'un geste symbolique à une réforme structurelle de la *Fair Share Contribution*.

Utilité pratique et précédents mondiaux

Si l'on analyse froidement la réduction des salaires parlementaires, force est de constater que son impact fiscal est dérisoire. Dans la plupart des nations, l'économie réalisée représente moins de 1 % du budget national. Pourtant, cette mesure remplit deux fonctions vitales:

- 1. La solidarité symbolique:** C'est un geste de "sacrifice partagé". En période de crise énergétique, voir les dirigeants réduire leur propre train de vie atténue le ressentiment populaire et renforce la cohésion sociale.
- 2. L'autorité morale:** Elle confère au gouvernement le levier politique nécessaire pour demander des efforts



Baisse des salaires politiques: Symbole ou rigueur?

à d'autres secteurs, comme des gels salariaux dans la fonction publique ou le secteur privé.

L'histoire récente nous offre des exemples probants. En 2020, face à la pandémie, l'Inde a réduit les salaires de ses députés de 30 %, une mesure perçue positivement comme un signe d'empathie nationale. À la même époque, Jacinda Ardern en Nouvelle-Zélande a appliqué une baisse de 20 % pour ses ministres, consolidant sa réputation de leader humaniste. À l'inverse, en Grèce durant la crise de la dette, les coupes dans les revenus des députés ont été jugées "trop peu, trop tard", échouant à calmer la fureur des manifestants face à une austérité brutale.

Le risque politique et les alternatives de haut impact

Le danger de ne pas agir sur le train de vie de l'État en 2026 est réel: il ouvre la porte aux populismes les plus radicaux. Cependant, certains politologues avertissent qu'une baisse permanente des salaires pourrait décourager les candidats hautement qualifiés ou rendre les élus plus vulnérables à la corruption et au lobbying.

Si l'objectif est de stabiliser réellement l'économie, les experts suggèrent que les coupes salariales ne sont que des "gouttes d'eau dans l'océan". Pour produire des résultats tangibles, trois leviers sont actuellement privilégiés à l'international:

- **Les taxes sur les superprofits (*windfall profit taxes*)** - Au lieu de couper des salaires individuels, des pays comme le Portugal ou le Royaume-Uni taxent les bénéfices exceptionnels des compagnies pétrolières, liés à la guerre en Iran. Ces revenus se chiffrent en milliards et permettent de financer directement les factures énergétiques des familles modestes.
- **La fiscalité progressive des entreprises** - Une mesure émergente consiste à ajuster le taux d'imposition des entreprises en fonction du ratio salarial entre le PDG et l'employé moyen. Plus l'écart est abyssal, plus l'entreprise est taxée. Cela incite à une redistribution interne des richesses.
- **Les vouchers énergétiques et l'aide ciblée** - Des nations comme la Corée du Sud ou la Belgique ont délaissé les baisses de taxes générales pour des chèques énergie ciblés. Cette approche est bien plus efficace pour protéger les plus vulnérables qu'une baisse de 10 % du salaire

d'un député.

Le verdict: Symbole ou justice?

Globalement, une analyse des mesures appliquées dans différents pays met en lumière la diversité des stratégies adoptées face aux défis socio-économiques actuels. Parmi les initiatives les plus marquantes, l'imposition des superprofits au Portugal, en Espagne et au Royaume-Uni a dégagé des ressources substantielles, permettant de financer directement l'aide sociale.

Dans une optique de solidarité institutionnelle, la baisse des salaires des parlementaires, inspirée par les précédents en Inde et en Nouvelle-Zélande, conserve un impact symbolique fort auprès des populations. Enfin, sur le plan de la consommation énergétique, la Belgique et la Corée du Sud privilégient les chèques-énergie, une méthode reconnue pour l'efficacité de son ciblage auprès des ménages les plus vulnérables.

En fin de compte, la question n'est pas de savoir s'il faut choisir entre la baisse des salaires des députés et la taxation des super-riches, mais comment articuler les deux.

Les données de la crise de 2026 montrent une hiérarchie claire dans la perception publique. Les taxes sur les superprofits sont perçues comme un outil de justice, car elles s'attaquent à ceux qui profitent du chaos. Les coupes de salaires des politiciens sont perçues comme un outil d'empathie.

Un leader perd son "autorité morale" s'il prône l'austérité tout en conservant ses privilèges, même si son salaire n'impacte pas le déficit. Mais un leader échoue dans sa mission s'il se contente de ce symbole sans s'attaquer aux capitaines d'industrie et aux structures fiscales qui permettent l'accumulation de richesses indécentes en temps de guerre.

Pour apaiser la colère sociale, la stratégie la plus efficace reste la combinaison des deux: le sacrifice symbolique pour ouvrir le dialogue, et la réforme fiscale pour résoudre le problème. Comme le suggère le débat actuel à Maurice, le peuple acceptera plus facilement les rigueurs de la crise s'il sent que le fardeau est porté par les épaules les plus larges, qu'elles soient dans l'Assemblée nationale ou dans les conseils d'administration.

L'Inde de l'Est succombe au "Modisme": comment le BJP a conquis l'âme du Bengale

Le paysage politique indien vient de subir une transformation radicale. Ce qui semblait être un bastion imprenable pour le Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) est tombé: le Bengale-Occidental a cédé à la vague "safran". Avec une victoire écrasante de 207 sièges sur 293, le BJP n'a pas seulement remporté une élection d'État; il a prouvé que son modèle de gouvernance et son influence idéologique ont désormais franchi les frontières linguistiques et culturelles qui divisaient autrefois le pays.

La conquête d'un bastion insoumis

Pendant quinze ans, le Bengale-Occidental a été dirigé d'une main de fer par Mamata Banerjee et son parti, le Trinamool Congress (TMC). Réputé pour son identité culturelle forte et son opposition historique au BJP, cet État représentait le dernier grand défi de Narendra Modi. Aujourd'hui, l'échec est cuisant pour la "Firebrand" de Calcutta: non seulement son parti est évincé, mais elle a, elle-même, perdu son siège au profit du candidat du BJP, Suwendu Adhikari.

Malgré les accusations de fraude et de manipulation proférées par une Mamata Banerjee qui refuse d'accepter la défaite, les chiffres parlent d'eux-mêmes. La participation record de 92,47 % — un sommet depuis l'indépendance de 1947 — témoigne d'une mobilisation citoyenne sans précédent. Les Bengalis vivant ailleurs en Inde sont rentrés massivement pour voter, signe d'un désir de changement structurel.

● Suite en page 6

L'Inde de l'Est succombe au "Modisme": comment le BJP a conquis l'âme du Bengale

● Suite de la page 5

Pourquoi le BJP séduit-il désormais au-delà de ses terres?

L'influence croissante du BJP sur l'électeur indien ne repose plus uniquement sur l'identité religieuse, mais sur une triade puissante: le développement, la sécurité et l'efficacité administrative.

1. L'échec de la loi et de l'ordre: Le viol et le meurtre atroce d'une femme médecin stagiaire au RG Kar Medical College en 2024 ont marqué un point de rupture. Pour de nombreuses femmes, le gouvernement local a échoué dans sa mission première: la sécurité. La victoire d'un siège par la mère de la victime sous l'étiquette BJP symbolise ce basculement émotionnel et sécuritaire.

2. Le rejet du clientélisme: Là où le TMC misait sur des aides directes (*handouts*) pour maintenir son influence, le BJP a proposé un modèle basé sur la création d'emplois et l'intégration aux grands projets fédéraux. L'exemple frappant est celui d'Ayushman Bharat, le programme de couverture santé gratuite du gouvernement central, que le Bengale était le seul État à refuser. Narendra Modi a promis son implémentation immédiate, touchant directement le portefeuille des plus pauvres.

3. L'efficacité de la "delivery": Comme le souligne le célèbre pséphologue Pradeep Gupta — expert en pséphologie, l'étude statistique et sociologique des élections et des comportements électoraux — le succès de Modi repose sur la mise en œuvre effective des politiques sociales. Pour l'électeur indien de 2026, le BJP est devenu synonyme de



L'influence croissante du BJP sur l'électeur indien ne repose plus uniquement sur l'identité religieuse, mais sur une triade puissante: le développement, la sécurité et l'efficacité administrative. P - NPR

"gouvernance de performance".

Un tournant national: Gouverner 78 % de la population

Avec cette victoire, le BJP et ses alliés règnent désormais sur 22 États et territoires de l'Union, couvrant environ 78 % de la population indienne. C'est une progression fulgurante pour un parti qui ne comptait que deux sièges parlementaires en 1984.

L'impact au niveau national est double. D'une part, le BJP va renforcer sa position à la Chambre haute (« Rajya Sabha »), lui donnant une liberté législative quasi totale. D'autre part, cette victoire au Bengale-Occidental, combinée à une présence accrue au Kerala et au maintien de

l'Assam, démontre que le parti a réussi son "atterrissage" dans les régions non-hindiphones. L'argument selon lequel le BJP serait un parti uniquement lié au Nord de l'Inde est désormais caduc.

L'influence sur la diaspora et l'image internationale

L'onde de choc se fait sentir jusqu'en Australie. La diaspora bengalienne de Melbourne et Sydney, autrefois méfiante vis-à-vis du nationalisme du BJP, exprime aujourd'hui un enthousiasme certain. Pour Jayanta Bairagi, secrétaire de l'Association bengalienne de Melbourne, l'espoir est celui d'un renouveau économique. "Au lieu de créer des emplois, le gouvernement précédent s'intéressait aux aides pour étendre son influence," explique-t-il. Le basculement de la diaspora reflète celui de l'Inde: une soif de modernité et de stabilité.

Vers une nouvelle ère de stabilité?

Vêtu d'un *dhoti* traditionnel bengali lors de son discours de victoire, Narendra Modi a appelé à la fin des violences politiques qui ont longtemps ensanglanté l'État. "Le talk ne doit pas être celui de la vengeance, mais celui du renouveau," a-t-il déclaré.

En réussissant à fusionner les aspirations de la classe moyenne, les besoins de sécurité des femmes et les promesses de développement pour les jeunes, le BJP a créé une machine électorale qui semble, pour l'instant, invincible. Le Bengale-Occidental, autrefois symbole de la résistance intellectuelle et gauchiste, devient aujourd'hui le laboratoire de l'Inde de demain: une nation dominée par un centre fort, axée sur la stabilité et la croissance accélérée.

Chiffres clés de l'élection de 2026 au Bengale-Occidental

- **Sièges BJP:** 207 sur 293 (Majorité écrasante)
- **Participation:** 92,47 % (Record historique)
- **Expansion nationale:** Le BJP gouverne désormais 22 États/Territoires.
- **Population sous gouvernance BJP:** 78 % de l'Inde.

Le 4 mai 2026 marque une étape importante de la vie politique mauricienne. En accédant au poste de Vice-Première ministre, Arianne Navarre-Marie ne se contente pas de succéder à Paul Bérenger ; elle brise un plafond de verre vieux de plusieurs décennies en devenant la première femme à occuper la fonction de « numéro deux » du gouvernement. Pour cette figure historique du MMM, élue pour la première fois en 1982, cette nomination vient marquer un long parcours parlementaire et un engagement militant soutenu.

Une portée symbolique majeure

Si cette élévation est historique pour la cause féminine, elle prend une dimension particulière au regard des origines d'Arianne Navarre-Marie. Fille de parents chagossiens — son père originaire de Six Îles et sa mère de Diego Garcia — sa promotion intervient à un moment charnière de notre histoire: la ratification du traité de 2025 reconnaissant la souveraineté pleine et entière de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos.

En plaçant une enfant de la communauté déportée au sommet de l'État, le gouvernement mauricien envoie un signal

Arianne Navarre-Marie: Une ascension historique au cœur de la souveraineté



Fille de parents chagossiens, Arianne Navarre-Marie est promue au moment historique de la ratification du traité de 2025, officialisant la souveraineté de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos. P - GIS

puissant à la communauté internationale. Ce n'est plus seulement une question de droit international ou de baux militaires sur Diego Garcia; c'est une humanisation du processus de « dé-occupation ». Arianne Navarre-Marie devient le lien vivant entre le

gouvernement et les anciens habitants de l'archipel déportés entre 1968 et 1973. Sa présence au poste de DPM garantit que la question de la réinstallation sur les îles extérieures restera au cœur des priorités nationales.

L'expérience au service de la transition

Élue de la circonscription n°1 et détentrice du portefeuille de l'Égalité des genres et du Bien-être de la famille depuis novembre 2024, elle combine aujourd'hui ces responsabilités avec ses nouvelles fonctions de Vice-Première ministre. Son parcours est celui d'une femme de terrain: ancienne journaliste, éducatrice et conseillère en communication, elle possède cette rare capacité à naviguer entre les réalités sociales de Port-Louis et les exigences institutionnelles. Sa longévité politique est exceptionnelle: elle est l'une des rares figures, avec Paul Bérenger, à avoir vécu trois balayages électoraux de type «60-0».

Alors que le pays se projette vers la «Vision 2050», voir une femme de souche chagossienne diriger les affaires de l'État offre une image de justice historique et de modernité politique sans précédent.

A. Bartleby

👉 Voir plus en page 16

Kugan Parapen, Junior Minister of Social Security

“The role of government is to maximise welfare, not profits”

‘The government shouldn't seek private sector approval for social welfare goals that conflict with corporate profit motives’



The landslide victory of the Alliance du Changement brought with it a wave of socialist expectations: a 40-hour work week, fuel price relief, and a rejection of ethnic politics. However, the 2026 global economic landscape — scarred by the Iran-US conflict and a looming debt ceiling — presents a narrow path for the government.

In this week's interview, we sit down with Kugan Parapen to discuss how the government intends to “move the needle to the left” while handicapped by fiscal constraints. He outlines a bold vision for a “Fair Share Contribution” from the top 5% of earners and warns that any retreat from electoral reform is a “red line” ReA will not cross. Is the government a hostage to capital? Kugan Parapen provides the answers.

respond to Ashok Subron's recent assertion that the government is ‘listening to the orders of the masters’? Is there a risk, as he suggests, that the Cabinet is being held ‘hostage’ by a ‘clique of capitalists’ at the expense of the working class mandate?

Ashok Subron called out attempts by the private sector to influence the government's agenda. This is not to say the government is being held hostage by a ‘clique of capitalists,’ but in a coalition as broad as the Alliance du Changement, you would expect manoeuvres by power brokers seeking to amplify private sector influence over the state.

We should remain vigilant. Actions speak louder than words. The advent of a 40-hour work week and a uniform policy for all workers during torrential rains will go a long way towards moving the needle to the left.

*** Minister Subron argues that the 40-hour week should be legislated without waiting for employer endorsement. On their part, business leaders warn that the combination of the Rs 21,500 minimum wage and a mandatory 40-hour week will bankrupt SMEs. Do you believe the government has the political will to bypass Business Mauritius if they continue to resist?**

If the government thinks that a 40-hour work week is in the interest of our society, it should go ahead with the measure.

We often tend to forget that the role of government is to maximise the welfare of its population as opposed to the role of the private sector which is to maximise profits. Given these divergent objectives, we cannot expect the government to ask Business Mauritius for its endorsement to attain an objective (i.e. maximisation of welfare) which is not the objective of the private sector. However, its collaboration should be sought to implement the measure.

*** This principled stance on the ‘divergent objectives’ between the state and capital reflects your party's roots, but nevertheless, the Opposition accuses ReA leaders of playing “double roles” — radical activists on the weekends and government ministers during the week. How do you maintain the “disruptive” spirit of ReA without undermining the stability and collective responsibility of the Cabinet?**

At least the Opposition recognise the fact that we are working round the clock. On a more serious note, Rezistans ek Alternativ has been mandated to act as a watchdog within the ranks of the majority, and it is a role we are intent on fulfilling.

We have already expressed to the Prime Minister our desire for more progressive, leftist policies in the next budget. Advocating for less economic inequality and rooting for the emergence of a unified Mauritian identity is far from radical in our view — it is actually the direction we should embark upon if we are to deliver real change. After all, if change is not disruption, then what is it?

Mauritius Times: ReA leader and Social Security minister Ashok Subron has sparked significant debate with his forceful rhetoric against what he terms the “historical hold of large capital” on the Mauritian economy. Minister Reza Uteem has categorically denied any capitalist hold, favouring “tri-partite dialogue.” Between Subron's “class struggle” approach and Uteem's “institutional pragmatism,” where do you stand? Is “social dialogue” a tool for progress or a stall tactic for the patronat?

Kugan Parapen: It will come as no surprise to anyone that the private sector has its entries into the corridors of power. This has always been the case in the post-independence era, especially since the ‘historical hold of capital’ opted to withdraw to the shadows of the democratic electoral process while continuing to influence political decisions through the financing of the political class.

Such influence has often in the past resulted in an undermining of democracy. Whereby the will of the electorate is often purposefully ignored in spite of its legitimacy. And conversely, the will of an unelected but powerful force becomes the dominant force.

We need not look further than the advent of smart cities to understand this usurpation. Smart cities, a concept imagined by the sugar oligarchs as their way forward in a post-sugar world became the backbone of MSM's economic vision for our Republic. Here's what was said about smart cities by the then Finance Minister

in 2015:

“Smart cities – a concept that will bring about a total revolution in the way we live, work and play... this is a legacy we will want to leave for our children and their children.”

It is thus important to fully grasp the context when referring to Ashok's stance. It would be a mistake to reduce the debate to a Subron vs. Uteem issue. This is definitely not the case.

As the Minister of Labour, Reza Uteem has to consult all stakeholders, and this is what he is doing. Ultimately, the executive must also not forget that it was given a clear mandate to deliver a 40-hour work week for the working class. ReA will make sure that this commitment is not forgotten.

*** In light of that commitment, how do you**

“We often tend to forget that the role of government is to maximise the welfare of its population as opposed to the role of the private sector which is to maximise profits. Given these divergent objectives, we cannot expect the government to ask Business Mauritius for its endorsement to attain an objective (i.e. maximisation of welfare) which is not the objective of the private sector...”

'This government is certainly an improvement over the previous one,

yet it still has much to do to convince the population that they made the right choice at the polls'

☞ Cont. from page 7

*** On the other hand, your "12 sous" math was factually correct, but many supporters felt it lacked the "symbolic solidarity" expected from a socialist leader. Don't you think prioritizing logic over empathy has damaged your party's credibility, and would you now support cutting MP salaries purely as a gesture of social cohesion during this time of high inflation?**

Let me make it clear from the onset – I have absolutely no issue with reducing the salaries of MPs. I have been asking for a review of the perks of MPs since the last budget and this is on record in the Hansard. The point I wanted to make with respect to the 12 cents calculation is that the solidarity of MPs alone will not make a significant real difference for the population. If the price of petrol falls by 12 cents tomorrow, will it make a difference?

That is why we need to enlarge the pool of people who contribute to finance the real difference. At no point did I suggest that MPs should be exempted, I only suggested that citizens who earn



“ We have already expressed to the Prime Minister our desire for more progressive, leftist policies in the next budget. Advocating for less economic inequality and rooting for the emergence of a unified Mauritian identity is far from radical in our view — it is actually the direction we should embark upon if we are to deliver real change. After all, if change is not disruption, then what is it? ”

the highest salaries contribute more to the economy by paying additional taxes, including MPs. Taxing a salary results in a lower net salary as far as I know.

Back in 2015, the MSM government introduced a 3-rupee levy on each litre of petrol to fund the 'Build Mauritius Fund'. This was done at a moment when the price of petrol was historically low on international markets – an opportunistic measure some might call it. But with the level of oil prices back to above 100 dollars per barrel, the opportunistic measure of an era of low oil prices needs to be reversed. To fund such a reversal and given the fiscal constraints of the government, we should consider levying a corresponding amount from high income earners (the Top 5%) to neutralise the shortfall from the removal of taxes on petrol.

Relieving the whole population through a permanent reduction in retail prices of petrol while asking the Top 5% to shoulder this effort fiscally is fair in my opinion. The threshold for the Fair Share Contribution for income earners is set too high in my opinion. It only concerns those earning more than 12 million rupees a year. Anyone earning between 2 million to 12 million per year is taxed at a top marginal rate of 20% only. This is at the low end of what the norm is around the world – close to 30%.

*** Is your suggestion for a 30% tax on high-income earners (those earning above Rs 150,000) to fund fuel price reductions officially on the table for the 2026-2027 Budget, or is this a personal ReA stance that currently lacks Cabinet consensus?**

This is not a Cabinet decision; it is a proposal from Rezistans ek Alternativ in line with the party's values and ideology. We are asking the upper classes to shoulder their fair share of the fiscal burden.

*** Recent reports suggest that tax arrears — including corporate income tax, VAT, and gambling taxes — have reached significant levels. It appears that while many SMEs took advantage of the Tax Arrears Settlement Scheme, a "hard core" of major companies still carries substantial unpaid balances. In your view, what should be done about this? Would you advocate for "naming and shaming" these entities, or do you have other measures in mind?**

In the name of transparency, the identity of those companies that owe the State should be publicly available. But more importantly, the recovery of such unpaid sums is crucial – and the responsible authorities should not hesitate to seize assets, if available, to recover what is due to the State as far as possible.

*** You've also mentioned a "Fair Share Contribution" for banks and conglomerates. Given the current energy shocks and the 2026 Iran War's impact, is now the right time to increase the tax burden on the private sector, or could it trigger capital flight?**

The Fair Share Contribution for the private sector was set at 10% for profits above 24 million rupees in the last budget. Contrary to the Fair Share Contribution for income earners, the threshold for the private sector was set at an appreciable threshold, in that it covered a substantial number of profitable companies. We should also

keep in mind that an additional fiscal effort was also asked of the banking and telecom sectors. Overall, the maximum tax rate for corporates has been set at 35%, a significant increase compared to what it used to be.

What is the "fair share" of the private sector? Fairness is inherently subjective; what one group deems fair, another may see as unjust. However, we have always maintained that a society must strive for a stable equilibrium where the fiscal burden is distributed responsibly. In recent years, the high proportion of indirect taxes shouldered by the population has effectively asphyxiated the middle and lower classes. This is not a state of stable equilibrium.

*** Many workers see you and Ashok Subron as the ones making sure the government stays true to its socialist promises. What is the one "red line" in the upcoming Budget that, if not met, would make ReA reconsider its position in the alliance?**

In the current context, it is essential to provide real relief to the population – the most vulnerable groups and the middle class. A budget which does not go in this direction will be a bitter pill to

swallow.

*** The government's proposal to remove community-based classification for election candidates — thereby nullifying the Best Loser System — has met with strong opposition. Different voices have argued that the move unfairly impacts underrepresented groups, particularly the General Population, and maintain that any reform must ensure broad, diverse representation to safeguard social equity. Idealism should not come at the expense of fair play, isn't it?**

“ I have absolutely no issue with reducing the salaries of MPs. I have been asking for a review of the perks of MPs since the last budget and this is on record in the Hansard. The point I wanted to make with respect to the 12 cents calculation is that the solidarity of MPs alone will not make a significant real difference for the population. If the price of petrol falls by 12 cents tomorrow, will it make a difference? That is why we need to enlarge the pool of people who contribute to finance the real difference... ”

The government is not proposing to remove community-based classification. It is proposing to make it optional as was the case in 2014 after the then Labour government came forward with a temporary constitutional amendment. The amendment featured as the main measure in the electoral agreement between Rezistans ek Alternativ and other members of the alliance. The leaders of the different parties agreed to its re-instatement within six months of coming to power.

☞ Cont. on page 9



'Actions speak louder than words.'

Implementing the 40-hour week and a uniform torrential rain policy will decisively shift the needle to the left'

we still to rely on a 1968 agreement to justify the status quo? What about 2200 or 2300? Some would have us believe that the premise of our electoral system is divinely ordained and, as such, eternal. But change is not just necessary — it is inevitable.

*** Finally, would you say the government is delivering on its mandate and electoral promises, or is it better posi-**

tioned to do so now that the Bérenger distraction is over?

This government is certainly an improvement over the previous one, yet it still has much to do to convince the population that they made the right choice at the polls. Unfortunately, the economic landscape acts as a major constraint on several measures. The Mauritian economy is currently in a delicate state, having

reached a debt ceiling that severely curtails the government's spending capacity.

This is a new reality that must sink in, as it will persist over the medium term. Such a legacy does not evaporate overnight. In this context, re-engineering our economic model must be the priority. Promoting new economic sectors must also be at the very top of the national agenda.

“What is the “fair share” of the private sector? Fairness is inherently subjective; what one group deems fair, another may see as unjust. However, we have always maintained that a society must strive for a stable equilibrium where the fiscal burden is distributed responsibly. In recent years, the high proportion of indirect taxes shouldered by the population has effectively asphyxiated the middle and lower classes. This is not a state of stable equilibrium...”

Cont. from page 8

Surely those who opposed such a measure and who supported the Alliance du Changement should have made themselves heard then.

You earlier asked about a red line — and failure to respect this particular electoral agreement — specifically the removal of community-based classification for candidates — is a definitive red line that Rezistans ek Alternativ is not prepared to cross. At the core of the party's values is its fight for the emergence of a Mauritian culture and an electoral system which denies its citizens the possibility of standing as a candidate at general elections on the basis of citizenship only is an unacceptable system and needs to be reformed as it goes against the very notion of nation building.

The constitutional amendment is not an end in itself; the true holy grail is electoral reform. Should this long-awaited reform materialize before the next general elections, any provisional constitutional amendment would become redundant. However, if this government — backed by a landslide mandate to deliver such reform — fails to do so, those who refuse to classify themselves along ethnic lines should not have to bear the brunt of that failure.

Imagine we are in the year 2100; are



VACANCY NOTICE

ENLISTMENT OF CLERK OF WORKS

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.

With the forthcoming construction of an office building in the Cote D'Or Technopole, the MRA is looking for a qualified and experienced **Clerk of Works** with proven integrity.

The construction will start soon, and accordingly the Clerk of Works will provide **full-time on-site quality assurance and compliance monitoring services**. The Clerk of Works will have to inter alia ensure that construction works are executed in accordance with the approved schedule, required quality, standards, specifications, and contract documents.

The appropriate candidate will be offered an initial contract until completion of construction by December 2027 that may be extended if required till completion of the work.

Qualifications

A Diploma in Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Building Studies or any other related qualification acceptable to the MRA.

Experience

Minimum 10 years in the construction industry and in the role of a clerk of works, site supervisor, foreman, inspector, or engineer on building projects. Should possess hands-on knowledge of building methods, materials, and sequencing.

Age Limit

Candidates should not have reached their 55th birthday by the closing date, for the submission of applications, for the above enlistment.

Fees

The selected individual will be paid a fee to be negotiated with the MRA.

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 29 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.

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'Les Raisons de la Colère'

Anger is mounting in Mauritius—from social media feeds to the quiet struggle of households. Yet the real story isn't the intensity of this frustration, but the curious direction of its aim: where it is being focused, and where it is not

U. Dasin

Mauritius, like the rest of the world, is confronting growing public anger.

The condition of modernity has itself produced its own paradox: individualism is the ultimate goal of modernity. Yet individualism without responsibility comes at its own price.

Borrowing its title from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, this article highlights a watershed moment — a time that compels us to rethink the models we have long taken for granted.

Anger is growing in Mauritius. It is visible in daily conversations, across social media, and in the quiet fatigue of households struggling to make ends meet. Yet, what is most striking is not merely the intensity of this frustration — it is where that anger is being directed, and, perhaps more significantly, where it is not.

In a country where economic power has long been concentrated in the hands of a few large conglomerates — such as IBL, EN, now ER, and Ciel Limited, etc. — public frustration rarely targets the structural sources of economic control. Instead, it is overwhelmingly channeled toward political actors: ministers, governments, and public institutions. These are visible, accessible, and electorally accountable. They are also increasingly absorbing the full weight of a crisis they do not entirely control.

“Though it seems difficult at this point, we must learn to must move beyond the politics of surface blame. This requires a more honest public conversation about the distribution of economic power, the limits of the current growth model, and the kind of society the country wishes to build. There is need to confront the structural roots of discontent, a shared narrative to be rebuilt. Until then, anger will unfortunately not disappear. It will deepen, fragment, and circulate — searching, often in vain, for a culprit or a system it can recognise and hold to account...”

This is not to absolve governments of responsibility. On the contrary, the state plays a central role in regulating markets, managing inflation, and ensuring social protection. But it operates within a constrained environment shaped by global economic forces, capital mobility, and the imperatives of maintaining investor confidence. The room for manoeuvre is narrower than public discourse often acknowledges.

Meanwhile, the deeper architecture of economic power remains relatively opaque. Large private actors operate across sectors - retail, finance, logistics, real estate - structuring not just markets, but the very condi-



“Anger is growing in Mauritius. It is visible in daily conversations, across social media, and in the quiet fatigue of households struggling to make ends meet. Yet, what is most striking is not merely the intensity of this frustration — it is where that anger is being directed, and, perhaps more significantly, where it is not. In a country where economic power has long been concentrated in the hands of a few large conglomerates — such as IBL, EN, now ER, and Ciel Limited, etc. - public frustration rarely targets the structural sources of economic control. Instead, it is overwhelmingly channeled toward political actors...” — Pic - DALL-E

tions of everyday life: prices, wages, consumption patterns. Yet they remain largely absent from the emotional economy of public anger.

Why?

Part of the answer lies in the nature of contemporary capitalism itself. The system does not simply produce goods; it produces

desire. Through advertising, media, and global cultural flows, it constructs lifestyles that are aspirational but often unattainable for the majority. The result is a widening gap between what people are encouraged to want and what they can realistically achieve.

This gap is not incidental - it is structural.

People are not only workers within this system; they are also consumers shaped by it. They participate in the very logic that constrains them, measuring success through consumption while struggling to sustain it. This creates a form of complicity that diffuses anger even as it intensifies frustration.

The outcome is a cycle of displaced dis-

satisfaction. The cost-of-living rises, aspirations expand, and financial pressures tighten. Governments intervene - through subsidies, price controls, or fiscal adjustments - but these measures can only mitigate, not resolve, the underlying tensions. Public anger escalates, but it remains focused on the most visible layer of power.

Alongside these structural tensions, we must confront another reality: the fragmentation born of the technological age. While digital platforms have ostensibly opened up the world, they have simultaneously deepened individual isolation. The paradox is striking — never has access to information been so widespread, yet never has shared understanding felt so diminished.

Within this climate, the ability to build collective aspirations is becoming dangerously fragile. The pillars of nation-building that Benedict Anderson called 'imagined communities' — shared narratives and a sense of belonging — are eroding under the pressure of a fragmented digital public sphere. Rather than inhabiting a shared space, individuals now move through parallel information streams, siloed and disconnected.

This hyper-individualism rarely yields a deeper understanding. Instead, it often manifests as a visceral reaction — an immediate, emotional response to complex realities that remain largely unmapped. As the structures of power shaping everyday life become increasingly abstract and global, they grow harder to grasp. In the vacuum they leave behind simplified explanations

and short-term narratives proliferate.

Digital platforms amplify this tendency. They privilege speed over depth, reaction over reflection. Long-form reasoning gives way to compressed, emotionally charged exchanges. The result is not simply misinformation, but a gradual erosion of the capacity to engage with complexity.

What emerges is a mimetic cycle of outrage. Human behaviour, as René Girard has suggested, is deeply imitative. In the digital sphere, this mimetic impulse is intensified: outrage generates visibility, visibility generates imitation, and imitation amplifies outrage. The more visceral and provocative the reaction, the more it circulates.

A growing ecosystem of digital actors — content creators, influencers, and alternative media outlets — has mastered this logic. By simplifying facts, eliding historical context, and mobilizing narratives of grievance, they capture attention and cultivate loyal followings. In the process, they frequently displace responsibility, framing complex structural issues as matters of immediate blame and emotional reaction.

This trend is further exacerbated by the decline of physical social interaction. As engagement in shared community spaces wanes, public scepticism drops. Assertions made in digital environments are more readily accepted, even when they originate from sources that would not withstand scrutiny in other contexts.

This technological mediation of public discourse does not merely reflect anger — it reshapes it. It fragments, accelerates, and often detaches that anger from the deeper structures that produced it in the first place.

Mauritius is, by many measures, a success story: politically stable, economically diversified, globally connected. But success has generated its own contradictions. As the country integrates further into global circuits of capital and culture, its population increasingly measures itself against global standards of living that cannot be universally delivered.

This is the paradox at the heart of the present moment: a society that has progressed materially, but where the promise of shared prosperity feels increasingly out of reach.

The danger is not just economic — it is political and psychological. When anger cannot find its true object, it circulates. It intensifies. It becomes volatile. And it becomes easier to capture, redirect, and exploit.

Though it seems difficult at this point, we must learn to must move beyond the politics of surface blame. This requires a more honest public conversation about the distribution of economic power, the limits of the current growth model, and the kind of society the country wishes to build. There is need to confront the structural roots of discontent, a shared narrative to be rebuilt.

Until then, anger will unfortunately not disappear. It will deepen, fragment, and circulate - searching, often in vain, for a culprit or a system it can recognise and hold to account.



Vijay Makhan

The Middle East Conflict: A Strategic Pause in an Expanding Crisis

As rhetoric hardens and alignments shift, the case for diplomacy becomes more urgent — and more complex

The intensity of hostilities may have receded, but the forces driving the conflict remain very much in play. As military operations slow, diplomatic manoeuvring accelerates and tensions spread across sea lanes and regions, the search for a credible pathway to peace becomes both more urgent and more difficult.

The ongoing rhetoric surrounding the conflict between the principal protagonists compels me to return to this issue — as a follow-up to my article in last week's issue of *Mauritius Times*.

While the scale of hostilities may have subsided, the underlying tensions remain unresolved. Reports of continued strikes and sporadic incidents suggest that the dynamics of the conflict are still active beneath the surface. At the same time, the tone has hardened, positions have tightened, and proposals for dialogue continue to struggle for traction. What we are witnessing is not the consolidation of peace. It is a strategic pause without strategic clarity.

Recent developments suggest that the crisis may now be entering a different phase — not necessarily one of resolution, but of recalibration.

The reported suspension of "Operation Freedom," coinciding with renewed diplomatic activity involving Beijing, points to a possible search for de-escalation, even as public rhetoric remains confrontational.

Meanwhile, the rapid diplomatic movements of Iran's Foreign Minister — across Oman, Pakistan, Russia and now China — indicate that the conflict is no longer confined to a regional framework. It is increasingly intersecting with broader geopolitical alignments and energy-security calculations involving major powers. The announced high-level engagement between Washington and Beijing adds yet another dimension to an already complex equation.

When words become part of the conflict

Recent statements have added a further and troubling dimension. The suggestion that Iran could be "blown off the face of the earth" reflects a level of rhetorical intensity that sits uneasily with the requirements of diplomacy. Whatever its signalling intent, such language narrows the already limited space for engagement.

It also stands in contrast with earlier declarations of restraint in foreign engagements. In moments such as these, words do more than communicate position. They define the limits within which diplomacy can operate.

At the same time, developments on the ground and at sea indicate that the situation remains fluid. Strikes, counter-strikes and maritime incidents continue to shape the

environment. Activity affecting vessels and facilities beyond the immediate theatre underscores a reality that cannot be ignored. The conflict is no longer confined.

As I had highlighted in the earlier opinion, the Strait of Hormuz has become a zone of pressure. Beyond it, the Indian Ocean is increasingly being drawn into the equation. And, attention to the Strait of Malacca reflects a widening circle of concern.

This is not an expansion in formal terms. It is an extension in effect.

The conflict we stop seeing

There is another dimension that is receding from view. As attention shifts — from theatre to theatre, from one development to another — the underlying human cost does not diminish. It merely receives less scrutiny.

The situation in Gaza remains grave. The cumulative toll — on lives, infrastructure and conditions of daily existence — continues to mount, even as it slips from the centre of international attention. At the same time, operations in southern Lebanon have not abated in any meaningful sense, despite declarations of restraint, thereby further complicating the prospects for stability.

For all the talk, at earlier stages, of swift and decisive outcomes — of "obliteration" and finality — the conflict has now entered its third month. It endures and with it, the human consequences. And as it endures, its effects continue to travel — well beyond the immediate theatre.

Wider tremors across the region

Meanwhile, tensions elsewhere in the wider region continue to surface. Sudan's accusations against the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia over alleged military strikes underscore a broader reality: periods of geopolitical instability often encourage secondary rivalries and proxy tensions to intensify. Even where direct links cannot be conclusively established, the atmosphere of fragmentation becomes itself a destabilising force.

This is how regional crises widen — not always through formal escalation, but through overlapping tensions, shifting alignments and growing mistrust.

For countries far removed from the immediate theatre, the implications are already tangible. I cannot stop repeating that in Mauritius and across the Indian Ocean, the economic consequences are already taking a toll: fuel costs are under pressure,



“For countries far removed from the immediate theatre, the implications are already tangible. I cannot stop repeating that in Mauritius and across the Indian Ocean, the economic consequences are already taking a toll: fuel costs are under pressure, freight and insurance costs are rising and supply chains are becoming less predictable. These are no longer speculative outcomes. They are present realities. They reinforce the simple point that in an interconnected system, distance offers little insulation...” — Pic - PBS

freight and insurance costs are rising and supply chains are becoming less predictable. These are no longer speculative outcomes. They are present realities. They reinforce the simple point that in an interconnected system, distance offers little insulation.

The wider strain

The strain is not limited to shipping routes. There are also indications of unease within established energy arrangements like within OPEC. Movements and signals among key producers suggest that long-standing frameworks may be under pressure, as national priorities adjust to a more uncertain environment. The withdrawal of the UAE from OPEC is an indication of the direction we are headed into. Whether this leads to structural change remains to be seen. But the direction of travel could not be clearer.

What is most striking at this stage is not escalation in its most visible form, but the risk of drift. A ceasefire of sorts, I had qualified for the present status. Tensions unresolved.

Diplomacy invoked, but not yet consolidated. Such a situation can persist but is inherently unstable. Each new statement, each new incident, each new regional tremor adds weight to one side of the balance.

The case for a credible venue

This is precisely why the argument for a credible diplomatic venue remains valid. Not as an abstract preference. But as a practical necessity. Existing channels appear insuffi-

cient to carry the burden of the moment. What is required is a framework that can provide neutrality, reduce the personalisation of the conflict and allow all parties a pathway to engagement without immediate loss of face.

Irepeat and insist: a process under the auspices of the United Nations — or supported by it — remains one of the few avenues capable of meeting these requirements, the ultimate objective being not to impose outcomes but to create conditions in which outcomes remain possible.

A narrowing window

The opportunity has not disappeared. But the window is narrowing. Each escalation in rhetoric reduces flexibility. Each delay in engagement hardens positions. The ceasefire has created space. But space, if left unfilled, does not remain neutral. It contracts.

This follow-up opinion is prompted not by a change in direction — but by an intensification of the dynamics already at play. The intensity of hostilities may have receded. But the crisis itself has become broader, more layered and more unpredictable.

A strategic pause is not a pathway to peace. Unless diplomacy is allowed to take hold — deliberately, credibly and without delay — the space for a negotiated outcome may continue to be elusive, even as the crisis itself spreads beyond its original borders.

I cannot help but repeat that a war is easier to start than to end. When you want out you can't find an honourable exit!



Shyam Bhatia

Built on Bias

Unmasking the prejudices behind Lutyens' architectural legacy in New Delhi

When Edwin Lutyens was commissioned by the British Empire to design a new capital for India in the early 20th century, he was entrusted with more than buildings. He was asked to give architectural form to imperial authority — an ambition that would take shape in New Delhi and in what is today Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Lutyens remains widely regarded as one of Britain's foremost architects. His work in India is often described in terms of scale, symmetry and permanence: a city laid out with clarity, its avenues ordered, its central vista commanding. Much of that landscape still defines the ceremonial and political core of modern India. The buildings have endured. Their aesthetic authority has rarely been in doubt.

But alongside this public legacy, there exists another record — less visible, but no less important.

In private letters written between 1912 and 1914, while he was working on the new capital, Lutyens recorded his impressions of India with striking frankness. These were not official statements or considered essays. They were informal, often hurried observations written to his wife. Precisely for that reason, they carry a particular weight. They reveal what he thought when he was not performing for an audience.

Writing from Madras, he described the people he encountered as “degenerate,” remarking on their appearance in terms that were both sweeping and dismissive. He notes, almost in passing, that others considered them intelligent — but the acknowledgment makes no difference to his conclusion. It is registered and then ignored.

This pattern repeats itself across his correspondence. The judgments are not isolated or offhand. They accumulate.

India, in his view, is repeatedly characterised as chaotic, unclean, excessive. Its cities repel him with what he sees as disorder and sensory overload. Its religious life is treated not as belief but as spectacle — something to be reduced rather than understood. Its people appear not as individuals with distinct identities, but as a collective presence, flattened into type.

At times, the language becomes openly crude. He resorts to racial terms that were common within imperial discourse but are jarring to modern readers. There is a tone of irritation that runs through these passages — a sense not simply of difference, but of impatience with that difference.

Even where admiration appears, it is qualified to the point of disappearance. The Taj Mahal, for example, is acknowledged as remarkable, but dismissed as something other than “architecture” in the serious sense of the term. Indian buildings are described as lacking structure or discipline — “tents in stone.” Craft traditions are treated as decorative rather than intellectual achievements, the work of hands rather than of minds.

What emerges from these observations is not merely prejudice, but a coherent framework. Lutyens did not see India as possessing an architectural or civilisational tradition equal to that of Europe. Where he recognised merit, he attributed it to external influence — Italian, classical, or vaguely “Oriental,” but not fundamentally Indian. The implication was clear: value came from elsewhere.

India, in this view, required instruction. Western architectural principles would impose order, teaching Indians how to think spatially, how to build with discipline, how to organise the built environment according to rational principles.



Pic - Archi Monarch

“Lutyens' reflections extended into politics. He wrote of Indian aspirations to self-government in terms that suggested immaturity rather than legitimacy. The nationalist movement appeared to him less as a political awakening than as a form of misbehaviour — an impatience that risked disorder. The conclusion followed naturally from the premise: authority must remain in British hands, at least for the foreseeable future...”

Architecture, then, becomes more than design. It becomes pedagogy — and, by extension, control.

At one point, reflecting on the difficulties of working with Indian craftsmen, Lutyens goes further, suggesting that the problem lies not simply in training but in the men themselves. The remark is brief but revealing. It points toward a belief that hierarchy is natural, even necessary — a belief that echoes wider currents in early 20th-century imperial thinking.

These assumptions were not confined to architecture. They extended into politics. Lutyens wrote of Indian aspirations to self-government in terms that suggested immaturity rather than legitimacy. The nationalist movement appeared to him less as a political awakening than as a form of misbehaviour — an impatience that risked disorder.

The conclusion followed naturally from the premise: authority must remain in British hands, at least for the foreseeable future.

This matters because Lutyens was not simply describing India. He was shaping it.

The city he helped design was intended as the administrative and symbolic centre of British rule. It was conceived not only as a place to govern from, but as a place that would express governance itself. The built environment was meant to communicate stability, hierarchy and permanence.

Seen in that light, the physical layout of New Delhi takes on a deeper significance. The separation between the new imperial capital and the older city of Shahjahanabad is not merely practical. It establishes distance — spatial and symbolic. The elevation of the central complex, crowned by what is now Rashtrapati Bhavan, creates a vantage point from which power looks outward and downward. The long, straight avenues impose a geometry that contrasts sharply with the dense, irregular patterns of the older city.

These choices can, of course, be explained in aesthetic terms. But they also align closely with the attitudes

expressed in Lutyens' letters. The city embodies a particular ordering of space — one in which authority is central, elevated and removed.

Architecture here functions as ideology made visible.

After independence, India did not reject this landscape. It absorbed it.

The buildings that once housed imperial administration were taken over by a democratic state. Their meanings shifted, even as their forms remained. Ceremonies once associated with colonial power were reinterpreted within a national framework. Over time, the architecture became part of India's own institutional identity.

This process of adaptation has been both practical and symbolic. It reflects a broader pattern in postcolonial societies: the reuse of inherited structures in new political contexts.

Yet adaptation is not the same as endorsement.

The question of how to use a building is different from the question of whom to honour.

The recent removal of Lutyens' bust from Rashtrapati Bhavan, replaced by that of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, reflects this distinction. It forms part of a wider reassessment of the symbols associated with colonial rule — visible in the renaming of roads, the recontextualisation of institutions, and the re-evaluation

of public figures.

Such changes are often described as erasure. In practice, they are better understood as acts of selection. Every society chooses which aspects of its past to foreground. Commemoration is not neutral; it is a statement about values.

Lutyens' reputation, meanwhile, continues to exist in multiple forms. His buildings remain central to the functioning of the Indian state. His name is still associated with a particular vision of urban order. At the same time, objects connected to his life — such as caricature busts and personal artefacts — circulate in museums and collections, carrying with them traces of how he saw himself in relation to India.

These afterlives are not incidental. They show how cultural authority persists, even as political authority changes hands.

There will, inevitably, be those who argue that Lutyens should be judged within the context of his time. The early 20th century was shaped by imperial assumptions that are now widely rejected. On that level, his views are not unusual.

But the letters suggest something more than passive reflection of prevailing attitudes. They reveal a sustained and articulated hierarchy — one that spans culture, religion, aesthetics and governance. It is this coherence that gives them their force.

Lutyens' architectural achievement is not in question. Few architects have shaped a capital city with comparable clarity or ambition. His work continues to define one of the most recognisable urban landscapes in the world.

Yet the same mind that produced that clarity also imposed limits — on what it could see, and on how it understood the society around it.

The distance recorded in his letters is not simply personal. It is structural.

And once that distance is acknowledged, it becomes difficult to treat the architecture as entirely separate from the ideas that informed it.

Shyam Bhatia is a London-based Indian-born British journalist, writer, and war reporter. He has covered conflicts in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Sudan, and is a former diplomatic editor for The Observer.

Iran caused far greater damage to US bases in Middle East than acknowledged



Iranian strikes cause massive damage to US bases, repair costs may run into billions. Pic - The Sunday Guardians

A comprehensive investigation by *The Washington Post* suggests that Iranian airstrikes have caused significantly more damage to U.S. military infrastructure than the American government has publicly acknowledged. Since the conflict erupted on February 28, Iranian strikes have reportedly damaged or destroyed at least 228 structures and pieces of equipment across the region, including hangars, barracks, fuel depots, and advanced air defence systems.

The report highlights a significant disparity in information transparency. While commercial satellite providers reportedly restricted or delayed imagery at the request of the U.S. government, Iranian state-affiliated agencies have consistently released high-resolution images to showcase their targeting precision. Military

experts reviewing the data suggest the U.S. may have underestimated Iran's modern drone and missile capabilities, leaving several installations insufficiently protected against sophisticated aerial warfare.

The human cost has also come into clearer focus. While many personnel were relocated to safer zones early in the conflict, seven U.S. service members have been killed -- six in Kuwait and one in Saudi Arabia -- and over 400 have been injured as of late April. Some experts note that the destruction of certain facilities occurred after evacuations, which may have mitigated the immediate operational impact despite the loss of equipment.

Currently, the conflict sits at a tense crossroads. A fragile ceasefire has largely held since April 8, following initial strikes launched by the U.S. and Israel. President Donald Trump has recently signalled a preference for a deal that would reopen the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz but warned of renewed bombing campaigns if negotiations falter. While global markets have reacted positively to the prospect of a diplomatic resolution, recent reports of a U.S. engagement with an Iranian tanker underscore the volatility of the situation as both nations weigh their next moves.

India assures Suriname of support in growth journey: Jaishankar



India assures Suriname of support in growth journey. Pic - India's News

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said India sees Suriname's growth potential and assured the South American nation that New Delhi would be its "fellow traveller and partner" in its development journey.

Addressing a press interaction after a Joint Commission meeting, Jaishankar said India and Suriname were taking forward cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, tourism, digital capabilities and artificial intelligence.

The meeting set out "more ambitious goals and targets" for bilateral ties, he said.

The minister is on a three-nation tour to the Caribbean from May 2 to 10. He reached Suriname on Wednesday.

Referring to development projects supported by India, he highlighted a

passion fruit processing unit that has recently been completed and an "Early Warning Services Delivery Project" for flood management remote areas, reports PTI.

The minister said trade between India and the Latin American and Caribbean region is currently in the ballpark of about USD 40 to 45 billion annually.

On capacity building and technology cooperation, he said India was willing to share its experience in digital practices and capabilities as countries move into an "AI era".

Describing India and Suriname as "two nations with shared history and a common commitment to the Global South", Jaishankar said the two countries worked closely at the United Nations and multilateral bodies.

Across the Globe



Keir Starmer's leadership tested as polls open in UK local elections. Pic - France 24

UK elections a test for Starmer

Britain went to the polls yesterday in local elections that are seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Keir Starmer's leadership. Starmer won a landslide in 2024 running from the centre, but has since flip-flopped on key issues and alienated his base, a UK political journalist wrote in *The New York Times*.

The UK is, meanwhile, struggling economically. Energy prices are soaring, long-term growth has lagged the US, and government borrowing costs are near 30-year highs. Starmer's Labour Party is running behind populist parties on both the left and right, while separatist or nationalist ones are surging, too. The potential electoral wipe-out may spur a leadership challenge, with the political uncertainty likely further souring investors.

'Angry' ASEAN summit opens

Southeast Asian leaders, whose countries are among those hardest hit by the economic fallout from the Iran war, gathered for a summit amid growing frustration with the US. Washington has long been the ally of choice for the region, which has seen strong economic growth in previous years thanks largely to the American security umbrella, but various nations have begun hedging their ties to the US.

Malaysia has declared a trade deal with Washington "null and void," the Philippines is mulling joint energy projects with China, and Thailand — which this week reported higher-than-expected inflation — is reaching out to Beijing for assistance. The ASEAN talks look set to be an "angry summit," *Foreign Policy* said.



Pushes Anti-Coercion Weapon Against US Tariffs. Pic - Times Now

Macron eyes US trade 'bazooka'

The EU is making a "final push" to hammer out trade differences with the US, but hawkish voices have argued for an aggressive response. President Donald Trump threatened last week to increase tariffs on European vehicles, accusing the bloc of renegeing on an agreed deal.

In response, French President Emmanuel Macron called for the EU to deploy its "bazooka," a hitherto unused "anti-coercion instrument" that could impose levies on US goods and exclude US firms from procurement deals.

Brussels is increasingly distancing itself from Washington, a Carnegie Endowment scholar noted, shifting toward sovereignty in defence and tech, but it is fighting on two fronts. It is also trying to combat a glut of cheap goods coming from China.

Middle powers chart new alliances

Global middle powers moved to strengthen their alliances in a bid to shield their economies from US unreliability and Chinese aggression. Australia has recently reached trade agreements with nations as far afield as India and Peru as it vies to reduce its reliance on the world's two biggest economies. Canada — whose prime minister at Davos this year issued an urgent call for middle powers to band together — has also grown closer to Brussels, recently winning concessions for Canadian firms to participate in EU procurement. Still, these medium-sized nations face major hurdles in cutting their exposure to Washington and Beijing. Europe still relies on US security guarantees, while countries globally depend on China for imported goods and as a key export market.

'We know this virus': WHO on comparisons of hantavirus outbreak to Covid-19 pandemic

The World Health Organisation on Thursday dismissed concerns that the hantavirus outbreak could spiral into a global pandemic. Panic set in after at least eight cases of hantavirus were confirmed after an outbreak on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean.

Addressing a press conference on the outbreak, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, a director at the UN health agency, stated that the hantavirus outbreak is not similar to the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is not Covid. This is a very different virus, and we know this virus. Hantavirus has been around for many years," she said, adding that the current outbreak remains confined to the cruise ship and its passengers. This is not the same situation we were in six years ago."

WHO experts added that they expected the hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship in the Atlantic to be "limited", as long as public health measures and "solidarity" are implemented, reports HT.

Hantavirus outbreak on cruise ship causes panic

The UN health agency has confirmed a total of eight cases of the virus, of which five have been confirmed, and three are suspected.



Panic set in after at least eight cases of hantavirus were confirmed after an outbreak on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean. Pic – Times Now

The outbreak caused panic after the WHO confirmed the deaths of three infected people and began contact tracing any passengers of the cruise ship, which had disembarked.

In the press conference, WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the situation as "a serious incident" but added that the risk to public health remains low.

What are the symptoms of hantavirus?

Experts believe the virus may have spread through close contact aboard the cruise liner MV Hondius, which departed from Argentina for

Antarctica on April 1 as well as possible exposure to infected rodents.

Passengers were confined to their cabins while authorities implemented isolation measures, contact tracing and monitoring protocols similar to those widely used during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Andes strain can cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), a severe disease that begins with symptoms such as fatigue, fever, muscle aches, headaches and dizziness before progressing to breathing difficulties that may require urgent medical intervention.

The mortality rate for the strain ranges between 20% and 40%.

Jeffrey Epstein's chilling last words revealed in suicide note: 'Not worth it...'

A purported suicide note allegedly written by Jeffrey Epstein before he died in federal custody has been unsealed by a judge on Wednesday. The document, which is undated and unverified, was added to the court docket.

The alleged note, which has remained sealed for years, was reportedly discovered by Epstein's former jail cellmate, Nicholas Tartaglione, after Epstein's first apparent suicide attempt in July 2019 at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in Manhattan, reports HT.

The document resurfaced in court filings and revealed disturbing final words that included phrases such as "Time to say goodbye" and "NO FUN – NOT WORTH IT", according to CNN.

What did the alleged suicide note say?

According to reports citing court records and accounts from Tartaglione, the handwritten note was found tucked inside a graphic novel shortly after Epstein's first suicide attempt in jail. According to CNN, the alleged suicide note contained statements suggesting despair and frustration over the federal investigation against him.

The note read: "They investigated me for month – found NOTHING!!!"

"It is a treat to be able to choseones time to say goodbye."

"Watcha want me to do- bust out crying?"

"NO FUN – NOT WORTH IT!!!"

New York Post reported that the document was authenticated as Epstein's handwriting before being turned over to Tartaglione's lawyers. The contents of the note remain partially unclear because the document has never been publicly released in full.

Across the Globe



French carrier heads to Gulf

France's only aircraft carrier headed toward the Arabian Gulf, oil fell below \$100 a barrel, and stocks rose on optimism that US-Iran talks could lead to a durable peace. Tehran is reportedly expected to respond today to an American proposal to end the conflict, which has largely been in stasis for weeks beyond sporadic attacks, but has left the Strait of Hormuz shut.

Roughly 2,000 ships are stranded in the Gulf, and insurance premiums are four to five times normal rates. Britain and France have gathered a coalition of 50 nations to provide visible escorts once the strait is reopened, aiming to also demonstrate that Europe believes it has some independent diplomatic and defensive clout.

Airlines warn of further fare spikes

Airline officials warned that fares will surge further if the Iran war does not end soon. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has hit oil supplies, doubling the cost of jet fuel. US domestic flight prices were up 21% year-on-year in March, while AirAsia's chief likened the fallout for the air travel sector to widespread shutdowns during the pandemic.

The increase in costs is yet to hit bookings, but passengers are being choosier about destinations. Europe — which is close to tipping past a key fuel-supply threshold — has seen similar price increases, and thousands of flights have been cancelled. Airlines are bracing for more pain after the EU said they must reimburse passengers for those cancellations.

Gulf flights slowly resume

Flights via the Gulf are being restored as the Iran conflict remains quiescent, but tourists are staying away from the region itself. Emirates airlines reported record profits in the year to March and said it had recommenced 75% of routes. UAE airspace fully reopened on May 2, while Etihad — Emirates' local rival — and Qatar Airways are both running most of their prewar schedule.

But European carriers have still suspended most routes, and Dubai's recently buoyant tourist sector has been devastated. Hotel occupancy was at 80% in February, but has fallen to 10% now, according to Moody's. In total, global airlines have cut about 2 million seats from their capacity for May, the Financial Times

reported.

Global race to boost fuel reserves

Countries globally raced to boost domestic fossil fuel reserves despite US claims that the Iran war was over. Australia said it would spend upwards of \$7 billion to bolster fuel security, while Norway started production in a long-forgotten oil field, a major boost for Europe's energy independence. QatarEnergy, meanwhile, cancelled two LNG shipments as it looked to bolster its own domestic capacity.



Amit Dave/Reuters

Despite the short-term uptick in fossil fuel spending, experts say the war will lead to a long-term shift toward renewables as countries vie for energy independence. Former US Secretary of State John Kerry said countries that build energy systems with "what they have at home" — citing renewables — will come out the strongest.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

8th Year No 335

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 3 February, 1961

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

Editorial

Our Constitution

What is going to be our next Constitution? The Mauritius Labour Party has made it clear that it wants independence: this has of course to be elaborated upon and the whole thing has to be clarified so that the people may know exactly what the Labour Party has in mind. Recently, *La Vie Catholique* initiated a discussion on Independence but unfortunately it ended up in the publication of a revised edition of the insanities which the Independent Bloc publishes every now and then and two short apologetic notes by the Presidents of the Parti Mauricien and the Labour Party. So far it therefore seems that the public knows little about the actual shape our next Constitution will take— apart of course from bits of unofficial information which are let out at public meetings. It is certainly unwise to anticipate anything at this stage: it is preferable to wait till each political party has made known its definite proposals. However, we are disturbed by a very serious question. Till when are we going to work with the present highly unsatisfactory Constitution? Probably our Ministers are aware of the very difficult situation in which the present half-way-house system is putting them, but is the public aware? Do we all realize the harm the present system is doing to the Labour Party? In public, the Opposition is dinning it into the ears of the people that Ministers have unfettered and unlimited power and that Ministers are responsible for everything. But this is not true and the Labour Party is made to lose ground because of decisions for which it is not absolutely responsible.

Does any day pass when we do not have to ascertain where the Ministers' power starts and where it ends? As soon as something goes wrong, it immediately becomes the responsibility of the Minister but as soon as something good is done it's the clerk who gets the credit! We must get rid of the present system as soon as possible or else we shall endanger the future of parliamentary democracy in Mauritius. The alternative to a Labour Government in Mauritius will be a coalition government of Parti Mauricien and the IFB. What a mess all this will be is anyone's guess. That's why we maintain that Mr Macleod should

make up his mind as early as possible. As a responsible and successful statesman, he must realize that our Ministers cannot be made to carry the can any longer.

As a first step we would suggest that all ministries should be integrated before the London talks in June. By the way, what or who is delaying the integration of the remaining loose ministries? What is preventing the integration of the Ministry of Agriculture, for example? And as soon as the integration of ministries is completed, the Labour Party and the Comité d'Action should be given a completely free hand in running this country. Nothing less would be acceptable and if this is not accepted let us walk out. We have now come to know that it is less cumbersome and far easier to be in Opposition. It is dangerous to be saddled with irresponsible responsibility.

* * *

The Departure of a Missionary

After more than a three years' stay in our midst Swami Dhruvanand has left Mauritius for India. During his stay he managed to unify the rival factions of the Arya Samaj movement. That was not an easy task since the great work of the late Swami Swatantranand was undone by some self-centred individuals. Because Swami Dhruvanand ji succeeded in his mission, he incurred the wrath of some people who for one reason or another do not like to see the Arya Samaj unified.

The Arya Samaj is a dynamic force in the Hindu Community. In the social, educational and religious fields, the Arya Samaj has done yeoman's service. It is the only institution of its kind which is linked with great institutions of India. It draws inspiration from them and is helped by them. Missionaries are sent from these institutions. The Sarvadeshik Sabha, with which the Arya Sabha of Mauritius is linked, had sent Swami Dhruvanand.

Swami Dhruvanand is a man of iron will. Though very old, he still retains all the vigour of youth. A great disciplinarian, he always complained that many Hindus of Mauritius are not time conscious, that they don't stick to what they started.

Besides the reawakening which Swamiji has brought in the Arya

Samaj movement, he has almost wiped out the tension which existed between the Arya Samajists and the non-Arya Samajists. His sermons which were indeed very forceful were free from sectarianism. That made him equally popular among the Sanatanists.

To the correspondent of *Nav Jeevan* who inquired about his secret of success he said that devotion to duty, and faith in God, were

the two wheels of the chariot on which he confidently moved forward. He never felt tired serving the public and in such work he found great solace.

Asked what message he would like to give to the Mauritians he said: "If self-interest were relinquished for community interest and if the spirit of duty first, right next could be made to prevail, then Mauritius would become an ideal place to live in."

Swami Dhruvanand will be one of the Vedic preachers who will be remembered by future generations. He has left the imprint of his strong character, of his determination to do or die in the minds of his followers.

Now that he is not here his absence will be greatly felt by the thousands of his followers who adored him. Those who opposed him should feel sorry for the grievous harm they have done him.

COMMUNIQUÉ DE LA CWA
à l'intention des familles
en difficultésSoutien aux bénéficiaires du SRM
pour le paiement de l'eau

La Central Water Authority (CWA) informe ses abonnés qu'une aide spéciale est disponible pour les familles en difficulté.

Qui peut bénéficier de cette aide ?

Vous pouvez en bénéficier si :

- Vous êtes inscrit sur le Registre Social de Maurice (SRM)
- Vous consommez 6 mètres cubes d'eau par mois

Ce que vous ne paierez plus :

- La location du compteur
- La facture d'eau
- Les frais pour les eaux usées

Que devez-vous faire ?

Rendez-vous dans un Customer Service Centre de la CWA avec les documents suivants :

- Carte d'identité (copie)
- Une facture d'eau récente (moins de 3 mois)
- Une preuve d'adresse (facture CEB, téléphone ou banque)
- Un document prouvant que vous êtes inscrit au SRM
- Si vous louez : un carnet de loyer ou une lettre du propriétaire

Important :

La démarche est gratuite et rapide.

Horaires des centres

Du lundi au vendredi, de 9h00 à 16h00.

Confidentialité

Vos informations personnelles seront traitées en toute sécurité et confidentialité.

Besoin d'aide ?

Appelez la CWA : 601 5000 ou 170.

Ce 24 avril 2026



Le "friendshoring": Une bouée de sauvetage pour le commerce mondial face aux tensions géopolitiques

L'économie mondiale se trouve à la croisée des chemins. Alors que la croissance du commerce international ralentit et que l'incertitude économique grimpe, le lien commercial entre les États-Unis et la Chine — les deux plus grandes puissances mondiales — s'effrite. Comme le soulignent les chercheurs Carlo Pietrobelli, Michele Delera et Nicolò Geri, nous assistons à une reconfiguration majeure des chaînes de valeur mondiales (CVM).

Le déclin de l'interdépendance sino-américaine

Entre 2017 et 2023, les importations américaines en provenance de Chine ont chuté de manière spectaculaire, particulièrement dans les secteurs où la dépendance était la plus forte: machines industrielles, ordinateurs et équipements électroniques. Cette dynamique répond à un besoin croissant d'autosuffisance.

Face à ce constat, les économies industrialisées font face à deux options stratégiques :

1. **Le reshoring (relocalisation):** Ramener la production sur le sol national.
2. **Le friendshoring (délocalisation amicale):** Déplacer les importations et les investissements vers des pays géographiquement proches ou partageant des liens diplomatiques et historiques de longue date.

Risques et opportunités pour le Sud Global

Pour les pays en développement, l'équilibre entre ces deux stratégies est vital. Si le *reshoring* massif se concrétise, ces nations risquent de perdre des investissements cruciaux et des milliers d'emplois. Ce risque est d'autant plus présent que l'automatisation et la numérisation permettent désormais aux pays avancés de produire chez eux à moindre coût.

Cependant, le *friendshoring* offre une alternative prometteuse. Des pays comme le Vietnam et le Mexique voient déjà une augmentation des investissements et une expansion de leurs capacités industrielles. Selon Pietrobelli, Delera et Geri, ces transitions peuvent générer des transferts technologiques significatifs si elles sont accompagnées de politiques gouvernementales incitatives.

Une analyse en deux groupes

L'étude des auteurs révèle deux clusters de produits distincts dans le découplage sino-américain :

- **Le Groupe des Biens Complexes:** (Électronique grand public, composants automobiles, produits chimiques). Ici, les États-Unis diversifient leurs sources tout en étant déjà compétitifs. Le risque de relocalisation est fort, notamment pour les semi-conducteurs.
- **Le Groupe des Biens à Haute Valeur, Faible Compétitivité Locale:** Pour environ 181 milliards de dollars de produits finis, les États-Unis diversifient leurs achats mais ne sont pas assez compétitifs pour rapatrier la production. C'est ici que l'opportunité est immense pour les économies à revenu intermédiaire (électronique, pièces auto) et les pays à faible revenu (textiles, mobilier).

Qui sont les gagnants de 2026?

L'Asie de l'Est et du Sud-Est, menée par le Vietnam, la Thaïlande, la Malaisie et l'Indonésie, a capté la plus grande part du *friendshoring* technologique. Parallèlement, l'Amérique latine, portée par le secteur automobile mexicain, s'affirme comme un partenaire de choix. L'Asie du Sud n'est pas en reste, avec l'Inde qui progresse sur tous les fronts et le Bangladesh qui consolide sa position dans le textile.

À l'inverse, l'Afrique et l'Asie de l'Ouest restent pour l'instant largement absentes de cette nouvelle cartographie commerciale.

L'impact sur le consommateur

Pour le consommateur, le *friendshoring* est une perspective plus rassurante que le *reshoring* ou les tarifs douaniers

agressifs. Si les prix de fabrication sont plus élevés dans les économies avancées, le déplacement de la production vers des pays "amis" mais compétitifs permet de maintenir une stabilité relative des prix.



Globalement, les étiquettes de nos chargeurs ou de nos ordinateurs changeront de provenance, mais le coût de la vie ne devrait pas subir de choc majeur lié à cette transition, du moins avant l'application d'éventuels tarifs douaniers.

Une mondialisation transformée

La mondialisation ne disparaît pas ; elle change de forme géographique. Pour les pays en développement, le défi est de mettre en œuvre des politiques industrielles intelligentes pour ne pas simplement être des "lieux de passage", mais de véritables centres de création de valeur. Pour Pietrobelli, Delera et Geri, le *friendshoring* pourrait même permettre à certaines nations de brûler les étapes traditionnelles du développement pour accéder plus rapidement à des activités sophistiquées.

Le message est clair: dans un monde incertain, la résilience passera par la coopération entre nations alliées.

A. Bartleby

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**OPEN INTERNATIONAL BIDDING
FOR
SUPPLY OF DIAPERS**

Procurement Reference: **STC/DIA/2026/01**

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 Diapers 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 commodities@stcmu.com by latest **20 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 **20 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 to be submitted by **15 May 2026** on the email address: query@stcmu.com
7. 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.

30 April 2026

STATE TRADING CORPORATION 55, Business Zone, Ebene Cybercity 72201 Ebene, Reduit
Tel: +230 401 0800 - Fax: +230 489-1861 - E-mail: stc@stcmu.com

The Indentured Labour Route

An International Conference bridging the gap between a poignant past and a collaborative future

From May 13 to 15, 2026, the University of Mauritius at Réduit will transform into a global hub for memory, scholarship, and cultural identity. The Indentured Labour Route International Conference, organized by the Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund, arrives at a pivotal moment in history, seeking to bridge the gap between a poignant past and a collaborative future. Under the theme “*The Indentured Labour Route at the Crossroads: Imagining New Futures for the Global Diaspora*,” this event is more than a mere academic gathering; it is a profound reclamation of identity for millions across the globe.

A Legacy Carved in Stone and Soil

The “Indentured Labour Route” is a UNESCO-formalized project spearheaded by Mauritius to map the mass migration of workers following the abolition of slavery in the 19th century. Between 1834 and 1920, nearly 1.2 million individuals — largely from India, but also China, Southeast Asia, and parts of Africa — were transported to colonial plantations in the Caribbean, Africa, and the Pacific.



The Indentured Labour Route at the Crossroads: Imagining New Futures for the Global Diaspora

Mauritius holds a unique position in this narrative as the site of the British Empire’s “Great Experiment.” Following the 1833 abolition of slavery, the British sought to prove that “free” contracted labour could sustain the vital sugar industry. The success of this model in Mauritius led to its rapid expansion worldwide. While legally distinct from slavery, the system of indenture was often defined by coercion, restricted movement, and gruelling physical hardship. Today, the Apravasi Ghat in Port Louis — the landing point for these labourers — stands as a silent witness to this transition and remains the most significant global monument to this history.

Mapping the Route: A Global Framework

The concept of the “Route” serves as both a physical and intellectual map. It traces the departure from ports like Calcutta and Madras, the harrowing journeys across the “Kala Pani” (Black Waters), and the eventual arrival in lands like Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, Fiji, Réunion Island, and South Africa.

One of the conference’s primary focuses is the Indentured Labour Route Project (ILRP). This initiative works



Fijian High Commissioner Jagannath Sami (centre) welcomed at the Apravasi Ghat by Arts and Cultural Heritage Minister Mahen Gondeea, AGTF Chairman Sukhend Ramdass, and Director Vishnu Bundhun.

to:

- **Preserve Physical Sites:** Safeguarding the quarantine stations, depots, and barracks that housed labourers.
- **Digitize Ancestry:** Creating a digital archive of ship manifests and marriage certificates to empower the “Girmitiya” diaspora (named after the “Agreement” or *Girmit*) to trace their lineage.
- **Study Creolization:** Exploring how ancestral traditions blended with local customs to birth entirely new diaspora cultures.

Bridging the Scholarly Gap

Despite its massive impact on global demographics and economics, the history of indenture remains relatively under-researched in the broader context of world history. This conference aims to change that. By bringing together scholars, policymakers, and community leaders, the event seeks to elevate indenture studies into an integral part of international academic scholarship.

The goals for the three-day symposium are ambitious. Attendees will work toward a 10-year roadmap for research, shifting focus from isolated regional case studies to a unified global framework. This means strengthening the linkages between the Indian Ocean, Atlantic, and Pacific experiences, ensuring that the stories of resilience from Fiji are understood alongside those from the Caribbean and Mauritius.

Conference Highlights and Modern Relevance

The program is designed to be both intellectually rigorous and emotionally resonant. A key highlight is the Keynote Address: “Indenture at 200,” which will reframe these histories for a contemporary audience.

Other major features include:

- **The Soft Launch of the ILRP Database:** A milestone in digital humanities that will offer unprecedented access to historical records.
- **Roundtables on Creative Memory:** Discussions exploring how art, storytelling, and visual media preserve the living legacies of the diaspora.
- **“WHO AM I” Screening:** A curated version of the film optimized for a scholarly audience, followed by a discussion on how visual media can prevent the erasure

of history.

- **Policy Engagement:** Aligning the project with UNESCO goals and international partnerships to protect the rights of modern migrant workers.

Why This Matters Today

The Indentured Labour Route is not a closed chapter; it is a living legacy. For the millions who belong to the global diaspora, this history is the source of their belonging. Recognizing the “Route” is an acknowledgement that the modern infrastructure and multicultural fabric of many nations were built on the sacrifices of indentured workers, says Vishnu Bundhun, Director of the Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund.

The conference serves a vital social purpose, he adds. ‘By examining historical exploitation, it fosters human rights awareness regarding contemporary labour practices. It reminds us that the struggle for fair wages and dignity in migration is an ongoing global challenge.’

An Invitation to Discovery

The Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund welcomes students, educators, heritage professionals, and any member of the public interested in the intersection of history and identity. Whether you are seeking to discover powerful stories of resilience or hoping to contribute to international research collaboration, this conference offers a rare opportunity to see history through a global lens.

For more information and registration, visit <https://ilrp.govmu.org/ilrp> or contact the secretariat at ilabourroute@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER

(Pursuant to section 187 of the Insolvency Act 2009 of Mauritius)

31 March 2026

Notice is hereby given that Jonathan Edward Cookson and Anthony Laurence Hart, both of Hilco Appraisal Limited, 99 Gresham Street, London, England, EC2V 7NG, were appointed on 13 March 2026 as fixed charge receivers (the “Receivers”) by CENCAP Limited of RSM, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4AB (the “Lender”), pursuant to a legal mortgage, over the following properties of Bright Sun Holdings Limited of Iq Eq Corporate Services (Mauritius) Ltd, 33 Edith Cavell Street, Port-Louis, Mauritius, 11324 (the “Borrower”).

The properties in receivership are as follows:

Flat 315, Pavilion Apartments, 34 St Johns Wood Road and parking Space 54, London NW8 7HP (registered at His Majesty’s Land Registry with the Title Number: NGL793379)

Flat 316, Pavilion Apartments, 34 St Johns Wood Road and parking Space 61, London NW8 7HB (registered at His Majesty’s Land Registry with the Title Number: NGL793525)

Flat 415, Pavilion Apartments, 34 St Johns Wood Road and parking Space 62, London NW8 7HF (registered at His Majesty’s Land Registry with the Title Number: NGL793375)

Flat 416, Pavilion Apartments, 34 St Johns Wood Road and parking Space 63, London NW8 7HF (registered at His Majesty’s Land Registry with the Title Number: NGL793523)

The Receivers accepted their appointment on the 13 March 2026 at 4:05 PM.

08 May 2026

Shakespeare's house mystery solved



The location of William Shakespeare's only London house has been identified. The Bard worked in London for two decades, moving there as a young man around 1590 and staying until his supposed retirement in 1613. But his home remained Stratford-upon-Avon, more than 90 miles northwest; while in London, he rented rooms in people's homes. The year he left London he bought a home in the city's Blackfriars precinct, but the address was unknown until a

researcher uncovered a floorplan in archives. It may have been a pied-à-terre, implying Shakespeare was more active in his final years than believed. His granddaughter sold it in 1665 to an unfortunate buyer: it burned down in the Great Fire of London a year later.

Experts predict growth and job losses from AI

US economists predict substantial economic gains, but also significant job losses, as AI takes off. A survey found that experts – tech workers, economists, and professional

forecasters – expect significant AI capability advances by 2030. Under the fastest scenarios, it could drive GDP growth up to levels not seen since World War II, and labour force participation down. Economists have largely been sceptical of AI's employment impacts, The New York Times wrote: many argue that rising graduate unemployment is downstream of high interest rates, rather than AI, and that companies' claims that their layoffs were AI-driven were a smokescreen for mismanagement. But "they are starting to take seriously the possibility that it could [disrupt the market] someday soon," the Times noted.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21): Optimism and enthusiasm guide you toward exciting opportunities. Travel, studies, or new experiences may prove rewarding. Professionally, your ideas receive support. Financially, avoid careless spending. Friendships and romance feel lively and positive throughout the week. **Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 15, 22, 34, 40

Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19): Hard work begins producing visible rewards. Career and financial matters improve steadily through discipline and planning. Family responsibilities may increase temporarily. Relationships benefit from patience and sincerity. The weekend allows time for rest and future planning. **Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 16, 21, 30, 37

Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18): Fresh ideas and unexpected meetings inspire new possibilities. Team projects and collaborations work in your favor. Financial matters require careful attention before making commitments. Relationships improve through honest communication. Exciting news may arrive during the weekend. **Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 17, 23, 32, 36

Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20): Intuition guides you wisely this week. Career progress comes through patience and quiet effort. Financially, focus on long-term security. Emotional sensitivity increases, making peaceful surroundings important. Creativity and spiritual reflection bring comfort and inspiration. **Lucky Numbers:** 1, 6, 13, 20, 28, 35

Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19): A busy week pushes you to act quickly and confidently. Career matters improve through smart decisions and timely communication. Avoid impatience in personal relationships. Financially, small gains bring satisfaction. The weekend favors relaxation and social activities. **Lucky Numbers:** 4, 9, 13, 21, 28, 36

Taurus (Apr 20–May 20): Patience helps you overcome delays and confusion. Work responsibilities increase, but steady effort brings positive recognition. Family matters improve through calm discussions. Financially, avoid unnecessary expenses. Romance feels stable and comforting toward the weekend. **Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 14, 20, 31, 38

Gemini (May 21–Jun 20): Communication becomes your strongest asset this week. Networking and teamwork bring progress in career matters. Stay flexible as schedules may suddenly change. Financial caution is advised. Friends or relatives may bring pleasant news before the weekend. **Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 15, 24, 30, 39

Cancer (Jun 21–Jul 22): Responsibilities demand attention, but your dedication earns appreciation. Emotional balance is important, especially in family matters. Financial planning proves beneficial. A meaningful conversation may strengthen an important bond. Rest and proper sleep improve your energy levels. **Lucky Numbers:** 1, 10, 16, 23, 27, 35

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22): Confidence and charm attract support and opportunities. Career growth looks promising, especially through influential contacts. Avoid overspending or overpromising. Relationships improve when you listen carefully. Social gatherings and celebrations bring happiness during the weekend. **Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 18, 22, 29, 37

Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22): Organization and discipline help you complete pending tasks successfully. Financially, steady progress continues, though caution is still necessary. Personal relationships improve through honesty and understanding. Health benefits from better routines and reduced stress. **Lucky Numbers:** 6, 12, 17, 25, 32, 40

Libra (Sep 23–Oct 22): Balance gradually returns after recent uncertainty. Teamwork and partnerships bring positive results at work. Emotional misunderstandings clear up through open communication. Financial matters remain stable. The weekend favors peace, relaxation, and quality time with loved ones. **Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 19, 24, 33, 38

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21): Determination helps you handle challenges successfully. Career matters require patience and strategic thinking. Avoid reacting emotionally to criticism. Financial opportunities emerge through careful planning. Relationships deepen through trust and honest conversations. Take better care of your health. **Lucky Numbers:** 7, 14, 18, 26, 31, 39



Wastewater Management Authority

VACANCY

The WMA is inviting applications from high caliber professionals for the post of **Deputy General Manager (Technical) – on Contract.**

A. QUALIFICATIONS

Registered as Professional Engineer (Civil) with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius under Section 13 of Act No. 49 of 1965, as subsequently amended.

B. EXPERIENCE

- (i) Reckon at least 10 years' post registration experience in a senior position in the utilities sector;
- (ii) **Have good organizing, negotiating and leadership skills;**
- (iii) **Possess a good knowledge of modern trends in management and administration; and**
- (iv) **Be computer literate and conversant with software related to project management and engineering in general.**

☞ **DURATION OF CONTRACT:** one-year contract, with the possibility of renewal.

SALARY: Negotiable in the scale of Rs 118000 x 4000-130000 and other benefits as per PRB 2026

AGE LIMIT: 65 years

☞ MODE OF APPLICATION

- Application forms and detailed list of duties are available at the Human Resource Section of the WMA and can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.wmamauritius.mu>
- **Qualified candidates should submit their application form duly filled in and signed together with a comprehensive CV, copies of all academic and professional certificates and written evidence of knowledge/experience claimed to: The General Manager, Wastewater Management Authority, Jerningham Street, Curepipe.**

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION

The closing date for submission of application is not later than **Thursday 21 May 2026 at 15.30 hrs.**

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

Wastewater Management Authority
Jerningham Street, Curepipe
Tel: 206 3000/206 3056

05 May 2026

WMA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The silent toll**How extreme heat stifles early childhood development**

While the visible impacts of climate change -- such as rising sea levels and intensifying storms -- often dominate global headlines, a more insidious consequence is emerging within the domestic sphere. New research from New York University suggests that extreme heat is quietly hindering the cognitive and developmental milestones of the world's youngest children, potentially altering their lifelong trajectories before they

even enter a classroom.

A Critical Threshold

A study published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* identifies a troubling correlation between high ambient temperatures and developmental delays. Lead author Jorge Cuartas, an assistant professor at NYU Steinhardt, points out that children exposed to average maximum temperatures exceeding **30°C (86°F)** are significantly less likely to reach expected milestones in early literacy and numeracy.

The data indicates that children in these hotter environments are **5% to 6.7%** less likely to meet basic benchmarks in reading and math compared to peers living in more temperate conditions (below **26°C**). Because early childhood serves as the fundamental period for brain architecture, these "missed milestones" can create a compounding disadvantage that persists throughout a person's life.

Vulnerability and Inequality

The research utilized a massive international dataset, examining nearly 20,000 children aged three to four across diverse nations including Gambia, Georgia,

Madagascar, Malawi, Palestine, and Sierra Leone. By cross-referencing the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) with climate records from 2017–2020, the team revealed that the impact of heat is not felt equally.

The developmental slowdown was most pronounced among children facing:

- **Economic hardship:** Families with fewer resources to mitigate heat.
- **Infrastructure deficits:** Limited access to clean water or cooling systems.
- **Urban density:** Children living in "heat island" environments within crowded cities.

An Urgent Call for Resilience

As global temperatures continue to climb, this study serves as a vital warning for policymakers. Protecting a child's physical health is no longer enough; we must also safeguard their cognitive potential. Understanding the mechanisms behind this heat-driven developmental drag is the first step toward creating interventions -- such as better urban planning and climate-resilient childcare -- that ensure the next generation isn't left behind by a warming planet.



You can feel wet when you can see water and when you can't see water. You can also feel dry even when there's a lot of water vapor in the air – like during a fire.

Spring is often a rainy season. If you get caught in a downpour without an umbrella, you will quickly learn what it means to be wet. But what is it about water that makes it wet?

I am an atmospheric scientist, and water is a fundamental part of the atmosphere. I study storms and wildfires, both of which are closely connected to water.

Why water is wet has to do with how water molecules interact with each other and the things around them.

Wet you can see

Imagine you accidentally spill water on your clothes one day. You will notice two things: First, the water spreads out on the cloth, and the wet part sticks to your body more than the dry part does; and second, the wet area feels cool.

Wet clothes stick to your body and water spreads across the fabric because water molecules are strongly attracted to other molecules, a chemical property called adhesion.

One important reason why water molecules are so attracted to other molecules is that they're polar. Like a microscopic magnet, one end of the molecule carries a small negative charge, while the other end carries a small positive charge.

Many everyday materials, such as glass, skin and clothing, are also polar. When water touches these surfaces, the electric charges on those materials attract the water molecules and hold them in place. This strong attraction also helps water spread out over surfaces. Whether something feels "wet" to you has to do with how good a liquid is at staying in contact with a surface. Water feels wet



Evaporating water is essential to helping your body cool down. Imgorhand/E+ via Getty Images

because its molecules stick tightly to each other and to your skin.

Compared to water, mercury has much weaker attraction to surfaces. Mercury's molecules are much more attracted to each other, meaning they have very strong cohesion. As a result, mercury does not easily stick to other surfaces.

The cool feeling of being wet comes from evaporation. Liquids need energy to change into gas because they must overcome the forces holding molecules together before they can float away. They take this energy from their surroundings in the form of heat.

When you step out of a pool and the water on your swimsuit evaporates, you might feel cold because it's taking away heat from your body. Wet things often feel cool because evaporation takes heat away from the skin. Sometimes something that feels cool can trick you into thinking it's also wet, even if no liquid is actually

present.

Evaporative cooling is very useful in daily life, and other liquids can also do it. For example, when you clean a wound with an alcohol wipe, it also feels cool. Like water, alcohol evaporates and carries heat away from your body. Similarly, when sweat evaporates, it removes heat from your body and cools you down.

Wet you cannot see

Sometimes you can feel damp even when you don't see any water. This is related to the amount of water vapor in the air, also called humidity.

Air can hold only a limited amount of water vapor. When there is already a lot of water vapor in the air, evaporation slows down. This makes it harder for sweat on your skin to evaporate, so you feel sticky and wet.

When air becomes completely full of water vapor, the vapor starts to condense and turn back into liquid water to form dew

or fog.

How much water vapor air can hold depends on temperature. Warm air can hold more water vapor, while cold air can hold less. As temperature increases, water molecules gain more energy and can more easily escape their attraction to each other and become a vapor.

This is why dark or shady places often feel damp. These areas get less sunlight, stay cooler and cannot hold much water vapor. As a result, water does not evaporate easily and the area stays wet.

A lot of water, but not wet

Because the air's ability to hold water depends on temperature, sometimes the air can contain a lot of water vapor but you don't feel wet.

For example, when you are near a fire, the burning process produces water vapor. However, because the temperature is also higher, the air can hold more water vapor. This speeds up evaporation. If there are wet clothes nearby, they may actually dry more quickly.

In weather forecasts, scientists use relative humidity to describe how humid the air feels, rather than the actual amount of water vapor in the air.

Because hot air can hold so much moisture that relative humidity stays low, people are often surprised when I tell them that wildfires release large amounts of water vapor. Fire is the last thing most people associate with being wet.

Yunyao Li

Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Texas at Arlington



The Colours of Bias

One African President, known for his sharp wit and wisdom, reportedly shared these observations during a speech in Jakarta, Indonesia:

- "As long as white cars continue to use black tires, racial discrimination will persist."
 - "As long as people associate black with bad luck and white with peace, discrimination will remain."
 - "As long as we wear white to weddings and black to funerals, these biases will endure."
 - "As long as those who fail are 'blacklisted' rather than 'whitelisted,' the divide will exist."
 - "Even in a game of billiards, the black ball is sent into the pocket while the white ball stays on the table."
- "But I don't mind," he concluded. "Because as long as I am still using white toilet paper, I am perfectly happy to be Black!"

* * *

Who Should Be the Boss?

The organs of a body were arguing over who should be in charge.

The brain said, "I should be the boss because I control thinking."

The hands said, "I should be the boss because I do most of the work."

The legs said, "I should be the boss because I carry the whole body."

They continued, each listing their strengths and importance.

Then another organ spoke up and suggested it should be in charge -- but the others laughed and ignored it.

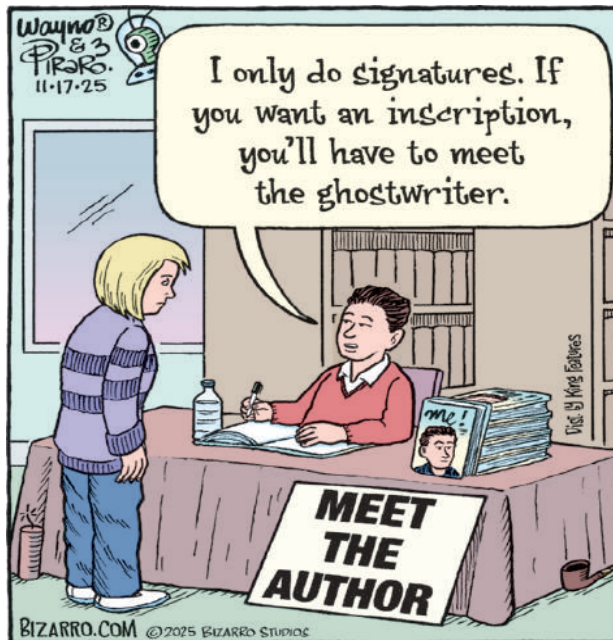
Unhappy, it stopped cooperating.

Soon, the whole body began to suffer, and nothing worked properly. The other organs quickly realised how important cooperation was.

"All right," they agreed, "you can be the boss."

Moral: Leadership doesn't always go to the most

New seatbelt design: 45% less car accidents!!



capable -- sometimes, it goes to the one who creates the most disruption.

* * *

"Pay Me in Advance"

A man visited a doctor for his annual physical.

He said: "I'm getting really forgetful. Sometimes I forget my home. I forget where I've parked my car. I go to shops and don't remember what I came to buy, and when I reach the checkout, I realize I've forgotten my purse. What can I do?"

The doctor thought for a while and said: "Pay me in advance."

* * *

"The Forgotten Ice Cream Order"

An elderly couple was having difficulty remembering things, so they decided to consult a doctor to make sure nothing was medically wrong.

After examining them, the doctor told them there was nothing wrong with their health but suggested they might improve their memory by writing things down. The couple agreed it was an excellent idea.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man got up from the sofa.

His wife asked: "Where are you going?"

"To the kitchen," he replied.

"Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?"

His wife suggested he write it down.

"I can remember that," he said confidently.

"Well, could you add some strawberries on top?" she continued. "You'd better write that down because I know you'll forget."

She then added: "I would also like some nuts with the strawberries. You'd better write that down because you're sure to forget it."

With irritation in his voice, he said: "I don't need to write it down. I can remember it."

He proceeded to the kitchen.

Half an hour later, he returned with a plate of bacon and eggs.

The old woman stared at the plate for a while and said: "But you forgot the toast."

* * *

Latex Factory

A man is visiting a factory that produces various

latex products.

At the first stop, he is shown the machine that manufactures baby bottle nipples. The machine makes a loud "hiss-pop" sound.

"The 'hiss' is the rubber being injected into the mould," explains the guide. "The 'pop' is the needle making a hole in the tip of the nipple."

Later, the tour reaches the section where condoms are manufactured. The machine makes a steady "hiss, hiss, hiss, hiss... pop" sound.

"Wait a minute," says the visitor. "I understand the 'hiss, hiss, hiss,' but what's that 'pop' every so often?"

"Oh," replies the guide, "it's the same as in the baby bottle nipple machine — it makes a hole in every fourth condom."

"That can't be good for the condoms!"

"No," says the guide, "but it's great for the baby bottle nipple business."

* * *

A Responsible Applicant

Employer to applicant: "In this job, we need someone who is responsible."

Applicant: "I'm the one you want. In my last job, whenever anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

* * *



Managers and the Light Bulb

Q: How many managers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None.

They then form a task force to study why the bulb burned out and prepare a report on how it can work smarter, not harder.

* * *

The Misunderstanding

The company president called the chief security guard into his office.

"Chuck, we've received a complaint from one of the employees that you are making inappropriate comments and putting your hands where they don't belong. This behaviour must stop."

Chuck Jones looked down and said, "I'm sorry, sir. I won't do it again."

The president replied, "I'm sure Ms. Jones will be happy to hear that."

Chuck's face lit up. "Ms Jones?"



The Professor in the West Wing

Circa 1969 -- There is a moment that Harvard University Archivists and Kissinger biographers often revisit, for it captures something so essential about the man that it feels almost cinematic.

Henry Kissinger had been one of Harvard's most celebrated professors -- a thinker so brilliant, original, and compulsively readable that his graduate seminar on international relations became the most sought-after ticket on campus. Students would arrive an hour early just to secure a seat. Visiting diplomats, foreign ministers, and policymakers from across the globe made quiet pilgrimages to Cambridge, Massachusetts, simply to sit in a room and listen to him think out loud.

He possessed a gift that very few academics ever truly master: the ability to take the most complex, layered geopolitical realities and translate them into language so clear, vivid, and intellectually alive that it felt less like a lecture and more like a conversation with the most interesting person one had ever met.

His office hours became legendary. Students who arrived expecting a brief, perfunctory exchange with a busy professor often found themselves, two hours later, still deep in conversation -- their minds stretched in directions they had never anticipated. Kissinger remembered names, recalled ideas students had raised weeks earlier, and followed up on them -- a quality that made every person who encountered him feel genuinely seen and valued.

When President-elect Nixon called him to Washington in late 1968 to serve as National Security Advisor, the Harvard campus felt the loss immediately and profoundly. However, what Kissinger carried with him into the White House was everything those years of teaching had sharpened: the ability to listen with surgical precision, to find the unexpected angle in a seemingly locked situation, and to remain intellectually curious even in the most pressured and consequential moments imaginable.

His former students went on to become ambassadors, senators, cabinet secretaries, and foreign ministers across four continents -- a living network of minds that Kissinger had personally helped shape. He stayed in touch with many of them for decades, writing notes, taking calls, and offering counsel with the same generosity he had shown them in those Cambridge office hours long ago.

Late in his life, when asked what achievement gave him the deepest personal satisfaction, Kissinger paused thoughtfully and spoke not of summits, treaties, or historic handshakes -- but of his students. He spoke of those who had gone on to serve, to lead, to think boldly, and to act wisely in a complicated world.

For a man whose name became synonymous with global power, it was a remarkably tender and deeply human answer -- and perhaps the most revealing thing he ever said about himself.

Philo Thoughts

Hope in the Dark: Lessons from Life and History

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is grounded in the fact that human history is not only a history of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history shapes our lives. If we see only the worst, it

destroys our capacity to act. But if we remember the countless times and places where people have behaved magnificently, it gives us the energy to act -- and atleast the possibility of steering this spinning top of the world in a different direction.

And if we do act, even in the smallest way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we believe human beings should live -- in defiance of all that is bad around us -- is itself a marvellous victory.

Howard Zinn

Things can be better

Ten Pillars for the Long-Term

T rue success is an endurance sport that relies on substance over appearances. It begins with prioritizing character, the quiet integrity of who you are in private, over the fragile shadow of reputation.

Long-term fulfilment requires mastering the quality of your solitude to ensure relationships are chosen by intent rather than desperation. To progress, one must favour system-building over fleeting goal-setting, creating eternal frameworks for improvement.

This journey demands the humility to learn fast by admitting when you are wrong and the wisdom to value the depth of a few unshakeable bonds over thousands of shallow contacts.

Cultivating a personal philosophy provides a steady framework for all events, far outweighing reactive opinions.

Precision in emotional intelligence allows for strategic responses, while the patience to defuse conflict preserves internal power.

Ultimately, long-term stability is found in how one navigates unpredictable chaos and the quiet acceptance of what cannot be controlled, separating effort from the attachment to outcomes.

Essential Truths: Seven Lessons to Learn Early

Mastering life early depends on stripping away illusions and facing uncomfortable realities with resolve.

Embracing Memento Mori acts as a filter for triviality, ensuring that every action passes the test of ultimate significance.

One must escape the "Prison of Hope," replacing passive wishing with active planning and rational resolve to change present realities.

Ethics must be built on individual reason and logic rather than blind cultural inheritance.

It is vital to recognize the "Poverty of Happiness," understanding that a meaningful life defined by virtue and struggle is far superior to the empty bliss of temporary pleasure.

Accepting the Myth of Fairness prevents the resentment that follows unrewarded virtue, allowing one to act ethically for its own sake.

Because memory is selective and biased, decisions should be based on current data rather than constructed narratives.

Finally, living authentically requires the Duty to Disappoint others, as seeking constant approval is a surrender of one's own truth.

A true relationship is two imperfect people refusing to give up on each other.



Philo Thoughts

There is always hope

If I've learned anything from life, it's that the darkest times can lead to the brightest places. The most toxic people can teach us vital lessons, the most painful struggles can grant essential growth, and the heartbreaking losses of friendship and love can make room for extraordinary people. What seems like a curse in the moment can actually be a blessing, and what feels like the end of the road can reveal a path we are truly meant to travel.

No matter how difficult things seem, there is always hope. No matter how powerless we feel or how grim the situation, we cannot give up. We must keep going. Even when it's frightening, even when our strength feels gone, we must keep picking ourselves up and moving forward, because whatever we're facing will pass -- and we will make it through. We've come this far. We can make it through whatever comes next.

Daniell Koepke

Life is too short.
Make the most of it. You don't know when your last day is. Live the way you want to live.



The Transformative Power of the Morning Walk

Morning walking can improve circulation, reduce stress, and support mental clarity. Learn how else this simple activity benefits your body daily

As we navigate the complexities of 2026, the simplest form of movement remains one of our most potent tools for longevity. Stepping out for a brisk morning walk does far more than just burn a few calories; it initiates a physiological "reset" that benefits nearly every system in the human body, says Nayana Ambardekar, MD, of WeBMD

The physical advantages are well-documented and profound. Brisk walking for at least 150 minutes a week can significantly increase life expectancy while lowering the risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. By increasing the heart rate, walking improves overall circu-

lation and lowers blood pressure. Furthermore, the rhythmic compression of walking provides essential joint support by circulating oxygen and nutrients through joint fluid, effectively shifting the physical load from the joints to the muscles.

Beyond the physical, the impact on mental health is perhaps the most immediate benefit. A consistent 20-to-30-minute walk acts as a natural catalyst for cognitive clarity. Studies indicate that the movement releases a vital cocktail of hormones: Dopamine to reduce stress, Serotonin to regulate mood and sleep, and essential hormones like Testosterone



and Estrogen that support physical strength and hormonal balance. For those concerned with long-term cognitive health, regular walking has been shown to improve memory and significantly lower the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

To build a sustainable routine, preparation is key. Setting out clothing the night before and maintaining a fun, upbeat playlist can provide the necessary motivation for early starts. While a 30-minute daily goal is ideal, the most important factor is consistency. Even brief walks can sharpen creativity and improve problem-solving abilities. By turning the morning walk into a non-negotiable habit, we do more than just exercise; we prime our minds and bodies to face the day with resilience and vitality.

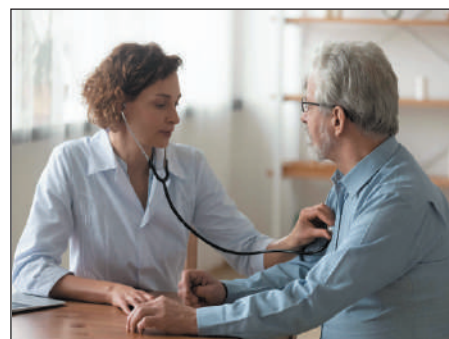
Health & Life Hacks

Targeted Tactics: Managing Chronic Illness

When dealing with chronic conditions like heart failure or cancer, specific dietary and medical strategies are essential for improving outcomes and quality of life.

Heart Failure and the 2,300mg Rule

For those with heart failure, sodium management is a primary defense against symptom progression. Excess salt causes the body to retain water, worsening fluid buildup (edema) and



making breathing difficult.

- **The Goal:** Consume no more than **2,300mg** of sodium daily; less than **1,500mg** is ideal.
- **The Benefit:** Controlling sodium helps maintain stable blood

pressure and reduces the workload on the heart.

Understanding Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy remains one of the most common cancer treatments, functioning by killing rapidly dividing cells.

- **Alkylating Agents:** The oldest class of chemo, these damage the DNA of cancer cells.
- **Mitotic Inhibitors:** These stop cells from making copies of themselves or the proteins they need to grow.
- **Targeted Therapies:** Modern advancements are moving toward drugs that attack only cancer cells, leaving healthy cells alone and resulting in milder side effects.

Personal Growth

The Architecture of a Greatest Year

If we were sharing a coffee today, discussing the essence of a brave and decent life through the lens of great literature like Gilead, I would ask you one sincere question: "What must happen by this time in 2027 for you to say this was your greatest year?"

A year is simply a collection of 365 intelligently lived days. Most people never design their days, yet it is a fundamental truth that the things that get scheduled are the things that get done. Wonderful lives do not just show up; they are meticulously handcrafted through small changes that compound into massive results. Stop waiting for motivation and start auditing your habits. Ask yourself: what rituals will lead to winning? How you live today is how you will live your year. Design it with intention.

Tolstoy's Secret: The Power of a Quieter Life

In an era of relentless noise and the pursuit of digital applause, there is a profound relief in "anonymous winning." Leo Tolstoy once defined happiness as a quiet life in the country, centered on being useful to others, nature, books, and love.

True success is not found in the race for relevance, but in the loyalty to your own values and the skillfulness of your work -- even if no one celebrates it. As technology advances and social order feels increasingly fragile, life calls us to go within.

Embrace the quieter life: longer walks, deeper study of the classics, and calmer conversations. When you fulfill your potential in silence, you aren't just surviving; you are winning at the highest level.

Robin Sharma
Humanitarian & Leadership Missionary

10 Tips for Stress-Free Holiday Travel

Getting home for the holidays should be a joy, not a headache. Whether you are battling crowded airports or wintry roads, these ten strategies can help you maintain your sanity.

1. Book Strategically: Aim for non-stop, early-morning flights. Traveling on the actual holiday (like Christmas Day) often means minimal crowds.

2. Go Digital: Download movies and games before you leave. In a delay, an "entertainment zone-out" is a parent's best friend.

3. Allow a Buffer: Leave an hour earlier than necessary. Exploring the terminal is relaxing; sprinting through it is not.

4. Ship Your Cargo: Consider mailing gifts ahead of time. This reduces luggage weight and prevents the risk of security unwrapping your hard work.

5. Security Preparedness: Put keys and belts in your carry-on

before the line. Remember, kids under 12 can usually keep their shoes on.

6. Pack a "Plan B": Mentally prepare for delays. Carry extra snacks, clothes, and surprise toys in your carry-on in case of an overnight stay.

7. Stay Nourished: Avoid being a "cranky traveler" by packing high-fiber snacks like nuts, cheese, and dried fruit.

8. Mind Your Manners: Everyone is stressed. A smile and a kind word to airline staff can often result in better service during a crisis.

9. Protect Your Health: Get a flu shot before you travel and carry antibacterial gel to ward off airport germs.

10. Vehicle Prep: For road trips, check your brakes and battery. Always pack an emergency kit with blankets, flares, and a first-aid kit.

The Restorative Power of the Afternoon Nap

Napping is a sophisticated tool for adult wellness, offering benefits that often surpass a quick caffeine fix. A short "power nap" of 10 to 30 minutes can dramatically improve alertness, mood, and job performance without causing the grogginess known as sleep inertia.

Beyond immediate energy, napping plays a vital role in memory consolidation, helping the brain store new information and draw creative connections between complex ideas. It even acts as a physical buffer against stress, with studies showing lower blood pressure in individuals who rest following mental strain.

For the best results, timing is everything. The "circadian dip" -- typically between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM -- is the natural window where a snooze feels most restorative. Interestingly, for older adults, a consistent afternoon nap combined with evening activity can actually improve the quality of night-time sleep.

Whether it's a quick 20-minute recharge to boost motor skills or a longer REM-cycle nap to spark creativity, embracing daytime rest is a productive habit that supports both the heart and the mind.

Movies To Watch

A mix of gritty action, dark comedy, and long-awaited reunions

The April 2026 Bollywood calendar has been packed with a mix of gritty action, dark comedy, and long-awaited reunions. As the month draws to a close, here is a breakdown of the major releases that have defined the box office and streaming charts over the last few weeks.



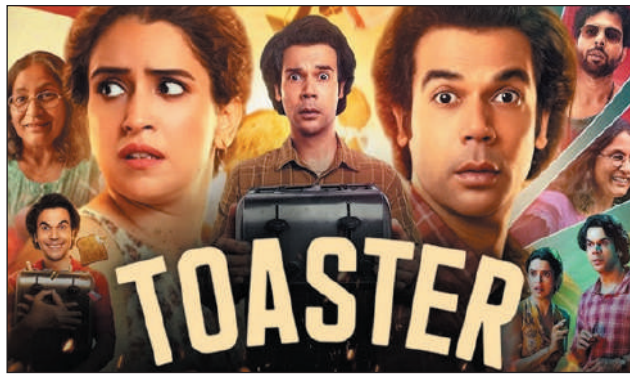
1. Dacoit: A Love Story

• **Cast:** Adivi Sesh, Mrunal Thakur, Anurag Kashyap

Adivi Sesh made a strong impact with this Hindi-Telugu bilingual action thriller. The plot follows an escaped convict on a relentless quest for vengeance against a former lover, set against a rugged, high-stakes backdrop.

• **Status:** The film has been a steady performer, crossing the ₹55 crore milestone worldwide by its third week. While critics gave it mixed reviews for its writing, the chemistry between Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur has been widely praised.

2. Toaster (Netflix)



• **Cast:** Rajkummar Rao, Sanya Malhotra

This quirky dark comedy marked the production debut of Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa under their banner, Kampa Film. The story revolves around a miserly man (Rao) who becomes obsessively fixated on recovering an expensive toaster after a wedding is called off, only for the situation to spiral into a murder mystery.

• **Status:** Currently streaming on Netflix, it has become a favorite for viewers looking for "small-town mayhem" and sharp situational humor.



3. Bhooth Bangla

• **Cast:** Akshay Kumar, Tabu, Wamiqa Gabbi, Paresh

Rawal, Rajpal Yadav

The most anticipated release of the month saw the legendary reunion of Akshay Kumar and director Priyadarshan. Moving away from the 10th April slot to avoid clashes, the film arrived with paid previews on the 16th and a full release on the 17th.

• **Status:** A massive commercial success, the film crossed the ₹100 crore domestic gross milestone within its first week. Its blend of 2000s-style slapstick and supernatural horror has resonated deeply with audiences despite competing with the IPL season.



4. Ginny Weds Sunny 2

• **Cast:** Avinash Tiwary, Medha Shankar

Closing the month is this spiritual sequel to the 2020 rom-com. While the original featured Yami Gautam and Vikrant Massey, this installment introduces a fresh pairing with Avinash Tiwary and 12th Fail star Medha Shankar. The film tackles modern-day marriage pressures and "soft masculinity" with a comedic twist.

• **Status:** Now playing in theaters. While early box office forecasts suggested a slow start due to the limited legacy of the first film, it is looking to find its audience through positive word-of-mouth regarding the lead performances.

BollyBytes



Kangana Ranaut returns to the lead in Queen 2

In a move that has set the industry abuzz, Kangana Ranaut has officially returned to her most iconic role. Filming for *Queen 2* reportedly commenced in South Mumbai this May, marking a significant return to mainstream production for the actor-politician.

While the 2014 original -- directed by Vikas Bahl -- was a word-of-mouth phenomenon that redefined the "coming-of-age" genre in India, the sequel enters a very different cinematic landscape. Ranaut, now a Member of Parliament, faces the challenge of recapturing the "indie" soul of the first film within what is expected to be a much larger, studio-backed marketing machine. With details on the director and full cast still under wraps, the industry is closely watching to see if this sequel can reclaim the theatrical magic of Rani's first solo journey.

Celina Jaitley's public battle for maternal rights

Former Miss India and actress Celina Jaitley is currently embroiled in a harrowing legal battle. Reports from May 2026 indicate a breakdown in her marriage to Austrian hotelier Peter Haag, with Jaitley filing a Rs 250 million lawsuit alleging domestic violence and manipulation.

Taking to social media, the actress shared a heartbreaking update regarding her three surviving sons. Despite court orders in Austria, Jaitley claims she is being denied communication and access to her children, who have reportedly been moved to an undisclosed location. Having already endured the tragic loss of one of her twin



sons, Shamsheer, in 2017, Jaitley's current struggle has highlighted the complexities of international custody battles and her ongoing advocacy for mental health and emotional healing.

Ekta Kapoor honours the "workhorses"

Producer Ekta Kapoor recently took to social media to offer a masterclass in film industry economics. Sharing a photo of her father, Jeetendra, alongside Akshay Kumar, Kapoor praised the "volume-based" discipline that keeps the gears of Bollywood turning.

She argued that while prestige cinema has its place, the industry's financial health relies on stars like



Dharmendra, Jeetendra, and Akshay Kumar, who consistently deliver multiple projects a year. By working frequently, these actors provide consistent employment for crews and agency for mid-sized producers. Her tribute comes as Akshay Kumar continues his prolific streak following their collaboration on *Bhooth Bangla*, reinforcing the idea that "job creation" is as vital to cinema as critical acclaim.



Vendredi 8 Mai - 20.30

Kramer vs. Kramer



Samedi 9 Mai - 21.45



Dimanche 10 Mai - 20.45



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 8 mai

MBC 1

- 06.38 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour
- 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
- 09.30 Film: Black Butterfly
- 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Helena
- 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 14.10 Tele: Valentina
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Tele: Love Of My Life
- 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Kramer Contre Kramer
- 22.10 Tele: Helena
- 23.04 Tele: Happily Ever After

MBC 2

- 09.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles
- 12.17 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.14 Local: Palette
- 14.25 Local: Profil
- 15.11 Local: Mangeons Veg
- 15.39 Local: Koze Zom
- 16.31 Local: Prog Culinaire
- 17.00 Local: La Sosiete
- 17.26 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.25 Local: Sur Prise
- 19.45 Local: Evasion
- 20.00 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
- 21.17 Local: MRIC
- 21.46 Local: La Sosiete
- 22.17 Local: Les Escales Musicale
- 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.20 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.00 Local: Sri Rama Katha
- 10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 12.00 Film: Hum Dono
- 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: MBC Prod Friday
- 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
- 00.43 Local: MBC Prod Friday
- 01.39 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 02.49 Local: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

- 06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 06.30 Doc: China Farm
- 07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 08.29 Doc: The Third Reich In The...
- 09.57 Doc: The Business Of DNA
- 11.19 Doc: Eco India
- 12.36 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.06 Doc: Turning Childhood...
- 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
- 15.12 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
- 15.34 D.Anime: Samsam
- 15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.20 D.Anime: Yetili
- 16.57 Serial: The Avatars
- 17.30 Mag: Eco India
- 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 18.30 Doc: China Farm
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.50 Tele: Valentina

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 15.30 Film: Marigold
- Cast: Salman Khan And Ali Larter
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.25 Shrimad Ramayan
- 20.55 Anupamaa
- 21.25 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
- 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
- 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.00 Serial: Aladdin
- 23.30 Film: Marigold
- Cast: Salman Khan And Ali Larter

samedi 9 mai

- 06.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 06.39 Serial: The Lazarus Project
- 07.30 Serial: For Life
- 08.15 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
- 09.10 Serial: Quantico
- 09.55 Serial: Elementary
- 10.35 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Milliards
- 11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Film: Seref Meselesi
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Kramer Contre Kramer
- 17.15 Doc: Country Dreams
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.15 National Innovation...
- 20.41 Local: Deba Klima
- 21.40 Film: The Grey
- 00.13 Serial: For Life
- 00.54 Serial: Lat Kingdom

- 06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 06.30 Local: Tous Egaux
- 06.45 Local: Point Culture
- 07.36 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 08.10 Local: Sur Prise
- 09.53 Local: Metie
- 12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 13.05 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 13.34 Local: Sur Prise
- 14.14 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
- 15.30 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.59 Local: Retrovizor
- 18.05 Tele: Wildflower
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
- 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 20.30 Music Tour 2026
- 21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 22.22 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
- 23.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Aankhen
- Cast: Govinda, Chunky Pandey, Raj Babbar
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.32 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 19.12 Local: Virasat
- 19.35 Local: Hunarbaaz
- 21.00 Film: Dus
- Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan
- 23.20 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.46 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 00.01 Local: Virasat
- 00.21 Local: Hunarbaaz
- 00.48 MBC Prod Saturday

- 06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
- 06.46 D.Anime: Agent 203
- 07.05 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 08.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 09.57 Serial: The Worst Witch
- 11.35 Doc: China Farm
- 13.29 Doc: By Train Through...
- 14.11 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris
- 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
- 15.13 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
- 15.34 D.Anime: Samsam
- 15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.57 Serial: The Avatars
- 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: The Magic Of Colours
- 19.00 Mag: Business Africa
- 19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.45 Tele: Love Of My Life
- 22.20 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge
- 23.47 Doc: The Secret Of Concentration

- 08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 12.08 Udaariyaan
- 14.02 Anupamaa
- 16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Aao Pyar Karen
- With: Saif Ali Khan, Shilpa Shetty
- 21.30 Beyhadh 2
- 22.00 Crime Patrol



dimanche 10 mai

- 06.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 06.30 Film: The Holiday
- 08.40 Serial: Elementary
- 09.25 Serial: Colombo
- 10.42 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Milliards
- 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 12.35 Film: Burnt
- 14.15 Mag: Video Killed The Radio...
- 14.40 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: The Holiday
- 17.40 Doc: Not About Music
- 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: Les Cygnes Du Destin
- 22.21 Serial: S.W.A.T.

- 08.05 Rodrig - Coin Zen
- 08.30 Local: Profil
- 09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 10.35 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
- 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 12.47 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
- 14.30 Local: Nos Aines
- 15.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 15.40 Mise A Jour Patrimoine...
- 16.40 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse
- 17.00 Local: Deba Klima
- 18.00 Tele: Wildflower
- 19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
- 19.42 Local: Tous Egaux
- 20.00 Local: Les Klips
- 21.00 Local: Mama Jazz 2026
- 22.00 Rythm Weds Harmony
- 23.10 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.30 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.35 Local: Coin Jardin

- 06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 08.26 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 08.41 Local: Virasat
- 10.30 Mahabharat
- 12.00 Film: Dream Girl 2
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 15.47 Local: Virasat
- 16.10 Local: Hunarbaaz
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.32 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 18.31 Student Of The Year
- 19.11 Local: Grand Finale
- 20.21 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
- 20.48 Tenali Rama
- 21.09 Crime Patrol
- 22.41 Sajanja Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 23.44 Mag: Hamare Dastakar
- 00.12 Local: Student Of The Year

- 06.00 D.Anime: Caillou
- 07.50 D.Anime: Dragons
- 08.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 09.26 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
- 09.48 Serial: Action Kidz
- 09.56 Serial: Just Add Water
- 11.18 Doc: The Magic Of Colours
- 13.40 Doc: Hot Times
- 14.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 15.12 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
- 15.35 D.Anime: Samsam
- 15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.24 D.Anime: Yetili
- 16.35 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm
- 17.00 Serial: The Avatars
- 18.00 Mag: REV Special
- 19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 21.42 Film: Burnt
- Cast: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller

- 08.15 Dhruv Tara
- 10.05 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.10 Dance Deewane
- 14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.30 Film: Besharam
- Cast: Ranbir Kapoor
- 21.30 Beyhadh 2
- 22.00 Mahabharat
- 22.50 Dhruv Tara



lundi 11 mai

- 04.42 Tele: Mademoiselle
- 05.31 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour
- 07.02 Serial: Hawaii
- 07.40 Tele: All The Flowers
- 08.05 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
- 09.30 Film: Les Cygnes Du Destin
- 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Helena
- 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 14.10 Tele: Valentina
- 15.00 Samachar
- 16.12 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge
- 17.29 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.07 Live: Grand Titre
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
- 21.22 Serial: Berlin Station

- 09.10 Local: Clin D'Oeil
- 09.23 Rythm Weds Harmony
- 11.00 Local: Les Klips
- 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.57 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
- 14.18 Rythm Weds Harmony
- 15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
- 16.02 Local: Les Klips
- 16.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.34 Local: Tous Egaux
- 21.15 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 21.45 Local: 19 Minutes
- 22.15 Local: Paroles Agricoles
- 22.38 Local: Grand Titre
- 23.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.00 Local: Sajanja Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 12.00 Film: Balidaan
- Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini, Shammi Kapoor
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.48 Kundali Bhagya
- 16.30 Local: Aaj Ke Charcha
- 17.30 Shiv Shakti
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
- 18.57 Local: Kala
- 19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
- 20.09 Local: Charcha
- 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
- 21.00 Film: Bandhe Haath
- Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Mumtaz, Ajit
- 23.16 Mere Sai
- 00.02 Wagle Ki Duniya

- 07.23 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 07.49 Doc: La Chine Du Futur
- 09.27 Doc: Chile
- 10.52 Doc: My Name Is Happy
- 11.54 Mag: Travel
- 13.03 Doc: Arts Unveiled
- 14.25 Doc: Italy's New Farmers
- 15.00 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
- 15.11 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel
- 15.31 D.Anime: Samsam
- 16.00 D.Anime: Jurassic World
- 16.33 D.Anime: Yetili
- 17.03 Serial: The Avatars
- 18.00 Doc: Eye On SADC
- 18.30 Doc: China Farm
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.53 Tele: Valentina
- 21.40 Film: Kramer Contre Kramer
- Cast: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud
- 15.30 Film: Dharam Sankat
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan
- 21.00 Anupamaa





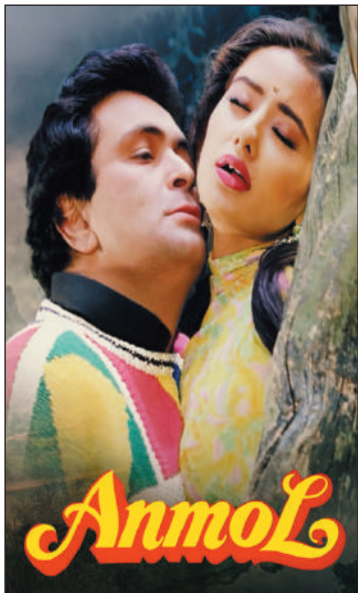
Mardi 12 Mai - 15.30



Mercredi 13 Mai - 21.40



Mercredi 14 Mai - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 12 mai	04.37 Tele: Mademoiselle 05.30 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour 07.00 Serial: Quantico 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Kramer Contre Kramer 11.30 Tele: Happily ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina 15.30 Film: Le Hussard Le Toit 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.50 Kreation Lokal Cinfiles 20.58 Film: Geet Gawai A Cultural Legacy	09.54 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.46 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.31 Local: Grand Titre 12.30 Rodrig Mo Pei 14.00 Local: Feminin Pluriel 14.42 Local: Coin Jardin 15.32 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.30 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Rodrig: 26em Edision Festi.. 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 16.30 La Journee Sous Le Regard 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 20.15 Local: Metie 21.03 Local: Deba Klima 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.28 Local: Sur Prise 23.25 Local: Music Tour 2026 00.34 Local: Parlons Sante Senior	08.28 Local: Kala 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Bachpan Cast: Sanjeev Khan, Tanuja 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.29 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.48 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 18.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.01 Local: Natya Kala 19.54 Local: Prakriti 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Raaz Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Babita	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: This Is my Body 11.31 Mag: Eco Africa 12.48 Mag: In Good Shape 14.02 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: La Famille Blaireau... 15.11 D.Anime: Bestioles Motel 16.22 D.Anime: Yetili 17.00 Serial: The Avatars 17.23 Doc: Japan Video Topics 18.00 Mag: REV 18.26 Doc: China Farm 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.45 Tele: Valentina 21.35 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.06 Doc: Eco Heroines 22.58 Doc: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Gopi Kishan Starring: Sunil Shetty, Karishma Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Serial: Aladdin 23.20 Film: Gopi Kishan Starring: Sunil Shetty, Karishma Kapoor
mercredi 13 mai	06.13 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: The Mummy 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Geet Gawai 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 20.40 Serial: New Amsterdam 21.22 Serial: La Brea 22.10 Tele: Helena 23.00 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.17 Local: Priorite Sante 09.49 Local: Nu Servis An Aksion 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.30 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 12.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.07 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.03 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 21.15 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.46 Local: Les Klips 22.37 Local: Grand Titre 22.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard	08.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Teri Baahon Mein Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Mohnish Behlr 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 Local: Yatra 18.58 Hindi Sahitya 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.39 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.01 Film: Ardhanari 23.27 Mere Sai 00.14 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.36 Mag: Rangoli DDI Mag 01.50 Local: Hindi Sahitya	07.00 Mag: Made In Germany 09.30 Doc: My Five-Year Plan 11.18 Mag: REV: The Global Auto 12.39 Mag: Global US 13.31 Doc: Eco Heroines 14.27 Mag: Euromaxx 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard 15.25 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.34 D.Anime: Samsam 16.01 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.24 D.Anime: Yetili 16.39 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm 16.57 Serial: The Avatars 17.30 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.36 Doc: China Farm 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.34 Doc: Healing Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Valentina 21.40 Film: The Grey	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Anmol Starring: 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 22.00 Dhruv Tara 22.24 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.54 Aladdin 23.30 Film: Anmol Starring: Manisha Koirala
jeudi 14 mai	05.27 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour 07.56 Tele: All The Flowers 09.10 Tele: La Desalmada 09.40 Serial: Columbo 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina, My Special... 15.30 Film: Les Cygnes Du Destin 17.15 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.15 National Innovation... 20.42 Film: Khoya Khoya Chand Cast: Shinye Ajuja, Soha Ali Khan 22.55 Tele: Helena	09.10 Local: Agir Ensemble 10.35 Local: Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 11.02 Local: Les Klips 11.54 Local: Grand Titre 12.36 Local: Glwar Dantan 13.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.11 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.44 Local: Saver Lokal 16.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.37 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.00 Local: Chef On Faya 21.30 Local: Music Tour 2025 22.20 Local: Klip Seleksion 23.10 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.32 La Journee Sous Le Regard.. 23.41 Local: Son Ladan Mem	08.00 Mag: Aastha TV 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Tumhare Bina Cast: Suresh Oberoi, Swaroop Sampat, Master Ravi 15.48 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 16.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Excerpts From Sri Sathya... 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Tenali Rama 21.00 Shiv Shakti 21.15 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.36 Mere Sai 22.23 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.45 Aaj Aur Kal	06.25 Doc: China Farm 08.10 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.51 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.46 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.38 Doc: Healing Gardens 13.00 Mag: Close Up 13.38 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.50 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard 15.12 Momolu et Ses Amis 16.26 D.Anime: Yetili 16.40 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm 17.30 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Doc: China Farm 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 New 20.50 Tele: Valentina 21.35 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Love Stars: Salman Khan; Revathi 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 Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Aladdin 23.31 Film: Love Stars: Salman Khan; Revathi



Jeudi 14 Mai - 15.30

Stars: Salman Khan; Revathi



Jeudi 14 Mai - 20.42

Stars: Shinye Ajuja, Soha Ali Khan



Under the Microscope: Can the Competition Commission Rein in Private Clinic Costs?

Cont. from page 3

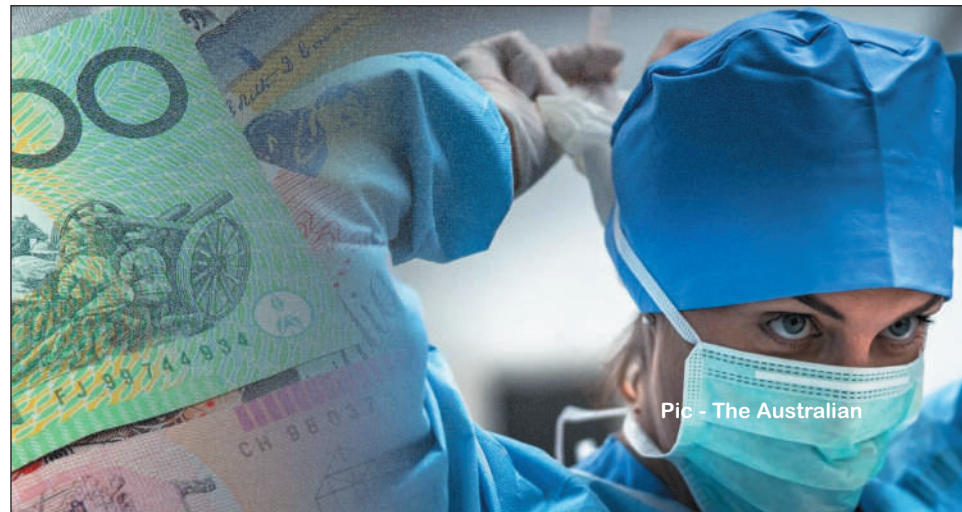
* If the Commission issues new guidelines following this inquiry, what is the legal penalty for a private hospital that fails to comply with them?

Under the Competition Act 2007, non-compliance with the Commission's orders or directions carries heavy legal and financial risks. Should a clinic fail to adhere to mandated remedies — especially those involving restrictive practices such as cartels, bid-rigging, or the abuse of a monopoly situation — it faces stringent financial penalties. In Mauritius, these fines can reach up to 10% of the enterprise's turnover for the duration of the breach, highlighting the high stakes of regulatory defiance.

* In various jurisdictions, the regulation of private clinics goes beyond simple licensing of "premises" to more active oversight of "commercial conduct." Has the time come for the Mauritian authorities to adopt international legislative models that offer mechanisms to regulate pricing, transparency, and competition in light of growing concerns about private healthcare costs?

With the April 2026 inquiry, Mauritian authorities are moving beyond mere safety licensing toward a more robust, international-style oversight of clinic business models. The Commission is now scrutinizing the 'hidden' drivers of healthcare costs: market dominance by large groups, a lack of price transparency for patients, and the potential for financial referral incentives to compromise clinical necessity.

* Adopting "Hong Kong-style" transparency laws would require clinics to provide a binding estimate for surgeries, while a "Singapore-style"



Pic - The Australian

“A hybrid regulatory framework — fusing Hong Kong's mandatory transparency laws with Singapore's medical fee benchmark system — presents a compelling roadmap for our Ministry of Health. This dual approach would allow the State to curb escalating private healthcare costs without the administrative burden of rigid price controls. By replacing the current 'price opacity' with binding estimates and national benchmarks, Mauritius can address the very market failures that triggered the Competition Commission's landmark inquiry in April 2026...”

benchmark system could help the Mauritian Ministry of Health rein in costs without the administrative burden of direct price control. What's your take on that?

A hybrid regulatory framework — fusing Hong Kong's mandatory transparency laws with Singapore's medical fee benchmark system — presents a

compelling roadmap for our Ministry of Health. This dual approach would allow the State to curb escalating private healthcare costs without the administrative burden of rigid price controls.

By replacing the current 'price opacity' with binding estimates and national benchmarks, Mauritius can address the very market failures that triggered the Competition Commission's landmark inquiry in April 2026

* There are concerns that financial incentives for doctors may be steering referrals toward unnecessary, high-cost procedures. How can regulators address this risk and ensure that medical decisions remain guided by patient welfare rather than profit motives?

To protect clinical integrity, the Competition Commission and Ministry of Health must move toward active commercial oversight. This includes enforcing mandatory conflict disclosures for doctor-owned facilities and auditing practitioners who exceed national averages for high-cost procedures to prevent over-treatment.

Additionally, shifting from volume-based fees to bundled or quality-based payments removes the motive for unnecessary care, while a formal ban on referral kickbacks would eliminate illegal commissions. Finally, requiring binding pre-procedure estimates ensures transparency, preventing clinics from upselling services and allowing patients to make informed, cost-effective choices.

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