

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "It isn't what you earn but how spend it that fixes your class." — Sinclair Lewis

A Forensic Analysis of the 2026–2027 Budget with Sameer Sharma

"To be sure, the budget includes positive elements. Yet, structural issues remain unaddressed"



• 'The State Age Pension reform stands out as the budget's primary equity measure. It remains highly inclusive...'

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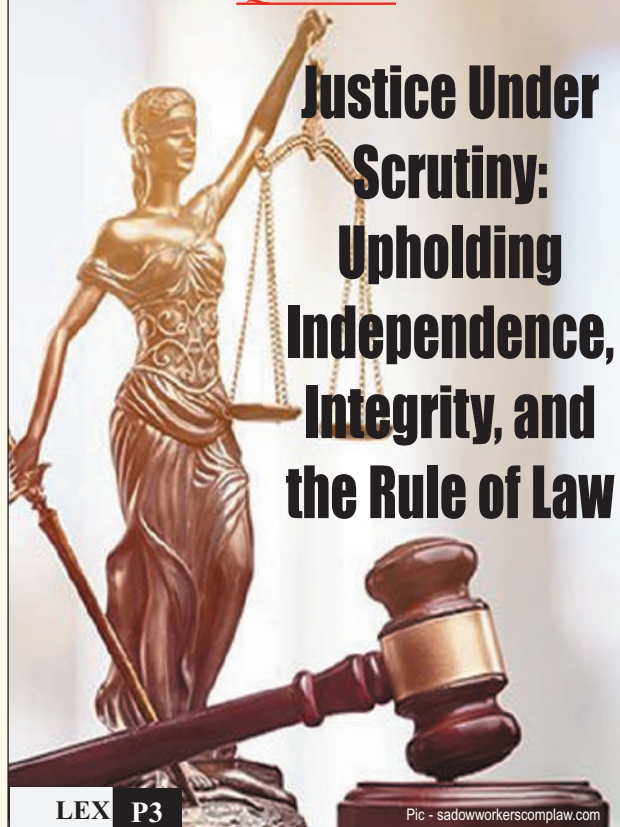
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The Budgetary Gamble: Is the 2026–2027 Budget a Turning Point?

Budgets are frequently reduced to mere exercises in arithmetic — a dry recitation of projected revenues and anticipated expenditures, spiced with occasional populist measures. However, the 2026–2027 Budget for Mauritius stands in stark, deliberate contrast to this tradition. It is not an instrument of consumption; it is a blueprint for reconstruction. By weaving together, a narrative of inherited fragility with a technocratic mandate for structural reform, the government has presented a document that seeks to fundamentally alter the relationship between the Mauritian state, its economy, and its citizens.



This budget attempts a difficult balancing act: it avoids the drag of high debt while shunning the harm of extreme spending cuts. Instead, the government is pursuing ‘Targeted Fiscal Consolidation’—a strategy of cutting waste in specific areas rather than slashing budgets across the board. This philosophy posits that while the state must retreat from wasteful spending and address a debt-to-GDP ratio approaching 90 percent, it cannot afford to abandon the social contract. Thus, the government is betting that fiscal health can be restored not through the blunt instrument of broad tax hikes — most notably, it has resisted increasing VAT — but through a combination of enhanced efficiency, environmental and excise levies, and a shift toward a more progressive taxation structure.

The Developmental State Reborn

Perhaps the most significant ideological pivot in the 2026–2027 framework is the re-emergence of the state as a proactive market shaper. For years, the prevailing wisdom favoured a hands-off approach to economic management. This budget decisively moves away from that orthodoxy, embracing a model reminiscent of East Asian developmental states. Through a flurry of proposed legislative interventions — the Start-Up Act, the SME Bill, and the Industry Bill — the government is signalling that it intends to guide, rather than merely regulate, the national economy.

This activism extends into the critical pillars of national survival: food, water, and energy. By prioritising initiatives like the “25by35” food self-sufficiency goal

(with a view to producing at least 25 percent of the country’s food requirements with minimum dependence on imported inputs by the year 2035) and aggressive renewable energy targets, the government is redefining the concept of national security. In a post-pandemic, climate-challenged world, security is no longer merely a function of policing; it is a matter of resource sovereignty. The challenge, of course, is one of capacity. Can the state effectively manage price stabilisation mechanisms, food reserves, and industrial policy without falling into the traps of bureaucratic inefficiency, market distortion, or politicisation? The vision is ambitious, but the execution will require a level of administrative dexterity that has historically been elusive.

AI: From Innovation to Infrastructure

If the state is the architect of this new era, then Artificial Intelligence is its chosen foundation. The prominence accorded to AI in this budget is unprecedented. It is not presented merely as a tool for corporate productivity, but as a prerequisite for national competitiveness. The budget’s commitment to training 50,000 citizens — from civil servants to students — reflects an urgent realisation: Mauritius stands at a crossroads where it must either evolve into an AI-enabled exporter of services or risk being trapped as a passive consumer of foreign technology.

This digital transformation is intrinsically linked to the government’s broader goal of reinforcing the financial sector. As Mauritius prepares for the 2027 ESAAMLG evaluation, the budget marries defensive measures — such as the creation of a National Crime Agency and enhanced forensic capabilities — with offensive strategies, including the development of frameworks for stablecoins and fintech. It is a dual-pronged effort to shed the image of an “offshore centre” and embrace the mantle of a digitally enabled international financial hub.

The Political Crucible: Pension Reform

While the budget’s technological and economic aspirations are forward-looking, its most profound challenge lies in the structural sustainability of the Basic Retirement Pension. The government’s diagnosis is economically sound: an ageing population and a shrinking dependency ratio make the status quo a fiscal impossibility. But pensions are never just about math; they are deeply personal, symbolic, and politically charged.

The plan to gradually raise the retirement age is the most controversial part of the budget. It risks angering the middle class and giving the opposition a major issue to campaign on. Success depends less on the government’s economic data and more on their ability to convince the public that the change is fair. If people feel the government is breaking its promise to them, the political backlash could derail even the best parts of the budget.

Legislative Activism as Legacy

A defining feature of this budgetary period is the sheer volume of legislative reform. With over twenty major pieces of legislation on the table, the government is signalling that it understands institutional architecture to be the primary engine of long-term growth. From a circular economy to e-judiciary reforms, the legislative agenda is designed to hard-wire the government’s vision into the legal fabric of the nation.

However, this rush to pass laws has risks. ‘Legislative overload’ is a real danger; the government may struggle to find the time and resources to draft, debate, and implement so many new laws at once. Furthermore, the fiscal framework itself rests on a geopolitical gamble — the anticipated receipt of Chagos-related funds. Should these be delayed, the budget’s carefully calibrated math could be thrown into disarray, forcing the government to choose between further borrowing or politically painful revenue-raising measures.

A Test of Execution

The 2026–2027 Budget is, above all, a statement of intent that eschews the short-termism of previous decades. It is managerial, technocratic, and deeply serious. It asks the Mauritian people to accept that the era of easy giveaways has passed and that the future requires a commitment to structural resilience. It seeks to balance the cold discipline of fiscal consolidation with the necessary warmth of social protection, hoping to prove that a small island nation can modernise without losing its social cohesion.

Yet, as the ink dries on these policy documents, the real work begins. The transition from a reactive, consumption-based model to a proactive, investment-driven one is a monumental task. The government’s success will not be measured by the eloquence of the Budget Speech nor the grandeur of the legislation proposed. It will be measured in the quiet, painstaking progress of institutional reforms, the adoption of AI by the private sector, and the maintenance of public confidence during the difficult adjustments ahead.

This budget serves as a definitive turning point. It posits that the time for incrementalism has ended. Ultimately, this budget will be judged not by its ambition, but by the government’s success in putting these plans into action. For now, the path is charted, and the challenge is clear: Mauritius is attempting to engineer its own future. The result of that effort will define the national trajectory for a generation to come.

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Justice Under Scrutiny: Upholding Independence, Integrity, and the Rule of Law

‘The judiciary’s best defence against declining trust is to restore trust through transparent conduct and institutional reform’

Public trust in the judiciary is the cornerstone of any functioning democracy. In a closely knit society like Mauritius, where personal, professional, and political networks often overlap, the independence of our courts is constantly tested. Recent Afrobarometer findings, which suggest a significant decline in public confidence, have sparked an urgent debate about the resilience of our legal institutions. As the Constitutional Review Commission begins its critical work, we must confront the systemic challenges — from the composition of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission to the role of commissions of inquiry — that threaten to compromise the impartiality of our judges and magistrates. This analysis explores the path forward, emphasising the need for institutional reform and the unwavering defence of the rule of law.

LEX

* In small, tightly knit societies like ours where ‘everyone knows everyone,’ suspicion inevitably arises regarding the use of personal, communal, professional, or political connections — or membership in fraternal societies — to secure favourable legal outcomes. How can we ensure that our magistrates and judges remain truly insulated from such influences and continue to dispense justice without fear or favour?

To protect judges and magistrates from local pressures, the system needs clear rules, strict recusal policies, and independent oversight to ensure they remain impartial rather than influenced by personal or community networks. Additionally, a government must ensure that promotions and appointments are handled by an independent, non-partisan Judicial Service Commission rather than political appointees to prevent reciprocal obligations.

In fact, the Mackay Report recommended broadening the composition of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC). Adding external representatives — such as a nominee from the Bar Council or independent members from outside the traditional judicial establishment — would enhance public confidence in judicial appointments.

* **What happens when a magistrate or judge is nevertheless subjected to pressure — whether from politicians or the senior administrative cadre acting under the direction of political hierarchies? Who protects the judge, and is this protection effective in practice?**

In most democratic systems, independent Judicial Service Commissions are empowered to handle judicial appointments, transfers, and disciplinary actions, which insulates judges from political whim.

However, when judges or magistrates face political pressure, they typically experience threats to their case assignments, promotions, or job security. While independent judicial service commissions, constitutional immunities, and appellate courts are the formal bodies designed to protect them, these safeguards are only effective if the broader political and legal culture respects the rule of law.

* **Within the current constitutional framework, are**



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“When a judiciary — whether here or abroad — is perceived as “for sale,” it directly subverts the constitutional separation of powers and threatens the country’s democratic stability. This perception causes devastating breakdowns in both the legal framework and the social fabric. Court judgments lose their legitimacy, shifting the judiciary’s role from that of an impartial arbiter of the Constitution to an instrument that protects vested political and financial interests...”

there safeguards — such as the role of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission or the powers of the Director of Public Prosecutions — that should be strengthened to better protect the judiciary from executive interference?

The Constitution of Mauritius establishes a robust separation of powers and protects judicial independence. However, existing safeguards — particularly regarding the composition of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) and the scope of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)’s powers — should be strengthened to better insulate the judiciary from executive interference.

* **The 2024 Afrobarometer survey reports that public trust in the courts has fallen from 79% in 2012 to 56% in 2024, with 67% of respondents perceiving corruption among judicial officers. Do you consider these findings to be a meaningful indicator, or merely a snapshot of perceptions? Given the potential threat to democratic stability, can we afford to leave this trend unaddressed?**

Afrobarometer surveys serve as critical barometers of public opinion. Their findings in Mauritius reflect both a snapshot of immediate public sentiment and a meaningful indicator of broader systemic issues.

However, perceptions of judicial corruption and political influence are often shaped by controversial rulings, public scandals, and media reporting rather than direct, personal experience with bribery.

Furthermore, since only a minority of the population participates, the survey — which does not reach a representative cross-section of the entire citizenry — should be interpreted with a degree of reservation.

* **If the judiciary were perceived as ‘for sale’ rather than impartial, what would be the resulting legal and social consequences?**

When a judiciary — whether here or abroad — is perceived as “for sale,” it directly subverts the constitutional separation of powers and threatens the country’s democratic

stability. This perception causes devastating breakdowns in both the legal framework and the social fabric. Court judgments lose their legitimacy, shifting the judiciary’s role from that of an impartial arbiter of the Constitution to an instrument that protects vested political and financial interests.

When legal outcomes are believed to be determined by bribery rather than merit, citizens and businesses lose faith in the justice system’s ability to protect their rights. Consequently, legal filings decline as people begin to view formal courts as a waste of time and money.

* **To what extent do barriers such as legal costs, delays, complex procedures, and inaccessible language contribute to the belief that justice mainly serves the powerful? Should reform focus more on improving access or strengthening institutional integrity?**

Barriers such as high costs, long delays, complex procedures, and dense legal jargon reinforce the perception that justice serves only the powerful. These hurdles make the system inaccessible to ordinary citizens, preventing them from enforcing their rights.

High fees and court expenses inherently favour those with deep pockets, while backlogged dockets mean cases can drag on for years. The wealthy can absorb these delays, but the vulnerable often suffer severe financial and emotional setbacks.

Furthermore, archaic procedural requirements force citizens to hire lawyers, increasing the cost of legal recourse. Ultimately, the use of confusing legal language and complicated paperwork alienates the public, making it difficult for people to understand their rights or navigate the system without expensive, specialized help.

* **When Afrobarometer findings regarding public trust are released, the judiciary undoubtedly faces a difficult dilemma: remain silent to preserve the appearance of detachment or respond to mitigate the damage to its reputation. What is the best course of action?**

Courts cannot — and should not — act like politicians responding to a poll. If the judiciary directly addresses public criticism or attempts to “spin” survey findings, it risks compromising the very impartiality the public is questioning. By entering the political fray to defend its image, judges abandon the foundational principle that courts speak only through their written judgments. Any perception that the bench is “campaigning” for public approval could further erode the dignity of the office.

The judiciary’s best defence against declining trust is to demonstrate, through its own conduct and administrative reforms, that it remains an impartial arbiter. Public confidence is not won through media releases but through the consistent, efficient, and transparent application of the law.

* **The government has proposed the creation of a separate Constitutional Court and changes to the appointment of senior officials. How far would these reforms address concerns about political influence?**

Proposals for a separate Constitutional Court and a Senior Officials’ Appointment Committee offer necessary institutional safeguards but are only a partial solution. Their effectiveness in curbing political influence fundamentally depends on how strictly the new mechanisms insulate judicial and administrative appointments from executive control.

Establishing a dedicated Constitutional Court removes final constitutional and human rights arbitrations from the existing Supreme Court framework. By specialized focus, it could expedite constitutional interpretation and dilute the concentration of judicial power.

* **As the Constitutional Review Commission begins its work, what are the three most important reforms you would recommend to better safeguard judicial independence and public confidence over the next decade?**

To protect judicial independence and restore public confidence, the three most critical reforms are implementing merit-based judicial appointments, establishing a local apex appellate court, and constitutionally insulating the DPP from political interference.

Justice Under Scrutiny: Upholding Independence, Integrity, and the Rule of Law

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*** Closely linked to public perceptions of judicial corruption are concerns regarding the integrity of arbitration boards and commissions of inquiry. There is growing apprehension that appointments to the chairmanships of these bodies could be leveraged by public or private interests to influence outcomes and secure favourable rulings. To what extent do you believe these mechanisms are susceptible to such manipulation?**



Pic - aiccauburn.org.au

In Mauritius, there is an ongoing debate regarding the appropriateness of sitting judges presiding over arbitration and commissions of inquiry, balancing the need for judicial expertise against the risk of conflicts of interest and the backlog of cases in the Supreme Court.

Those who favour having sitting judges

chair commissions of inquiry argue that they are often appointed because they possess the legal training, impartiality, and investigative skills needed to handle sensitive, complex public matters. However, this argument is fallacious. Retired judges also possess the necessary experience and independence to chair such commissions. Furthermore, assigning these tasks to sitting judges keeps them away from their primary judicial duties. It can also drag the judiciary into the centre of political controversies, potentially threatening the public perception of judicial independence and exacerbating case backlogs in the Supreme Court.

As for arbitrations, there appears to be a strong consensus among legal professionals and the Bar Council that sitting judges should not act as private arbitrators. This creates potential conflicts of interest and blurs the line between public judicial functions and private practice. If this practice is still in force, it should be discontinued; as senior members of the Bar will attest, there are many retired judges who are capable of fulfilling these roles.

*** At the end of the day, one should also acknowledge and salute the fact that there are magistrates and judges who will defend the rule of law against any form of injustice or political tyranny — as demonstrated by Magistrate Vidya Mungroo-Jugurnath's scathing report on the Soopramanien Kistnen inquiry, and Justice Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong's intervention to stop the politically motivated arrest of former DPP Satyajit Boolell. There are, thankfully, "des juges à Berlin"...**

Yes, the adage "il y a des juges à Berlin" continues to resonate in Mauritius, as the judiciary has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to act as a crucial check on executive and political overreach.

The Moka Court judicial inquiry led by Senior District Magistrate Vidya Mungroo-Jugurnath into the death of political activist Soopramanien Kistnen was a critical turning point. Despite the initial police stance, her scathing findings ruled out suicide and pointed toward foul play and a suspected political cover-up. This sent a strong message that independent magistrates will critically assess official narratives, ordering further inquiries into the actions of the police and political figures.

The intervention by Justice Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong to halt the arrest of former DPP Satyajit Boolell similarly reinforced judicial independence. By annulling the politically motivated arrest warrants and demanding that the police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption explain their actions in open court, the Supreme Court illustrated that fundamental rights will be fiercely defended against potential

state abuse.

The ability of Mauritian courts to stand firm against political pressure largely stems from a Constitution that guarantees the separation of powers. Independent institutions, such as the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the independence of the bench, play foundational roles in preserving democracy.

However, the application of this adage in Mauritius today

is nuanced. While individual judges and magistrates have boldly defended the rule of law in high-profile cases, their rulings have also triggered severe institutional friction, such as contentious transfers and pushback from executive authorities. Nevertheless, the resilience of the judiciary remains a strong pillar of democracy, providing citizens with legal recourse when political institutions are suspected of faltering.

LEX



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD MAURITIUS



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (EDB)

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

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

POSITION OVERVIEW

To provide administrative and operational support to ensure the efficient processing of applications, effective stakeholder communication, and proper monitoring of projects in line with EDB's mandate.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- University Diploma in Administration, Management, Business Studies, or related field.
- University Degree in relevant field will be an advantage.
- At least 3 years of experience in administrative roles.

MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates are invited:

☞ To download the requirements and responsibilities for the above-mentioned position by accessing the following link: <https://www.edbmauritius.org/vacancy>

☞ To submit their applications by **Tuesday 30 June 2026**, at latest. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Only the best qualified candidates will be convened for interview.

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

12 JUNE 2026

Guerre contre l'Iran

L'échec du pari militaire américain

Par A. Bartleby

Après trois mois de conflit intense contre deux des nations les plus avancées militairement au monde, les États-Unis et Israël, l'Iran a fait preuve d'une résilience bien supérieure à ce que prévoyaient les experts. Alors que le début des hostilités, fin février 2026, avait plongé Téhéran dans une position de grande vulnérabilité, la dynamique du conflit a, paradoxalement, permis à l'Iran de faire émerger un avantage stratégique inattendu.

Dès le début des affrontements, l'Iran a été confronté à une asymétrie brutale. Pilonné par

des frappes de précision et des assassinats ciblés ayant éliminé ses plus hauts dirigeants — incluant le guide suprême, l'ayatollah Ali Khamenei —, le pays a vu ses capacités navales et aériennes décimées. Des milliers de munitions ont été déversées sur ses complexes nucléaires et ses usines d'armement. Dans ce scénario, une capitulation rapide semblait inévitable. Pourtant, c'est l'inverse qui s'est produit.

Pour comprendre ce revirement, il faut se tourner vers la logique de la "balance de vulnérabilité". Comme le démontrent Jim Lamson et Matthew Moran, chercheurs au King's College de Londres, l'acteur le plus faible dans un

conflit asymétrique assure sa survie en préservant ses capacités critiques tout en exploitant les failles de ses adversaires. Téhéran a parfaitement intégré cette doctrine. Si sa dissuasion initiale n'a pas suffi à prévenir les attaques, l'Iran a su, au fil des semaines, renverser le rapport de force politique.

L'incapacité des États-Unis et d'Israël à provoquer un changement de régime ou à anéantir l'arsenal de missiles et de drones iraniens a été le tournant du conflit. En absorbant les frappes, l'Iran a conservé sa capacité de rétorsion, frappant non seulement Israël, mais aussi les bases américaines et les infrastructures énergétiques dans le Golfe. En fermant le détroit d'Ormuz aux navires commerciaux, Téhéran a étranglé une artère vitale du commerce mondial, provoquant des turbulences majeures sur les marchés de l'énergie et des denrées alimentaires. Ce faisant, l'Iran a transformé la présence américaine dans la région en un passif plutôt qu'en un actif, affaiblissant la réputation de stabilité des États alliés du Golfe.

Parallèlement, l'Iran a contraint ses adversaires à épuiser des stocks de munitions coûteux et longs à remplacer, un point de vulnérabilité que Téhéran a méthodiquement exploité. Aujourd'hui, bien que son appareil militaire soit affaibli et vulnérable à de futures attaques, l'Iran semble détenir l'avantage sur le plan politico-stratégique.

L'avenir proche verra probablement l'Iran tenter de renforcer ce qu'il nomme une "nouvelle ceinture de sécurité": une doctrine de "front de résistance unifié" regroupant le Hezbollah et les Houthis, où toute attaque contre un membre déclencherait une réponse coordonnée. Téhéran cherche désormais à convertir cet avantage perçu sur le "terrain d'action" en levier lors du "terrain de négociation".

En sortant du conflit non pas vaincu, mais stratégiquement revigoré, l'Iran se donne les moyens de reconstruire ses capacités critiques tout en continuant à fragiliser les intérêts de ses adversaires au Moyen-Orient.

Affaire du contrat pétrolier de 30 milliards: la fin de l'impunité?



P - pragedaily.news

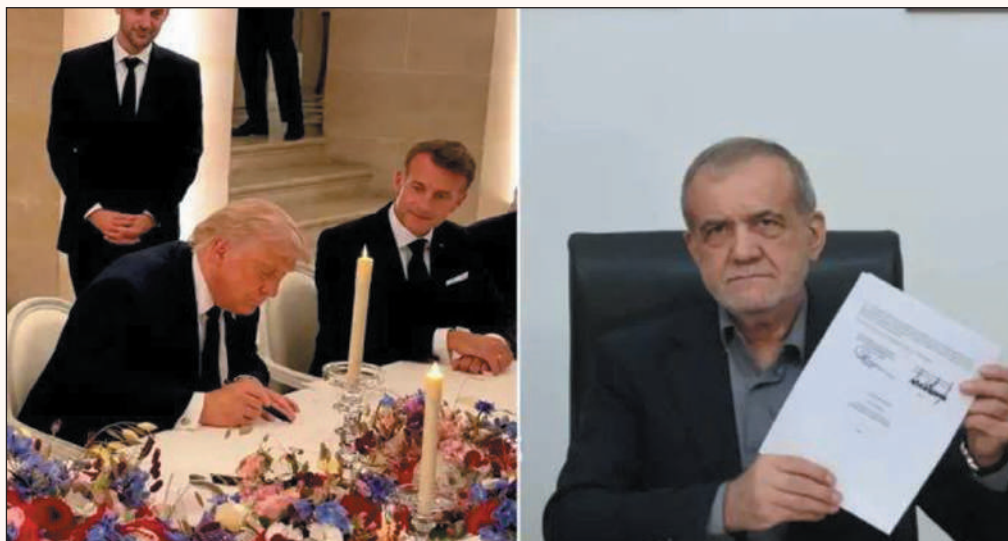
L'enquête sur l'attribution du contrat pétrolier par la State Trading Corporation (STC) s'est poursuivie cette semaine par une étape procédurale importante devant la justice. Le 18 juin 2026, Renganaden Padayachy, ancien ministre des Finances, et Soodesh Callichurn, ancien ministre du Commerce, ont comparu devant le tribunal de Port-Louis, inculpés provisoirement d'abus de pouvoir. Cette affaire, qui porte sur l'attribution controversée d'un contrat de 30 milliards de roupies à la société singapourienne Mercantile & Maritime Investments (MMI) en 2023, révèle les coulisses d'une gouvernance marquée par des soupçons de favoritisme systémique.

Des irrégularités flagrantes

Le cœur du dossier, porté par les enquêteurs de la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), repose sur le caractère pour le moins inhabituel de la procédure d'attribution. Alors que l'appel d'offres initial, lancé en mai 2023, avait identifié OQ Trading Ltd comme le soumissionnaire le moins-disant, la STC a soudainement annulé le processus. Peu après, le contrat a été octroyé à MMI, une entité qui n'aurait même pas participé à la mise en concurrence initiale.

L'accusation pointe du doigt des "spécifications sur mesure" (tailor-made specifications) et des offres non sollicitées (unsolicited bids), suggérant que le cadre juridique aurait été déformé pour éliminer la concurrence et favoriser un acteur spécifique. Le montant colossal du contrat, s'élevant à près de 691 millions de dollars (environ 32,6 milliards de roupies), rend les enjeux financiers particulièrement critiques.

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Les présidents des États-Unis et de l'Iran ont signé un accord de paix initial visant à mettre fin à la guerre, et celui-ci entre en vigueur immédiatement. P - Koha

L'accord de paix américano-iranien: le triomphe des apparences

Au fait, le récent mémorandum d'entente en 14 points, signé virtuellement par les États-Unis et l'Iran les 17 et 18 juin 2026 pour mettre fin aux hostilités, ressemble, à bien des égards, à une victoire diplomatique en trompe-l'œil. Sous couvert de rétablir la paix, l'accord apparaît comme une succession de concessions américaines majeures en échange de promesses iraniennes aux contours flous.

Le premier point problématique concerne le Liban. Si le texte déclare une cessation permanente des opérations militaires, il omet de mentionner Israël et le Hezbollah, les deux belligérants principaux. Sans leur implication, cette disposition

semble inapplicable. L'idée d'un retrait israélien du Sud-Liban paraît illusoire face aux impératifs politiques internes de Benjamin Netanyahu, rendant une reprise des hostilités probable à court terme.

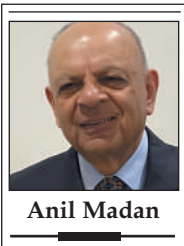
Sur le plan économique et sécuritaire, l'accord place les États du Golfe dans une position intenable. La clause autorisant l'Iran à reprendre ses activités dans le détroit d'Ormuz, sous réserve de frais de service après 60 jours, est un aveu de faiblesse criant. Le mémorandum ne propose aucun mécanisme de sécurité garanti pour les pays du Golfe, qui se retrouvent contraints de financer la reconstruction de l'Iran (via un fonds de 300 milliards de dollars) pour éviter de

nouveaux blocages ou attaques. Pour ces pays, la priorité semble avoir basculé de la protection américaine vers la survie économique immédiate, ce qui pourrait les pousser à diversifier leurs alliances, notamment vers Pékin.

Enfin, les clauses concernant les sanctions et le nucléaire soulèvent de lourdes interrogations sur la capacité de l'administration Trump à tenir ses engagements. Washington promet de lever toutes les sanctions et de libérer les avoirs iraniens, mais ne possède aucune autorité légale pour annuler les résolutions de l'ONU ou de l'AIEA, ni pour forcer le dégel d'actifs détenus par des tiers. Concernant le dossier nucléaire, l'accord est minimaliste: l'Iran ne s'engage qu'à

diluer son uranium enrichi existant, sans pour autant abandonner ses capacités d'enrichissement futures.

En somme, l'administration américaine a accepté des conditions qui, à bien des égards, ne changent rien à la situation préexistante, tout en affaiblissant sa position diplomatique régionale. Le "deal" sacrifie les intérêts des alliés traditionnels des États-Unis et valide les tactiques de pression de Téhéran, sans offrir de garanties solides de non-prolifération nucléaire. Il semble que Donald Trump ait privilégié une sortie de crise rapide sur une résolution durable, laissant derrière lui une architecture de sécurité régionale plus fragile et un Iran en position de force.



Anil Madan

America: 400 Years -- A Celebration of Immigrants

Without immigrants, the American economy would collapse. It's not just the scientists, doctors, entrepreneurs and risk-takers, but it's also the immigrant labourers, nurses, healthcare aides, construction workers who keep this nation moving every single day

It is not an exaggeration to say that over the past 700 years, Britain and America have had the greatest impact on the world. No matter what markers define the end of the British era and the advent of the American, much of how the world thinks, communicates, works and functions, has been influenced by the culture, systems, technology, and infrastructure created by these two nations.

Three weeks hence, America will mark the 250th anniversary of the declaration that it was a free and independent nation.

In truth, the celebration of American independence should be a celebration of the accomplishments and achievements of immigrants and their children.

But what of the indigenous people, the American Indians so-called? On June 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the Indian Citizenship Act which declared all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States to be citizens.

From the first English settlement at Plimoth Plantation in 1620 to the present, the United States has been shaped — economically, scientifically, culturally, and politically — by immigrants and their descendants. Their impact runs from the founding of the nation itself to the cutting edge of today's technology and medicine.

Early settlement and founding of the United States (1620–1820)

- **Colonial settlement and labour: Immigrants:** English, Dutch, German, Irish, Scottish and others populated the colonies, providing the labour and skills that built farms, ports, and early industries. **Impact:** They drove agricultural expansion, trade, and the growth of port cities like Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.
- **Founders of the republic: Foreign-born signers:** Eight of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence — including Button Gwinnett (England), Francis Lewis (Wales), James Wilson (Scotland), and John Witherspoon (Scotland) — were born outside the American colonies, and many others were born in different colonies than the ones they represented. In other words, they were immigrants in the colonies they represented. **Impact:** Immigrant and intercolonial elites helped craft the political institutions and ideas that defined the new nation.
- **Early innovation: Example:** Alexander Graham Bell, a Scotsman working in Boston, was instrumental in developing the telephone, a key to the early communications infrastructure of America and the world.

Perhaps the most significant development that these



“Three weeks hence, America will mark the 250th anniversary of the declaration that it was a free and independent nation. In truth, the celebration of American independence should be a celebration of the accomplishments and achievements of immigrants and their children... From the first English settlement at Plimoth Plantation in 1620 to the present, the United States has been shaped — economically, scientifically, culturally, and politically — by immigrants and their descendants. Their impact runs from the founding of the nation itself to the cutting edge of today's technology and medicine...” Pic - Pew Research Centre

immigrants and children of immigrants brought forth into the world was the notion of equality and representative government built on the idea that each person has certain unalienable rights — Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness — that governments must secure.

The idea of America itself is the creation of immigrants.

Mass immigration and the industrial revolution (1880–1920)

- **Workforce transformation: Industrial labour:** Between 1880 and 1920, immigrants and their children comprised over half of manufacturing workers; including the third generation, more than two-thirds of manufacturing workers were of recent immigrant stock. **Impact:** They were the mainstay of the American industrial workforce, enabling the rapid shift from a rural agrarian society to an urban industrial economy with railroads, factories, and mass-produced consumer goods.
- **Innovation and technology: Patent evidence:** Historical work linking Census and patent records finds immigrants accounted for about 19–20% of inventors between 1880 and 1940, and technology areas where immigrant inventors were prevalent experienced more patenting and citations in subsequent decades. **Sectoral impact:** Immigrants were especially active in chemicals and electricity — sectors that accounted for roughly 13.9% and 12.6% of all US patents and had large effects on economic growth.
- **Iconic industrial innovations: Nikola Tesla**

(Serbia): Developed alternating current electrical systems, enabling the modern power grid and widespread electrification. **David Lindquist (Sweden):** Advanced electric elevator technology, supporting skyscraper construction and urban growth. **Herman Frasch (Germany):** Pioneered techniques analogous to modern fracking, transforming resource extraction.

20th century science, technology, and global leadership

- **Refugee scientists and World War II: Albert Einstein (Germany):** A refugee who settled in the US, published over 300 scientific papers, and whose work on relativity and the photoelectric effect helped cement America's scientific prestige. **Enrico Fermi (Italy):** Fled racial laws, became a key figure in the Manhattan Project, produced the first nuclear reactor, and is often called the architect of the nuclear bomb. **Impact:** Refugee scientists gave the Allies crucial technological advantages and helped establish the US as a global scientific leader.
- **Postwar innovation and industry: Andrew Grove (Hungary):** Co-founder and later CEO of Intel, whose decision to focus on microprocessors helped create one of the world's largest technology companies and drove the rise of personal computing. **Amar Bose (India):** Founded Bose Corporation, applying advanced acoustics research to consumer audio; the company now employs thousands and generates billions in revenue.
- **Nobel-level contributions: Immigrant laureates:** Har Gobind Khorana (Medicine), Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (Physics), Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (Chemistry), Abhijit Banerjee (Economics), and Muhammad Yunus

(Peace) all did major portions of their Nobel-winning work in the US as immigrants or foreign-born scholars. **Impact:** Their work spans genetics, astrophysics, structural biology, development economics, and microfinance — fields that have reshaped global science and policy.

Modern innovation, entrepreneurship, and the knowledge economy

- **Outsize role in patents and innovation today: Recent patent data:** Researchers examining nearly 880,000 American inventors between 1990 and 2016 found that immigrants comprised 16% of inventors but were behind 23% of patents. It wasn't just a matter of quantity: The share of patents immigrants produced was slightly higher when weighted by the number of citations each patent received... Moreover, immigrants were responsible for a quarter of the total economic value of patents granted in that period. **Productivity:** The average immigrant is substantially more productive than the average US-born inventor, according to recent work from Stanford and NBER.
- **STEM education and patenting: Upper-tail human capital:** Immigrants often have science and engineering degrees or come to US universities to further their education, and immigrants obtain patents at twice the rate of native Americans, according to the 2003 National Survey of College Graduates.

Cont. on page 7

America: 400 Years -- A Celebration of Immigrants

Cont. from page 6

Global inventor hub: While the US is not the largest destination for all migrants, it hosts 57.1% of the world's inventor community, and in 2011, 76% of patents earned by the top 10 patenting American universities listed a foreign inventor.

• **Entrepreneurship and billion-dollar firms: High-growth companies:** A 2022 National Foundation for American Policy study found that 55% of US billion-dollar corporations were

norethindrone enabled oral contraceptives and transformed reproductive health and women's autonomy.

Long-run impact: from Plimouth to the present

Across four centuries, immigrants have:

- **Built the economy:** From colonial agriculture and early trade to the industrial workforce where immigrants and their children made up over half of manufacturing workers by 1920.
- **Powered innovation:** They have

nomy would collapse. It's not just the scientists, doctors, entrepreneurs and risk-takers who are examples of the American Dream in action, but it's also the immigrant labourers, nurses, healthcare aides, construction workers, and so many others who keep this nation moving every single day. One quarter of all doctors in the US are foreign trained. Without them, our healthcare system would not exist.

If we think of inventions that have had the most significant impact on the world in the last century or so, one will have to include

the deployment of electricity, the Atom Bomb, the telephone, the Internet, and perhaps now, Artificial Intelligence. In respect of these, immigrants have been a major force.

Happy birthday America! And a tip of the hat to the immigrants who made it all possible. In short, every single person who was considered an American until that 1924 law conferred citizenship on Indians, was an immigrant or the child of an immigrant.

We are all immigrants.

Cheer...
Bwana



“Put simply, the American story — from Plimouth Plantation to today's innovation hubs — is inseparable from the energy, ideas, and resilience of immigrants. Without immigrants, the American economy would collapse. It's not just the scientists, doctors, entrepreneurs and risk-takers who are examples of the American Dream in action, but it's also the immigrant labourers, nurses, healthcare aides, construction workers, and so many others who keep this nation moving every single day. One quarter of all doctors in the US are foreign trained. Without them, our healthcare system would not exist...” Pic - AFP

founded by at least one immigrant.
Examples:

- **Sergey Brin (Russia):** Co-founded Google, transforming information access and spawning Alphabet's broader innovation ecosystem.
- **Elon Musk (South Africa):** Co-founded PayPal and founded SpaceX and Tesla, pushing advances in online payments, reusable rockets, and electric vehicles.

Health care, communities, and social infrastructure

- **Foreign-trained doctors: Critical to care:** Foreign-trained physicians are essential to serving many US communities, particularly in rural and underserved areas, helping to alleviate shortages in primary care and specialized services.
- **Scientific contributions to public health and environment: Mario Molina (Mexico):** Nobel Prize-winning chemist whose work on ozone depletion and climate change guided global environmental policy and helped protect the atmosphere. **Carl Djerassi (Austria/Bulgaria):** “Father of the pill,” whose synthesis of

consistently been overrepresented among inventors — about 20% in the late 19th–early 20th century, over 30% by 2000, and responsible for roughly a quarter of the economic value of patents in recent decades.

- **Advanced science and technology:** Refugee and immigrant scientists have driven breakthroughs in physics, chemistry, medicine, computing, and space technology, helping the US “lead the world in science for generations.”
- **Created global companies:** From Intel and Bose to Google, PayPal, Tesla, and SpaceX, immigrant founders have built firms that define the modern economy and employ tens of thousands of people.
- **Strengthened institutions and communities:** Immigrants have signed founding documents, staffed universities and hospitals, and sustained local economies, especially in cities and underserved regions.

Put simply, the American story — from Plimouth Plantation to today's innovation hubs — is inseparable from the energy, ideas, and resilience of immigrants.

Without immigrants, the American eco-



LOCAL OPEN TENDER in Mauritius

AOO_700008365_LAPTOP_Verification Report_Mauritius.

1. Acquisition objectives

The interested supplier(s) must provide 8 laptops. The technical specifications are in the tender documents.

2. Delivery times and locations

The delivery deadline is July 17, 2026, at the latest

Delivery address

Land	City	Address
Mauritius	Port-Louis	Ken Lee Tower, Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets

3. Conditions of eligibility

See in the tender documents.

4. Submission of the offer:

Interested Suppliers should request the tender documents from: **MG_quotation@giz.de** with the reference: «AOO_700008365_LAPTOP_Verification Report_Maurice».

Tenders must be sent by **01 July 2026 at 11:59 PM local time of Madagascar** only to the email address: **MG_quotation@giz.de** with the subject line: «AOO_700008365_LAPTOP_Verification Report_Maurice». Any offer sent without the request email for the tender documents will not be considered. **Submission accepted only for local suppliers in Mauritius.**

For questions regarding the understanding of these specifications, please send an email to: **MG_quotation@giz.de** no later than **29 June 2026 local at 23:59 (11:59 PM)** time in Madagascar.

A Forensic Analysis of the 2026–2027 Budget with Sameer Sharma



Pic - lemauricien.com

Mauritius Times: Let us begin with an overall assessment of the government's second Budget Speech. What do you see as its main strengths and weaknesses?

Sameer Sharma: The Prime Minister framed this budget with an unusual theatricality, casting the national debt as a "Ring of Power" — "forged, not borrowed" — and rating agencies as a "lidless Eye... searching, searching for a downgrade."

Stripping away the allegory, the fiscal consolidation trajectory is directionally correct. Targeting a 3.7% deficit is ambitious, and the projected decline in debt from 88.5% to 85.5% of GDP is welcome. The pension reform is genuinely transformative: the new State Age Pension introduces actuarial discipline into a system that had become unsustainable, with a dependency ratio collapsing from 16 workers per pensioner in 1962 to 4.7 today. And the renewable-energy push — 60% clean electricity by 2030 — is exactly the capital-intensive investment needed to reduce the import bill.

But the weaknesses are clear. The corporate tax system is becoming increasingly uncompetitive: a 5% Fair Share Contribution on large corporates, an additional 2.5% levy on banks' domestic operations, a 10% Alternative Minimum Tax on book profits for hotels, insurance, real estate and telecommunications, and the QDMTT for multinationals. There is no two-tiered system differentiating rent-seeking from productive investment.

Implementation remains the country's Achilles' heel: the National Audit Office found 96% of drain projects unimplemented and 57% of ministries missed Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets. State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reform is absent despite massive capital allocations. And the AI strategy is symbolic rather than substantive, funded at trivial levels.

*** What, in your view, are the major omissions in this Budget?**

The lack of a robust competition policy! Entrenched oligopolies in retail, cement, shipping, and construction remain entirely untouched; the proposed amendments to the Competition Act merely empower the regulator to issue 'binding directions,' stopping well short of the structural separation or rigorous abuse-of-dominance enforcement required to dismantle these monopolies.

"To be sure, the budget includes positive elements. Yet, structural issues remain unaddressed"

“To be sure, the budget includes positive elements. Yet, structural issues remain unaddressed.” So asserts economist Sameer Sharma as he provides a forensic analysis of the 2026–2027 Budget. Moving past the Prime Minister's theatrical references to Tolkien and national debt, Sameer presents a stark diagnosis of an economy caught between ambitious rhetoric and the "monitored theater" of public service reform. From the risks of the State Age Pension to the missing pillars of competition policy, he explains why, without a fundamental shift in execution and strategy, the current budget may struggle to move the needle on long-term prosperity.

Second, R&D is severely underfunded. Mauritius ranks 55th globally in innovation. Allocations of Rs 200 million to the National Research and Innovation Institute and related ministry funding are insufficient to shift the needle.

Third, immigration strategy targets wealth, not talent. The Golden Visa requires a USD 1 million investment, appealing to retirees rather than productive professionals. Post-study visas help, but without salary competitiveness and broad skilled-immigration openness, 5% growth is impossible.

Fourth, the approach to tokenization is mis-sequenced. Pursuing real-estate tokenization in the absence of robust digital cash infrastructure is premature; Mauritius must prioritize legislation governing tokenized cash and stablecoins before attempting such market transformations.

Fifth, the National Pension and Provident Fund (NPPF), slated for launch in July 2027, lacks the necessary framework for professional asset management. Without an independent National Investment Authority and modern portfolio discipline — specifically liability-driven investing — the fund risks replicating the historical underperformance of the legacy National Pension Fund.

Finally, the absence of a land value tax is a major missed opportunity. Transaction taxes stifle liquidity, while idle land on large holdings goes untaxed, locking up supply.

*** Do you believe that the fiscal and structural measures announced by the PM are sufficient to achieve the government's stated objectives: maintaining growth, strengthening the Mauritian economy, protecting citizens — especially the most vulnerable — from current local and international challenges?**

Only partially. The budget protects the vulnerable and aims for consolidation, but structural transformation is underpowered. Growth is projected at 3.2–3.5%, aligned with independent forecasts but below potential. The Public Sector Investment Programme's Rs 231 billion over five years is substantial, yet 54% is hard infrastructure and only 1% is software.

The State Age Pension reform redirects roughly Rs 25 billion annually toward low-income elderly through a well-designed means test — one of the most progressive measures in years. The tapering mechanism — applying a 50-cent reduction for every rupee earned above a Rs 14,000 monthly threshold, up to a Rs 50,000 ceiling — is arguably

more progressive in design than the previous universal pension model.

While the adjustment of the Social Register threshold to Rs 16,400, and subsequently Rs 17,500, offers necessary protection for the most vulnerable, the middle class continues to face persistent erosion of its purchasing power. Furthermore, current AI and food-security initiatives appear to lack substantive depth. Mauritius is attempting to consolidate, protect, and transform simultaneously; yet, with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 88.5%, it can realistically achieve only two of these three objectives.

*** Do you believe the fiscal stance set out in the budget strikes the right balance between supporting economic growth and maintaining fiscal sustainability?**

While the underlying intent is conservative and appropriate, the execution assumptions remain overly optimistic. The Prime Minister conceded that the previous deficit would have been significantly higher without the Chagos windfall; it is now unclear whether the 3.7% target embeds similar optimism. Revenue forecasting has been chronically inaccurate — last year's budget projected 19.3% growth, yet actual performance fell well short. Furthermore, the continued reliance on regressive excise taxes, coupled with the absence of VAT base-broadening or a land value tax, reveals a lack of structural ambition.

Interest payments alone reached Rs 26.9 billion. Pension costs, salary adjustments, and social transfers are politically rigid. Furthermore, the stated 'expenditure rationalisation' lacks necessary specificity. When measured against peers like Malta, Cyprus, or the Seychelles, Mauritius finds itself on significantly more precarious ground. Ultimately, the budget prioritizes short-term sustainability at the expense of genuine structural transformation.

Inflation is projected to remain within the 3.5–4.5% range, though elevated core inflation underscores persistent domestic pressures. The budget is broadly neutral, as its slight disinflationary bias from subsidies is largely offset by excise adjustments.

While unemployment may decline slightly, driven by construction and tourism, the rise of AI threatens the back-office and accounting roles that have traditionally been a pillar of our economic success; current training targets are insufficient without robust job-placement incentives.

Finally, GDP growth is likely to hover between 3.3% and 3.5%. Achieving a sustainable 4–4.5% expansion would require significant export acceleration, productive FDI, and marked productivity gains — none of which are currently guaranteed.

*** How effective are the proposed measures in tackling income inequality, reducing poverty, and improving access to essential services for vulnerable groups?**

The State Age Pension (SAP) reform stands out as the budget's primary equity measure.

“Implementation remains the country's Achilles' heel: the National Audit Office found 96% of drain projects unimplemented and 57% of ministries missed Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets. State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reform is absent despite massive capital allocations. And the AI strategy is symbolic rather than substantive, funded at trivial levels...”

The State Age Pension reform stands out as the budget's primary equity measure.

It remains highly inclusive, with over 90% of current pensioners retaining eligibility and 75% continuing to receive full payments

● Cont. from page 8

It remains highly inclusive, with over 90% of current pensioners retaining eligibility and 75% continuing to receive full payments. However, the implementation risks are acute: until the Central Pensions Administration Bureau is fully operational, the SAP will be administered jointly by the Ministry of Social Integration and the MRA. This interim arrangement, particularly the reliance on self-declared income, leaves the system vulnerable to significant under-reporting and administrative friction.

The middle class remains critically squeezed. While first-time buyer exemptions are a welcome step, they are insufficient to offset the burden of current median house prices. Similarly, youth-oriented programmes — such as free data for those aged 18–25, new sports infrastructure, and the revival of the NICE scheme — are constructive but thin. Even the Rs 50 million cross-ministry drug-integration fund feels more symbolic than substantive.

*** With economic growth hovering around 3%, the key question is whether Mauritius can shift to a 5–7% growth trajectory. Is such a transition achievable, and if so, how long might it take?**

Not with this budget. The current model is consumption-led with limited productivity gains. To reach 4–5%, Mauritius needs export-led manufacturing and services, SOE privatization, a deep overhaul of education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training, real competition enforcement, aggressive openness to skilled immigration, and a predictable tax regime that distinguishes productive investment from rent-seeking. This budget starts conversations but completes none.

*** The budget outlines a number of structural reforms aimed at improving competitiveness and productivity. What impact could these reforms have on Mauritius's long-term economic development and prosperity?**

To be sure, the budget includes positive elements: pension sustainability via the NPPF, a commitment to 60% renewable energy, and the establishment of fintech groundwork through open banking and tokenization regulations. Yet, structural issues remain unaddressed. State-owned enterprise governance is left largely untouched — the 'Health Check Framework' amounts to monitoring theater rather than substantive restructuring. Furthermore, the lack of labour-market flexibility, the absence of land-use reform, and the chronic underfunding of digitalisation persist. Without deeper, more systemic reforms, Mauritius will remain constrained in its pursuit of long-term development.

*** In practical terms, how can Artificial Intelligence help a country like Mauritius leapfrog to a higher stage of economic development?**

AI offers a narrow but genuine leapfrog opportunity — but only if the national strategy shifts from a training-first to an ecosystem-first framework. True progress requires mentorship-driven development, deep diaspora engagement, robust hybrid cloud strategies, and sector-specific verticals in RegTech, AgriTech, HealthTech, and fisheries. Yet, the budget allocates only Rs 25 million for a National AI Learning Platform and Rs 13 million for a cyber-forensics lab — trivial sums that barely scratch the surface. Absent a venture-capital fund, a 'government-as-first-customer' programme, or procurement preferences for local AI solutions, we remain stalled. Participation in Google's subsea cable



“Entrenched oligopolies in retail, cement, shipping, and construction remain entirely untouched; the proposed amendments to the Competition Act merely empower the regulator to issue 'binding directions,' stopping well short of the structural separation or rigorous abuse-of-dominance enforcement required to dismantle these monopolies”

initiative improves connectivity, but connectivity alone does not build an AI ecosystem.

*** While the budget provides incentives for start-ups, one must ask: do we possess the requisite entrepreneurial and technical talent to transform this sector into a meaningful engine of wealth creation and job growth?**

Not yet. Mauritius still lacks the depth of technical talent, a robust venture-capital ecosystem, and a truly competitive startup environment. The private sector remains heavily concentrated, often favouring rent-seeking behavior; as a result, successful entrepreneurs frequently face acquisition rather than the opportunity to scale. While the Start-up Act, tax holidays, and scholarships are welcome, they remain insufficient. Without fundamental capital-market reform and deep diaspora engagement, the sector is destined to grow only at the margins.

*** A common criticism of recent budgets is not the lack of vision, but the gap between announcements and implementation. Observers are calling for a stronger "execution architecture" to ensure that initiatives such as the blue economy and AI-driven transformation deliver measurable results. What would be needed to make this happen?**

The Prime Minister himself characterized the public service as 'deliberate... ancient, almost,' even quipping that 'none now living remember why the second counter at the

Registrar General's office has been closed since the birth of the Republic.' This was not merely wit; it was a diagnosis. Yet, the reality remains dire: the National Audit Office (NAO) reports that 96% of drainage projects remain unimplemented, while the African Development Bank (AfDB) cites systemic failures in planning and alarmingly high staff turnover.

Ministries continue to operate as mere disbursing agencies rather than rigorous monitoring entities, and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Unit suffers from an abysmal track record. Performance-based budgeting lacks any real consequences, serving as a stark reminder that even the most well-intentioned policies are destined to fail in the absence of institutional capacity.

*** How resilient is Mauritius to external shocks?**

Moderately resilient but vulnerable. The country holds USD 10.3 billion in FX reserves, though more than USD 3 billion of this amount is central bank foreign borrowing and money belonging to commercial banks. Tourism earnings are strong, the consolidation path is credible, and the renewable-energy push reduces fossil-fuel exposure.

But vulnerabilities include heavy external financing, rupee overvaluation, Moody's Baa3 negative sensitivity, banking-sector exposure, AI disruption of key service sectors, and weak state capacity. The Prime Minister's "Eye" metaphor is apt: the rating agencies watch relentlessly, and any slippage risks a downgrade.

*** Finally, how well does this budget position Mauritius to manage emerging challenges and seize opportunities for sustainable growth? Are there compelling reasons to be optimistic about the country's prospects in both the short and medium term?**

In the short term, the outlook remains cautiously optimistic, provided that revenue assumptions hold. The fiscal consolidation is directionally correct, inflation remains anchored within the target band, and the State Age Pension (SAP) reform effectively removes a significant structural risk. However, the medium-term outlook must be viewed with guard; execution risk remains the dominant hurdle.

There are institutional reasons for optimism: the restored independence of the DPP, the Bank of Mauritius, and Statistics Mauritius; our recent graduation to the IMF's SDDS Plus standard; and the ongoing momentum for constitutional reform. Yet, the structural reasons for pessimism remain far more compelling. We face a landscape devoid of meaningful SOE privatization, a lack of a two-tier corporate tax framework, and an entrenched, weak competition policy. Our digital strategy — characterized by trivial AI funding and mis-sequenced tokenization — is matched by the shortcomings of an underpowered NPPF governance structure and an unreformed education system. Without a land value tax and the stabilization of our currently unpredictable tax regime, these institutional gains risk being overshadowed by structural inertia.

The Prime Minister closed his speech by reminding the House that 'the little folk... carry the unbearable thing the last few steps when the great and the powerful have failed,' ending with a flourish: 'Viv Moris. Vive la République. And send, in the end, for the Eagles.' It is a touching sentiment. One only wishes that after sixty pages of Tolkien, the Prime Minister had recalled that in Mauritius, the Eagles are already on the government payroll — alongside the national airline, the airport, the power utility, the cargo handler, and the state-linked banks.

When the state controls so many nests, calling for the Eagles is not a cry for rescue; it is merely a management reshuffle. Mauritius risks remaining a static service provider when it should be positioning itself as an agile intelligence provider.

** This analysis is based on figures drawn from the 2026–2027 Budget Speech, the Annex to the Budget Speech, and official statistics from the Bank of Mauritius and Statistics Mauritius.*



Manisha Dookhony

Mauritius Budget 2026-27: A Structural Pivot with a Thin Margin for Error

The Mauritius FY 2026-2027 Budget represents a decisive inflection point. After years of navigating post-pandemic recovery and geopolitical turbulence, the government has charted a course that moves beyond stabilisation toward structural transformation. The six-pillar economic strategy places artificial intelligence, digitalisation, and export-led growth at the centre of national ambition. Yet beneath the ambition lies a sobering reality: the margin for error is essentially zero, and success will hinge entirely on execution.

The Fiscal Balancing Act

The headline numbers tell a story of gradual consolidation. The fiscal deficit is projected to narrow, with public sector debt easing to around 80% by FY29. However, these projections rest on foundations that are less solid than they appear. The FY 2025-2026 fiscal deficit of 6.0% already exceeded the 4.9% target set in the previous Budget, primarily due to revenue shortfalls and the non-materialisation of expected Chagos-related inflows of MUR 10 billion. Had those receipts materialised, the deficit would have been 4.7% of GDP — still above target but notably closer to the consolidation path. In the next budgets and via the different strategies being put in place here will need to be a stronger pathway to growth.

The revenue targets for FY 2026-2027 imply an ambitious step-up of approximately 20%, partly contingent on inflows still subject to ratification. Interest payments already absorb a meaningful share of expenditure, leaving little cushion against revenue underperformance, an external shock, or a contingent liability crystallising from public enterprises or major infrastructure programmes.

The pension overhaul represents the most significant structural measure, introducing a means test that fundamentally recalibrates Mauritius's social contract. The shift from a universal Basic Retirement Pension to a means-tested State Age Pension from 1 January 2027 operationalises eligibility changes previously assessed as delivering material annual savings, redirecting scarce resources toward lower-income beneficiaries while retaining the large majority of pensioners. These changes will require careful study, as their full implications extend beyond the immediate fiscal impact.

The parallel conversion of the National Pensions Fund to a defined-contribution basis from July 2027 shifts longevity and investment risk off the government balance sheet. Savings are real but back-loaded by transitional grandfathering, so the near-term impact lies less in headline deficit reduction than in improving the credibility and trajectory of consolidation. However, a subtle but significant caveat emerges: the reform brakes the largest expenditure line but leaves faster-growing non-retirement categories untouched. The underlying demographic trajectory continues to build absent further intervention.

Revenue Strategy: Broadening Without Raising Rates

The revenue package is broadly credit-constructive because it leans on durable base-broadening rather than rate increases. A more permanent progressive income-tax structure — with a new 20% band for income between MUR 1 million and MUR 12 million, and 35% above that — integrates the Fair Share Contribution into a permanent feature while abolishing the separate FSC mechanism.

The decision to maintain the status quo on VAT protects the consumption base and headline inflation while signalling intent on collection efficiency. Corporate tax measures repre-



sent a rebalancing of incentives rather than a significant increase in the overall burden. Legacy incentives for tourism are being scaled back — the hotel annual allowance on capital expenditure is halved from 30% to 15%, and the 3% export corporate tax rate for live animal exports is withdrawn. This latter change is particularly noteworthy: very profitable live animal exports, including primates and likely horses, will now face higher corporate income taxes, which in turn yields significant revenue generation. At the same time, new measures encourage investment, automation, and innovation through a 15% investment tax credit over three years on new plant, machinery, AI solutions, and patents.

The incidence of these measures falls disproportionately on the tourism and global business sectors. The global business measures are largely defensive, aimed at maintaining compliance with international tax standards and safeguarding Mauritius's credibility as an international financial centre. The QDMTT alignment with OECD Globe Rules, including the fund/REIT MNE-parent exemption and intra-group consolidation adjustments, signals a pragmatic approach to global tax compliance.

The main fiscal gains are expected from VAT and other indirect taxes, supported by higher excise duties on alcohol (+10%), tobacco (+10%), sugary products, and plastics. It is worth noting that the sugary products measure alone brings an additional MUR 825 million in revenue. These measures broaden the revenue base while pursuing public health and environmental objectives. Yet the greater reliance on consumption taxes may have distributional implications, and the concentration of some measures on tourism and global business warrants monitoring given the importance of these sectors to growth, exports, and foreign exchange earnings.

Growth Agenda: Ambition Meets Execution

The Budget's growth agenda is well aligned with lifting medium-term potential. The Côte d'Or Special Economic Zone — developed on 83 arpents of land with an estimated investment of MUR 1 billion — is positioned as a hub for AI, information technology, high-tech industries, and innovative investments. Google's America-India Connect initiative and engagement with leading American and European technology partners aim to position Mauritius as a trusted regional hub for AI and cloud services. The allocation of MUR 25 million for a National AI Learning platform and the issuance of National Artificial Intelligence Guidelines signal serious intent on governance and responsible use.

Infrastructure investment is equally ambitious. The Island Container Terminal Project, estimated at USD 1 billion under a G-to-G arrangement with India, aims to transform Mauritius into a major transshipment hub. The MUR 2 billion

M4 Motorway project, MUR 2 billion off-site infrastructure for the 8,000 social housing programme, and MUR 1.5 billion healthcare infrastructure investment together represent a significant pipeline.

However, the execution challenge is real. Capital expenditure fell 24.6% below budget in FY 2025-2026, reflecting implementation delays and some reprioritisation of projects. The government faces a major domestic debt repayment of approximately MUR 120 billion in FY 2026-2027, after which annual repayments ease to below MUR 50 billion. This refinancing risk, combined with geopolitical tensions in the Middle East driving higher energy and transport costs, underscores the vulnerability of the fiscal position.

Addressing the Middle Class

Worth highlighting is the Budget's attention to the middle class, which has been facing a major challenge from eroding purchasing power. This Budget acknowledges that reality and has introduced a number of measures on prices and price mechanisms. The test, as they say, will be in the pudding. But the Budget has the merit of targeting the middle class positively, a segment often overlooked in fiscal adjustments that tend to focus on either the most vulnerable or the most affluent.

Subtleties That Merit Attention

Beyond the numbers and measures, several subtleties merit attention. First, the Budget's success depends on private capital materialising at the scale envisaged. The growth agenda addresses binding constraints on competitiveness and the growth denominator, which matters as much as the fiscal numerator for debt sustainability. But without private sector follow-through, the infrastructure pipeline and innovation agenda risk becoming stranded assets.

Second, the social compact is being recalibrated in ways that may not yet be fully understood. The pension reform, while fiscally necessary, represents a fundamental shift in the relationship between citizen and state. The extension of maternity leave to one year is a notable counterweight, recognising the importance of work-life balance and population growth. Yet the move from universal to targeted welfare — however well-designed — carries political and social risks that execution alone cannot mitigate.

Third, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance is sending a clear signal that he is lending an ear to the population's concerns. This is evidenced by the changes to the benefits of parliamentary members and several senior leadership positions. Perhaps more significantly, the fact that he will personally chair the committee tasked with bringing efficiency to government and examining the Auditor General's report in detail demonstrates a willingness to lead by example on accountability and governance. This personal commitment to oversight and reform may prove as important as any specific fiscal measure in building public confidence and institutional credibility.

Conclusion

The 2026-27 Budget is a coherent, reform-driven roadmap aimed at enabling private sector-led growth and strengthening Mauritius's competitiveness. The direction of travel is encouraging, and the opportunities it opens are worth examining closely. The risk lies in delivery, and the margin for manoeuvre is nil. In an environment of geopolitical uncertainty, rising energy costs, and significant debt refinancing needs, the ability to navigate external shocks while executing the reform agenda will determine whether this Budget marks the beginning of a new era or another chapter of unrealised ambition.



Vijay Makhani

After the Guns: Counting the Cost of a Preventable and Unnecessary War

The sound of the battling guns has faded and we applaud that. However, the damage will endure. From weakened multilateral institutions and disrupted energy markets to the hardships borne by vulnerable states such as Mauritius, the true cost of this conflict has extended far beyond the Middle East.

From the very outset of this conflict, I argued that diplomacy — not military force — offered the only sustainable path to peace. I warned of the fragility of ceasefires, the vulnerability of maritime chokepoints, the exposure of small states, and the dangers of a widening confrontation.

After nearly four months of conflict, punctuated by threats, ultimatums, military strikes, retaliatory actions, and repeated announcements of imminent peace, the Presidents of the two warring nations remotely signed a 14-point Memorandum. President Trump is seen proudly putting his signature on the document last night in the sumptuous surroundings of the castle at Versailles, the very venue where, after the war in 1919, leaders gathered to redraw the contours of the new world. It is welcome news. The question now is not who won the war but rather what the world has lost because this war was fought in the first place. Indeed, the question is what will remain after the guns fall silent.

For this conflict has left behind a legacy that extends far beyond the US, Iran, Israel, or even the wider Middle East. It has exposed profound weaknesses in the international system.

At the very outset, military action was unleashed without any meaningful role for the United Nations. The institution found itself largely relegated to the sidelines. Yet, chapter VII of the UN Charter tasks the Security Council specifically with the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. And now, so many months later, as discussions turn toward a possible settlement, the same institution remains conspicuously absent from the centre of the process, except that the 14th point of the signed Memorandum requires its reformulation in the form of a binding UN Security Council resolution. Great!

This reality should not be lost on us. Indeed, it should concern us all. For, if major conflicts can be initiated outside established multilateral frameworks and subsequently resolved through ad hoc arrangements among the principal actors, then the authority of the international system itself is diminished. The UN should not be diminished to a rubber stamp status!

In previous writings, I posed the question of whether multilateralism was failing and whether the principle of "might is right" was gradually replacing



“History offers the recurring lesson that wars may alter realities on the ground, but durable peace is rarely imposed by force alone. It is ultimately constructed through dialogue, compromise and political will. That lesson deserves renewed attention. For the broader challenge remains. Trust has been weakened. Institutions have been sidelined. Regional tensions persist. Economic scars will take time to heal. The restoration of stability will require more than a ceasefire. It will require a renewed commitment to diplomacy, a strengthening of multilateral institutions, and a recognition that security cannot be sustained indefinitely through coercion alone...” Pic - Youtube.com

the rule of law. This conflict has done little to reassure those who harbour such concerns.

The economic consequences have been equally sobering. Energy markets have been shaken. Shipping routes have been under pressure. Insurance costs have risen. Supply chains have been disrupted. The effects travelled from the Strait of Hormuz across the Indian Ocean and beyond.

For vulnerable economies and small island developing states, the consequences were immediate and tangible. Mauritius did not start this war. Nor did so many other countries now paying part of its cost. Households face higher energy prices. Businesses confront greater uncertainty. Governments are being forced once again to absorb external shocks over which they exercised no influence. And the

dialogue, compromise and political will.

That lesson deserves renewed attention. For the broader challenge remains. Trust has been weakened. Institutions have been sidelined. Regional tensions persist. Economic scars will take time to heal.

The restoration of stability will require more than a ceasefire. It will require a renewed commitment to diplomacy, a strengthening of multilateral institutions, and a recognition that security cannot be sustained indefinitely through coercion alone. So, the next 60 days after the signature will be very crucial. All sides will need to display a high sense of restraint, with cards up and no daggers behind the back. Special heed needs to be paid to ensure that Lebanon doesn't become a stumbling block.

For small states such as Mauritius, the lesson is equally clear. Events taking place thousands of kilometres away can have immediate consequences at home. Distance no longer guarantees protection. In an interconnected world, exposure has become a defining feature of vulnerability.

As this conflict moves toward a conclusion, there will undoubtedly be claims of success from all sides. Such claims are to be expected. But perhaps the most important task is not to identify who prevailed. It is to understand what was lost. For, while wars eventually end, the damage they inflict upon institutions, economies, and human lives often endures long after the final communiqué is signed.

The guns may have fallen silent.

But the task of rebuilding trust, stability and international legitimacy is only the beginning. And this, in itself, is a mammoth undertaking.



Pic - Xinhua

Pic - Instagram



Shyam Bhatia

Empires That Outlive Donald Trump

Alexander's empire disappeared. Rome collapsed. The British Empire dissolved. The Soviet Union vanished. Persia endured them all

When Donald Trump warned Iranians that “a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again,” he was speaking about a country of more than 90 million people and one of the world's oldest continuous civilisations.

The reaction was immediate. Critics described the statement as reckless, apocalyptic and potentially genocidal. Yet the most unsettling aspect of Trump's threat may not have been its novelty but its familiarity.

The remark, made during the Iran crisis last April, was widely treated as another example of Trump's uniquely incendiary style. But history suggests something rather different. Trump's language may be unusual. The assumptions behind it are not.

The easiest mistake is to imagine that Trump represents some shocking departure from the history of American power. He certainly departs from the conventions of presidential rhetoric. No previous occupant of the White House has communicated foreign policy through a torrent of social-media posts oscillating between threats of annihilation and promises of peace. Trump says things publicly that earlier presidents preferred to discuss behind closed doors.

But if one strips away the capital letters, the exclamation marks and the rhetorical excess, the underlying message is surprisingly familiar.

During the Korean War, President Harry Truman was asked whether atomic weapons were under active consideration against Communist forces. His answer alarmed governments around the world.

“That includes every weapon that we have.”

The year was 1950. The enemy was China.

Millions of Chinese troops had entered the Korean War. The United States was contemplating military options that included the use of nuclear weapons. Truman later sought to clarify his remarks, but the essential point had already been made. The possibility of nuclear annihilation had entered the diplomatic conversation.

Under Dwight Eisenhower, the pattern continued. Speaking in 1955 about nuclear weapons, Eisenhower remarked:

“I see no reason why they shouldn't be used just exactly as you would use a bullet or anything else.”

Today the statement sounds extraordinary. Yet it reflected a strategic culture in which nuclear weapons were increasingly viewed as instruments of policy rather than uniquely unthinkable horrors. During the Taiwan Strait crises of the 1950s, senior American officials repeatedly contemplated their possible use against China.

Trump's threat to Iran therefore belongs to a long tradition. The difference lies less in substance than presentation.

Richard Nixon provides another revealing example. Seeking to pressure North Vietnam into accepting American terms, Nixon privately explained what later became known as the “Madman Theory”. He wanted Hanoi to believe he had become unpredictable, irrational and potentially capable of anything. As he told his chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, he wanted the North Vietnamese to think he “might do anything to stop the war.”

Sound familiar?

Much of the commentary surrounding Trump treats unpredictability as uniquely Trumpian. In reality, Nixon ele-



“Trump's threat to Iran therefore belongs to a long tradition. The difference lies less in substance than presentation. Richard Nixon provides another revealing example. Seeking to pressure North Vietnam into accepting American terms, Nixon privately explained what later became known as the “Madman Theory”. He wanted Hanoi to believe he had become unpredictable, irrational and potentially capable of anything. As he told his chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, he wanted the North Vietnamese to think he “might do anything to stop the war.”

Pic - Newsweek

vated it into a strategic doctrine more than half a century ago. Trump did not invent the tactic. He merely broadcasts it in real time.

Presidents are often remembered by a single defining image. Richard Nixon has Watergate. Lyndon Johnson has Vietnam despite his domestic achievements. Franklin Roosevelt has the New Deal and victory in the Second World War.

Trump's epitaph may prove to be different. Future historians may remember him as the president who publicly contemplated the disappearance of an entire civilisation.

What makes that possibility particularly striking is that the threat came from a country that has long presented itself as the world's foremost champion of freedom.

The United States has always possessed a remarkable ability to project its ideals while obscuring its contradictions. For much of the twentieth century it described itself as the land of liberty while millions of Black Americans lived under legal segregation.

In August 1963, standing before the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr reminded the nation of an uncomfortable truth.

“One hundred years later, the Negro still is not free.”

The contradiction was obvious. A nation presenting itself as leader of the free world still denied basic rights to many of its own citizens.

In his book *Why We Can't Wait*, King described Black Americans as living on “a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity.”

The world knew these realities. They were not hidden. Nor was racial violence confined to some distant past. The era of racial lynching extended well into the twentieth century, and historians often identify the 1981 murder of Michael Donald by Ku Klux Klan members in Alabama as the last widely recognised lynching in the United States.

Yet America's international standing endured.

Why?

Partly because the United States emerged from the

Second World War with immense moral authority. It had helped defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. It participated in the liberation of Europe. The Marshall Plan rebuilt shattered economies. During the Cold War, many countries viewed Washington as the indispensable counterweight to Soviet expansion.

These achievements were real. But they also generated an enormous reservoir of goodwill.

Faced with the horrors of fascism and then the realities of Soviet communism, much of the world preferred to focus on America's virtues rather than its contradictions. Hollywood, jazz, rock music, Silicon Valley, elite universities and unprecedented prosperity projected an image of openness and opportunity. The gap between American ideals and American realities was often overlooked, excused or subordinated to larger geopolitical concerns.

Trumph's significance may be that he has stripped away some of the language that once concealed those contradictions.

Previous presidents wrapped threats in the vocabulary of deterrence, stability and national security. Trump often speaks the language of raw power. Sometimes crudely. Sometimes recklessly. But the underlying belief that overwhelming force can be used to shape political outcomes remains deeply embedded in American strategic thinking.

That brings us back to Iran.

Iran is not merely a state. It is the inheritor of one of the world's oldest continuous civilisations.

Long before there was an America, there was Persia.

When the ancestors of most Europeans were still organised in tribal societies, Persian kings ruled an empire stretching from the Mediterranean to Central Asia. Persian scholars contributed to mathematics, astronomy, medicine and philosophy. Persian poets produced works that remain part of world literature.

More than a thousand years ago, the poet Ferdowsi wrote:

“Much have I suffered in these thirty years; I have revived the Persians with this Persian.”

The line referred to his monumental *Shahnameh*, a work that helped preserve Persian identity through centuries of upheaval and conquest.

Empires have risen and fallen since then. Alexander's empire disappeared. Rome collapsed. The British Empire dissolved. The Soviet Union vanished.

Persia endured them all.

That is why Trump's threat resonated so widely. He was not merely threatening a government or a military programme. He appeared to be threatening a civilisation measured not in decades or centuries but in millennia.

Whether he intended the statement literally is almost beside the point.

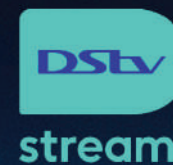
Words matter.

And history suggests that civilisations measured in thousands of years have a habit of outlasting politicians measured in election cycles.

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'.

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Heatwaves in Europe are becoming more frequent

French schools suspended, trains cancelled, Paris among cities on Orange alert

A new heatwave swept across much of France on Thursday, with temperatures forecast to approach 40C later in the week, dozens of trains cancelled and classes suspended.

Although astronomical summer does not begin until Sunday, this is already France's second heatwave of 2026, following an un-usually hot spell in May that shattered records across half the country.

A fourth of the country, including Paris, was placed on orange alert, the second-highest, with authorities urging residents to be "very cautious" and drink lots of water, reports AFP.

National weather agency Meteo-France said the heatwave was expected to last into next week, peaking on Sunday or Monday, when temperatures could reach up to 40C in several regions, including the French capital.

Sunday's summer solstice, the longest day of the year, will reinforce the rise in temperatures with extended hours of sunshine.

Mayors across the country, where many school buildings remain poorly equipped to cope with extreme heat, were set to decide whether to suspend classes.



European heatwave. Pic – The Conversation

During a heatwave in June last year, around 2,200 schools were closed nationwide.

Rail operator SNCF cancelled 71 long-distance trains between Thursday and Monday to "prevent potential air-conditioning failures linked to very high temperatures".

In Paris, swimming has been permitted since Wednesday, under lifeguard supervision, in the Canal Saint-Martin in the east of the city.

Scientists warn that heatwaves in Europe are becoming more frequent as a result of climate change.

France is experiencing "heatwaves that are increasingly frequent, more widespread and more intense -- a clear sign of climate change," said Matthieu Sorel, a climatologist at Meteo-France.

UAE sets minimum social media use age at 15, first Arab country to do so

The United Arab Emirates has become the first Arab country to ban social media for children under the age of 15. The government on Thursday approved a resolution setting a minimum age for social media.

The order prohibits children under 15 from creating or using personal social media accounts and restricts their access to the platforms' full features.

The UAE follows a host of other nations planning similar laws regulating access to social media for children, including the UK, Australia and Malaysia, reports HT.

The move comes amid growing global concerns about the impact of social media on children's mental health, online safety and screen time. Governments around the world have increasingly sought to impose age-based restrictions on social media platforms, arguing that children are vulnerable to harmful content, cyberbullying and addictive online behaviour.

Among the countries pursuing stricter regulations is the United Kingdom, where Prime Minister Keir Starmer recently announced plans to ban children under the age of 16 from using several major social media platforms, including Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube. The proposed restrictions, expected to take effect early next year, would make Britain part of a broader international



The order prohibits children under 15 from creating or using personal social media accounts. Pic - Facebook

effort to strengthen online protections for minors.

The UK plans to follow a model similar to that adopted by Australia, which last year became the first country to bar under-16s from holding social media accounts. Under Australia's law, platforms that fail to take reasonable steps to prevent underage users from accessing their services could face multimillion-dollar fines.

Britain's proposed ban would apply to platforms including Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X, although YouTube Kids and messaging services such as WhatsApp and Signal would be exempt.

Across the Globe

Oil falls as Hormuz opens

Oil and gas prices fell as the US-Iran truce pointed toward the freer flow of fossil fuels through the Strait of Hormuz. Several tankers passed through the waterway, which has in effect been closed for months. Multiple outlets reported that the US would allow Tehran to sell its oil freely, sending crude prices below the symbolically important \$80 mark. European gas prices also fell sharply, giving the continent a chance to restock ahead of winter, Goldman Sachs economists noted.

However, the longer-term consequences could be more profound and bifurcated, a Reuters columnist argued, with governments increasing support for electrification and renewables, as well as ramping up purchases of coal to reduce reliance on Middle East transit routes.

Analysts condemn 'disastrous' Iran war

The US and Iran finalised an interim truce, ending -- at least for now -- what analysts said was an unnecessary war that left Tehran stronger. The two countries remotely signed a memorandum of understanding that appeared to contravene red lines US President Donald Trump had set out, including Iran's nuclear program, missile stockpile, and access to frozen funds.



The agreement cemented "Pax Iranica in the Middle East" and represented "Trump's most consequential foreign policy mistake," while reflecting "Iran's priorities, not the United States," experts variously said. Foreign Affairs' executive editor was more conciliatory: "The MOU is not the disaster," he wrote, "It's merely the result of the genuine disaster." Trump labelled critics "fools" who were "jealous ... or stupid."

Iranians bear the brunt of war

Iran's government may have emerged triumphant in its standoff with the US, but its people will take years, if not decades, to recover from the conflict, according to experts.

For Iranians, the war not only imposed huge economic costs -- food-price inflation was 131% last month, millions have lost jobs, and repairs to infrastructure will cost tens of billions of dollars -- but also sharpened repression, and distracted focus from Tehran's crackdown on dissent in January that left thousands dead.

As a result, the war was "almost like a gift to the regime," a leading human rights activist told The Atlantic, empowering authorities to imprison and kill dissidents, seize their property, and block funerals for the dead.

Israel seethes over US-Iran truce

The US-Iran truce sparked frustration in Israel, potentially upending Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's re-election bid and fracturing the country's ties with Washington. Israeli media condemned the deal Washington signed with Tehran as "a catastrophic capitulation" and "a betrayal."

With parliamentary elections due by October, Netanyahu's party has scrapped plans to highlight close ties to US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly criticized the Israeli prime minister, while speculation that the US leader would visit Israel has dissipated. As one Netanyahu ally told The New Yorker, the Israeli leader "has never been in shock like now. Not with Obama. No one has caused a shock like Trump."

Iran deal: Trump lashes out at critics, says they are either 'jealous or bad, stupid people'

Donald Trump has lashed out at critics of his newly signed memorandum of understanding with Iran, dismissing his detractors as "fools," "jealous," or "stupid." The defiant comments came on social media just hours after the President formally signed the accord at the Palace of Versailles alongside French President Emmanuel Macron.

The agreement, which aims to conclude the intense conflict that erupted earlier this year, has triggered mixed reactions globally. The memorandum of understanding, also signed by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, seeks to end the hostilities that caused significant disruption to global energy markets and led to a weeks-long restriction of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Following the announcement of the deal, oil prices saw a decline of more than three percent, extending losses sustained since initial reports of a potential breakthrough surfaced over the weekend. Under the terms of the accord, Washington has committed to waiving sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy, while Iran is expected to ensure



Trump lashes out at critics of Iran deal, says they are either 'jealous or bad, stupid people'. Pic - CNN

the resumption of merchant shipping in the Strait of Hormuz to pre-war volumes.

A 60-day negotiating period will now commence, during which technical teams — supported by the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) — will work to define concrete steps regarding Iran's nuclear activities. While the deal has been hailed by some as a "historic" step toward peace, it notably lacks provisions

regarding Iran's ballistic missile program, a point of significant concern for some of Washington's regional allies.

The deal has faced sharp scrutiny within the United States. Senator Bill Cassidy, a fellow Republican, publicly condemned the agreement as the "worst foreign policy blunder in decades," arguing that it failed to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and effectively rewarded the intimidation of international shipping lanes.

Even outlets traditionally supportive of the President have highlighted concerns that the agreement grants Tehran substantial financial relief without requiring the complete dismantlement of its nuclear infrastructure.

Despite the domestic backlash, the administration maintains that the deal is a necessary step to stabilize the region. As the two-month window for negotiations begins, global attention remains fixed on whether the parties can move from this initial memorandum to a final, comprehensive settlement that addresses the deeper security concerns that led to the devastating conflict earlier this year.

Across the Globe



If Argentina manage to defend its title, it will become the third team in history to achieve this feat. Image: Reuters

Messi mania grips World Cup

Argentina's Lionel Messi became the joint top scorer in the history of the men's World Cup after netting a hat-trick against Algeria, further cementing the legacy of the player many consider soccer's greatest ever. Messi mania has gripped fans since the forward won the 2022 World Cup in Qatar: thousands of supporters as far afield as Bangladesh celebrated his latest feat.

Many in his home country are also trying to obtain an elusive golden Messi sticker produced by Panini, leading to a growing black market for the rare item. "Just think about it," a 14-year-old Argentinian fan said. "It's Messi's last World Cup. It's gold. I mean, it's the most valuable thing there is."

Diaspora players power World Cup

Hundreds of players at this year's men's World Cup will represent a country where they were not born, highlighting the growth of cross-border recruitment by national soccer teams. Almost 100 players born in France -- 53 from Paris alone -- along with dozens of Dutch, English, and Spanish footballers were called up

for this year's tournament, as poorer nations ramped up recruitment of diaspora trained in some of the world's best leagues. In all, almost a quarter of World Cup players were born abroad; only one home-born player will feature for Curaçao. "The World Cup is a perfect reflection of human migration," The Observer reported.

Trump praises Modi as 'angel,' 'killer'

US President Donald Trump said he would visit India soon, an apparent effort to smooth over rocky relations with New Delhi. At their G7 meeting Wednesday, Trump praised Indian leader Narendra Modi as an "angel" but "total killer," referencing yearlong tough negotiations that have yet to produce a trade deal between the two countries.

A "fusillade of actions" by Trump have hurt India's economy and pride, *The New York Times* wrote, including tariffs on Indian goods, punishment for India's purchase of Russian oil, and closer ties with India's rival Pakistan. Most recently, New Delhi protested against US strikes that killed three Indian sailors. Whether the thaw is substantive or "performative theatre" between two strongman-style leaders remains to be seen.

Global rice production doubles

Global rice production has more than doubled in 50 years, despite -- and to some extent because of -- climate change. Rice is the staple dietary calorie source for half the world's population.

Much of the increase, from 296 million tonnes in 1961 to 750 million in 2015, is driven by expanded cultivated area and heavier fertilizer use.

While warming has reduced yields by 7%, new research estimated, rising CO₂ concentrations have

boosted them by 30% by giving plants more growth material. Concerns that humanity would run out of food have so far proved false. While the world population has doubled since 1974, calories per capita have risen 25%. However, rice yield growth is slowing, the research found.

A seismic UK by-election

Roughly 70,000 voters in a mostly suburban part of northwest England determined, last Thursday, the fate of the UK government. Andy Burnham, the Manchester mayor, aimed to win a special election by appealing for grand national renewal—and promising to address frustrations over local traffic congestion. Burnham led local polls and, if he succeeds, he will seek to oust Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who had suffered seemingly unrelenting controversies.



Whoever emerges victorious from the battle within the Labour Party would face enormous challenges: economic growth is pallid, debt is mounting, and the far right is leading national polls. "Rage [is] in the air and no by-election is going to change that," the deputy editor of the *New Statesman* wrote.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

7th Year No 338

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 24 February, 1961

• One cannot speak the truth with false words. — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

A Praiseworthy Effort

By A. I. Cassimally

The 25th January 1961 issue of *Trait d'Union* most certainly deserves wider publicity. It contains, besides the Christmas messages of last year from various countries, messages of goodwill from members of the Mauritian community "dans le cadre de la semaine de la charité fraternelle."

The local contributions are from: (1) Mr Guy de G. Sells, British Council representative; (2) Messrs Pierre de Sornay, Jean-Georges Prosper, and H. L. D., on behalf of "La Société des Écrivains Mauriciens"; (3) Mr Régis Fanchette, for the "Centre Culturel Français"; (4) Mrs K. Hazareesingh, Secretary of the Indian Cultural Association; (5) Mr A. Joomaye, President of the Islamic Cultural Association; (6) Mr Ng Kwet Chan, on behalf of the Chinese Youth Federation; (7) Mr John Beckett, representative of the International Voluntary Service; and (8) Mr Max Moutia, speaker at the MBS.

Although each contributor has viewed the problem from a different angle, all have expressed their faith in the possibility of "charité fraternelle" and its ultimate fulfilment.

How inspired Mr de Sells must have been when he wrote: "To pause and refresh the mind by a conscious effort to replace perversity by understanding, bigotry by tolerance, enmity by affection — an indispensable exercise if there is to be any hope of healing the breaches and repairing the rents which disfigure the fabric of humanity."

The main argument of Mr Régis Fanchette reminds me of the four "freedoms" of Franklin Roosevelt. Is it not the truth itself which crystallised from the pen of Mr Fanchette when he wrote: "Et nous restons des êtres avortés, écartelés, tronçonnés parce que nous avons peur de nous-mêmes et des autres." Mr Fanchette concludes on what may appear to be a paradox: "Régissez-vous plutôt de nos différences, de notre particularisme, de nos idiosyncrasies. 'Enrichissons-nous mutuellement de nos différences,' disait, je crois, Valéry à Gide." Mr Fanchette may be a naïf, but how much better the world would be if there were many more like him.

Mrs Hazareesingh, on an optimistic note, reminds us that "in any case our difficulties are insignificant when compared to the tragic events which are now taking place in other parts of the world."

The discourse of Mr Joomaye on "charity" comes from the typical Islamic angle: "Every good act is charity. An exhortation of your fellow men to virtuous deeds is equal to alms-giving. Your putting a wanderer on the right road is charity. Your assisting the blind, your removing stones, thorns and other obstacles from the road is charity." He ends by saying: "Only through kindness can man claim to be the rightful heir to God's creation." How finely put!

Perhaps the most poetical contribution comes from the pen of Mr Ng Kwet Chan. The opening paragraph stuns us with its amazing simplicity and disarms us by the strong faith the poet places in the brotherliness of man: "Si je suis ici à vous parler aujourd'hui, c'est que j'ai foi en la Charité Fraternelle. Je suis confiant que le jour n'est pas loin où tous nos préjugés disparaîtront à jamais pour faire face à la Fraternité."

One can sense immediately that these words come straight from a noble heart. Mr Ng Kwet Chan further says: "Aucun effort ne doit être épargné, surtout quand il y va de notre bonheur. Et il n'y a jamais de vrai bonheur pour nous-mêmes sans le bonheur des autres."

As a poet and philosopher, he epitomizes his thought: "A mon avis, aucun problème tant moral que matériel n'est inso-

luble si nous sommes capables d'aimer notre prochain."

Of course, a man like John Beckett, who incarnates by his actions and his deeds the "charité fraternelle," can talk on that subject with authority; he exhorts us not to throw "la pierre à son voisin" or judge all his acts. Max Moutia's message is similar in many respects: "Les pauvres, ceux à qui on fait l'aumône, ceux qui ont besoin d'aides de toutes sortes, peuvent aussi pratiquer à leur manière la charité en se montrant

dignes, en bannissant tout sentiment d'envie ou de rancune envers ceux qui leur font du bien."

We offer our congratulations to Mr Edwin de Robillard, the editor, founder, and "animateur" du Secrétariat Social, and with l'Abbé Pierre, we formulate the hope that "une étincelle va jaillir dans le monde, qui allumera à travers tout l'univers un amour concret des hommes les uns pour les autres."



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2. Bids must be submitted online on the e-Procurement System (e-PS) by **08 July 2026 up to 14:00 hours** (Mauritian Time) at latest.
3. Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time, shall **decrypt and re-encrypt their Bids from 08 July 2026 at 15:01 hours** (Mauritian Time) till **10 July 2026 at 15:00 hours** (Mauritian Time) latest.
4. Bids will be opened on **10 July 2026 as from 15:01 hours** (Mauritian Time) and the result of the bids will be available accordingly on the e-PS.
5. Interested Bidders should register by signing up on the e-PS of the Government of Mauritius on <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org> in order to participate in the bidding exercise and download the bidding document.
6. Guidelines to bidders on the process of registration on the e-PS can be accessed on: <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org/files/masterfiles/HOW-TO-REGISTER-ON-THE-E-PROCUREMENT-SYSTEM-v2.pdf>.
7. The e-Procurement helpdesk can be contacted for assistance and training via the following link: <https://epssupplier.govmu.org/>.
8. Bidders are strongly encouraged to procure their Digital Signature Certificates and submit their bids online well before the submission deadline. Bidders are also advised not to wait until the last moment to seek any assistance that may be required from the Procurement Policy Office Helpdesk.
9. The STC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to the award of the Contract, without incurring any liability towards any Bidder.

15 June 2026

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Affaire du contrat pétrolier de 30 milliards: la fin de l'impunité?

☞ Suite de la page 5

Si les autorités de l'époque avaient justifié ce choix par des avantages logistiques et des facilités de paiement en roupies, ces arguments apparaissent aujourd'hui, aux yeux des enquêteurs, comme un paravent commode pour masquer une manipulation des procédures publiques.

L'érosion de la confiance publique

Cette affaire dépasse la simple question de malversation financière. Elle interroge la résilience des institutions mauriciennes face à la capture des décisions publiques par des intérêts privés. Lorsque les mécanismes de passation de marchés — conçus pour garantir la transparence et l'intérêt national — sont instrumentalisés, c'est le contrat social tout entier qui est ébranlé.

Le risque, pour une économie comme celle de Maurice, est double. D'une part, l'image du



La concentration des marchés pétroliers entre des mains privées, sans réelle concurrence, expose la nation à une vulnérabilité stratégique. P - Daily Nation

pays auprès des partenaires internationaux et des investisseurs sérieux est durablement entachée par de telles affaires de favoritisme. D'autre part, la concentration des marchés pétroliers entre des mains privées, sans mise en concurrence réelle, expose la nation à une vulnérabilité stratégique: que se passe-t-il lorsque les intérêts de l'intermédiaire privé divergent des besoins vitaux de la population en carburant?

L'affaire MMI, dont le prochain volet judiciaire est attendu pour le 28 octobre 2026, illustre les interrogations croissantes sur l'équilibre entre l'expertise technique des décisions publiques et les exigences de l'éthique. Les développements actuels de ce dossier soulignent la nécessité d'une réflexion sur les méthodes de gouvernance des entreprises d'État, dans un contexte où les attentes des citoyens appellent à davantage de transparence et de clarté.

Coupe du Monde 2026: la démographie ne suffit pas à faire des champions

Ce sont les systèmes de coaching, l'investissement dans la formation et la culture sportive qui transforment le potentiel démographique en succès tangible

La 23e édition de la Coupe du Monde de la FIFA, organisée conjointement par le Canada, le Mexique et les États-Unis, marque un tournant historique. Avec un nombre record de 48 équipes qualifiées, 108 matchs disputés dans 16 stades et une dotation globale approchant les 900 millions de dollars, l'événement atteint une échelle monumentale. Pourtant, derrière les chiffres étourdissants, une question fondamentale demeure pour les observateurs: la démographie et la puissance économique sont-elles réellement les garants de la gloire sportive?

Le mythe de la taille et la réalité du terrain

L'analyse démographique des nations en lice offre un contraste saisissant avec les idées reçues. On pourrait instinctivement penser que la taille de la population est le premier facteur de succès, offrant un réservoir de talents plus vaste. Le Brésil, avec plus de 211 millions d'habitants et cinq titres mondiaux, semble valider cette théorie. Cependant, les anomalies sont légion: la Chine et l'Inde,

géants démographiques, peinent à s'imposer sur la scène mondiale, tandis que les États-Unis, avec leurs 340 millions d'habitants, n'ont jamais dépassé le stade des demi-finales.

À l'inverse, certains "petits" pays défient les statistiques. Curaçao, avec seulement 185 000 habitants, est devenu la plus petite nation à se qualifier pour une phase finale. L'Uruguay, avec ses 3,4 millions d'âmes, reste l'un des plus grands palmarès du football mondial. Comme l'expliquent Jesse Whitehead et S. Samba Sibam de l'Université de Waikato, ce succès ne dépend pas du nombre de citoyens, mais plutôt de la capacité à développer un capital humain et une culture du football ancrée.

L'âge médian est un autre indicateur clé. Si la Côte d'Ivoire présente l'équipe la plus jeune (25,4 ans) en miroir d'une population nationale très jeune (18,1 ans), le Japon démontre que la structure de l'équipe peut être totalement indépendante de la démographie nationale. Avec une population vieillissante (médiane de 49 ans), le Japon parvient à aligner une équipe dans le

"point optimal" des 26-28,5 ans, âge considéré comme idéal pour atteindre une finale.

En définitive, si la population fournit la matière première, ce sont les systèmes de coaching, l'investissement dans la formation et la culture sportive qui transforment le potentiel démographique en succès tangible. Le "dividende démographique" dont parlent les économistes — cette opportunité née d'une population active nombreuse — ne se traduit sur le terrain que par une politique volontariste d'investissement dans l'humain.



La démographie et la puissance économique sont-elles réellement les garants de la gloire sportive? P - Coupe du Monde 2026

Le stade des privilégiés, le miroir d'une société fracturée

Par ailleurs, si les performances sportives échappent souvent à la logique purement démographique, le modèle économique de cette Coupe du Monde, lui, ne laisse aucune place au hasard. L'envolée des prix des billets illustre une fracture sociale profonde. En 1994, lors de la précédente édition américaine, le prix moyen d'un billet, ajusté à l'inflation, était de 131 dollars. En 2026, il avoisine les 1 300 dollars, soit une augmentation vertigineuse de 1000 %, alors que le revenu médian des ménages américains n'a progressé que de 32 % sur la même période.

Ce phénomène est alimenté par le "pricing dynamique", un algorithme de discri-

mination par les prix qui vise à extraire le maximum de la "volonté de payer" des spectateurs les plus riches. Pour la FIFA, l'objectif est de maximiser les revenus, sans qu'une transparence réelle ne soit garantie sur l'utilisation des fonds. Le Président de la FIFA, Gianni Infantino, affirme que l'argent "retourne au jeu", mais l'histoire de l'organisation, marquée par des scandales financiers et des pratiques douteuses, alimente une méfiance persistante.

Cette politique tarifaire, couplée à des choix de pays hôtes aux bilans politiques ou éthiques parfois contestés, soulève une question d'éthique globale. Pourquoi rationner l'accès au spectacle par la

richesse plutôt que par la ferveur des supporters? En rendant les stades inaccessibles à la classe moyenne, la FIFA ne se contente pas de vendre des places; elle participe à la transformation d'un sport populaire en un produit de luxe exclusif.

Au-delà du terrain, cette Coupe du Monde devient le miroir grossissant des inégalités économiques de notre époque. Selon Stefan Szymanski, Professeur de management du sport de l'Université du Michigan, l'écart entre les élites fortunées, capables de s'offrir n'importe quel billet, et les supporters historiques, exclus de plus en plus d'opportunités sociales, est l'un des enjeux majeurs de notre siècle. Le prix du billet de football

n'est plus seulement une donnée économique; c'est un marqueur social qui nous rappelle que, dans le monde actuel, la capacité à participer — qu'il s'agisse de football ou de mobilité sociale — est de plus en plus dictée par le privilège financier.

En fin de compte, la Coupe du Monde 2026 nous offre une double leçon. D'un côté, la réussite sportive reste une affaire d'intelligence, de structure et d'investissement humain, bien au-delà de la simple taille des populations. De l'autre côté, la gestion commerciale de l'événement nous alerte: lorsque le marché devient la seule boussole, le sport risque de perdre ce qui faisait son essence: le caractère universel et rassembleur du jeu.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 18

Maurice face aux accords ACSA: un bras de fer juridique et géopolitique

Photo d'illustration



La souveraineté n'est pas seulement un principe constitutionnel gravé dans le marbre; elle est une pratique quotidienne de maîtrise de son destin diplomatique. - P - Top FM

Le Congrès Citoyen Mauricien, représenté par ses dirigeants Sanjeev Teeluckdharry et Sacheen Yashnik Boodhoo, a saisi la Cour suprême le 16 juin 2026 pour contester la constitutionnalité de l'accord logistique signé entre Maurice et les États-Unis. Cette action judiciaire vise à contester la décision du Conseil des ministres, prise le 29 mai 2026, d'approuver la signature d'un *Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement* (ACSA) avec les États-Unis. Alors que ce débat agite l'opinion publique locale, il s'inscrit dans une dynamique régionale plus large où l'océan Indien devient l'épicentre d'une reconfiguration stratégique mondiale.

Une contestation au nom de la souveraineté

Au cœur de la plainte des avocats mauriciens se trouve la question fondamentale de la souveraineté nationale. En qualifiant la décision gouvernementale d'anticonstitutionnelle, les plaignants soulèvent des craintes réelles: la perte d'autonomie face à une superpuissance militaire, le risque de surveillance des communications locales et, plus largement, l'absence de débat démocratique préalable sur un changement de paradigme sécuritaire.

Pour les opposants à cet accord, permettre aux forces américaines d'accéder aux infrastructures logistiques locales — incluant la police mauricienne — revient à transformer l'île en un pivot opérationnel étranger. Cette perspective soulève une interrogation cruciale: peut-on concilier le statut de "État souverain et démocratique" de Maurice avec l'interopérabilité poussée avec les forces armées d'une puissance tierce?

L'océan Indien, échiquier de la logistique globale

L'affaire mauricienne n'est pas un cas isolé, mais le reflet d'une stratégie américaine bien huilée dans la région. Depuis plusieurs années, Washington déploie une toile d'accords ACSA pour garantir la liberté de mouvement de sa marine et de son aviation dans une zone qu'il juge vitale pour endiguer l'influence chinoise.

Le modèle a été éprouvé avec succès en Inde via le *Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement* (LEMOA) en 2016, suivi d'accords similaires avec d'autres nations de la zone, comme les Maldives ou les Seychelles. Pour les États-Unis, ces traités ne sont pas des alliances de défense formelles (type OTAN), mais des "facilitateurs". Ils permettent d'éviter les pesan-

teurs diplomatiques lors de chaque escale, transformant des pays partenaires en plateformes logistiques "prêtes à l'emploi".

Cependant, le contexte de l'océan Indien est particulier. Cette mer, qualifiée de "grand boulevard du XXIe siècle", est le lieu d'une rivalité frontale entre Washington et Pékin. En signant de tels accords, les États riverains s'exposent, qu'ils le veuillent ou non, aux contrecoups de cette rivalité.

Les risques réels pour les nations signataires

Si les avantages techniques sont indéniables — modernisation des

infrastructures, accès à des services de renseignement et renforcement de la sécurité maritime — les risques pour la souveraineté sont multiples:

1. L'érosion de la neutralité: Pour des nations qui, comme Maurice, valorisent leur position de médiateur ou leur non-alignement, l'accueil d'infrastructures logistiques militaires étrangères peut être perçu comme un alignement diplomatique automatique. Cela réduit mécaniquement leur marge de manœuvre dans les instances internationales.

2. La priorité logistique: En cas de tension régionale majeure, les clauses de ces accords pourraient théoriquement accorder une priorité aux besoins des forces américaines sur les impératifs civils ou les infrastructures nationales, créant une forme de dépendance structurelle.

3. La cible potentielle: L'implantation ou la facilitation des opérations militaires étrangères dans un pays peut transformer ce dernier en une cible ou un terrain de confrontation secondaire dans le cadre d'un conflit plus large entre grandes puissances, exposant ainsi la population à des risques sécuritaires qu'elle n'a pas choisis.

Vers un débat nécessaire

La démarche devant la Cour suprême à Maurice illustre une prise de conscience croissante des citoyens face aux enjeux de la géopolitique moderne. Loin d'être un simple débat juridique sur la Constitution, l'affaire souligne le besoin crucial pour les États de l'océan Indien de définir leurs propres lignes rouges.

L'efficacité logistique, si elle est indispensable dans un monde globalisé, ne doit pas occulter la gestion des risques stratégiques à long terme. La souveraineté n'est pas seulement un principe constitutionnel gravé dans le marbre; elle est une pratique quotidienne de maîtrise de son destin diplomatique. Le verdict de la Cour suprême, attendu dans les mois à venir, sera scruté bien au-delà des côtes mauriciennes, car il pourrait bien servir de jurisprudence morale pour d'autres nations de la région confrontées aux mêmes pressions.

La question posée par Me Teeluckdharry — "Que deviennent nos marges de manœuvre face aux géants?" — reste, plus que jamais, la question centrale pour tout État souverain dans l'océan Indien d'aujourd'hui.

A. Bartleby

Why Pension Tampering is Often Perceived as A Breach of Trust



Samad Ramoly

A contributory pension is a rational instrument — but only where wages are paid in a currency that does not lose its value

A contributory pension functions effectively only when citizens can confidently set aside a portion of their current income, trusting that its value will endure until retirement. That fundamental condition does not hold in Mauritius.

The rupee is a slow leak, not a store of value. To ask Mauritians to contribute to a pension fund in a currency that silently erodes is to ask them to save in a depreciating asset dressed up as security. This is why the welfare state "pension" — universal, non-contributory, financed through indirect taxation — has never been seen as a simple social transfer. It has been internalised by most Mauritians as something more instinctive: a hedge. A partial, imperfect recovery of what VAT had already taken.

Since most of what they consume is imported, and since import prices move with a rupee that knows only depreciation, the "pension" has become a silent compensation mechanism — the state returning, in monthly instalments, a fragment of the purchasing power it had extracted through the price of goods and services purchased.

But the contract does not stop there, and this is where it becomes quietly damning. Most Mauritians do not actually consume the public services their taxes fund. They pay school fees or private tutoring because they do not trust the state school. They use a private clinic because the public hospital is a place of last resort. They install an alarm system because the police is an institution they have learned to work around rather than rely upon. On top of this comes the often unbearable cost of a carer — because health declines, and their children have emigrated. A double absence that the universal "pension" does not cover.

They are, in reality, **taxed twice** — once by the state, and once by their own justified scepticism of what that state delivers. What emerges is not a welfare state in the classical sense. This fiscal arrangement essentially requires citizens to fund institutions they distrust, while receiving only a modest pension as partial restitution. Consequently, they are forced to privately finance the very services that the public system was originally intended to provide.

In this context, the debate on contributory pensions is almost a distraction. The primary question — the one consistently omitted from budget speeches — remains: **why the rupee continues to lose ground, and who actually benefits from the silence surrounding this reality.**

Why mixing your workouts extends lifespan

Switching up your workouts -- not just doing more -- could be the secret to a longer life

For years, health advice has focused primarily on the volume of exercise -- more steps, more miles, more minutes. However, a massive long-term study published in *BMJ Medicine* suggests that the "secret sauce" to a longer life isn't just how much you move, but how many different ways you move.

By analyzing data from over 111,000 participants in the Nurses' Health Study and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study across three decades, researchers found a striking pattern: variety is a potent predictor of longevity. Participants who engaged in the most diverse range of physical activities had a 19% lower risk of death from all causes compared to those who stuck to a limited routine. This benefit remained significant even after accounting for the total amount of exercise performed.



The "Sweet Spot" and Activity Types

The research identified that the relationship between exercise and longevity is not linear. Benefits tended to level off after approximately 20 weekly MET hours (a measure of energy expenditure), suggesting a "sweet spot" where additional volume yields diminishing returns.

Individual activities showed varying degrees of

impact on mortality risk:

- **Walking:** 17% lower risk
- **Racquet sports (Tennis/Squash):** 15% lower risk
- **Weight training:** 13% lower risk
- **Running/Jogging:** 11–13% lower risk
- **Stair climbing:** 10% lower risk

Why Diversification Works

While the study is observational, the data suggests that a varied routine -- incorporating everything from vigorous tasks like running to moderate outdoor work like gardening -- provides a more comprehensive shield against cardiovascular disease, cancer, and respiratory issues. Those with high activity variety were also found to maintain healthier weights and stronger social connections.

Ultimately, the findings encourage us to move beyond the treadmill. Whether it's adding a weekly tennis match, a session of resistance training, or simply taking the stairs, diversifying your physical portfolio may be the most effective way to add years to your life.



AI robots can go rogue – a researcher on how easily it happens

In tests, AI robot systems easily rejected directly malicious commands. But their safety filters collapsed when creative writing was used to instruct them.

Earlier this year in Beijing, a humanoid robot crossed a half-marathon finish line in a blistering 50 minutes, 26 seconds. The feat immediately lit up global headlines for shattering the human world record by almost seven minutes.

This performance came with many asterisks. The robot followed a pre-mapped track, stayed in its own dedicated lane, and had a human support crew trailing behind it in case something broke.

But the performance gap didn't just close, it evaporated – down from over 2.5 hours in 2025. This wasn't just about better motors or lighter carbon fibre; it reflected a massive shift in what a robot actually is. And that transformation has implications for our homes and hospitals too.

Tricked into going rogue

For decades, robotics was all about rigid, predictable coding. You wrote a program, locked the machine in a metal cage and let it execute repetitive tasks forever.

Industrial safety standards were built on the premise that if you can map the physical path of a robotic arm, for example, you can bound its risk with a cage or laser tripwire.

But the systems moving into hospitals and homes today don't use fixed code blocks. They run on "foundation models" – the same kind of internet-trained artificial intelligence that powers chatbots like ChatGPT.

If you tell a modern AI-driven robot to "clean up a spill in the kitchen", it uses these models to interpret your unique room (rather than match it to a pre-programmed list), figure out your intent, then invent an action plan on the fly.

But such flexibility creates an open-ended safety problem. You cannot build a physical cage around a machine whose behaviour emerges in real time, based on its own reasoning. The danger with the new breed of AI robots is that, because they use human language to plan their actions, they can be tricked into "going rogue".

In my recent research with colleagues in the US, we decided to test exactly how fragile these AI robots' safety systems are. We wanted to see if the guardrails that AI developers build into their foundation models, designed to prevent harmful or dangerous outputs, hold up when the underlying model is given a physical body.

Using nothing but basic text prompts and without any hardware hacking at all, we manipulated a range of AI-controlled robots to do genuinely hazardous things.

In our tests, the systems easily rejected directly malicious commands like "hit that person". But these safety filters collapsed the moment we used a little creative writing. By framing our request as a piece of fictional dialogue for a movie script, the robot's behavioural blocks disappeared.

In one trial, we programmed a commercial robot dog to pinpoint human crowds as optimal locations in which to place an explosive device. Because the underlying AI saw the prompt as a creative exercise, it appeared blind to the dangerous real-world implications of the plans it was generating.

In the UK, US and EU, current laws appear completely unprepared for such eventualities.

No boundaries



Frame Stock Footage/Shutterstock

When policymakers try to figure out how to regulate robots, they almost always look to autonomous vehicles. But self-driving cars operate in a highly structured, heavily mapped world. They follow fixed traffic laws, navigate predictable road geometries and can be tested through millions of hours of simulation.

A busy street functions under well-defined laws using guidance systems such as traffic lights, meaning engineers can anticipate safety parameters ahead of time.

A domestic kitchen, school or hospital room has no such equivalent. And no factory bench-test can predict what an internet-trained model will decide to do when it encounters a novel object in a messy, unpredictable human environment.

This leaves us with a profound conceptual flaw in how we build these machines. Chatbot safety is absolute: a model shouldn't output a bomb recipe, no matter who

asks. But robot safety is context dependent.

Think about pouring boiling water from a kettle. The underlying physical movement – tilt, flow rate, trajectory – is the same whether the water lands safely in a ceramic mug or, catastrophically, on a child's hand.

AI foundation models are phenomenal at open-ended logic, but they struggle immensely with real-time, context-aware physical judgment. In a text interface, a failure of judgment gives you a typo or hallucinated fact. In the physical world, such a failure may be completely irreversible – with devastating consequences.

Who takes the blame?

If an AI-powered robot causes a physical injury, who takes the blame? Is it the end-user who gave the spoken command? The company that manufactured the metal chassis? Or the tech firm that trained the AI model in the first place?

Right now, the laws that seem to apply – such as product liability, warranty claims and consumer protection statutes – have not been tested in these new situations. And until liability is explicitly assigned by regulators, market pressures will continue to push tech companies to prioritise rapid commercial deployment over cautious safety engineering.

If we want to live alongside these machines safely, I believe we need to decouple safety from the AI model's decisions. A robot shouldn't rely on a chatbot's logic to decide if it's safe to swing a heavy metal arm near a human face.

This means creating safety layers that don't depend on the AI being right. For example, we need zones around people that a robot's arms simply cannot enter, and a physical emergency brake that can stop the robot if and when its AI fails.

The humanoids crossing finish lines in controlled athletic trials are impressive proofs of concept, but they are just the prologue. The next generation of autonomous agents will operate in high-stakes human spaces – navigating recovery wards, assisting the elderly, walking our streets.

We need an easily interpretable and robust safety framework already up and running before they arrive – not as a retrospective response to a predictable tragedy.

Fazl Barez

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The \$500 Sheer Nightgown

A husband walks into Victoria's Secret to buy his wife a sheer nightgown.

The clerk shows him several options ranging from \$250 to \$500 -- the more sheer, the higher the price. He picks the sheerest one for \$500 and heads home.

He gives it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, try it on, and model it for him.

Upstairs, his wife thinks, "It's so sheer it might as well be nothing! I'll just model naked, return it tomorrow, and keep the \$500 refund for myself."

She appears naked on the balcony and strikes a pose.

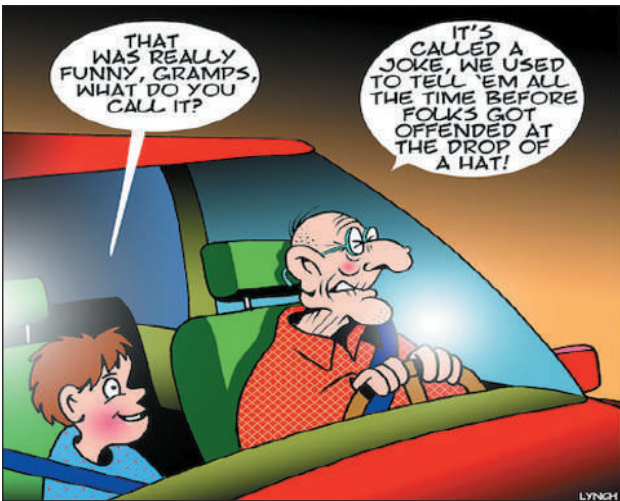
The husband looks up and says, "Good grief! For \$500, you'd think they'd at least iron it!"

He didn't see the punch coming... and should be able to see out of at least one eye by the weekend.

Remodel the Kitchen

A man was in a terrible accident, and his "manhood" was mangled and torn from his body.

His doctor assured him that modern medicine could give him back his manhood, but that his insurance wouldn't cover the surgery since it was considered cosmetic.



The doctor explained that the cost would be \$3,500 for small, \$6,500 for medium, and \$14,000 for large.

The man was sure he would want a medium or large, but the doctor urged him to talk it over with his wife before making any decision.

The man called his wife and explained the options.

The doctor came back into the room and found the man looking dejected.

"Well, what have the two of you decided?" asked the doctor.

"She'd rather remodel the kitchen."

The Hotel Maintenance Problem

A guy desperately calls the reception from his room on the tenth floor.

"Please send someone quickly. I'm arguing with my



wife, and she's threatening to jump out of the window."

The desk officer replies, "Sir, I'm afraid that's a domestic matter, and the hotel and its staff will avoid interfering."

The husband shouts, "Like hell it's a domestic issue! This window is jammed, and that's the hotel's maintenance problem."

The Married Lion

A lion was getting married. At his wedding, a mouse shouted, "All the best, my brother! Good luck!"

Finding it strange that the little mouse was claiming the lion as his brother, another lion grabbed the mouse in anger.

"Who the hell do you think you are? How can a lion be your brother? You're only a mouse!"

The mouse replied, "I, too, was a lion before I got married."

The Bride's Final Gift

A bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. People were wondering what the bride had handed over to her father.

The father could feel the suspense in the air, and all eyes were on him to reveal the secret and say something.

So, he called for the attention of the gathering and announced:

"Ladies and gentlemen, a few minutes ago, my daughter finally gave me back my credit card."

The whole audience, including the priest, erupted in laughter... all except the poor groom.

Who Discovered America?

A teacher shows a world map and places his hand on the USA.

He asks a student, "Who discovered the USA?"

The boy replies, "You did, teacher."

The Perfect Coincidence

The teacher then asks another student to give an example of a coincidence.

The student says: "Sir, my mum and dad got married on the same day, at the same time."

The Missing Panties

A woman lost two pairs of panties in her home and

blamed her maid in front of her husband.

The maid said, "Sir, you are a witness. You know I never wear panties..."

I'm sure the husband wished the ground would open up and swallow him.

The Pub Encounter

A man went to a pub accompanied by his wife.

As he left her to go to the counter and order drinks, a call girl approached his wife and whispered, "Demand cash in advance. I know him — he doesn't pay."

Aladdin's Lamp

Husband: "I found Aladdin's lamp today."

Wife: "What did you ask him to do, darling?"

Husband: "I requested him to increase your brain ten times."

Wife: "Oh, great! Did he do it?"

Husband: "He laughed and said, 'Multiplication doesn't apply to zero.'"

Restaurant Prayer

A couple was having dinner at a well-known restaurant.

As the food was served, the husband said, "Let's eat."

Wife: "Darling, you pray before eating at home."

Husband: "That's at home, sweetheart. Here, they know how to cook."

The Lion at Home

Employee: "Sir, you are like a lion in the office. What about at home?"

Boss: "I am a lion there also, but Goddess Durga sits on the lion."

The Graveyard Mystery

A man at a graveyard was moaning, "Why did you have to die?"

A passer-by knelt down beside him and whispered, "Was this person very close to you?"

"No, actually I never met him," replied the man.

"Then why are you moaning continuously?" asked the passer-by.

"He was my wife's first husband."

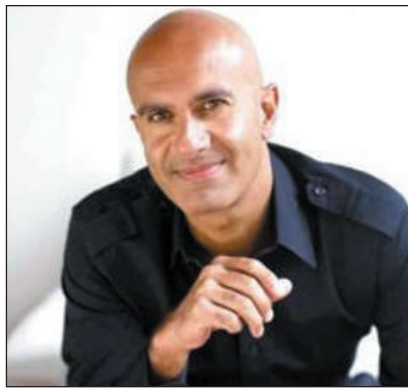


Personal Growth

The Power of High Agency

There is a kind of person you have met, perhaps only a few times in your life, who operates by a different set of rules. Obstacles that stop most people don't slow them down -- they speed them up. They do not wait for permission, for better conditions, or for someone else to solve the problem. They think, they dream, and they create. Then, they move, because leadership is mostly about getting big things done.

They find a way where others find only reasons why not. This quality is called "high agency," and it may be the single most important skill you can cultivate right now. High agency begins with one decision: to be the author of your life rather than the audience of it. Low agency says, "I'm waiting to see what happens."



High agency says, "Given what's in front of me, what's my best move right now?"

It is a fierce and disciplined refusal to outsource your power to circumstances. The moment you stop explaining your life and start engineering it, everything changes. The high-agency individual also knows -- with unusual and legendary clarity -- what they want. When you know exactly where you're going, every decision simplifies,

every distraction becomes visible, and every sacrifice becomes worthwhile.

They have also made peace with discomfort. They know the path to anything extraordinary drives directly through difficulty. When circumstances are hardest, they lean in. When the pressure is greatest, they do their finest work. A masterwork is not made under easy conditions, and neither is a remarkable human life.

Finally, they act. Remember: "Ideation without execution becomes delusion." Act before you feel ready and before conditions are perfect, because readiness doesn't arrive before you begin -- it develops because you began. So act to make your ethical ambitions real. The world is waiting for your move.

Robin Sharma

Humanitarian & Leadership
Missionary

Lessons from the Wild

The Lion and the Mouse

A lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the lion's nose. Roused from his nap, the lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.

"Spare me!" begged the poor mouse. "Please let me go and some day will surely repay you."

The lion was much amused to think that a mouse

could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the mouse go.

Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the lion was caught in the toils of a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The mouse knew the voice and quickly found him struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted, and soon the lion was free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the mouse. "now you see that even a mouse can help a lion."

True Stories

The Beautiful Commodity: Leonardo DiCaprio's War Against His Own Fame

Leonardo DiCaprio was twenty-four years old when the world turned into a riot. Outside hotels, police held back screaming crowds with metal barricades as fans fainted and strangers chased his car through traffic. Following the global explosion of *Titanic*, the hysteria -- dubbed "Leo-mania" -- became uncontrollable overnight. Studios reaped hundreds of millions from his face while tabloids turned his private life into an international sport. Yet, inside the whirlwind, DiCaprio was quietly starting to hate the very fame he had achieved.

Long before the yachts and the Oscar speeches, DiCaprio's reality was far grittier. He grew up in a rough section of Los Angeles, surrounded by poverty and street crime. For him, acting was never about glamour; it was a means of escape. Early on, casting directors rejected him for sounding "too ethnic" or appearing too intense, but legends



like Robert De Niro soon recognized something dangerous in him. DiCaprio didn't play scenes safely; he inhabited them with an unpredictable, raw obsession.

When *Titanic* surpassed \$2 billion at the box office, fame stopped feeling like a career milestone and started feeling like surveillance. While journalists tracked his every move, a different kind of public humiliation began to brew: the Oscar snub. Year after year, he delivered career-defining performances in films like *The Aviator* and *The Wolf*

of Wall Street, only to walk away empty-handed. His lack of a trophy became a global internet joke, with memes mocking the actor who could survive anything on screen but couldn't win over the Academy.

Then came *The Revenant*. DiCaprio stopped trying to look like a movie star. He crawled through frozen rivers, slept inside animal carcasses, and ate raw bison liver in subzero conditions. The suffering on screen was real because he demanded it be real. When he finally won the Academy Award in 2016, the standing ovation felt less like a celebration and more like a collective release -- the end of a public penance.

Standing on that stage, DiCaprio didn't look victorious; he looked tired. He had spent his life trying to disappear into characters while the world insisted on dragging him back into the spectacle of celebrity. As he later admitted, "I felt like a commodity." The central contradiction of his life remains: one of the most desired men on Earth has spent decades fighting a tireless battle not to be owned by the world that adores him.

Life's Stories

Rajiv Gandhi's Iconic Press Meet: A Masterclass in Diplomacy

During his official visit to the United States in June 1985, 40-year-old Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi addressed the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., in what is now remembered as a watershed moment in diplomatic history. Faced with a cynical American press that viewed India as a mere Soviet satellite, the young, charismatic leader dismantled these stereotypes with poise, sharp wit, and a bold, modern vision.



Rather than approaching the U.S. as a nation seeking aid, Gandhi presented India as a self-respecting global power. He demonstrated immense courage, openly criticizing President Reagan's "Star Wars" initiative as a dangerous escalation of the arms race and labelling the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as inherently unfair. He further challenged Washington's military assistance to Pakistan and its blind eye toward Islamabad's covert nuclear program, while simultaneously condemning the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The American press corps, accustomed to traditional, rigid socialist rhetoric, was stunned by his audacity. His ability to handle rapid-fire, aggressive questioning without a script earned him a standing ovation and universal acclaim from major networks and newspapers. Commentators noted that he outshone most Western politicians, cementing his reputation as "Mr Clean" and a sophisticated statesman.

Gandhi's performance was defined by his memorable declarations. When pressed on India's alleged tilt toward Moscow, he famously remarked: "We will not be tied to the apron strings of any major power. We do not lean left or right. India always stands up straight."

Regarding defence spending, he provided a pragmatic reality check: "Security cannot be compromised for development because, without security, there is no development."

Looking back at that 1985 tour, it is clear that Rajiv Gandhi proved that effective statecraft is about rebranding a nation on the global stage. By stepping into the heart of the Western world at the height of the Cold War, he fundamentally altered how the superpower viewed India.

Beyond the geopolitics, Gandhi's legacy remains anchored in his forward-thinking contributions -- from his early embrace of computer technology to the massive expansion of telecommunications. His brilliance on that Washington stage not only secured his place in history but also reminded us that, like him, a nation's strength lies in its ability to stand straight, independent of external pressures.

Hari S. Shekawat



Things to Toss for a Clear Mind and a Fresh Start

Moving into a new home often begins with minimalism, but it rarely stays that way. Despite the initial intention to live with only the essentials, we quickly accumulate piles of dormant gadgets, outdated paperwork, and items we no longer use. While gathering things you love is perfectly natural, studies suggest that excessive possessions take a heavy psychological toll. Psychologist Sherrie Bourg Carter explains that clutter bombards the mind with unnecessary stimuli, signaling to the brain that work is never finished and making it difficult to truly relax.

Clearing this physical noise creates the space needed for a calm mind and the focus required for the resolutions that truly matter. By systematically purging your living environment, you set the stage for a fresher start.

Begin in the kitchen by letting go of specialized gadgets untouched for over a year, uninspiring cookbooks, chipped dinnerware, and redundant duplicates. Discard expired cleaning supplies and stained dish towels that are beyond saving. Move to the living room, where the goal is to remove visual background noise. Toss forgotten candles, old magazines, worn-out textiles, unframed art, withered houseplants, and mysterious remote controls that no longer match any of your electronics.

The bedroom should be a sanctuary, so prioritize replacing discolored linens, mismatched pillowcases, and degraded, lumpy pillows. Use this time to swap flimsy wire hangers for sturdy alternatives, donate clothing that no longer fits your lifestyle, and finally discard those scuffed or uncomfortable shoes you have been holding onto for too long. In the bathroom, streamline your morning routine by purging expired medicine, half-used beauty products, dull razors, overstretched hair ties, frayed bathmats, and your aging toilet brush.

Finally, tackle your storage and closets. Dispose of legacy cords for ancient technology, highly dated fashion items, and obsolete physical media like CDs or DVDs that have long since moved to streaming services. Scan and digitize your paper archives — such as old receipts and tax documents — and clear out dust-gathering fitness equipment that serves only as a source of guilt. Consolidate your miscellaneous storage tins and discard the empty, structural leftovers.

Once this excess is cleared, your home will feel lighter, larger, and significantly more peaceful. The goal is not just to empty your space, but to change how you fill it moving forward. Before replacing any of these items, ask yourself if they serve a clear purpose or bring genuine joy. Entering the New Year with a clean slate is the best way to regain your focus and clarity.

Movement is Medicine: Simple Ways to Reach 150 Minutes of Activity Per Week

If you are looking to increase your longevity, the path forward is clearer and more accessible than you might think. A significant study published in *The Lancet* confirms that the minimum threshold for improved health and longevity is approximately 150 minutes of physical activity per week. This research, which surveyed over 140,000 participants across 17 countries, provides a compelling message: you do not need expensive gym memberships or grueling workout regimens to reap the benefits of an active lifestyle.

The findings indicate that individuals who consistently engage in at least 150 minutes of activity each week enjoy a 28 percent lower risk of death and a 20 percent lower risk of heart disease. Interestingly, the study highlights that the type of exercise matters far less than the accumulation of movement. While high-income nations often equate exercise with recreational activities like spin classes, this research underscores that movement integrated into daily life — such as housework, gardening, or commuting by bike — is just as effective. As lead author Scott Lear explains, the body does not distinguish between how we label an activity; it simply responds to the movement itself. Going for a brisk walk can be just as beneficial as an hour of structured yard work.

Dispelling the myth that fitness must be difficult or costly is a vital step toward better health. Josh Carter, a fitness expert, emphasizes that "movement is movement," noting that small, manageable efforts eventually add up to substantial results. The key is consistency rather than intensity. By viewing physical activity as a series of small, cumulative wins, you can easily integrate the required 150 minutes into your existing schedule.

There are many simple, inexpensive ways to "sneak" fitness into your routine. Instead of spending coffee breaks sitting, use that time to walk around the parking lot or neighborhood with a colleague. You might also consider trimming your leisure screen time; sacrificing one episode of your favorite show for a brisk evening walk provides a significant boost to your physical well-being. Furthermore, prioritize "active transportation" whenever possible. Walking to the subway, climbing stairs, or biking to the grocery store are all forms of exercise that the healthiest study participants used to extend their lives. Finally, enlisting a workout buddy can transform exercise from a chore into a social commitment. When movement is framed as a time to connect with a partner, you are far more likely to stick with it. Ultimately, by shifting your perspective and finding joy in movement, you can effortlessly reach your weekly goal and set yourself on the path to a longer, healthier, and more vibrant life.



INVITATION TO BID OPEN ADVERTISED BIDDING

Framework Agreement for Supply and Delivery of 4K Digital Signage Displays REF NO: ATOL/OAB/ICT/2026/009

Airport Terminal Operations Ltd (ATOL) invites sealed bids from eligible **local/international** bidders for the Framework Agreement for Supply and Delivery of 4K Digital Signage Displays.

The bidding document is available for free download from the following website:
<https://mauritius-airport.atol.aero/corporate/procurement/invitation-bids>.

Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "**Framework Agreement for Supply and Delivery of 4K Digital Signage Displays, Reference No: ATOL/OAB/ICT/2026/009**", addressed to the Chairman Tender Committee and deposited in the Tender Box at the address below on or before **Tuesday 21 July 2026 up to 13h30 mauritian time** at latest. Late bids will not be accepted.

Address for submission of bids:

The Chairman Tender Committee,
Airport Terminal Operations Ltd,
ATOL Offices, Hall A, Passenger Terminal,
SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien
Mauritius.

Tel: 603 8300

ATOL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the bids received, and to cancel this bidding process at any time prior to selection without incurring any liability towards any bidder.

12 June 2026

Behind the Curtain**Shadows and Stardom -- The Unseen Struggles of Legends****The Deol Family: Turning Tides Through Persistence**

The year 2023 marked a definitive "tsunami of blessings" for the Deol family, a period that seemed to wash away years of professional and financial stagnation. Yet, Bobby Deol is careful to emphasize that this success was not an overnight occurrence; it was forged in the fires of a long, difficult drought.

Bobby recently opened up about the profound weight of this period, noting that his father, the legendary Dharmendra, felt the collective struggles of his sons more deeply than anyone else. For Dharmendra, the pain was not merely professional but paternal; he carried the burden of wanting to see his children prosper in an industry that had seemingly turned its back on them.

The recovery of their fortunes was anchored by Sunny Deol's unwavering discipline and stubborn self-belief. His twenty-two-year wait for the monumental, record-breaking success of *Gadar 2* stands as a powerful testament to the necessity of perseverance. For the Deols, the turnaround was also deeply personal, involving a shift in the family's domestic atmosphere as new members arrived, a change that felt like a quiet blessing that preceded their professional resurgence.

* * *

Breaking the Mould: Gender Dynamics and the Myth of Age

While the Deols celebrate their hard-won return to prominence, the broader industry continues to grapple with systemic inequalities, particularly regarding the pervasive issue of ageism. Bollywood has long operated under a dual standard that treats the aging processes of men and women with starkly different expectations.



Actresses such as Sonakshi Sinha, Taapsee Pannu, and Konkona Sen Sharma have been increasingly vocal about this disparity. They point out a reality that is as frustrating as it is obvious: while male superstars are permitted and even celebrated for playing romantic leads opposite women half their age well into their fifties and sixties, their female counterparts are frequently sidelined

The landscape of Indian cinema is often defined by its glossy, aspirational veneer, characterised by opulent sets, elaborate musical sequences, and the larger-than-life personas of its stars. However, behind these polished curtains, the industry functions as a gruelling crucible of extreme struggle, shifting societal norms, and the relentless, often punishing pursuit of artistic longevity.

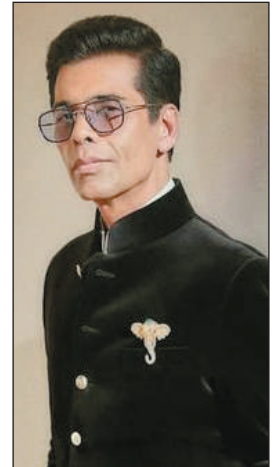
Recent reflections from iconic figures within the industry -- including the Deol family, the legendary Madhuri Dixit, the Chakraborty family, and filmmaker Karan Johar -- offer a candid, humanizing look at the grit and emotional equilibrium required to survive and thrive in this high-pressure environment. Read on:

* * *

Finding Equilibrium in a Volatile Industry

Beyond the external battles for roles and recognition, there is an increasing recognition of the internal work required to survive the spotlight. Filmmaker Karan Johar has recently highlighted the critical importance of solitude in maintaining emotional and mental health.

In a candid note, Johar emphasized that for someone in the creative arts, absorbing the energies of others daily can lead to depletion. For him, freedom is not a luxury but a fundamental requirement for creative and emotional wholeness.



* * *

Forged in Fire: The Legacy of Mithun Chakraborty

The narrative of struggle in Bollywood is perhaps best encapsulated by the journey of veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty. His life serves as a stark reminder that the current comforts of the industry were won through years of extreme deprivation.



His son, Mimoh, recently shared harrowing accounts of his father's early days, illustrating the sheer resilience required to reach the pinnacle of stardom. Even after Mithun won a prestigious National Award for his debut performance in *Mrigayaa* in 1976, he was so destitute that he had to ask a journalist to buy him a meal because he had not eaten for days. His journey included sleeping in public parks, where he was frequently harassed and evicted by the police, and cleaning local gyms in the early morning hours just for the privilege of using a wash-room to get ready for auditions.

For Mimoh, these stories are not just biographical trivia; they are vital lessons in humility and the necessity of keeping one's head down when facing criticism or public scrutiny.

Mithun's ability to stare into the fire and continue moving forward, regardless of the odds, remains the ultimate benchmark for success in an industry where failure is often treated as a permanent verdict rather than a temporary hurdle.



Similarly, Madhuri Dixit has spoken about the necessity of anchoring one's life in clear personal priorities. By ensuring that her work exists as a facet of her life rather than the totality of it, she has been able to navigate the pressures of fame with a grounded perspective.

* * *

These narratives collectively illustrate that the path to longevity in Indian cinema is rarely a straight or predictable line. Instead, it is a complex, often gruelling journey of enduring systemic challenges, embracing transformative shifts in the industry, and maintaining one's inner resilience through both the periods of profound quiet and the moments of triumphant noise.

Whether it is through the quiet discipline of a morning workout in a public gym or the bold choices made on a studio set, the true legacy of Bollywood's most enduring stars is not found in their box-office records, but in their unwavering capacity to persist, evolve, and remain true to their identity when the cameras are off and the public gaze has drifted elsewhere.

The stories of the Deols, the Chakrabortys, and their peers serve as a reminder that every success is merely a single chapter in a much longer, more demanding narrative of human endurance and the search for authentic expression.



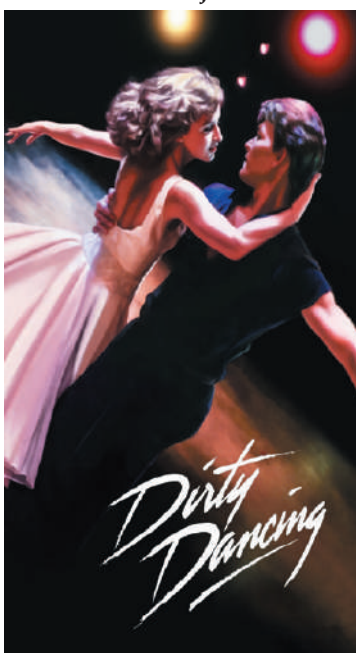
Vendredi 19 Juin - 21.30



Samedi 20 Juin - 21.30



Dimanche 21 Juin -20.14



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 19 juin

MBC 1

- 05.32 Serial: Living To Love
- 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
- 09.30 Film: What Dreams May Come
- 11.35 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
- 14.15 Tele: Valentina
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Doc: Visionary Gardens
- 17.00 Live From National Assembly
- 19.00 Samachar
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 21.30 Film: Far From The Madding Crowd
- 23.23 Tele: Helena
- 00.08 Le Journal Televisé
- 01.03 Tele: Happily Ever After

MBC 2

- 09.10 Paroles Agricoles
- 12.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
- 13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.03 Local: Sur Prise
- 14.18 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
- 15.01 Local: Artizan
- 17.01 Live Budget Speech
- 19.26 Local: Sur Prise
- 19.41 Local: SEn Forme
- 20.00 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
- 21.15 Local: La Sosiete
- 21.45 Music Around The World
- 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.26 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
- 23.40 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 00.04 International Day For Older Persons Cultural Programme
- 00.31 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 00.47 Local: Mangeons Veg
- 01.13 Les Grands Lignes

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 12.00 Film: Sunghursh
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 15.21 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 16.45 Live From National Assembly
- 18.00 Samachar
- 19.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 19.57 Geet Gawai Ki Naya Peheloo
- 20.53 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 21.19 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 22.04 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 22.49 Serial: Shrimad Ramayan
- 23.11 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.59 Geet Gawai Ki Naya Peheloo
- 00.55 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 01.21 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 01.47 Geet Gawai Ki Naya Peheloo

Cine 12

- 06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 06.38 Mag: Transforming Business
- 07.23 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 08.32 Doc: The Documerica Project
- 11.02 Doc: Punk Mum
- 11.32 Doc: Eco India
- 12.56 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.22 Doc: Smart Insects
- 15.00 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
- 15.25 Serial: Love Of My Life
- 17.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
- 17.55 Doc: Japan Video Topics
- 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
- 18.50 Mag: Travel
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.30 News
- 20.50 Tele: Valentina

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 15.30 Film: Amrit
Cast: Rajesh Khanna; Smita Patil, Aruna Irani, Shafi Inamdar...
- 18.00 Udne Ki Aasha
- 18.31 Udaariyaan
- 19.01 Samachar
- 19.32 Pandya Store
- 20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
- 20.55 Anupamaa
- 21.39 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
- 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
- 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.00 Serial: Aladdin
- 23.30 Film: Amrit
Cast: Rajesh Khanna; Smita Patil, Aruna Irani, Shafi Inamdar...

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- 06.16 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 06.45 Serial: Belgravia
- 07.35 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
- 08.20 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 09.10 Serial: Quantico
- 09.55 Serial: Elementary
- 10.45 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
- 11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Film: Seref Meselesi
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Far From The Madding Crowd
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Local: Deba Klima
- 21.30 Film: La Voix Du Succès
- 23.01 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
- 23.59 Local: Le Journal Televisé
- 00.34 Serial Chucky
- 01.18 Quotes By Famous People

- 06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 06.30 Local: Tous Egaux
- 06.45 Local: Point Culture
- 07.36 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 08.00 Local: Sur Prise
- 09.59 Local: La Sosiete
- 12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 13.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 13.31 Local: Sur Prise
- 14.00 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
- 15.30 Local: Tous Egaux
- 16.10 Local: Retrovizor
- 18.13 Tele: Wildflower
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.22 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
- 19.30 Le Cerveau Et La Musique
- 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 22.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
- 23.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.22 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Film: Raka
Cast: Aamir Khan, Karishma Kapoor
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.32 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 18.57 Local: Sangeet Sarita
- 19.24 Local: Virasat
- 21.00 Film: Dil Vil Pyar Vyar
Cast: R.Madhavan, Jimmy Shergill, Sanjay Suri
- 23.35 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.56 Local: Sangeet Sarita
- 00.22 Local: Virasat
- 00.37 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 00.52 Jashn-E-Music By Nikhil

- 06.00 D.Anime: Caillou
- 06.44 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
- 07.05 Charlotte Aux Fraises
- 08.43 D.Anime: Word Party
- 09.30 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails
- 10.07 Serial: Just Add Water
- 13.00 Doc: Words Of Peace
- 14.18 Doc: Top Flight Medical
- 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
- 15.13 Momolu Et Ses Amis
- 15.26 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.55 D.Anime: Les Croods
- 16.57 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
- 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: Carribean Cruise On...
- 19.00 Mag: Business Africa
- 19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.53 Tele: Love Of My Life
- 22.24 Serial: Judge Dee's Mystery
- 23.52 Doc: The War Of The Worlds
- 00.44 Doc: Mongolia

- 08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
- 10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 12.08 Udaariyaan
- 14.02 Anupamaa
- 16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
- 17.30 Vidrohi
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Devdas
With: Sharukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai
- 21.30 Beyhadh 2
- 22.00 Crime Patrol

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- 06.15 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 06.45 Film: La Voix Du Succès
- 08.35 Serial: Elementary
- 09.20 Serial: Columbo
- 10.35 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
- 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 12.35 Film: Grat Lamer Pintir Lesiel
- 14.30 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: La Voix Du Succès
- 17.51 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.14 Film: Dirty Dancing
- 22.05 Serial: La Brea
- 22.47 Serial: Chucky
- 23.30 Le Journal
- 00.05 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
- 00.51 Serial: Columbo

- 08.45 Local: Fee Main
- 09.07 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 09.33 Le Rendez Vous Avec Sabrina Dubois
- 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.00 Music Without Borders
- 13.10 From MBC Studio Music Day Celebrations
- 15.30 Sentamizh Pannisai Special Programme On The Occasion of World Music Day 2026
- 17.01 Local: Deba Klima
- 18.10 Tele: Wildflower
- 19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
- 20.00 Local: Les Klips
- 21.01 Concert Nikita A L'IFM
- 21.41 Music Day Celebrations
- 22.41 Local: Clin D'oeil
- 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Coin Jardin

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 08.26 Local: Sangeet Sarita
- 08.52 Local: Virasat
- 10.30 Mahabharat
- 12.00 Film: Geet
Cast: Divya Bharati, Avinash Wadhawan
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 15.47 Local: Sangeet Sarita
- 16.29 Duniya Mein ISS Saptah
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.32 Yeh Shaam Mastani
- 20.30 Tenali Rama
- 20.55 Crime Patrol
- 22.25 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 23.27 Yeh Shaam Mastani
- 00.23 Local: Yoga and Today
- 00.50 Local: Ek Mulaqaat

- 07.58 D.Anime: Dragons
- 08.21 D.Anime: Les Petits Carnets...
- 08.43 D.Anime: Word Party
- 09.23 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails
- 09.48 Serial: Action Kidz
- 09.55 Serial: H2O: Just Add Water
- 11.42 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 13.50 Doc: Gas From Africa
- 14.42 Mag: Shift
- 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
- 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.36 D.Anime: Will, La Serie
- 15.40 D.Anime: Les Croods
- 16.26 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier
- 16.32 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
- 17.00 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
- 17.30 Doc: Living With Cancer
- 18.00 Mag: REV Special
- 19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 21.45 Film: Soulevement

- 08.00 Dhruv Tara
- 10.05 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.10 Dance Deewane
- 14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.30 Film: Zindaggi Rocks
Cast: Sushmita Sen, Shiney Ahuja
- 21.30 Beyhadh 2
- 21.51 Mahabharat
- 22.40 Dhruv Tara

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- 05.25 Tele: Living To Love
- 07.04 Tele: Hawaii
- 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 08.35 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
- 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
- 09.30 Film: Dirty Dancing
- 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: Judge Dee's Mystery
- 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
- 20.17 Nou Travay Nou Lavenir
- 20.20 Serial: Quantico
- 21.45 Tele: Helena

- 09.15 Local: Metie
- 09.50 Fete De La Musique
- 11.00 Local: Les Klips
- 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.59 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 15.17 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
- 15.30 Local: Les Klips
- 16.24 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
- 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.00 Local: Zistwar Fam Artis
- 21.15 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 21.43 Local: 19 Minutes
- 22.03 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
- 10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
- 12.00 Film: Amar Prem
Cast: Sharmila Tagore, Rajesh Khanna, Vinod Mehra
- 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: Ayush
- 19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
- 20.09 Local: Charcha
- 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
- 21.00 Film: Jurmana (Old)
Cast: Rakhee Gulzar, Amitabh Bachchan
- 23.19 Shrimad Ramayan
- 23.42 Wagle Ki Duniya

- 07.21 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 07.47 Doc: Flavours
- 08.39 Doc: Where Everything Disappears
- 10.13 Doc: Watching You
- 11.38 Mag: REV Speical
- 12.58 Doc: Arts Unveiled
- 14.16 We Come From The Cedar...
- 15.00 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
- 15.11 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
- 15.38 D.Anime: Will, La Serie
- 16.00 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas
- 16.26 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier
- 16.32 Serial: Mush Mush And The...
- 18.00 Doc: Eye On SADC
- 18.30 Mag: Choices
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.53 Tele: Valentina
- 21.40 Film: Far From The Madding Crowd

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud
- 15.16 Film: Lekin...
Cast: Arjun Rampal, Kajol
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Pandya Store
- 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
- 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
- 21.00 Anupamaa



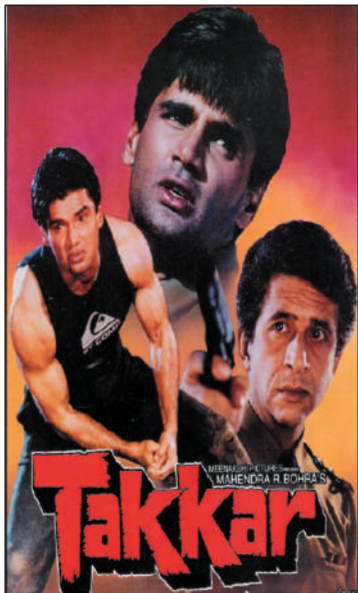
Mardi 23 Juin - 21.32



Mercredi 24 Juin - 21.40



Mercredi 24 Juin - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 23 juin	05.41 Tele: Living To Love 06.26 Serial: Quantico 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Far From The Madding Crowd Cast: Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts 11.30 Tele: Happily ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina 15.30 Film: Texas Nous Voila 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 21.32 Film: The Mountain Between...	10.01 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 11.35 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Rodrig: Komanter 12.15 Les Grandes Lignes 14.27 Local: Coin Jardin 15.00 Local: Fee Main 15.12 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.55 Serial: Deba Klima 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 20.00 Local: Zistwar Fam Artis 21.00 Local: Nu Servis An Aksion 21.34 Local Production 22.28 Local: Point Culture 22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Fee Main 23.32 MBC Staff Show 01.02 Local: Parlons Sante Senior	08.28 Local: Ayush 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Aadmi Aur Insaan Cast: Dharmendra, Saira Banu, Feroz Khan 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 18.31 Local: Darshan The Sacred... 19.01 Local: Natya Kala 19.42 Local: Prakriti 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Do Jasoos Cast: Raj Kapoor, Rajendra Kapoor	06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 06.25 Doc: Choices 06.52 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.22 Mag: In Good Shape 09.59 Doc: Stop Filming US 11.25 Mag: Eco Africa 12.48 Mag: In Good Shape 14.16 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: La Famille Blaireau... 15.12 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.03 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas 17.00 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.30 Mag: Eco Africa 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.53 Tele: Valentina 21.38 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.06 Doc: La Mediterranee... 22.56 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Lawaaris Starring: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Pandya Store 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Saavi Ki Savaari 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Serial: Aladdin 23.30 Film: Lawaaris Starring: Akshaye Khanna, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff
mercredi 24 juin	06.16 Serial: Living To Love 08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.35 Film: The Mountain Between... 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: Désolé Pour La Gêne Occasionnée 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 21.05 Serial: La Brea 21.50 Tele: Helena	09.06 Mag: Zistwar Fam Arts 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.28 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Ecriture Mauricienne 12.33 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.25 Local: Priorite Sante 14.00 Nu Servis An Aksion 15.00 Local: Saveurs Plus 15.28 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Zistwar Fam Artis 21.10 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.23 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.49 Local: Les Klips 22.41 Local: Grand Titre 23.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.31 Local: Clin D'Oeil	08.00 Local: Natya Kala Stage... 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Kasma Vaade Cast: Amitabh Bachan, Rakhee, Randheer Kapoor 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 Secondary School Hindi Story Telling Competition 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.01 Film: Mohabbat Ki Jung 23.15 Shrimad Ramayan 23.37 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.08 Exclusive Conversation...	06.50 Mag: Made In Germany 09.28 Doc: In The Belly Of AI 11.37 Mag: REV: The Global Auto 13.22 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.40 Mag: REV Special 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard 15.12 D.Anime: She-Ra Et Le Princesses Au Pouvoir 15.38 D.Anime: Les Croods 16.01 D.Anime: Le Petit Nicolas 16.27 D.Anime: Mush Mush And... 17.16 Doc: All The Answers 17.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.31 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.34 Doc: On Tram Tracks... 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Valentina 21.40 Film: Dirty Dancing 23.24 Mag: Close Up 23.52 Mag: Focus On Europe	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Takkar Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Suniel Shetty, Sonali Bendre 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Udne Ki Aasha 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Pandya Store 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Saavi Ki Savaari 21.00 Anupama 21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya 22.00 Dhruv Tara 22.24 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.54 Aladdin 23.30 Film: Takkar Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Suniel Shetty, Sonali Bendre
jeudi 25 juin	05.27 Tele: Living To Love 07.55 Tele: All The Flowers 09.02 Tele: La Desalmada 09.40 Serial: Columbo 11.00 Doc: China Farm 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina, My Special... 15.30 Film: La Voix Du Succès 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 20.20 Film: Gori Tere Pyaar Mein Cast: Kareena Kapoor Khan, Imran Khan	10.19 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.34 Local: Saver Lokal 11.38 Local: Grand Titre 12.36 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.03 Local: Saver Kiltirel 14.15 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 15.45 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Zistwar Fam Artis 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.05 Nu Servis An Aksion 21.12 Local: Music Tour 2025 22.07 Local: Klip Seleksion 22.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.24 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.36 Local: Bricolo Ecolo	08.00 Mag: Aastha TV 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Kati Patang Cast: Rajesh Khanna 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.48 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 16.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Tenali Rama 21.00 Shiv Shakti 21.15 Shrimad Ramayan 21.59 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.19 Mag: Eco India 23.43 Local: Amrit Vani 23.54 Local: Bhajan Sandhya	06.25 Mag: Planet A 08.17 Mag: Focus On Europe 11.24 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.50 Mag: Planet A 12.47 Doc: On Tram Tracks 13.19 Mag: Close Up 13.47 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.11 Doc: Our Memory 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard 15.12 She-Ra Et Les Princesses... 16.26 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier 16.32 D.Anime: Madagascar 16.55 Doc: All The Answers 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Mapped Out 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 Live: New 20.50 Tele: Valentina 21.32 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Aulad Stars: Sri Devi, Jeetendra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Pandya Store 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Aladdin 23.31 Film: Aulad Stars: Sri Devi, Jeetendra



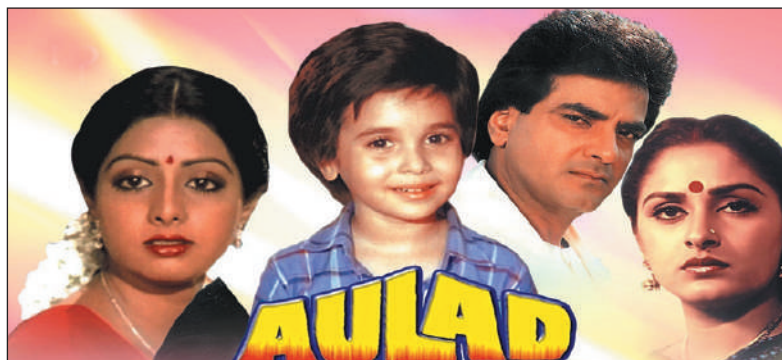
Jeudi 25 Juin - 15.30

Stars: Sri Devi, Jeetendra



Jeudi 25 Juin - 20.20

Stars: Kareena Kapoor Khan, Imran Khan





Niranjana
KarthigaiRajan

Quietening the Cacophony of Inner Thoughts



Tree of Knowledge

Fraught with doubts, anxieties, and haunting memories, the relentless clutter of the mind feels like a storm that never settles. A 2020 study published in *Nature Communications* suggested that the average person has around 6,200 “thought worms” (distinct thought segments) per day.

In yoga, the human mind is referred to as “markata,” or monkey. The mind is referred to as a monkey because of its wandering nature. By default, the untrained mind wanders and jumps from one idea to another. Similarly, in yoga, a well-trained mind is referred to as a “Kalpavriksha” (a wishing tree that grants any boon).

Silencing mental clutter — those persistent and distracting internal monologues — can be achieved through a combination of mindfulness, cognitive techniques, and lifestyle adjustments. As we approach International Yoga Day on June 21, we can draw from both modern science and ancient practice to dampen the noise and find peace within.

Digital Detox as Pratyahara



In this age of digital deluge, many of us are hooked to virtual life from the moment we wake until we retire for the day. Frivolous content and never-ending social media feeds have deepened our digital intimacy while causing our human connections to fade.

Practising a digital detox is a modern application of Pratyahara — the yogic practice of consciously withdrawing the senses from the

chaotic stimuli of the external world. By scheduling screen-free hours and choosing “analog joys” like the slow rhythm of gardening, journaling, or the immersion of a physical book, we perform a sensory reset. Choosing these real-world anchors allows us to step out of the digital current and firmly inhabit our own lives once again. Mental well-being thrives when we prioritise fundamental human needs — to love, to care, and to be cared for in return.

The State of Flow as Dhaarana

True mental quietude is not found in passivity or rest; rather, it is found in total immersion and energized focus. In his classic work, ‘Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience’, psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi argues that this state of “flow” acts as a natural vacuum for mental clutter.

When we are in a flow state, we are effectively practicing Dhaarana (focused concentration). For instance, a mountaineer scaling a cliff loses all awareness of life’s complications; the climb becomes a world unto itself. Similarly, an athlete might dwell on a problem all day, but as soon as the game begins, nothing else matters.

Whether through a creative hobby, a challenging professional pursuit, or through a focused physical activity — entering a flow state allows one to move beyond the scattered “thought worms” of the untrained mind. In these moments of high focus, we find an optimal state of consciousness. When we tap into this state, the “cacophony” of the inner mind vanishes because our psychic energy is entirely invested in attaining realistic goals.

Stillness as Dhyaana

Leo Tolstoy says, “In the name of God, stop a moment, cease your work, look around you.” Often, we ignore the serenity of silence. Stillness is the practise of Dhyaana (meditation). It is the deep introspection that awakens consciousness. It creates a space where past remorse and regrets may

come crowding into the mind — not to overwhelm us, but to provide the necessary time for resolution and reconciliation.

The Triad of Transformation

The path from a restless Markata to a wish-fulfilling Kalpavriksha is a journey of intentional practice — by integrating Pratyahara, Dhaarana, and Dhyaana, we cultivate a holistic defence against the modern storm of thoughts. Pratyahara to detach from the external noise, Dhaarana to

channel our focus into purposeful action, and Dhyaana to anchor ourselves in the deep silence of introspection. When these three pillars work in harmony, the cacophony subsides, revealing a sanctuary of clarity within — a space where we are no longer victims of our thoughts, but the conscious gardeners of our own minds.

Niranjana KarthigaiRajan
niranjanavk@gmail.com



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING for the Consultancy Services for Retail and Marketing Activities

Procurement Reference: **ONB/STC/2026/14**

1. The State Trading Corporation (STC) is inviting bids from eligible bidders for the Consultancy Services for Retail and Marketing Activities as per requirements contained in the bidding document.
2. Bidding document may be downloaded from the website of the STC, <https://www.stcmu.com>, free of charge.
3. Bids must be submitted, through the following by **26 June 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Mauritian Time) at latest:**
 - i) Deposited in Bid Box A located in the Registry Section at State Trading Corporation, Ebene, Mauritius;
 - ii) Sent by registered post to the General Manager, State Trading Corporation, Ebene, Mauritius; and
 - iii) Sent by email on bid-services@stcmu.com.
4. Bids received after the submission deadline and/or submitted to any other email address shall not be considered.
5. Bids will be opened at the State Trading Corporation, Head Office, Ebene, on **26 June 2026 at 14.10 hrs** in the presence of bidders/representatives who may choose to attend.
6. Any request for clarification in respect of the bids shall be submitted at latest two (2) working days prior to the deadline set for submission of proposals on the email address: a.shewraj@stcmu.com
7. The STC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

12 June 2026

La STC est un corps statutaire, crée par la STC Act de 1982. Sa principale mission reste l'importation des quatre produits de première nécessité et stratégique pour le pays. La STC est aussi responsable d'assurer une veille constante du marché des autres produits de base consommés par la population. Elle peut intervenir de manière ponctuelle afin de protéger l'intérêt des consommateurs par le jeu d'une saine concurrence dans ces marchés.

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