

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." — Rosalynn Carter



Editorial

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

P2

Constitutional Reset

Why Constitutional Reform is an Endurance Race, Not a Sprint



Opinion

Pic - business.mega.mu

Sada Reddi

P4

The Urgent Need for True Food Sovereignty

Diplomacy



The Sahrawi people's struggle is for self-determination. They demand the right to carry out their overdue referendum for self-determination. Pic - Accord

Vijay Makhan

P7

Western Sahara and the Crisis of International Legitimacy

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing

"Despite the previous regime's gross incompetence and irresponsibility, we must move past this political ping-pong narrative"



P8

• 'We just cannot allow anyone to use this Constitutional Review commission to become a colorable device...'

Qs & As

Who Rules the Civil Service?

The Fine Line Between Ministerial Control and Bureaucracy



Lex

P3

Eclairages



A. Bartleby

P7

La France abroge enfin le "Code Noir" de l'époque coloniale

Constitutional Reset

Why Constitutional Reform is an Endurance Race, Not a Sprint

The introduction of the Constitutional Review Commission Bill (No. VI of 2026) marks a major institutional milestone for modern Mauritius. For a nation operating under a supreme law designed more than five decades ago at the dawn of independence, the creation of a formal review mechanism under former Chief Justice Sik Yuen is both a necessary response to modern realities and a rare opportunity for systemic renewal. Yet, as the state embarks on this fundamental recalibration of its democratic architecture, it is important to recognize that the ideas currently under discussion are neither sudden nor new. They are the result of decades of advocacy by progressive politicians, active civil society groups, and persistent journalistic advocacy.

For the *Mauritius Times*, this moment carries particular historical significance. Many of the reforms now being examined by the Commission have been analyzed for decades in the pages of this newspaper by our editorialists, contributors, and our legal correspondent, Lex. Chief among these — alongside our longstanding advocacy for anti-defection provisions, freedom of information, the right to recall, and fiscal responsibility legislation — the institutionalisation of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was championed decades ago by the founder-editor of this paper, Beekrumsing Ramlallah. Designed to broaden access to justice, this crucial mechanism allows public-spirited citizens or organizations to approach the courts on behalf of marginalized groups and aggrieved parties with limited means, or on matters of overarching public concern.

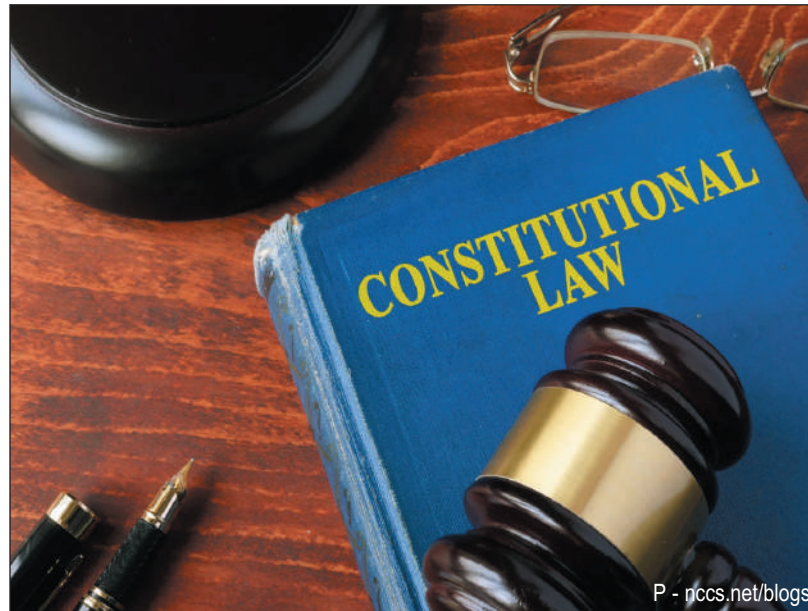
Inspired by legal developments in India, our founder-editor understood the transformative potential of a mechanism that later became one of the most important legal innovations in Commonwealth jurisprudence. PIL effectively shifted the judiciary from being merely an arbiter of private disputes to becoming a more active guardian of constitutional rights and social justice. This legal revolution was pioneered in the late 1970s and early 1980s by two legendary judges of the Supreme Court of India: Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N. Bhagwati, who later became the 17th Chief Justice of India.

At a time when Mauritian legal orthodoxy viewed *locus standi* — the right to bring a matter before the courts — through a rigid and highly individualistic lens, this newspaper consistently argued that a mature democracy must allow its legal system to defend the broader public interest. The fact that this principle may now become part of our constitutional framework is a welcome, though long overdue, recognition of that progressive vision.

However, constitutional reform is always a difficult and delicate process. High-minded ideals often collide with the realities of governance, politics, and social sensitivities. If the current government wishes to preserve its political capital and ensure long-term national stability, it must approach the reform process with careful sequencing. In simple terms, it must distinguish between the low-hanging fruits of immediate institutional reform and the high-hanging, potentially volatile fruits of deep structural change.

Plucking the Low-Hanging Fruits: Securing Immediate Credibility

In any major reform process, time is a precious political



P - pccs.net/blogs

currency. Constitutional overhauls require extensive consultation and reflection, but public patience is limited. To maintain credibility and demonstrate progress, the government must quickly identify and implement the “low-hanging fruits” — reforms that enjoy broad consensus, create minimal social friction, and can be introduced through relatively straightforward legislative changes.

These reforms should focus on strengthening transparency, improving civic rights, and reinforcing the separation of powers. The formal expansion of Public Interest Litigation is a good example. It strengthens citizens’ rights without destabilizing the machinery of state, while signalling a move toward a more participatory democracy.

Similarly, reforms aimed at improving financial oversight of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), strengthening data integrity within public institutions, and streamlining judicial administration do not require divisive debates about identity or communal balance. These are reforms capable of delivering immediate credibility to the government while improving institutional efficiency.

The High-Hanging Fruits: The Minefield of Electoral Reform

If the low-hanging fruits represent administrative correction, the high-hanging fruits represent deep systemic re-engineering. At the centre of this complexity lies electoral reform: the proposed elimination of the Best Loser System (BLS) and the possible introduction of a proportional representation component.

These are not merely technical adjustments. They touch the very foundations of Mauritian social cohesion and political stability. For decades, the Best Loser System has functioned as a delicate institutional safeguard. While critics argue that it entrenches communal classifications, it has also provided reassurance and representation within a plural society.

Replacing this mechanism cannot be done with a simple legislative amendment. Moving toward a post-communal political framework requires the design of a credible and mathematically balanced alternative — one capable of preserving minority representation without forcing citizens to officially define themselves through communal categories. If

any replacement system is seen as unfair or exclusionary, it could weaken the fragile communal harmony that has underpinned Mauritius since independence.

Likewise, the idea of introducing an element of proportional representation into the traditional First Past the Post (FPTP) system appears intellectually attractive. The weaknesses of the current system are well known. Mauritian electoral history has repeatedly produced dramatic 60-0 outcomes, where a party winning only a modest majority of votes gains total control of Parliament, leaving a large part of the electorate without effective representation.

Yet the mechanics of reform remain extremely complex.

The Threshold Dilemma: What percentage of the national vote should a party obtain to qualify for proportional seats? If the threshold is too high, the reform changes little; if too low, Parliament risks fragmentation and chronic instability.

The Size of Parliament: Introducing proportional representation would likely require expanding the National Assembly. But how many additional seats can be added before Parliament becomes bloated, inefficient, and financially burdensome?

Avoiding Unintended Consequences

History repeatedly warns constitutional reformers about the law of unintended consequences. A reform designed to solve one problem can easily create new vulnerabilities elsewhere within the political system.

If electoral and communal reforms are rushed through under the pressure of political expediency or excessive idealism, the consequences could be serious. A poorly designed proportional system could produce unstable coalition governments incapable of making decisive economic choices during periods of global uncertainty. Conversely, abruptly dismantling representation safeguards without adequate alternatives could create feelings of alienation among minority groups, weakening the national solidarity required to face future challenges.

Constitutional reform is an endurance race, not a sprint.

The *Mauritius Times* welcomes the institutional path opened by the Constitutional Review Commission Bill and applauds the likely constitutional recognition of principles such as Public Interest Litigation, which this newspaper has defended for generations.

Ultimately, the success of this historic exercise will depend on patience, prudence, and strategic sequencing. The government must move decisively where consensus exists, implementing the low-hanging fruits of reform in order to build credibility and strengthen public trust. At the same time, it must approach the far more sensitive questions of electoral and communal restructuring with intellectual rigour, broad consultation, and careful mathematical modelling.

In constitutional matters, the strength of an architecture is measured not by the speed of its construction, but by its ability to withstand the storms of the future.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor: M. Ramlallah

This epaper has been produced with the assistance of

K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally & Kersley Ramsamy

28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),
Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301 / Tel/Fax: 212 1313
mtimes@intnet.mu; www.mauritiustimes.com;
facebook.com/mauritius.times

Who Rules the Civil Service?

The Fine Line Between Ministerial Control and Bureaucracy

The sudden forced retirement of the Secretary for Public Service, Dr Dhanandjay Kawol, has ignited a profound debate over the boundaries of administrative power in Mauritius. At the heart of this controversy lies a critical constitutional question: where does a top technocrat's operational autonomy end, and where does a Minister's political supremacy begin? This analysis by Lex examines the legal frameworks, procedural safeguards, and institutional lessons of an event that critics argue threatens the traditional neutrality of the civil service.

LEX

*** In early May 2026, Senior Chief Executive Dr Kawol was forced into early retirement. This followed criticisms over Circular Note No. 14 of 2026 — a directive issued by his administration outlining work-from-home and flexible hour guidelines for the public sector. Public Service minister Raj Pentiah claimed he was not properly consulted beforehand. Critics have condemned the move, viewing it as a dangerous precedent that undermines the traditional independence and neutrality of Mauritius's Westminster-style civil service by turning top technocrats into political scapegoats. What's your take on that?**

Critics argue that forcing out high-ranking, technocratic civil servants directly erodes the neutrality and systemic independence central to Mauritius's Westminster-style administration. By sidelining career professionals over policy friction or structural breakdowns, the government risks deeply politicising the state apparatus. This sets a fragile precedent where top-tier technocrats are transformed into political scapegoats for administrative missteps, ultimately fracturing public trust and disrupting institutional continuity.

*** Under the Constitution of Mauritius and the Public Service Commission (PSC) Regulations, does the Senior Chief Executive/Secretary for Public Service have the clear statutory authority to issue a Circular Note applicable to the entire public service on working hours and work modalities without a Minister's co-signature or prior Cabinet approval?**

No. Under Section 68 of the Constitution of Mauritius, a Supervising Officer or Secretary handles the *administration* of a department under the general direction and control of the Minister. Therefore, the Secretary for Public Service lacks the independent statutory authority to issue a service-wide Circular Note on working hours and modalities without the explicit direction, co-signature, or prior approval of the responsible Minister and Cabinet.

*** Has a legal distinction ever been recognised in Mauritian administrative law between the "day-to-day management of civil servants" (administrative action) and "service-wide operational reforms" (policy decisions)? Where does the law draw the boundary between the two?**

Yes. In Mauritian administrative law, a distinct boundary exists between **policy formulation** (broad operational/structural reforms) and **policy execution** (day-to-day administra-

tion).

Under Section 68 of the Constitution, Ministers retain "general direction and control" over their departments, meaning macro-level reforms and service-wide regulations are political policy decisions reserved for the Minister or Cabinet.

Conversely, day-to-day management falls strictly under the "supervision" of the Senior Chief Executive or Permanent Secretary as the accounting officer.

The legal boundary for judicial review hinges on **justiciability** — courts generally decline to review pure macro-policy choices but will actively review administrative actions that directly infringe upon existing public service regulations or employment terms.

*** Does "general direction" mean that a SCE must obtain explicit ministerial approval for every major directive, or does the power of "supervision" give them the autonomy to manage civil service working conditions independently?**

A Minister's "general direction and control" establishes political supremacy over broad policy formulation and strategic goals, whereas the Supervising Officer's (SCE/Permanent Secretary) "supervision" provides the operational autonomy to independently manage day-to-day administration.

However, this autonomy is not absolute. While routine departmental management stays with the SCE, any major directive that fundamentally alters civil service working conditions or impacts service-wide policy falls under the Minister's ultimate directional authority, requiring explicit or implicit ministerial alignment.

*** Does the suddenness of a forced retirement deny an official their constitutional right to a fair hearing, rendering the decision legally fragile — especially in the absence of a formal disciplinary or fact-finding committee to investigate specific charges of misconduct or insubordination?**

Because the power to discipline or retire a public officer is vested in the independent Public Service Commission (PSC) rather than individual politicians, a sudden, politically motivated forced retirement without established charges or a hearing is procedurally flawed.

This lack of due process renders the decision highly fragile, unlawful, and exceptionally vulnerable to being quashed by the Supreme Court under judicial review.

*** How do you respond to the critique that the severity of this punishment — the abrupt termination of a long-standing career three years early — not only violates the legal principle of proportionality, but also stands as a glaring double standard, given earlier cases of misconduct by senior officials across the civil service, parastatals, and State-Owned Companies which have gone entirely unpunished under successive governments?**

The abrupt termination of a senior official's career three years ahead of schedule is a severe administrative measure that strongly conflicts with the legal principle of proportionality.

When a minor procedural breakdown or political friction results in the maximum professional penalty, while far more egregious instances of misconduct across parastatals and state-owned enterprises are met with institutional leniency, it exposes a glaring double standard.

*** To what extent do the constitutional safeguards protecting the independence of the civil service actually shield top technocrats from being summarily dismissed or retired following a procedural disagreement with an elected Minister?**



Dr Dhanandjay Kawol

“The abrupt termination of a senior official's career three years ahead of schedule is a severe administrative measure that strongly conflicts with the legal principle of proportionality. When a minor procedural breakdown or political friction results in the maximum professional penalty, while far more egregious instances of misconduct across parastatals and state-owned enterprises are met with institutional leniency, it exposes a glaring double standard...” - P - GIS

Constitutional safeguards in Mauritius do not offer top technocrats an absolute shield against executive overrule. Although the Constitution vests disciplinary control and dismissal powers in the independent Public Service Commission (PSC), it provides the executive government with specific legal levers to engineering the removal of senior officials following fundamental policy disagreements.

*** Does the forced retirement of a high-ranking public official (at the level of SCE) require a formal recommendation from the PSC, or can it be executed directly by the executive branch?**

A high-ranking public official at the level of Senior Chief Executive (SCE) can only be placed into premature retirement through strict constitutional procedures designed to preserve civil service independence. Such an action absolutely requires a formal recommendation and the definitive approval of the Public Service Commission (PSC); it cannot be executed unilaterally or directly by the executive branch.

*** We understand that under the Westminster model, Cabinet operates on collective responsibility: once a policy is approved, the political executive collectively bears responsibility for its outcomes, while the SCE acts only as the implementing authority of the government's decision. Is that the lesson that should be drawn from this matter: senior officials should act only after Cabinet's approval of a measure that may affect the country?**

Yes, that is the definitive institutional lesson. Under the Westminster system, Cabinet collective responsibility dictates that the political executive is jointly accountable to the legislature for all government policies and their outcomes, while non-partisan Senior Chief Executives (SCEs) are responsible for their impartial implementation.

Consequently, for any major directive or systemic reform with broad national implications, a SCE must secure explicit ministerial or Cabinet authorization before acting. Without this mandate, senior officials risk bearing ultimate personal accountability for financial propriety and statutory compliance. Ultimately, taking unauthorized action exposes an accounting officer to severe personal liability under the law.



Sada Reddi

The Urgent Need for True Food Sovereignty

From wartime rationing to the Iran War shock: The structural failures threatening food security in Mauritius

During the past two years, amidst the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, politicians, economists, and businessmen have expressed concerns about a global recession. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East opposing Israel to Hamas, and now the severe escalation of the Iran War have only deepened their pessimism, especially with millions of people now confronting the spectre of food insecurity. The outbreak of the Iran War, in particular, has rapidly transformed a regional energy shock into a systemic multi-commodity crisis. The prevalence of these widening regional conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and severe economic policy uncertainty presents significant downside risks.

In 2014, over 500 million people were already grappling with various forms of food shortages. Since mid-2020, global food prices have surged by 50%. In Mauritius, a combination of factors including inflation, currency depreciation, adverse weather conditions, and unemployment has exacerbated food insecurity for numerous families. In 2020, Mauritius regressed from a high-income to a middle-income country, resulting in relative poverty transitioning into absolute poverty. Escalating food prices have forced some individuals to skip meals, while many families are forced to reduce their essential food intake, particularly for children.

The Global Supply Chain Squeeze

The immediate fallout of the Iran War has laid bare the extreme vulnerability of import-dependent island nations to global maritime choke points. The de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz has not only sent Brent Crude surging past \$120 a barrel, driving up local freight and processing costs, but it has upended the global supply of foundational agricultural inputs. The region typically supplies 30% of the world's urea and nitrogen fertilizers; the resulting shortages have caused a massive spike in global agricultural input costs, which inevitably translates to higher prices at the local market.

Furthermore, with maritime traffic forced away from the Red Sea and the Suez Canal corridor due to spillover tensions, shipping lines have enacted a massive structural rerouting around the Cape of Good Hope. This African detour adds 10 to 15 days to standard transit times and introduces roughly \$1 million in additional fuel costs per voyage, compounded by heavy emergency conflict surcharges that add upwards of \$2,000 per container. For Mauritius, sitting along these disrupted oceanic routes, this "domino effect" means chronic container displacement, delayed arrivals of essential goods, and a direct hit to the affordability of imported foodstuff.

The memories of food shortages are deeply



ingrained in the collective consciousness of our parents and grandparents. They endured significant hardships, relying solely on locally grown produce from vegetable plantations and home gardens. Staple foods like maize, manioc, and sweet potatoes became their primary diet for prolonged periods, sometimes spanning months or even years, all while working exhausting 10 to 12-hour days.

In light of the impending crisis, there is little optimism that the situation will improve for the suffering poor unless we engage all stakeholders from various sectors and devise solutions tailored to our specific needs.

Lessons from the World Wars

During the First World War, despite a sugar boom and sufficient resources to procure basic commodities, the population endured severe food shortages. The government intervened by implementing price controls and establishing a profiteering court. However, during the simultaneous Spanish influenza pandemic, which afflicted the island, malnutrition among the impoverished exacerbated the situation, contributing to the deaths of approximately 12,000 people.

Similarly, the food security situation did not significantly improve during the Second World War. In April 1941, the colonial Secretary of State sought measures from Governors in various colonies to ensure food security. However, resistance faced by the colonial government in Mauritius hindered effective action.

To avert food shortages, measures were taken to stockpile food for a 90-day period. The establishment of the Food Control Board, equipped with executive powers, aimed to oversee food supply management. Additionally, landowners with over 20 acres of land were encouraged to cultivate food crops, although initially without compulsion.

As the situation worsened with the Japanese occupa-

tion of the East, more drastic measures became imperative. Critical land allocations for food crop cultivation were made, with sugar estates designating approximately 34,000 acres for food production. Various initiatives were undertaken to bolster food supply, including the establishment of a nutrition department, provision of financial aid, and mandatory food crop cultivation by sugar estates.

In the end, the food growing programme failed miserably as King Sugar dominated the scene. Sugar estate owners vehemently opposed the initiative, citing various reasons, many of which were mere pretexts. While they resisted growing food crops on lands dedicated to lucrative sugar cane cultivation, they overlooked the needs of the population, assured of their own food supply from their estates. Consequently, widespread food scarcity led to malnutrition, illness, and a considerable drop in workers' productivity, as they frequently absented themselves from work due to illness.

The shortage of labourers in many regions necessitated the transportation of workers from one area to another by lorries. Only the timely arrival of manioc starch and wheat from Madagascar and Australia averted a food crisis in 1943. Dr Clyde, the Food Adviser of the Colonial Office, noted the relative failure of the food production programme, with only 49,000 tons of foodstuff harvested between 1943-1944, while sugar production not only remained unaffected but increased.

Breaking the Rhetoric

Reflecting on history, it's clear that food shortages have been a significant trigger for social and political instability globally. Recognizing this, the government and stakeholders are implementing initiatives to boost food crop production. These efforts include encouraging youth to pursue agriculture, providing training, and introducing them to agricultural technology. Despite advocacy from groups and individuals, practical challenges persist, including soil and climate conditions, pest impacts, and a lack of planting coordination.

Present initiatives appear limited in scope, with little attention given to leveraging sea resources, which have long been vital for food security. Better planning, coordination, and political will are needed to ensure success. Key measures should include allocating more land for food crop cultivation, safeguarding and increasing sea product availability, and enhancing food storage capacity to avoid market gluts that discourage producers.

The Agricultural Marketing Board, State Trading Corporation, and various ministries must play pivotal roles in ensuring adequate food supplies at reasonable prices, particularly for the most vulnerable. Famines often occur not due to a total global absence of food, but because of acute affordability issues among the poor — a risk heavily amplified today by soaring international freight and fuel insurance surcharges. Additionally, past events like the *Wakashio* disaster disrupted for quite some time the supply of fresh fish and other sea foods, highlighting the critical importance of diverse, resilient local food sources.

To address these challenges effectively, comprehensive plans crafted in collaboration with researchers, experts, and stakeholders with indigenous knowledge are essential. Without such concerted efforts, food security, and even food sovereignty, will remain mere rhetoric.

La France abroge enfin le “Code Noir” de l’époque coloniale

Par A. Bartleby

Près de deux siècles après l’abolition définitive de l’esclavage en 1848, un vestige juridique particulièrement sombre de l’histoire coloniale française vient d’être définitivement rayé des textes de loi. L’Assemblée nationale française a voté, hier, à l’unanimité (254 voix contre 0) l’abrogation symbolique du Code Noir. Ce décret de 1685, signé par le roi Louis XIV pour régir la vie des esclaves dans les colonies, définissait légalement certains êtres humains comme des biens meubles.

L’atmosphère était lourde et chargée d’émotion au Palais Bourbon lorsque les députés ont voté ce texte officiel, mettant ainsi fin à une disposition qui n’avait, en réalité, jamais été formellement abrogée par le Parlement.

Des larmes et une confrontation brute avec l’Histoire

Au cours des débats, les prises de parole ont exposé à vif des blessures générationnelles. Le député Steevy Gustave, dont les ancêtres ont été réduits en esclavage en Martinique, n’a pu retenir ses larmes à la tribune.

«Nous ne sommes pas des descendants d’esclaves», a évoqué le parlementaire en pleurs. «Nous sommes les descendants d’êtres humains nés libres, puis réduits au pire — réduits à l’esclavage. Aucun vote ne pourra réparer à lui seul des siècles de vies brisées.»

Le texte initial du Code Noir comprenait 60 articles d’une violence extrême. L’article 44 déclarait explicitement que les personnes réduites en esclavage étaient des «biens meubles», pouvant être achetés, vendus, saisis ou légués au même titre que du bétail ou des outils de production. Les esclaves qui tentaient de s’enfuir s’exposaient à des châtements corporels barbares: le marquage au fer rouge, l’amputation des oreilles, voire la peine de mort. De plus, la parole juridique d’un esclave n’avait aucune valeur face aux tribunaux coloniaux.

Max Mathiasin, député de la Guadeloupe et initiateur de cette proposition de loi, a confié qu’il possédait des copies de ce texte chez lui sans savoir qu’il figurait toujours techniquement dans les recueils juridiques français. Pour lui, ce vote représente une façon de «restaurer l’humanité de nos ancêtres» face à une République dont la devise affiche fièrement *Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*.

Le débat complexe sur les réparations

Cette abrogation intervient alors que le président Emmanuel Macron a brisé la semaine dernière un tabou historique en prononçant le mot «réparations» lors du 25e anniversaire de la loi Taubira — la loi de 2001 qui a fait de la France le premier pays au monde à reconnaître la traite négrière et l’esclavage comme des crimes contre l’hu-



L’article 44 du Code noir déclarait explicitement que les personnes réduites en esclavage étaient des «biens meubles», pouvant être achetés, vendus, saisis ou légués au même titre que du bétail ou des outils de production. P - Luxe Infinity Afrique

manité.

Toutefois, le président Macron a refusé de s’engager sur la voie de réparations financières ou d’excuses officielles, préférant orienter l’effort vers un travail de mémoire, d’éducation et de recherche scientifique partagé avec le Ghana. Il a également rappelé la nécessité de regarder l’histoire en face, soulignant que le Palais de l’Élysée lui-même avait été construit au XVIII^e siècle grâce à la fortune d’une famille enrichie par la traite.

Cette position prudente suscite de vives critiques de la part des militants et de certains historiens. Florence Alexis, experte de l’histoire de l’esclavage, rappelle que le racisme moderne est le legs direct de cette déshumanisation passée, ajoutant que des gestes purement symboliques comme l’abrogation de ce jeudi «n’engagent l’État à rien». La France est également pointée du doigt à l’international pour s’être récemment abstenue lors d’un vote de l’Assemblée générale de l’ONU qualifiant la traite transatlantique de crime le plus grave contre l’humanité, une décision qualifiée de «faute morale et politique» par le sénateur guadeloupéen Victorin Lurel.

Alors que l’histoire économique rappelle que les grandes villes portuaires comme Nantes et Bordeaux se sont enrichies grâce au commerce de 1,4 million d’Africains déportés par la flotte française, l’impact à long terme de ce vote reste à construire. Pour les descendants des victimes, effacer le Code Noir des livres de loi est une étape nécessaire, mais le véritable chantier reste la lutte contre les inégalités qui en découlent encore aujourd’hui.

Pour analyser la portée de ce vote, il y a trois angles complémentaires essentiels à considérer:

1. Le rôle de la presse: du silence institutionnel à la vigilance critique

L’une des révélations les plus saisissantes concerne l’ignorance générale qui entourait la survivance technique du Code Noir dans les archives juridiques. Que des parlementaires eux-mêmes découvrent son existence sur leurs propres étagères, cela démontre à quel point l’oubli peut être institutionnalisé.

C’est ici que le rôle d’une presse indépendante et engagée prend tout son sens. Le travail du journaliste ne consiste pas seulement à rapporter l’actualité immédiate, mais à

déterrer ce que les institutions laissent s’enclaver dans le silence. Pour qu’une opinion publique comprenne les mécanismes de son époque, les journaux doivent agir comme des sentinelles de la mémoire, en reliant constamment les structures juridiques du passé aux réalités vécues. Sans cette permanence éditoriale, les symboles s’étiolent.

2. La convergence des mémoires face à «l’exception coloniale»

L’analyse de Pierre-Yves Bocquet sur le Code Noir comme acte de naissance de «l’exception coloniale» — ce principe qui permet de suspendre les droits fondamentaux au nom de l’origine ou du statut — résonne bien au-delà des Antilles.

Cette logique de déshumanisation et d’exploitation économique a pris plusieurs visages à travers les siècles et les géographies. Qu’il s’agisse de la traite transatlantique ou, plus tard, du système de l’engagement (*indentured labour*) qui a déplacé des millions de travailleurs à travers le monde après les abolitions, la matrice reste la même: la subordination de l’humain aux impératifs de la richesse coloniale. Reconnaître le Code Noir, c’est aussi poser une pierre dans la compréhension globale de ces flux migratoires contraints et de la mémoire partagée des peuples qui en sont issus.

3. La pédagogie contre les «fausses promesses»

Lorsque le pouvoir politique affirme que le travail de réparation doit d’abord être un travail d’éducation et de recherche scientifique, il énonce une vérité, mais une vérité incomplète. L’accès aux textes, la publication d’éditions spéciales, l’enseignement des réalités coloniales dans les écoles et la documentation rigoureuse de l’histoire familiale sont les seuls remparts durables contre le préjugé et le racisme systémique.

Cependant, la pédagogie ne peut être le solde de tout compte. Si la recherche historique est indispensable pour documenter la vérité, elle ne doit pas servir d’alibi pour différer l’action politique ou masquer des reculades diplomatiques, comme l’abstention de la France à l’ONU. La mémoire est un projet permanent de reconnaissance qui exige une cohérence absolue: on ne peut pas honorer l’histoire à Paris tout en reproduisant des réflexes de supériorité ou de condescendance à l’international.

L’hémicycle sous tension: l’affaire de l’aide-soignante bangladaise ravive les blessures de l’histoire

La séance parlementaire du mardi 26 mai 2026 restera comme l’une des plus tendues de la présente législature. Ce qui devait initialement être l’examen d’une question parlementaire sur la disparition d’une travailleuse bangladaise a rapidement donné lieu à un échange particulièrement vif entre le ministre du Travail, Reza Uteem, et la députée de l’opposition, Joanna Bérenger. Au-delà de la joute politique, l’incident a ravivé certaines sensibilités liées à l’histoire mauricienne, l’usage du mot «colon» ayant suscité des réactions au sein de l’hémicycle et nécessité l’intervention de la Speaker, Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, ainsi que des excuses publiques ultérieures.

Une disparition au cœur du pouvoir



P - Defi Media

L’étincelle à l’origine de ce brasier est la disparition de Mme M.M.B., une ressortissante bangladaise employée comme aide-soignante à domicile. Le ministre Reza Uteem a détaillé le cadre de cet emploi, précisant que la travailleuse veillait sur sa mère de 80 ans, souffrant de pathologies cardiaques et d’une double fracture à la suite d’un accident en 2023, ainsi que sur son père de 85 ans, l’ancien président de la République, Cassam Uteem.

Selon la chronologie ministérielle, le permis de travail initial de deux ans, délivré en juin 2023, avait été renouvelé en mai 2025 pour deux années supplémentaires par le secrétaire permanent, sans aucune intervention du ministre. C’est la mère du ministre qui a signalé la disparition de l’employée le 6 avril 2026, après que cette dernière a quitté la résidence le 3 avril vers 20 heures. Une enquête de la *Special Migrant Workers Unit* a conclu à l’absence de tout traitement abusif ou d’arriérés de salaire. Un témoin a d’ailleurs affirmé avoir vu la jeune femme monter volontairement dans un taxi en compagnie d’un compatriote.

● Suite en page 6

L'hémicycle sous tension: l'affaire de l'aide-soignante bangladaise ravive les blessures de l'histoire

● Suite de la page 5

Le ministre a replacé cet événement dans un contexte plus large: celui des filières clandestines qui incitent les travailleurs étrangers à désertir leurs postes légaux pour des salaires supérieurs au noir. Sur 2 819 cas de disparition recensés, près de 80 % concernent la communauté bangladaise, un phénomène qui avait déjà poussé les autorités à suspendre temporairement ces recrutements en 2023.

L'invective de trop et le poids des mots

La tension est montée d'un cran lorsque Joanna Bérenger a évoqué un communiqué du Haut-Commissariat du Bangladesh spécifique à ce cas et s'est interrogée sur la liberté de mouvement de l'employée, déplorant qu'elle ait pu être «maintenue enfermée illégalement».

Cette insinuation a provoqué l'emportement immédiat du ministre du Travail. Qualifiant ces propos de «mensonge absolu», Reza Uteem a répliqué avec véhémence, lançant à deux reprises: «Nous ne sommes pas comme



vous, nous ne sommes pas coloniaux. *Mo pena disan colon dan mo disan. Mo pena disan colon.* (Je n'ai pas de sang de colon dans les veines.)»

Ce à quoi la députée a répliqué sur le même ton: «*Mwa osi mo pena disan colon.*»

Dans le contexte mauricien, le terme «colon» dépasse

de loin sa définition agraire ou historique. Il charrie une charge mémorielle douloureuse, renvoyant directement à l'oligarchie sucrière, à la plantocratie et aux siècles d'exploitation de l'esclavage et de l'engagisme.

L'affrontement s'est déplacé le lendemain sur les réseaux sociaux. Joanna Bérenger a fermement nié avoir attaqué la mère du ministre, l'accusant en retour de dériver vers la démagogie et le profilage racial pour esquiver un débat sur les droits humains et le traitement des travailleurs migrants.

Mardi matin, Reza Uteem a finalement publié un message d'apaisement et d'excuses sur sa page Facebook. Tout en maintenant qu'il avait été profondément blessé par les accusations fallacieuses visant sa mère, il a admis que ses mots avaient dépassé sa pensée:

«*Two wrongs don't make a right [...].* Je n'aurais pas dû utiliser le terme «colon» et je regrette sincèrement de l'avoir fait. Si cela a pu blesser ou offenser qui que ce soit, je présente mes excuses.»

Cette crise parlementaire démontre à quel point la scène politique mauricienne reste à fleur de peau dès que les débats effleurent, même indirectement, les clivages historiques, les questions ethniques et les structures issues de l'ancienne économie de plantation.

Ethiopian Airlines vs Air Mauritius: Trajectoires opposées dans le ciel africain

Alors que de nombreuses compagnies nationales africaines ont historiquement lutté contre les pertes financières, la mauvaise gestion ou la liquidation, le paysage aérien du continent offre deux modèles radicalement opposés. D'un côté, Ethiopian Airlines s'impose comme un géant de l'aviation mondialement compétitif et le numéro un incontesté en Afrique. De l'autre, Air Mauritius, véritable cordon ombilical d'une économie insulaire, incarne un cycle de succès brillants suivis de profondes turbulences structurelles et politiques.

Ethiopian Airlines: La construction d'un empire souverain

Fondée le 21 décembre 1945 par l'empereur Haile Selassie I, Ethiopian Airlines est née d'une urgence géopolitique. Au sortir de l'occupation italienne et de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le souverain comprit que ce pays enclavé et montagneux avait besoin d'une connectivité robuste pour se moderniser et préserver son indépendance.

Pour lancer la compagnie, le gouvernement s'est associé au transporteur américain *Trans World Airlines* (TWA), qui a fourni l'expertise opérationnelle et managériale initiale, tandis que l'Éthiopie conservait la pleine propriété. Le vol inaugural a eu lieu le 8 avril 1946 entre Addis-Abeba et le Caire. Très vite, la compagnie a priorisé l'«africanisation» de ses cadres: dès 1971, l'intégralité de la direction, des pilotes et des ingénieurs était éthiopienne, ancrant une culture de l'autosuffisance.

La métamorphose d'Ethiopian Airlines en leader africain repose sur l'exécution rigoureuse de plans stratégiques à long terme (Visions 2010 et 2025). Quatre piliers expliquent ce succès :

- **Le hub géographique «Hub and Spoke»:** L'aéroport international de Bole à Addis-Abeba a été transformé en une plaque tournante reliant l'Asie, l'Europe et les Amériques à des dizaines de destinations africaines.
- **Une autonomie de gestion absolue:** Bien que détenue à 100 % par l'État, la compagnie est gérée comme une entité purement commerciale. Les politiciens n'interfèrent ni dans les décisions stratégiques ni dans les recrutements, protégeant la compagnie du clientélisme qui a terrassé ses concurrents.
- **La stratégie panafricaine multi-hubs:** Pour contourner le protectionnisme local, elle a pris des participations dans plusieurs compagnies régionales, comme *ASKY Airlines* au Togo ou *Malawi Airlines*.
- **La diversification de l'Aviation Group:** Le groupe s'appuie sur sept unités rentables (Passagers, Cargo, Centre de maintenance MRO, Académie d'aviation, Catering). Cette agilité s'est illustrée lors de la crise de la Covid-19 en 2020 : en convertissant ses avions de ligne en avions-cargos («reigh-

ters»), Ethiopian est restée hautement bénéficiaire quand le reste du secteur s'effondrait.

Air Mauritius: Les épreuves du Paille-en-Queue

Le parcours d'Air Mauritius (MK), créée en juin 1967, suit une logique radicalement différente, dictée par l'impératif de désenclaver l'île Maurice pour nourrir ses industries touristique et textile.

Sous la direction de Sir Harry Tirvengadam, la compagnie nationale est devenue le moteur économique du pays en reliant directement Maurice à Paris, Londres, Bombay ou Singapour, tout en alignant son service haut de gamme sur l'hôtellerie de luxe locale. Pendant trois décennies, ce modèle de transporteur de destination a fait la fierté de la nation.

Crises de gouvernance et turbulences financières

Le 21^e siècle a toutefois exposé les vulnérabilités structurelles de la compagnie:

- **Le scandale de la «Caisse Noire» (2001):** La découverte d'un fonds secret destiné à verser des bonus occultes à des politiciens et directeurs a révélé les dangers de l'ingérence politique.

- **Le piège de la couverture de carburant (2008):** Des décisions de couverture financière (*fuel hedging*) à des prix records juste avant l'effondrement des cours du pétrole ont provoqué une grave hémorragie financière.

- **L'administration volontaire (2020):** Fragilisée, la compagnie n'a pas résisté à la fermeture des frontières liée à la pandémie. Placée sous administration le 22 avril 2020, elle a dû brader une partie de sa flotte (Airbus A340 et A350) pour survivre.

L'ère contemporaine et le plan «Game Changer»

La sortie de crise sous la tutelle d' AHL (*Airport Holdings Ltd*) a stabilisé les finances mais a engendré d'importantes difficultés opérationnelles en 2024 et 2025 (pannes techniques au sol, retards de bagages, annulations en série), exaspérant le public.

Pourtant, portée par la reprise mondiale du tourisme, Air Mauritius a amorcé un redressement financier, affichant un bénéfice net d'un milliard de roupies (22,03 millions d'euros) pour le semestre clos en septembre 2025. Fin 2025, le retour du CEO vétérinaire André Viljoen a acté le lancement du plan décennal «Game Changer» destiné à refondre l'outil industriel.

Une analyse comparative d'Ethiopian Airlines et d'Air Mauritius met en lumière des choix stratégiques diamétralement opposés à tous les niveaux opérationnels.

En ce qui concerne leur mandat principal, Ethiopian Airlines s'est développée comme un hub de transit mondial connecté au monde entier, tandis qu'Air Mauritius opère essentiellement



La métamorphose d'Ethiopian Airlines en leader africain repose sur l'exécution rigoureuse de plans stratégiques à long terme (Visions 2010 et 2025). P - Aviation24.be

comme un transporteur de destination point à point, axé sur le tourisme insulaire.

Sur le plan de la gouvernance, bien que les deux entités relèvent de la propriété publique, le géant éthiopien bénéficie d'une autonomie commerciale totale, alors que le transporteur mauricien est resté historiquement exposé aux influences du pouvoir politique.

Enfin, cette divergence se reflète nettement dans la gestion de leur flotte: Ethiopian Airlines s'appuie sur une taille massive et un renouvellement agressif avec des appareils de moins de 7 ans, tandis qu'Air Mauritius s'appuie sur une flotte réseau réduite, ce qui la rend particulièrement sensible à la moindre panne technique.

Air Mauritius demeure un bouclier économique indispensable pour l'île face aux géants étrangers. Son défi moderne consistera à conjuguer sa mission de service public avec la discipline de fer requise pour s'imposer dans un ciel mondial impitoyable.

Dans ce contexte, l'arrivée prochaine d'Ethiopian Airlines à Maurice apparaît comme un test supplémentaire pour un modèle déjà sous pression. Après plus de quinze ans de tentatives, le transporteur africain a finalement obtenu une autorisation temporaire d'exploitation, prévoyant une trentaine de vols entre juin et septembre 2026.

Si cette ouverture est présentée par les autorités comme une opportunité de renforcer la connectivité régionale et internationale de l'île, elle est perçue chez Air Mauritius comme un défi concurrentiel majeur, voire une source de déséquilibre potentiel sur certains segments de marché. Cette nouvelle dynamique ravive ainsi le débat récurrent entre libéralisation du ciel mauricien et protection d'un acteur national déjà engagé dans un processus de redressement délicat.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 17



Vijay Makhan

Western Sahara and the Crisis of International Legitimacy

The issue of Western Sahara is no longer merely about territory. It has become a revealing test of whether international law, self-determination and decolonisation principles still retain meaning in an increasingly transactional world order. Are we headed towards a quiet collapse of principle?

The question of Western Sahara has once again surfaced quietly but significantly within diplomatic circles. Quietly, because the issue no longer commands the global attention it once did. Significantly, because recent developments at the United Nations Security Council may well mark yet another step in the gradual erosion of principles that the international community once claimed to uphold with conviction.

For countries such as Mauritius, the issue is not merely a distant territorial dispute in North Africa. It touches directly upon questions of decolonisation, self-determination and the credibility of international law itself. These are principles upon which many formerly colonised states constructed both their diplomacy and their faith in the multilateral system.

Western Sahara was placed on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1963. The International Court of Justice, in its Advisory Opinion of 16 October 1975, concluded that there existed no ties of territorial sovereignty between Morocco and Western Sahara capable of affecting the application of Resolution 1514 on decolonisation and self-determination. The principle appeared clear: the people of Western Sahara were entitled to determine their own future through the free and genuine expression of their will.

The admission of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) into the Organisation of African Unity in 1984 was itself a major turning point in Africa's diplomatic history. It reflected the position taken by a significant number of African states that the question of Western Sahara was fundamentally one of decolonisation and self-determination. The issue was sufficiently consequential that Morocco withdrew from the OAU following that admission, only returning decades later to the

successor African Union, within which the SADR remains a member state to this day.

This historical reality is often understated in contemporary diplomatic discussions. Yet it remains important because it demonstrates that the issue has never merely been a bilateral disagreement. It has long occupied a recognised place within Africa's own institutional and political history.

The establishment of MINURSO in 1991 reflected precisely that understanding. It is worth recalling that MINURSO stands for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. The referendum was not an incidental detail. It was the very foundation upon which the peace process rested.

Over the years, however, the promised referendum became progressively elusive. Procedural disputes, disagreements over voter eligibility and diplomatic manoeuvring slowly transformed what was initially presented as a transitional mechanism into an apparently permanent limbo.

The adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2797 in October 2025 has deepened concerns in many quarters. While the resolution formally renews the mandate of MINURSO, it also reflects a subtle but important political shift by encouraging negotiations "taking as basis Morocco's Autonomy Proposal."

The wording may appear diplomatic and nuanced. Yet, diplomacy often advances through nuance. Language matters greatly within the United Nations system because it gradually shapes political legitimacy and international perception.

Certain powers may interpret the new orientation as pragmatic realism. Others may regard it as the slow normalisation of a *fait accompli*.

What is troubling is not only the substance of the shift but the broader context



The Western Sahara dispute represents the last unresolved decolonization issue in Africa. It sits at the core of a crisis of international legitimacy, pitting Morocco's claim of sovereignty against the Polisario Front's pursuit of independence, all while the UN grapples with competing geopolitical interests.

Picture shows demonstration in support of Western Sahara's self-determination, Madrid, 2006. Pic - Wiki Commons

within which it occurs. The contemporary international order increasingly appears driven less by principle than by transactional calculations, geopolitical alignments and strategic interests.

One cannot entirely dissociate the present dynamics from the wider geopolitical environment. Morocco's rapprochement with Israel under the Abraham Accords and the subsequent recognition by the United States of Moroccan sovereignty claims over Western Sahara introduced a new geopolitical equation into the dossier. Added to this are the strategic and economic considerations surrounding the territory itself: phosphates, fisheries and other mineral resources that inevitably attract major power interest.

The danger is that decolonisation issues risk being reframed less through the lens of international legality than through the prism of strategic bargaining.

This should concern not only Africa but all states that continue to place their trust in the integrity of the international system.

Mauritius understands perhaps better than many the importance of consistency on such matters. Throughout its history, Mauritius supported liberation movements and anti-colonial struggles, including the ANC, SWAPO, FRELIMO, MPLA and the Polisario Front. That position was never simply ideological posturing. It was rooted in the conviction that international law and decolonisation principles offered smaller and vulnerable states a measure of protection within an unequal world.

Mauritius itself consistently invoked Resolution 1514 in its long struggle over the Chagos Archipelago. The country appealed to international legality, multila-

teral diplomacy and the institutions of the United Nations because it believed that principles should apply universally rather than selectively.

It would therefore be difficult — and indeed contradictory — for Mauritius to even consider abandoning those same principles when applied elsewhere.

This does not mean ignoring geopolitical realities. Nor does it require hostility toward Morocco, an important African state with legitimate security and regional concerns. Africa has no interest in perpetuating division or confrontation within the continent.

But neither should Africa become indifferent to the gradual weakening of principles that historically underpinned its own liberation struggles.

The issue ultimately transcends Western Sahara itself. It concerns whether international legitimacy can survive in an era increasingly shaped by power politics, selective morality and strategic expediency.

The world today often speaks of a "rules-based international order." Yet rules lose credibility when they appear flexible for the powerful and rigid for the weak. International law cannot indefinitely survive as an instrument selectively invoked according to geopolitical convenience.

What is at stake is therefore not only the future of Western Sahara but also the future credibility of the multilateral system itself on which I have recently written.

And perhaps that is the deeper lament surrounding the issue.

Not simply that a decolonisation question remains unresolved after decades, but that the world appears to be quietly learning to live with unresolved principles.

“Decolonisation issues risk being reframed less through the lens of international legality than through the prism of strategic bargaining. This should concern not only Africa but all states that continue to place their trust in the integrity of the international system. Mauritius understands perhaps better than many the importance of consistency on such matters. Throughout its history, Mauritius supported liberation movements and anti-colonial struggles... That position was never simply ideological posturing. It was rooted in the conviction that international law and decolonisation principles offered smaller and vulnerable states a measure of protection within an unequal world...”

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing

“Despite the previous regime’s gross incompetence and irresponsibility, we must move past this political ping-pong narrative”

In this incisive interview, former MP and vocal commentator Nita Deerpalsing cuts through the political noise and official growth optimism.

Moving past the predictable “political ping-pong” between successive regimes, she challenges the current administration’s progress on its promises of change. From stagnation in local food production and the lack of concrete economic diplomacy to the lingering opacities of the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), Nita Deerpalsing argues that the nation’s consumption-driven, rent-seeking economic model leaves it completely ill-equipped to weather inevitable external storms. Turning her attention to the upcoming budget and proposed constitutional reforms, she exposes policy contradictions and sounds a fierce warning over a proposed electoral college for the Presidency, sniffing out a potential “*anguille sous roche*” (something fishy) that recalls the rejected constitutional overhauls of 2014. Read on for a candid, no-holds-barred assessment of public procurement, the Mauritian brain drain, and why true constitutional reform must belong to the people, not a selective elite.



« We import almost everything – we have no significant productive manufacturing nor commodity exports that could help to somewhat weather the storms when they come. It means we are totally ill-equipped to cushion external shocks which are bound to happen time and time again. Thus, while from a purely technical perspective this increase in the repo rate was pretty much inevitable, the larger question must remain: what have we been doing in the last 18 months...»

Mauritius Times: The Bank of Mauritius recently raised its inflation forecast for 2026 to 5.5% and increased interest rates to 4.75%, citing external shocks such as geopolitical tensions and rising energy costs. Do you see this inflation mainly as temporary external pressure, or does it reflect a deeper structural vulnerability in Mauritius’ import- and consumption-driven model?

Nita Deerpalsing: The geopolitical tensions and accompanying rise in energy prices definitely represent a significant trigger leading to this hike in repo rate. However, this also exacerbates our pre-existing structural weakness. Therefore, each time we have external shocks like these, our deep-seated structural problems will again and again come to the fore.

What is that deep-seated structural vulnerability from which we suffer and will continue to suffer if this is not addressed? It is that we import almost everything – we have no significant productive manufacturing nor commodity exports that could help to somewhat weather the storms when they come. It means we are totally ill-equipped to cushion external shocks which are bound to happen time and time again.

Thus, while from a purely technical perspective this increase in the repo rate was pretty much inevitable, the larger question must remain: what have we been doing in the last 18 months to address this structural problem?

True it is that no one in their right mind can dispute that the previous regime was highly irresponsible or incompetent – or both – in managing the economy. Other than tourism and financial services, they were betting in an exaggerated manner on consumption, consumption, consumption... So,

they thought they would get political popularity by flooding the system with all kinds of cash allocations, an increase in pensions which defies responsible common sense, they didn’t increase the repo rate when it should have been etc. On top of all this, we had the mess with that creature called the MIC and the printing of money.

However, you will note that even 18 months past the new regime being in place, this MIC mess has still not been sorted out. Many questions remain about just why some companies have, or are being spared, why investigations seem to be selective. Why not a full-fledged forensic audit so far? In the absence of answers to these questions, we can only speculate...

Despite the sheer irresponsibility and incompetence of the previous regime, we cannot continue with a political ping

pong narrative. 18 months down the line, what exactly are the actions taken to address the deep-seated structural issues?

According to some professionals, the spread between the Bank of Mauritius rates and the Fed Reserve rate is still too low to prevent hoarding of foreign currency and hence to shield the rupee from further depreciation. It is to be hoped that beyond inflation targeting, this issue is also addressed going forward.

* On the other hand, although the government highlights post-pandemic recovery, institutions like the World Bank expect growth to slow to around 2.5%–2.8% in 2026. What structural constraints — such as labour shortages and weak private investment — are holding back long-term growth despite sustained public spending?

Well, we apparently have a top-notch guy who is supposed to be providing ingenious solutions. We are paying an Economic Advisor at the PMO for 15 months of salary annually for what output exactly?

Where is the plan to revamp local production? Where is the plan for food security? All we have heard of are “Assises” of this and that. Where is the implementation plan of all the ideas generated? I would remind you that an implementation plan involves a timeline. Have we seen anything like that?

Unfortunately, today, the biggest disappointment comes from the Ministry of Agriculture. I simply cannot understand the lethargy and lack of bold, dynamic action from that ministry. Other than photo-shoot opportunities, there is little to write home about. Blue economy has turned into something that provides a lot of fodder for speeches, talk, talk, talk and more talk. Where is any concrete, tangible action?

Now on other possibilities for local production. I recently saw an article whereby Jetour which is a Chinese vehicle manufacturer was setting up a production facility in South Africa. They plan to create 3,000 jobs and up to 50,000 vehicles annually for the African market. Is there any reason why as we do a lot of chest thumping about our relationship with India, we cannot do something similar here? Where is our economic diplomacy?

* As regards our energy needs, Mauritius remains heavily dependent on imported energy, making it vulnerable to global price shocks. What major structural shift would you prioritise to strengthen long-term economic resilience over the next decade?

Since last year, even before the crisis if there was truly a patriotic vision for energy security, one would have expected a massive initiative in favour of widespread installation of solar photovoltaic. We can only hope that this year’s budget will come up with effective measures to encourage and incentivize a widespread implementation of PV solar installations countrywide.

I speak of a patriotic long-term vision because some cynics say that there will be no incentive to curtail the decrease in petrol imports because all the taxes on petroleum products actually brings in significant revenue!

☞ Cont. on page 9

'We just cannot allow anyone to use this Constitutional Review commission to become a colorable device..'

☞ Cont. from page 8

And I sure hope that this budget will correct the mistake that was made last year regarding hybrid and electric vehicles. On the latter, it would be wise to link solar PV production with the purchase of electric vehicles because there is no point giving incentives to favour electric vehicles if the electricity needed to power these vehicles comes from heavy fuel oil production!

So I would expect the budget to contain measures that will encourage less imported fuel consumption both via Hybrid vehicles and Electric vehicles which would have to be linked to the owner's own solar PV production. But note that I am not talking of high-end luxury vehicles. If someone has enough disposable income to buy those high-end luxury vehicles, they should pay their fair share of taxes and not benefit from same tax exemptions as everyone else.

I also hope they will correct a terribly unjust anomaly. Do you know that today, someone who buys a luxury vehicle like a Porsche or some other high-end vehicle pays the electricity used to power the Porsche at a lower price than a child from a poor family using electricity to study at night? Where is the sense in that? This was introduced by the previous government together with the incredible refund of Rs 200,000 if one were to buy an electric vehicle! Any electric vehicle – even a high-end luxury vehicle!

I mean honestly, I don't know what kind of twisted mind can come up with such a policy measure. So, someone from the previous regime thought that if you were to buy an electric Porsche or other high-end vehicle, not only you don't pay duty, etc., but on top of this, the State – that is the people of Mauritius – should refund you Rs 200,000! I think that was taken out last year, if it hasn't it should be. Along with that there is the differential in the price of electricity paid by a Porsche owner and a student from a poor family which must be scrapped!

*** Public debt remains close to 90% of GDP, while credit rating agencies have warned about fiscal sustainability. How much fiscal space does the government realistically have in the next budget before risking a downgrade?**

As many professionals have pointed out, the Moody's scare has been over exaggerated. What the government should do is to publish exactly how much of our debt is Government to Government debt and how much are commercial debts. That would be a good starting point to have a serious public conversation about the inherent risks in our debt portfolio.

Also, debt in itself may not be a problem *per se*. The problem is what exactly have we used all this debt for? What enhancement in their day-to-day lives have citizens experienced as a result of this debt burden? Do we have better public hospitals? Do we have better public education? Do we have better public roads?

Today there are people who are undergoing cancer treatment who are waiting months on end to have a CT Scan

☞ **Do you know that today, someone who buys a luxury vehicle like a Porsche or some other high-end vehicle pays the electricity used to power the Porsche at a lower price than a child from a poor family using electricity to study at night? Where is the sense in that? This was introduced by the previous government together with the incredible refund of Rs 200,000 if were to buy an electric vehicle! Any electric vehicle – even a high-end luxury vehicle!☞**



☞ **Where is the plan to revamp local production? Where is the plan for food security? All we have heard of are "Assises" of this and that. Where is the implementation plan of all the ideas generated? I would remind you that an implementation plan involves a timeline. Have we seen anything like that?☞**

because there are only a few machines still functioning. So what exactly has the previous regime done with all the debt we have taken?

What is being done by this government to ensure that we have quality control on every single purchase we make? We all know that recurring road works are because there is a lack of quality control and that in fact there is inbuilt into the system some kind of programmed breakdown so that people get repeated contracts. This is the way corruption thrives in this country. Nothing quite illegal because all these contracts – for purchase of hospital equipment, for the purchase of 'bitume', etc., go through "proper" tender processes. But do we have any studies showing the lifespan of all the things we buy compared to the lifespan of the same equipment in other countries?

Do we need Moody's blessing to have a public access to information policy? Why is all the opacity still intact 18 months after we voted for 'Change'? Does that give you any hope that things will indeed change in matters of public procurement? When will we just copy-paste what Rwanda has done in public procurement? Rwanda has introduced blockchain technology in public procurement to ensure that there is a minimal chance of corruption for public tendering exercises

*** The government aims to reduce debt while also protecting living standards and expanding social support. Can these two objectives realistically be achieved simultaneously, or does one inevitably have to be compromised?**

As I mentioned before, we cannot just look at one side of the balance sheet! When are we going to take action to increase revenue by revamping local production and exports? Where is at the very least even a timid plan for this? Unless we have some bold ideas about increasing the revenue side, we will keep talking about the expenses side.

☞ **Debt in itself may not be a problem *per se*. The problem is what exactly have we used all this debt for? What enhancement in their day-to-day lives have citizens experienced as a result of this debt burden? Do we have better public hospitals? Do we have better public education? Do we have better public roads?☞**

Debt is always as a percentage of GDP. If you have ideas to increase the GDP, the debt becomes less of a burden.

*** With the Central Bank tightening monetary policy to control inflation while government spending pressures remain high, are monetary and fiscal policies working at cross-purposes? How should they be better aligned?**

Let us take the increase in the repo rate. This will de facto cause even more pressure on the average household because households are highly indebted. While the repo rate hike was practically inevitable, there are policy issues that can be taken to soften the blow. For example, should there be a cap on onerous banking transactions? We know the banking sector is making super-profits. Should they continue to mint money on every single customer service request in an environment where everyone will feel the pain of the repo rate increase?

While the repo rate increase was technically unavoidable, we must keep in mind that in a country of heavily indebted households, it is a very risky bet. If the dose of the medicine in the form of the repo rate increase is too high, this may backfire because this tool used by the BoM to control inflation could actually trigger a recession precisely because of heavy indebtedness of Mauritian households.

This is where fiscal policy needs to at least attempt to rebalance and provide some breathing room. In a country with dire statistics such as 80% of people having up to only Rs 100,000 in a bank account together with a worrisome household debt profile, it is necessary to find ways and means to soften the blow on the average household.

*** Recent tax reforms, including tiered taxation and corporate "fair share" contributions, aim to increase revenue. Are these measures sustainable and equitable, or do they risk discouraging investment and capital formation?**

On evidence, the big corporates are doing more than well. They are generating super profits. They are therefore well shielded and less sensitive to interest rate increases than the average citizen. They also, unfortunately, enjoy the power of policy capture. Which is why we saw the U-turn on the infamous "fair share" contribution last year. We will have to see in this budget if the power of the policy-capture lot is still greater than the power of the elected officials to make policy.

As for the argument regarding "discouraging investment and capital formation", that may have stood a leg in a purely capitalist economy. However, this argument doesn't even stand scrutiny in a rent-seeking economic model.

*** Despite long-standing policy goals, Mauritius remains heavily reliant on tourism and financial services, while sectors like ICT, manufacturing, and the blue economy lag behind. Why has diversification remained so difficult to achieve in practice?**

Don't you have the impression that the policy making machine in this country has been clogged for at least a few decades now?

☞ Cont. on page 10

'We are totally ill-equipped to cushion external shocks which are bound to happen time and time again'



point, how do we ensure these changes genuinely strengthen checks and balances, and what safeguards are needed to keep the final reform package free from political influence?

I do not believe for one second that this government will do anything concrete about political financing. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Do you have any confidence that these things called 'baz' will be legally abolished?

The greater worry comes from these few lines about setting up an electoral college to elect the President? This was indeed in the Government Programme. But has anyone

sary and MAY call on any person it desires to hear...". These "may" doesn't provide any guarantee that this Constitutional Review will belong to the people of Mauritius contrary to what is being touted in the speeches.

You will note from the podcast series on the "Genesis of the Mauritius Constitution" that I did with Mr Bashir Khan (see:), when the British were working towards a new Constitution for Mauritius, the British envoys actually held widespread hearings with the public in every corner of the country; where

anyone who wished to depone could go and give their views.

Now almost 60 years after independence we are saying that the Constitutional Review Commission "may"... hear whoever it "desires" to hear from? Are we to understand that they will pick and choose who gets to be heard? Why not say they "shall" conduct hearings open to any citizen who wishes to give their views? I am afraid that all of this only opens the door for speculations...

« While the repo rate hike was practically inevitable, there are policy issues that can be taken to soften the blow. For example, should there be a cap on onerous banking transactions? We know the banking sector is making super-profits. Should they continue to mint money on every single customer service request in an environment where everyone will feel the pain of the repo rate increase? »

☞ Cont. from page 9

Perhaps it is because the rent-seekers are wielding policy making power over and above what the people express in the ballot box?

* **Mauritius is facing both labour shortages requiring foreign workers and a significant brain drain of skilled youth. Why has the economy struggled to generate enough high-value jobs — particularly in emerging sectors like AI and fintech — to retain local talent?**

Leadership is always by example! Do you have the feeling we are living in a country of exemplary leadership?

Why do we have so many of our middle class educated professionals fleeing to countries like Canada, Australia or Luxembourg? Because once again, despite all the beautiful speeches we hear at the Laureates ceremonies, the fact is that the middle class educated professionals have a diminishing faith in the possibility of living a decent life, having a decent job, climbing the professional ladder without any political connections.

When you see the signal given by an advisor at the PMO who also happened to obtain the sought-for by-catch fish contract, this is in itself a "leadership" signal which goes the wrong way and completely destroys all those beautiful speeches. And you will notice that despite all the noise that was made, has anything been done? Any corrective action taken? No, no.

It's almost as if you can hear someone say: Make as much noise as you want, I will continue to operate in this manner. That in itself tells you a lot about the quality of leadership we have.

* **One last question. The government's proposed constitutional reforms introduce welcome democratic updates in relation to party funding, electoral disclosure, etc. From an objective stand-**

heard of this during the 2024 electoral campaign? Was such an important change presented to the electorate during the electoral campaign? Therefore, the question that arises is: did we vote for this important and fundamental change? Or was this surreptitiously slipped into the Government Programme *after* the elections?

Why in the first place is there any need for an electoral college to elect the President? Why all of a sudden are we talking about the election of a President? What lies behind what is visible to the eye here? The fact that this was not in the circulated Bill, but was announced in the PM's speech as an amendment he will bring, is already a cause for concern.

In my opinion, there is some kind of "anguille sous roche" and civil society will have to be very vigilant about what may be concocted behind the scenes.

This takes us back to the infamous attempt in 2014 for the then PM to go to Rduit as a President with more power. Which was rejected by the electorate. I hope this Constitutional Review Commission will not be a side door to try and do what failed in 2014!

In any case, as I said we will all have to be very vigilant, we simply cannot allow this change to materialize. If only because it was NEVER presented to the electorate during the campaign. Not only is it dangerous, there is no basis for such a need unless there is a hidden agenda. We just cannot allow anyone to use this Constitutional Review commission to become a colorable device for some other hidden purpose.

The other major flaw in the Bill is concerning public hearings. Despite the nice-sounding speech, it so happens that the Bill provides that "the Commission MAY hold public sittings as and when it deems neces-



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation for Bids

Authorised under Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006

Procurement for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) System and associated works at St. Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant

Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/579W

E-Procurement Reference: WMA/IFB/2026/1842

1. The Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) is inviting bids from eligible bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius, through the Government eProcurement System for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) System and associated works at St. Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant, as more fully described in the bidding document.
2. Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2026/1842**
3. Bids must be submitted online on the eProcurement System at latest by **Wednesday 08 July 2026 up to 13.29 hrs (Local Time)**.
4. Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt and re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 08 July 2026 from 14.31 hrs till Friday 10 July 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Local Time)**.
5. Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 10 July 2026 as from 14.01 hrs (Local Time)**

Wastewater Management Authority
Head Office
Conference Room, 3rd Floor
Jerningham Street
Curepipe

6. The **Wastewater Management Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to 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.

25 May 2025



Shyam Bhatia

Every geopolitical crisis produces an unexpected beneficiary. In the emerging Iran-Gulf settlement, that country may well be Pakistan.

Once viewed in Washington largely through the narrow lens of terrorism, instability and nuclear proliferation, Pakistan has quietly repositioned itself as one of the few states able to speak simultaneously to Tehran, Washington, Beijing and the Gulf monarchies. That access now carries value.

As the long-running confrontation over Iran's nuclear ambitions inches toward a fragile diplomatic conclusion, Pakistan is discovering that its greatest strategic asset may not be economic strength or military superiority, but ambiguity itself.

For decades, Islamabad occupied an awkward place in global diplomacy — too important to isolate, too problematic fully to trust. Its military establishment cultivated relationships across ideological divides: with China and the United States, Sunni Gulf monarchies and revolutionary Iran, Islamist networks and Western intelligence services. What once appeared contradictory increasingly looks, in today's fractured geopolitical landscape, like strategic versatility.

The irony is striking.

Pakistan was once associated with one of the most controversial episodes in nuclear history. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the architect of Pakistan's atomic programme, built what investigators described as a vast proliferation network supplying centrifuge technology and expertise to countries including Iran and Libya. Pakistan's designs helped shape the early infrastructure of Iran's enrichment programme itself.

At the time, Pakistan was depicted internationally as a dangerous nuclear middleman — a state operating in the shadows of international legality.

Yet history has a habit of recycling strategic liabilities into diplomatic assets.

Today, Pakistan's deep historical familiarity with Iran's

“Pakistan's long habit of operating in diplomatic grey zones — once regarded as evidence of duplicity — may now be yielding strategic dividends. Countries trusted by nobody rarely mediate crises. Countries trusted a little by everyone sometimes do. None of this means Pakistan has suddenly resolved its structural problems. Its economy remains fragile. Political instability persists. Militancy has not disappeared. Nor does diplomatic relevance automatically translate into long-term strategic success. But geopolitics does not always reward virtue. It rewards usefulness...”

nuclear establishment, combined with its long border and layered political ties with Tehran, gives Islamabad something few countries possess: credibility of access. Not moral credibility perhaps, but operational relevance.

That distinction matters enormously in modern diplomacy.

The United States may trust Britain more, but Britain cannot mediate with Iran independently because it is seen as inseparable from Washington's strategic posture. India, despite its growing global stature, is viewed in Tehran through the prism of its increasingly close relationships with both the United States and Israel.

Pakistan occupies a different diplomatic space. It is

The Unexpected Winner of the Gulf Crisis



“Once viewed in Washington largely through the narrow lens of terrorism, instability and nuclear proliferation, Pakistan has quietly repositioned itself as one of the few states able to speak simultaneously to Tehran, Washington, Beijing and the Gulf monarchies. That access now carries value. As the long-running confrontation over Iran's nuclear ambitions inches toward a fragile diplomatic conclusion, Pakistan is discovering that its greatest strategic asset may not be economic strength or military superiority, but ambiguity itself...” - Pic-YouTube

close enough to Washington to be useful, sufficiently connected to Tehran to remain credible, and deeply embedded in Gulf security structures through decades of military cooperation with Saudi Arabia and the Emirates.

In moments of regional tension, such positioning becomes valuable.

The symbolism surrounding recent contacts between Washington and Pakistan's military leadership has therefore been hard to ignore. Donald Trump has repeatedly referred to Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, as “my favourite field marshal”, while describing him as an “exceptional man” and a “great fighter.”

The language matters. Trump has often publicly scolded NATO allies and traditional Western partners. Pakistan's military leadership, by contrast, is now being spoken of in terms of personal trust and strategic usefulness.

That diplomatic relevance is increasingly translating into leverage.

Recent reporting by the *Financial Times* described Pakistan and Qatar intensifying efforts to broker a US-Iran understanding and prevent renewed conflict in the Gulf. At the same time, US-based news outlet *Axios* reported that Munir travelled to Tehran as part of what it described as a final attempt to secure a peace framework between Washington and Tehran.

One leading London daily newspaper observed that “the relationship Munir built with Trump has made Pakistan uniquely qualified to mediate peace talks between the United States and Iran.” The formulation may sound dramatic, but it captures an important geopolitical reality: Pakistan remains one of the few countries able to maintain meaningful channels with all sides simultaneously.

Ironically, Pakistan's long habit of operating in diplo-

matic grey zones — once regarded as evidence of duplicity — may now be yielding strategic dividends. Countries trusted by nobody rarely mediate crises. Countries trusted a little by everyone sometimes do.

None of this means Pakistan has suddenly resolved its structural problems. Its economy remains fragile. Political instability persists. Militancy has not disappeared. Nor does diplomatic relevance automatically translate into long-term strategic success.

But geopolitics does not always reward virtue. It rewards usefulness.

India remains economically and strategically far stronger than Pakistan. Yet diplomacy is not simply a hierarchy of GDP or military spending. In certain crises, access outweighs scale. Pakistan's enduring relationships with Tehran, Gulf elites and sections of the American security establishment give it channels that few others possess.

For Islamabad, this represents a quiet but important rehabilitation after years of international marginalisation.

The broader lesson may be even more significant. In an increasingly multipolar world, countries capable of navigating between rival power centres are acquiring renewed importance. Pakistan has spent decades cultivating precisely that role — balancing America and China, Sunni monarchies and Shia Iran, military alliances and strategic ambiguity.

For years, that balancing act appeared unstable and even dangerous. Today, it may be paying dividends.

Pakistan's influence does not arise from moral authority or economic dynamism. It arises from access — cultivated over decades in the shadowy intersections of military power, nuclear politics and regional diplomacy.

In the Gulf crisis now inching toward resolution, access may prove more valuable than respectability.



Finance the acquisition
of land, apartment, land
& house or property



NIC HOME LOAN

Get your quote

602 3000 | loanoperations@nicl.mu

Terms & Conditions apply

National Insurance Co. Ltd (IS15000024) is licensed by the Financial Services Commission.

US strikes Iranian sites amid fractured peace talks

A volatile mix of military strikes and conflicting diplomatic signals has pushed US-Iran relations to a razor's edge. The US military launched overnight strikes targeting an Iranian military site near the crucial Strait of Hormuz. The operation, aimed at neutralizing threats to American forces and commercial shipping, included the interception of multiple Iranian drones. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fiercely condemned the operation, labelling it a "blatant violation" of recent ceasefire understandings and warning that further attacks would trigger a massive response extending "beyond regional borders."

The military escalation directly contrasts with intense behind-the-scenes diplomacy. Washington sharply rejected Iranian state media reports claiming a draft interim peace deal had been reached, calling the purported Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) a "complete fabrication." Iranian state TV had claimed the draft included a full withdrawal of US forces from areas near Iran and an end to the naval blockade. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio clarified that while talks continue, negotiations are currently stuck over "disagreements over a word, a sentence," specifically regarding Iran's nuclear program and the lifting of sanctions.

Amid this diplomatic deadlock, regional players are stepping in to mediate. Pakistan's army chief has travelled to Tehran to act as a key go-between to



US launches new strikes on Iran amid talks to end war. Pic - UCA News

accelerate peace efforts. However, geopolitical friction points remain high; Pakistan simultaneously reaffirmed its ideological stance by ruling out joining the Abraham Accords, refusing any normalisation with Israel without a resolution to the Palestinian question. Meanwhile, South Korea added to the pressure on Tehran, announcing that an attack on an HMM-operated cargo ship earlier this month likely involved an Iranian anti-ship missile.

The threat of all-out war heavily impacts global energy markets, though oil prices unexpectedly plunged over 3% on Wednesday -- with Brent crude dropping to \$96.47 a barrel -- as investors anxiously balanced the raw geopolitical tensions against the fragile hope of a diplomatic breakthrough. Inside Iran, the government took its "first step" toward normality, with monitoring groups confirming internet access is being partially restored after a months-long blackout. Yet, with the IRGC declaring that "hostile countries" remain barred from the Strait of Hormuz, the line between regional peace and wider conflict remains perilous.

Canada-India trade pact may be sealed earlier than expected: Goyal

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that given the sincerity of negotiators on both sides, if a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) is delivered earlier than expected, it shouldn't be a surprise.

When Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi in March, they set a deadline for the end of this year for concluding negotiations towards the free trade deal, reports HT.

Goyal was speaking at the Canada-India Trade and Investment Forum, organised by the Canada-India Business Council (C-IBC), in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada, the country's foreign ministry. The event was convened by Goyal and Canada's Minister of International Trade Maninder Sidhu.

He pointed to the ambition behind the objective -- increasing bilateral trade from the current US\$17 billion per year level to US\$50 billion by 2030. "It will be no mean achievement but it is eminently doable,"



India sends largest-ever business delegation to Canada amid talks for year-end trade deal. Pic - MSN

Goyal noted.

"The political reset will build upon the economic reset and when both go together, it's a win-win situation that is present to all of us. The scale at which we can grow together is unparalleled," he added.

On Monday, after meeting Goyal in Ottawa, Carney described the CEPA as a potential "game changer for Canadian workers and businesses -- unlocking a massive new market."

Across the Globe

Why the US isn't winning wars

The US approach to war is deeply flawed, as illustrated most recently by its strategic blunders in Iran, two prominent analysts argued. Despite having the world's strongest military, the US continues to lose the conflicts it initiates because Washington believes "overwhelming force can compensate for asymmetric motivation," Ivo Daalder, a former US ambassador to NATO, wrote in Politico.

The US strategy in Iran -- "performative diplomacy" followed by a bombing campaign -- is the "most radical manifestation" of this thinking. A British academic argued in Foreign Affairs that relying solely on firepower in hopes of coercing Tehran into compliance has led Washington into a "dead end."

"America may have the force, but the other side has the will," Daalder noted.

Hopes dim for reopening Hormuz

Oil prices rose and stocks slipped amid growing signs that the Strait of Hormuz is likely to remain largely closed for the foreseeable future. Alongside the exchange of strikes between the US and Iran, Tehran fired warning shots at four ships attempting to cross the strait. Iran wants to assert oversight of the waterway, a move opposed by global powers. Washington imposed sanctions on the Iranian authority regulating the channel, while US President Donald Trump threatened to bomb Oman if it cooperated with Tehran to share control of Hormuz. The number of ships crossing the strait has continued to decline. ABN AMRO economists forecast that even if the waterway reopens soon, oil prices are likely to remain elevated for "the coming quarters."



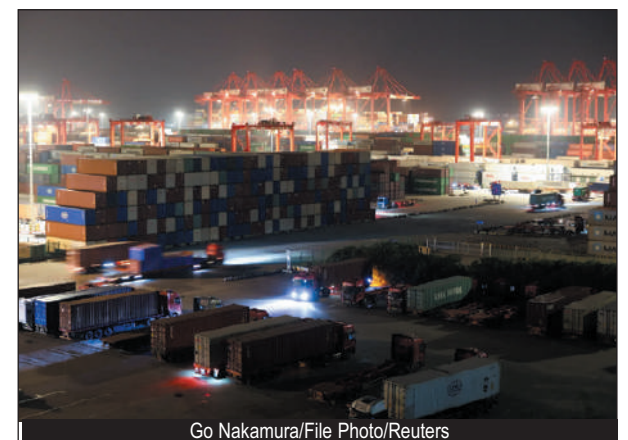
An Iranian man walks next to a mural on a street in Tehran, Iran. -- Reuters

Fertilizer shortage risks global crisis

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz risks triggering a global food crisis that could last for years, the UN warned. Global fertilizer companies have reduced production because of sulphur shortages, a key ingredient in many agricultural inputs. Before the Iran war, about half of the global sulphur supply passed through the strait. As a result, farmers are expected to face lower crop yields in future harvests. Wealthier economies in Europe are considering measures such as building fertilizer stockpiles, lowering import duties, and expanding domestic production, but poorer countries have limited capacity to adapt. "We have a window to act, but that window is narrowing," the head of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said.

EU seeks to blunt China imports

The EU moved to protect itself from what it views as a growing threat from Chinese exports, even as European companies deepen their reliance on China's manufacturing capabilities. The EU industry commissioner said Brussels would introduce trade measures, including import quotas and tariffs across several sectors, alongside requirements for firms to diversify supply chains away from China as part of a more "muscular" strategy.



Go Nakamura/File Photo/Reuters

Yet, even as officials praised this "less fragmented approach," European companies surveyed by the EU Chamber of Commerce in China said they planned to maintain or expand their supply chains there to strengthen global competitiveness. "We don't see ... de-risking becoming a theme," the business group's president said.

Africa's growth holds firm amid global turbulence

Africa's economies are projected to grow at 4.2% in 2026, moderating slightly from 4.4% in 2025, before rebounding to 4.4% in 2027. The findings of the 2026 African Economic Outlook, released Tuesday at the African Development Bank Group Annual Meetings in Brazzaville, underscore the continent's continued resilience in the face of geopolitical tensions, tighter global financial conditions, and supply chain disruptions.

According to the Bank's flagship report, Africa's growth in 2025 was supported by improved macroeconomic management, stronger agricultural output, elevated commodity prices, and ongoing structural reforms. The continent remains among the world's fastest-growing regions, with 22 countries projected to grow above 5% in 2025.

Published under the theme, *Mobilizing Africa's Development Financing at Scale in a Fragmented World*, the report notes that sustaining faster, inclusive and more resilient growth would require a decisive shift towards mobilising and deploying capital at scale. This includes strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, deepening and integrating financial systems, expanding capital markets, and enhancing African agency in global



Africa's growth holds firm amid global turbulence. Pic – African Development Bank

finance.

Mixed Regional Outlook

- East Africa is expected to remain the continent's fastest-growing region, though growth is projected to ease from 6.6% in 2025 to 5.9% in 2026, as rising energy and import costs linked to Middle East disruptions take their toll. A rebound to 6.4% is anticipated in 2027.
- West Africa is forecast to remain relatively stable, with growth projected at 4.7% in 2026, broadly in line with the estimated 4.8% for 2025, supported by strong agricultural production and continued

infrastructure investment.

- North Africa is expected to grow at 4.0% in 2026 compared to 4.4% in 2025, reflecting weaker tourism demand from Gulf states, and the broader effects of global supply chain disruptions.
- Central Africa is one of the few regions projected to see an uptick, with growth rising marginally to 3.8% in 2026 from 3.6% in 2025, buoyed by sustained high oil prices.
- Growth in Southern Africa is expected to remain subdued at 2.1% in 2026, from 2.3% in 2025, weighed down by weaker mining and agricultural output and higher energy costs.

Downside risks: Inflation is projected to stay elevated at 10.4% in 2026, posing continued challenges to macroeconomic stability and growth prospects. Persistent geopolitical tensions, alongside prolonged global supply chain and energy disruptions, could further strain fiscal and external balances through higher energy and fertilizer prices. In addition, financial market volatility and exchange rate depreciations risk amplifying debt and fiscal vulnerabilities, while rising global fragmentation may intensify pressures on external financing flows, including official development assistance.

Across the Globe



Musk floats SpaceX-Tesla merger

Elon Musk has reportedly discussed merging SpaceX with Tesla, a move that would give the world's richest person even greater control over his sprawling tech empire. Musk floated the idea just weeks before SpaceX, the satellite and rocket giant, is expected to launch its massive IPO on the Nasdaq, CNBC reported. One early SpaceX investor said the merger was "only a matter of when," not if. Such a deal would mark the fourth time Musk has overseen a billion-dollar transaction between companies he controls, *Electrek* wrote. Earlier this year, SpaceX acquired Musk's AI firm, xAI. Analysts say the merger makes strategic sense, as both SpaceX and Tesla are increasingly focused on AI and already

share resources and personnel.

Africa's shifting faiths

The pope's visit to Africa last month reinforced the continent's importance to the future of Catholicism, though it may soon no longer be the region's dominant form of Christianity. The number of Catholics in Africa grew roughly fivefold from 1975 to 271 million last year, but Pentecostal and charismatic Christian movements expanded more than tenfold to 252.3 million followers.

These movements are more decentralized and attract believers through a "prosperity gospel" that links faith with wealth and success. African Catholic leaders have expressed concern about the trend. "Today, a lot of humans are thirsting for God, but that thirsting is not always fulfilled in the best way," one bishop told *The Washington Post*.

GLP-1s shift fashion, food trends

The growing global use of GLP-1 weight-loss drugs is forcing industries beyond pharmaceuticals — including fashion and food — to adapt. Major clothing brands are increasingly designing products for "body fluctuation and size volatility," according to *The Business of Fashion*, prompting changes in supply chains and inventory management.

Wedding retailers are also asking customers to sign size waivers, as some brides order smaller dresses expecting to lose weight rapidly. Separately, an HSBC report forecast that lower food spending

linked to the use of GLP-1 drugs could reduce overall consumer spending by as much as 7% in some countries. Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the US are expected to be most affected because of higher obesity rates.



Maxim Shemetov/Reuters

China balances AI push with job fears

China is attempting to balance its nationwide AI expansion with growing concerns about the technology's socioeconomic impact. Beijing's vice premier was reportedly "shaken" after major Chinese employers warned last year about AI's potential effect on jobs, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. While policymakers continue to promote AI's "job creation" potential, analysts expect China's already strained labor market to worsen in the coming months. Authorities are also increasingly concerned about public anxiety over job losses linked to AI, a China tech expert noted. Beijing has warned companies not to eliminate positions because of AI, and a court recently ruled that firms cannot dismiss employees on AI-related grounds. "A world anxious about an AI jobs apocalypse will be watching the Chinese experiment," *The Economist* wrote.

Europe bolsters military alliances

Mounting concern in Europe over Russia's military ambitions — coupled with declining confidence in US support — is driving new defence alliances across the continent.

With Moscow's war in Ukraine dragging on, European leaders fear that the Kremlin "will try next to reshuffle the cards by expanding the conflict," *The Wall Street Journal's* chief foreign-affairs correspondent wrote.



Partly driven by those concerns, the prime ministers of Britain and Poland are due to finalise a security agreement today. France is also reportedly considering joining a Germany-UK programme to produce new long-range missiles, while a Britain-Italy-Japan fighter-jet partnership could soon expand.

"We need to focus on strengthening our ability to deter and defend against the Russians," Sweden's defence minister told the *Journal*.

The logo for SBM home loan, featuring a stylized icon of three vertical bars of varying heights to the left of the text "SBM home loan".

SBM home loan

A photograph of a family in a modern living room. A young boy in a white soccer jersey is running towards the camera, holding a soccer ball. In the background, another child is walking. A man and a woman are sitting on a beige sofa, smiling. Large floor-to-ceiling windows offer a view of a lush tropical garden with palm trees and other greenery. The room is well-lit with warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

The Ultimate Home Win

Check out our winning lineup of options:

- The Long Game: Preferential interest rates as from 4.95% p.a.
- The Victory Bonus: Get 1% cashback, up to MUR 200,000, on your approved loan amount.
- The Perfect Transfer: Switching from another financial institution?
We'll give you discounted rates AND we'll cover your registration fees.

Don't let the clock run out on these world-class deals. Apply now.

T: (230) 207 0111 | E: sbm@sbmgroup.mu | www.sbmbank.com

APR 5.27%. Terms & Conditions apply. SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd is licensed by the Bank of Mauritius

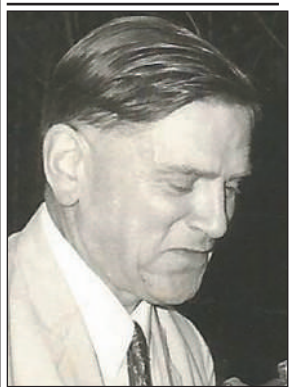
From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

7th Year No 337

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 17 February, 1961

• "Freedom is a new religion — the religion of our time." — Heinrich Heine



Peter Ibbotson

Economics and Freedom

Any social and economic study of Mauritius is of necessity a study of poverty. In the past few years there have been great economic changes, but the sentence I have just written is broadly true. The vast majority of Mauritians are living in poverty stark, unadulterated poverty. Mr Luce's famous report demonstrated the cold sober truth of the degree to

which poverty exists among the workers; even among those who are in work, Wages don't, in the main, equal necessary expenditure. For the workless, life is a veritable nightmare. No unemployment assistance; only the Public Assistance Department (PAD) where, if reports and complaints are to be believed, many an applicant is insulted or degraded by the clerks-in-charge. The mounting sums set aside in the annual budget for the relief of poverty through the PAD are eloquent testimony to the widespread existence of poverty. Thus in 1957-58, no less than Rs 25,000 were budgeted for funerals and Rs 2.75 million for outdoor relief: the Government explained these sums by "increased demand for coffins for paupers" and "increased provision for cases of temporary destitution arising from unemployment". (In the previous year the items cost, respectively, Rs 15,000 and Rs 7,250,000). The following year, 1958-59, outdoor relief cost Rs 9,295,174 as against the budget estimate of Rs 4.25 million.

The increased estimate, when it was made, was accompanied in the usual memorandum on the estimates by the explanation "The increase in the provision for outdoor relief reflects the expected increase in recipients." Although the actual expenditure on outdoor relief in 1958-59 so much exceeded the estimated Rs 4.25 million, the Government none the less allowed only Rs 5 million in the estimates for 1959-60, and in the usual memorandum said boldly, "The sums required for outdoor relief continue to increase".

The massive expenditure on outdoor relief bears eloquent silent testimony to my charge that a survey of social and economic conditions in Mauritius is a survey of poverty and want. The Government is, however, determined to tackle this problem, and the development plan (so tragically interrupted by cyclones and Carol of 1960) was intended to alleviate poverty and lack of opportunity for work. The Government is still determined to carry out the rehabilitation of Mauritius, and to carry out also a programme of economic expansion so that Mauritius is no longer dependent on sugar for her prosperity, and thus at the mercy of unpredictable climatic conditions — cyclones at the beginning of 1960, a drought (broken only just in time) at the end. The Meade Report, if its suggestions are examined and implemented, will be found to be a veritable milestone in the history of Mauritius and a signpost to a prosperous future.

But there are those in the country who would put that prosperous future in jeopardy. They deny the necessity for diversified economic activities; they are content to see Mauritius produce sugar, sugar, sugar, just like the millstone in the old legend, that went on grinding salt long after the need for it had disappeared. The editors pointed out but a few weeks ago the danger of relying on unlimited production of sugar; the article from *The Times* reproduced in these columns last week, and the speech of Sir Ian Lyle, underlined the world position as regards sugar: that there is world surplus of sugar, thanks particularly to the expansion of sugar-beet cultivation in temperate climates and to the expansion of cane-growing in such countries as India and

Rhodesia. Whereas India used to be an importer of sugar, she is well on the road to self-sufficiency; Rhodesia and Nyasaland are developing cane-growing so as to be independent of imports. If Mauritius continues to rely on sugar, the future outlook is not rosy. Alternative and diversified agriculture, plus light industry, plus home-produced vegetables, is the answer.

But all this will need hard work, (The cattle industry needs development too; perhaps the FAO can advise on better breeds of cattle which would be as suitable to Mauritius as the Creole breed; for improved fodder, I suggest the Department of Agriculture gets in touch with the appropriate department in the Government of the Dominican Republic, of all places! In that Caribbean republic there was a situation in the cattle industry similar to that in Mauritius: the need to improve the strain, and a need for better fodder. The authorities looked around the world and found a plant which they introduced from India. It proved excellent fodder and increased milk yields considerably. The plant? In the Dominican Republic they call it 'pangola')

If there is so much to be achieved in the economic field, why — it may be asked is the Government so much concerned with constitutional developments? Why is it, in short, concerned with the achievement of Independence: which, if the *New Commonwealth* correspondent is to be believed, is not wanted by Muslims or Coloureds. The answer is simple. The Government believes that the economic development of Mauritius can be accomplished better as an independent Mauritius than as a Crown Colony Mauritius — and events in other part of the Commonwealth certainly add weight to their belief. As a Crown Colony, Mauritius can raise finance for economic development in the UK or with the agreement of the UK government. Suppose Mauritius were to negotiate a loan with a country of which HMG disapproved — then the loan could not be taken up. (Dr Jagan met this difficulty when he negotiated for a loan from Cuba; Whitehall wouldn't let him). But an independent Mauritius could raise financial accommodation wherever it found a source available. Anyway, as the development plans get under way, Mauritius

will become economically viable and no longer in a state of economic dependence on the mother country. So, as economic viability is attained, political independence must follow as a natural corollary. Independence will not produce a magic overnight improvement in the country's economy, but in the long run, it will help a more rational exploitation of resources, a more intelligent investment of capital, a greater use of local capital, and the elimination of enterprises which may be profitable to the colonialists but are inimical to the welfare of people as a whole.

Politically, independence is an inevitable development in political growth. Economically, it is desirable. Therefore, the Government is right, while not neglecting the economic necessities, to press for it.



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation for Bids

Authorised under Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006

Authorised under Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006 Procurement for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 22 kV Switchgear and Associated Works at St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant

Contract No.: WW 581W

Procurement Reference: WMA/ONB/05/2026
E-Procurement Reference: WMA/IFB/2026/1839

1. The Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) is inviting bids from eligible bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius, through the Government eProcurement System for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 22 kV Switchgear and Associated Works at St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant, as more fully described in the bidding document.
2. **Bidding documents** may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: WMA/IFB/2026/1839
3. Bids must be submitted online on the eProcurement System at latest by **Monday 06 July 2026 up to 13.29 hrs (Local Time)**.
4. Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt and re-encrypt** their bids from **Monday 06 July 2026 from 14.31 hrs till Wednesday 08 July 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Local Time)**.
5. Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Wednesday 08 July 2026 as from 14.01 hrs (Local Time)**

Wastewater Management Authority
Head Office
Conference Room, 3rd Floor
Jerningham Street
Curepipe

6. The **Wastewater Management Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to 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.

26 May 2026

Dans l'ombre des écoutes et des «Moustass Leaks»: Maurice revisite ses garde-fous sécuritaires

L'hémicycle mauricien a été le théâtre, le 19 mai dernier, d'un débat crucial concernant l'interception des télécommunications. Répondant à une question parlementaire du député Adrien Duval, le Premier ministre Navin Ramgoolam a dressé un réquisitoire implacable contre les dérives de l'ancien régime, tout en esquissant les contours d'une profonde réforme de l'architecture sécuritaire et légale du pays. Cette intervention s'inscrit dans un contexte politique profondément marqué par l'onde de choc des «Moustass Leaks», qui a traversé le pays à la veille des dernières élections générales.

Le spectre d'un «État policier» démantelé

Rappelant d'emblée que le droit à la vie privée et la liberté d'expression sont des piliers intangibles de la Constitution, le chef du gouvernement a révélé l'ampleur du système d'espionnage mis en place par ses prédécesseurs. Selon le Premier ministre, un dispositif sophistiqué de surveillance de masse avait été installé à grands frais pour traquer indistinctement chaque citoyen.

«Ils espionnaient tout le monde», a martelé le Premier ministre, énumérant la liste des cibles: députés, ministres, magistrats, membres de la société civile, journalistes, et jusqu'aux familles mauriciennes au sein de leurs foyers.

Ce système aspirait en temps réel les appels, courriels, SMS et activités sur les réseaux sociaux — incluant un simple «j'aime» sur Facebook ou YouTube — pour stocker ces données dans un centre secret. Affirmant avoir ordonné le démantèlement complet de cette structure qualifiée de «grotesque et illégale», le Premier ministre a confirmé qu'une enquête criminelle était en cours.

L'arsenal légal actuel et le garde-fou judiciaire

Tout en condamnant les dérives politiques de la surveillance, le PM a rappelé que l'interception légitime demeure un outil indispensable de sécurité publique dans un monde turbulent. Maurice dispose déjà de dispositions strictes encadrant ces pratiques à travers plusieurs textes de loi:

- **Section 56** de la *Dangerous Drugs Act* (Lutte contre le trafic de stupéfiants)
- **Sections 29 et 30** de la *Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Act*
- **Section 32** de la *Information and Communication Technologies Act*
- **Section 25A** de la *Prevention of Terrorism Act*
- **Section 10B** de la *Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act*

Le Premier ministre a insisté sur le fait que toutes ces lois partagent une garantie démocratique essentielle: aucune interception ne peut être menée sans l'autorisation préalable et motivée d'un juge en chambre. Ce contrôle judiciaire strict constitue le rempart fondamental contre l'arbitraire.

Vers une refonte législative: La future National Security Act

Pour prémunir définitivement le pays contre les dérives partisans, le gouvernement a annoncé un agenda législatif ambitieux. Si le très attendu *National Crime Agency Bill* se concentrera exclusivement sur les enquêtes criminelles, c'est un autre projet de loi qui viendra encadrer la sûreté de l'État: la *National Security Act*.

Cette future législation ambitionne de placer l'usage des outils technologiques sous l'égide exclusive des intérêts supérieurs de la nation, et non plus d'un régime ou d'un parti. L'introduction de structures de contrôle indépendantes est actuellement à l'étude pour garantir la proportionnalité et la transparence des procédures, afin de restaurer la confiance publique et l'État de droit.

L'onde de choc des Moustass Leaks et la riposte citoyenne

Ce débat parlementaire fait directement écho au scandale sans précédent des écoutes téléphoniques divulguées par les pseudonymes «Missié Moustass». Ces fuites massives ont mis en lumière la vulnérabilité systémique des réseaux mauriciens,



L'affaire «Missié Moustass» et ses fuites massives ont révélé la vulnérabilité des réseaux mauriciens, exposant des écoutes de conversations hautement sensibles entre dirigeants politiques, diplomates étrangers, avocats et hauts gradés de la police - Le Mauricien

révélant des écoutes de conversations hautement sensibles impliquant des hommes politiques, dont les dirigeants du pays, des avocats, des diplomates étrangers, comme le Haut-commissaire britannique, ainsi que de hauts gradés de la police, à l'instar du Commissaire de police et du responsable de l'ADSU.

Face à cette crise de confiance, la contre-attaque juridique s'était déjà organisée. L'ancien ministre Nando Bodha, avait officiellement saisi la Cour suprême à travers un affidavit percutant visant

l'ICTA, le *Data Protection Commissioner* et l'État. En sa qualité de citoyen et de légiste, il avait dénoncé un système de télécommunications compromis qui expose la nation à l'espionnage industriel, à la manipulation boursière et au chantage.

Des voix fortes, à l'instar de directeurs du Bar Council ou d'anciens magistrats comme Noren Seeburn, s'étaient aussi élevés pour dénoncer l'impact dévastateur de ces révélations sur le secret professionnel et l'indépendance de la justice. Entre l'urgence d'assainir les institutions et la nécessité de protéger le territoire contre le crime organisé, Maurice se trouve à un tournant législatif historique où la transparence et les garanties constitutionnelles devront primer sur le secret d'État.

A. Bartleby



VACANCY NOTICE

The State Trading Corporation (STC) wishes to recruit experienced and dynamic candidates willing to take an active role in the following positions, **on contractual basis**:

1. Merchandiser
2. Salesperson

For the two (2) posts, salary may be negotiable and appointment will be on a one-year contractual basis, renewable, subject to satisfactory performance.

Relevant information on mode of application and other details regarding the vacancies are available on STC's website at <https://www.stcmu.com> or from STC's Reception Desk, 55 Business Zone, Ebene Cybercity 72201, Ebene.

Envelope clearly marked "NAME OF POST APPLIED FOR" on top left-hand corner and addressed to the General Manager should reach the STC through registered post or deposited at the STC's Reception Desk at latest **08 June 2026 by 15:00 hrs.**

Candidates applying for more than one post should ensure that they forward separate applications for each post applied, i.e. to be submitted in separate envelopes, or otherwise will not be considered.

Late applications and applications not made on the Prescribed Form (STC Form 2) will not be considered. Incomplete, inadequate or inaccurate filling of the Application Form may cause the applicant's elimination from consideration.

Candidates should submit along with their applications, copies of relevant educational qualifications, testimonials of any experience claimed and equivalence of qualification (if any). The onus for the submission of the equivalence of qualification (if applicable) from the relevant authorities (Higher Education Commission or Mauritius Qualifications Authority) rests on the applicants.

STC reserves the right:

(i) to call only the best qualified candidates for an interview; and

(ii) not to make any appointment following this advertisement nor to assign any reason whatsoever for accepting or rejecting any candidates.

Date: 25 May 2026

Retour sur le 1er mai: Hommage à Guy Rozemont

L'héritage d'un tribun et la reconnaissance des luttes ouvrières à l'île Maurice



Guy Rozemont
- Pic - Top FM

Le 1er mai, célébré comme la fête du Travail dans de nombreux pays, occupe une place particulière dans l'histoire sociale et politique de l'île Maurice. Cette journée symbolise les luttes des travailleurs pour de meilleures conditions de vie et de travail. À Maurice, elle est indissociable de l'action de Guy Rozemont, figure emblématique du mouvement ouvrier. C'est dans cette optique que la Commission des droits humains a tenu, cette année encore, à rappeler et à rendre hommage à la contribution de ce tribun.

Ce dernier, rappelons-le, présenta en 1949 une motion au Conseil législatif pour faire du 1er mai un jour férié. Son objectif était de permettre aux travailleurs de célébrer leurs droits et leurs luttes. Grâce à cette initiative et à la pression du mouvement ouvrier, le 1er mai devint officiellement un jour férié en 1950 à Maurice.

Au début du 20e siècle, l'île Maurice était marquée par de profondes inégalités sociales héritées du système colonial. Les travailleurs, en particulier dans les plantations sucrières, vivaient dans des conditions précaires: bas salaires, absence de protection sociale et exploitation économique. Les premières célébrations du 1er mai sont apparues à la fin des années 1930, notamment en 1938 au Champ de Mars, où des milliers de travailleurs se sont rassemblés pour revendiquer leurs droits. Cependant, à cette époque, le 1er mai n'était pas encore reconnu officiellement: il s'agissait avant tout d'une journée de mobilisation populaire et syndicale.

Succédant à des figures comme Emmanuel Anquetil et Maurice Curé, Guy Rozemont s'est imposé comme un leader charismatique et engagé. Il défendait une vision fondée sur la justice sociale, la dignité humaine et l'égalité des chances. Son action la plus marquante concernant le 1er mai est survenue en 1949, lorsqu'il a proposé une motion au Conseil législatif visant à faire de cette date un jour férié. Cette initiative répondait à une revendication forte du mouvement ouvrier: reconnaître officiellement les luttes et les sacrifices des travailleurs.

Grâce à son engagement et à la pression populaire, cette revendication a abouti en 1950, lorsque le 1er mai a été proclamé jour férié à Maurice. Cette reconnaissance a marqué une avancée majeure dans l'histoire

sociale du pays, en institutionnalisant une journée dédiée aux droits des travailleurs. L'action de Guy Rozemont dépasse largement la question du 1er mai. Il a contribué à poser les bases d'un État plus équitable, en promouvant des réformes sociales et en défendant les droits des plus vulnérables.

Aujourd'hui encore, son héritage se manifeste dans les acquis sociaux dont bénéficient les travailleurs mauriciens. La célébration récente du 1er mai demeure un rappel annuel que ces droits sont le fruit de luttes historiques, et qu'ils doivent être protégés et renforcés.

National Human Rights Commission



shaping markets, furthering progress

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

The Competition Commission is inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates for the filling of vacancies in the following grades.

1. COMPETITION ANALYST

ROLE:

To undertake investigation work and assessment of anti-competitive practices in the economy, as well as market studies, advocacy and other such assignments; and to assist in the implementation of policies and strategies to facilitate enforcement in accordance with the Competition Act.

REQUIREMENTS:

- (a) From candidates possessing a Master's degree or a professional qualification, from a recognised body, in Law or any equivalent qualifications acceptable to the Competition Commission, and reckoning at least five years' post-qualification work experience preferably in investigation/research work/assignments.

AND

- (b) From barristers-at-law reckoning at least two years' post-qualification experience.

Salary: Rs 52300 x 1100 - 54500 x 1450 - 58850 x 1750 - 62350 x 1850 - 67900 x 1900 - 75500 x 2250 - 86750

2. ACCOUNTANT

ROLE:

To be responsible for the finance and procureent function of the Competition Commission; and to provide support in the implementation and management of specific projects and activities of the institution.

REQUIREMENTS:

From candidates:

- (a) possessing a pass at the final examination required for admission to membership of one of the following bodies:
- ☞ the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales;
 - ☞ the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland;
 - ☞ the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland;
 - ☞ the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants;
 - ☞ the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India;

- ☞ the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants; and
- ☞ the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants or an equivalent professional accountancy qualification

- (b) registered with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA) in accordance with Section 51(2) of the Financial Reporting Act 2004; and
- (c) reckoning at least three years' experience in accounting duties; experience in procurement would be an advantage.

Salary: Rs 41080 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 49000 x 1100 - 54500 x 1450 - 58850 x 1750 - 62350 x 1850 - 67900 x 1900 - 75500 x 2250 - 77750

3. ASSISTANT COMPETITION ANALYST

ROLE:

To undertake research work, and assess and investigate anti-competitive practices, as well as conduct market studies, advocacy, and other such assignments

REQUIREMENTS:

From candidates possessing at least a bachelor's degree, from a recognised body, in Economics or Law or a related professional qualification or any equivalent qualifications acceptable to the Competition Commission and reckoning at least three years' post-qualification work experience preferably in investigation/research work/assignment.

Salary: Rs 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 49000 x 1100 - 54500 x 1450 - 58850 x 1750 - 62350 x 1850 - 67900 x 1900 - 75500 x 2250 - 77750

NOTE:

- (a) The detailed job descriptions are available on the website of the Competition Commission: www.competitioncommission.mu.
- (b) Applications should be submitted **electronically** through the website of the Competition Commission.
- (c) The closing date for submission is **11 June 2026**.
- (d) Only the most suitable candidates will be called for written tests/interviews. The Competition Commission reserves the right not to make any appointment following this advertisement.

Competition Commission
10th Floor, Hennessy Court
Pope Hennessy Street
Port Louis
Date: 25 May 2026

AI just beat humans at creativity

New research shows AI can now outperform the average person on certain creativity tests

A landmark study from the University of Montreal has redefined our understanding of artificial vs. human imagination. Led by Professor Karim Jerbi, with contributions from AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio, the research represents the largest direct comparison ever conducted between human creativity and large language models (LLMs), involving over 100,000 human participants.

The findings reveal a significant shift in the technological landscape: advanced AI models, such as GPT-4, can now consistently outperform the average human on standardized creativity assessments. Using the Divergent Association Task (DAT) -- which requires participants to generate unrelated words like "galaxy" and "harmonica" -- researchers found that AI systems



excel at producing the diverse, original associations typically used to measure divergent thinking.

However, the study also identified a "creative ceiling" for machines. While AI may beat the median human, it remains markedly inferior to the most imaginative minds.

When analyzing the top 10% of human participants, their scores in storytelling, poetry, and haiku writing far surpassed those of any AI model tested. The gap becomes even more pronounced in complex creative work, where nuance and emotional depth are paramount.

The research, co-authored by Antoine Bellemare-Pépin and François Lespinasse, also highlights that AI creativity is not fixed. By adjusting "temperature" settings -- which dictate how predictable or adventurous a model's output is -- and using sophisticated prompting, users can push AI to more exploratory heights.

Ultimately, Professor Jerbi suggests we move away from a "human vs. machine" competition. Rather than replacing creators, generative AI is evolving into a transformative assistant that can amplify human imagination. While the AI provides a powerful engine for exploration, the peak of original thought remains an unmistakably human domain.



Why are buttons and zippers on different sides of men's and women's clothes?

Centuries-old habits shaped today's fashion standards.

Imagine you're at a clothing store that stocks items for the whole family. You pick up a white buttoned shirt to try on. The style is pretty plain. Was it designed to be worn by a woman or man?

There may be a clue: Many women's shirts have buttons on the left side, while men's shirts usually button on the right. Even zippers in pants and jackets sometimes follow the same pattern.

But why does clothing fasten differently depending on whether it's made for men or women? Fashion researchers and historians like us have wondered about this gender difference. The answer has a lot to do with tradition, history and the way clothes were made long ago. Even small details, like a zipper, can tell a story about the past.



Women's shirts often have the buttons on the wearer's left and the buttonholes on the wearer's right. For men, it's reversed. pixelhit/E+ via Getty Images

Clothing is full of hidden history

When people look at clothes today, they often think about colors, comfort or style. But clothing is also part of what historians call material culture: all the objects people use every day. Examining the material culture of the past can reveal how people lived, worked and thought in

earlier times.

Fasteners like buttons and zippers aren't just practical. They also follow design traditions that became connected to gender over hundreds of years.

One of the most common explanations for why male and female garments have their buttons on opposite sides comes from European fashion history. A long time ago, wealthy women from the nobility often wore complicated dresses with buttons and fasteners -- so complicated that they needed help getting dressed.

Some historians believe buttons were placed in a way that made it easier for a servant to fasten the clothing, reflecting class distinctions.

About 90% of people are right-handed. When a maid stood directly facing a noblewoman to dress her, buttons on the wearer's left side were lined up perfectly for the maid to use her dominant right hand to fit them into the buttonholes. If you try buttoning a jacket onto a friend or a stuffed animal while facing them, you will see exactly why this layout made the maid's job so much easier.

Men, on the other hand, usually dressed themselves. So shirts, trousers and uniforms were designed with fastenings that were easy for the wearer to manage himself -- meaning buttons on the right side for a wearer to use his own right hand to fasten.

Men's clothing was shaped by everyday practicality and function.

For example, some historians point to military traditions as a possible influence on button placement. Men often wore swords on their left side and drew them with their right hand. The direction jackets, shirts and trousers closed up may



Is the person wearing the clothes fastening their own buttons? kampee patisena/Moment via Getty Images

have helped prevent fabric from getting caught and in the way.

Fashion habits are hard to change

Once clothing started being made in factories in the early-19th century, brands needed consistent designs. Factories work best when patterns are standardized -- so the button traditions stayed in place, even when people forgot how they started.

As zippers gained popularity in the early 1900s, clothing companies just



Zipper orientation followed the lead of the button tradition. Images say more about me than words/Moment via Getty Images

stuck with the same customs about how men's and women's garments were supposed to close. Instead of creating brand-new rules, many manufacturers simply kept the same patterns they had used for buttons. So zippers often ended up following the same "direction" as older garment closures.

Today, more brands are making unisex and gender-neutral clothing meant for anyone, and many designers no longer follow the old left-side/right-side rule. It's just a fashion tradition -- there's no reason zippers and buttons need to go on different sides for men versus women.

It is now more acceptable to break the old rules about which side buttons or zippers should go on. If you make your own clothes, you can put closures -- whether buttons, zippers, snaps, ties, Velcro or even something new you invent yourself -- wherever you want!

JuYoung Lee & Caroline Kobia

Associate Professor of Fashion Design and Merchandising, Mississippi State University

*Laughter is the
Best Medicine*

The Accountant's Insomnia

An accountant is having a hard time sleeping and goes to see his doctor.

"Doctor, I just can't get to sleep at night."

"Have you tried counting sheep?"

"That's the problem -- I make a mistake and then spend three hours trying to find it."

* * *

Downsizing

Boss (to employee): "Experts say that humour on the job relieves tension in this time of downsizing. Knock, knock."

Employee: "Who's there?"

Boss: "Not you anymore."

* * *

The Cruise of Cheaters

A woman, after many years of a happy marriage, has an affair and cheats on her husband.

Overcome with guilt, she begins to pray.

"Lord," she says, "I know what I've done is wrong. But my marriage is everything to me. It gives me purpose and joy. Please... don't let my husband ever find out."

Suddenly, a voice from above answers: "Very well, my child. I will spare your marriage -- but on one condition. Many years from now, you will die by drowning."

The woman pauses, thinks it over, and finally says: "Alright, Lord. If that's the price for saving my marriage, I accept."

Life goes on. Her marriage remains strong. Her business prospers. She lives comfortably for years... eventually forgetting all about her promise -- and continuing to cheat more than once.

One day, she decides to treat herself to a cruise vacation.

A few days into the trip, there's a massive explosion, and the ship begins to sink.

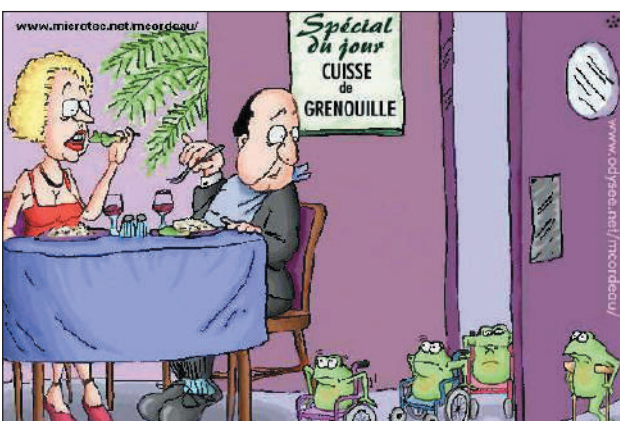
In a panic, she suddenly remembers her deal with God and cries out: "Lord! You wouldn't drown an entire ship full of innocent people just because of me... would you?"

And the voice replies: "Innocent? Are you kidding? I've been working on gathering all you cheaters onto this boat for years."

* * *

Turkey Game: Who Wins the Salary?

Wife: Honey, let's play a game.



"You're fired, Jack. The lab results just came back, and you tested positive for Coke."

Husband: Alright... what kind of game?

Wife: Simple. If I say a country, you run to the left wall and touch it. If I say a bird, you run to the right wall and touch it.

Husband: Sounds easy enough.

Wife: But there's a catch -- if you run the wrong way, you give me your entire salary this month.

Husband: Hmm. Fine. But if you mess up on your turn, I get your salary too, right?

Wife: (smiling sweetly) Of course, darling.

Husband: Deal. (gets up, stretching like an Olympic athlete) Ready when you are.

Wife: Ready?

Husband: Born ready.

Wife: Turkey.

Four hours later...

The husband is still standing in the middle of the room, buffering like bad WiFi, trying to decide whether she meant the country or the bird.

* * *

April Fools in Court

Defence Attorney: "Will you please state your age?"

Little Old Lady: "I am 86 years old."

Defence Attorney: "Will you tell us, in your own words, what happened on the night of April 1st?"

Little Old Lady: "Well, there I was, sitting in my swing seat on my front porch on a warm spring evening, when a young man came creeping up onto the porch and sat down beside me."

Defence Attorney: "Did you know him?"

Little Old Lady: "No, but he sure was friendly."

Defence Attorney: "What happened after he sat down?"

Little Old Lady: "He started to rub my thigh."

Defence Attorney: "Did you stop him?"

Little Old Lady: "No, I didn't stop him."

Defence Attorney: "Why not?"

Little Old Lady: "It felt good. Nobody had done that since my Albert died some 30 years ago."

Defence Attorney: "What happened next?"

Little Old Lady: "He began to rub my breasts."

Defence Attorney: "Did you stop him then?"

Little Old Lady: "No, I did not stop him."

Defence Attorney: "Why not?"

Little Old Lady: "His touch made me feel alive and excited. I haven't felt that good in years!"

Defence Attorney: "What happened next?"

Little Old Lady: "Well, by then I was feeling so 'spicy' that I just laid down and told him, 'Take me, young man. Take me now!'"

Defence Attorney: "And did he take you?"

Little Old Lady: "Hell, no! He just yelled, 'April Fools!' and started running...and that's when I shot the little bastard."

* * *

"What's for Dinner, Zorro?"

After 20 Years of Marriage... Reality Hits DIFFERENT

I had lunch with two unmarried friends -- one engaged, one a mistress -- while I've been married for over 20 years.

We started talking about spicing things up and decided we'd each surprise our men by greeting them at the door in nothing but a black bra, stiletto heels, and a mask over our eyes.

We agreed to compare notes a few days later.

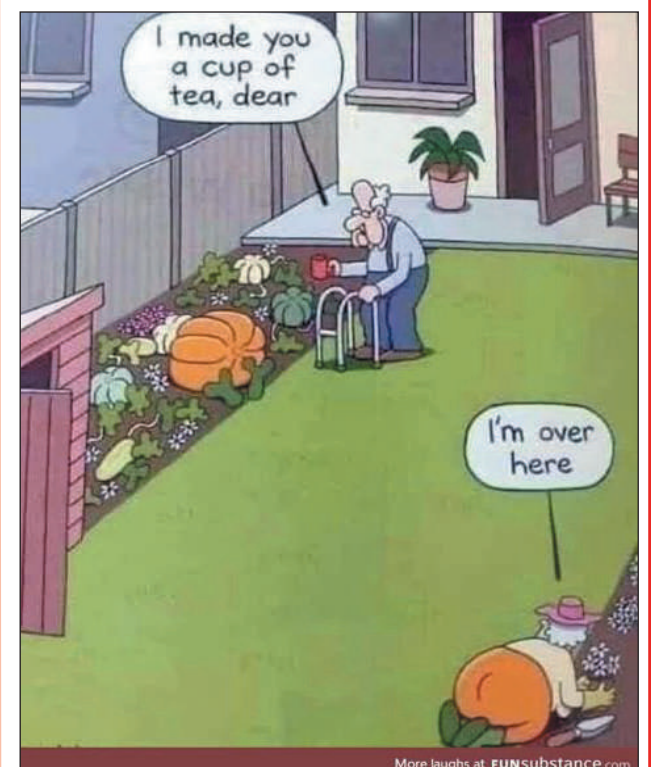
My engaged friend said: "The other night, my fiancé came over and I was waiting for him in a black leather bodice, tall stilettos, and a mask. He looked at me wide-eyed and said, 'You are the woman of my dreams... I love you.' Then we made passionate love all night long."

The mistress said: "Me too! I met my lover at his office. Under my raincoat, I was only wearing the black bra, heels, and mask."

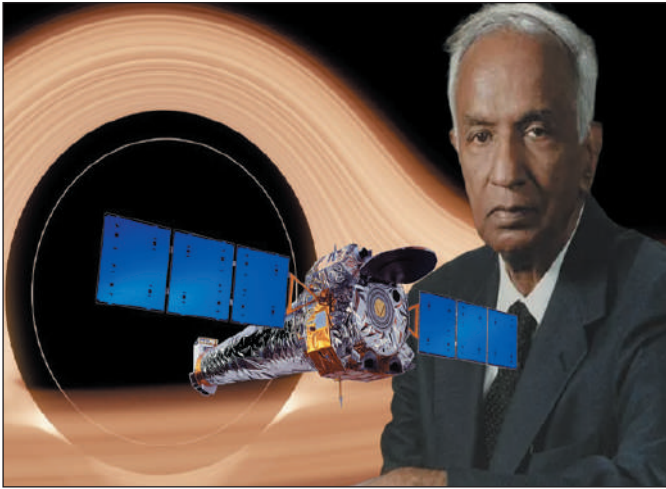
When I opened the coat, he started trembling, and without a word, we made wild love all night."

I said: "When my husband came home, I was waiting in my black bra, stockings, stilettos, and mask. He opened the door, looked me up and down, and said..."

'What's for dinner, Zorro?'"



More laughs at FUNSUBSTANCE.COM



True Stories

The Weight of Silence Chandrasekhar's Defiance of the Scientific Elite

In January 1935, a twenty-four-year-old Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar stood before the scientific elite at London's Royal Astronomical Society. He presented calculations suggesting that when a massive star dies, it doesn't merely fade away; it collapses under its own gravity into something the universe could barely explain. The room turned cold. Across from him sat Sir Arthur Eddington, the most celebrated astrophysicist of the British Empire, who publicly dismantled the young Indian scientist's work, calling the idea of such a violent collapse "absurd."

As the room laughed nervously, Chandrasekhar stood in a silence that would echo for decades. What his detractors failed to realize was that these equations were forged in profound isolation. At just nineteen, during a long steamship voyage from Bombay to England, Chandrasekhar had sat on deck running calculations by hand while others succumbed to seasickness. He was obsessed with a singular question: what happens when a star runs out of fuel?

Prevailing wisdom held that stars cooled peacefully into white dwarfs. Chandrasekhar's math -- marrying Einstein's relativity with quantum mechanics -- said otherwise. He discovered a mathematical threshold, now known as the "Chandrasekhar Limit" (1.4 times the mass of the Sun). Beyond this point, a star's own weight would crush it relentlessly. He had mathematically predicted the existence of black holes decades before the term was even coined.

In 1930s Britain, however, the weight of Eddington's dismissal was insurmountable. Chandrasekhar was treated as an arrogant outsider, and the scientific establishment largely turned its back on his work. The humiliation was deeply personal; he spent years refining his papers in the shadow of public rejection, often walking alone through Cambridge to process the intellectual betrayal.

Yet, the universe eventually sided with the mathematics. By the 1940s and 50s, discoveries in nuclear physics and stellar explosions began to validate his "absurd" predictions. The foundational math once mocked in London became the bedrock of modern cosmology.

In 1983, nearly half a century after that fateful lecture, Chandrasekhar was finally awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. He rarely spoke of Eddington with bitterness, yet those close to him knew the wound of 1935 never truly closed. He had spent his life proving that the pursuit of science is a search for beauty -- a beauty found in the truth that even the most celebrated minds cannot prevent a star from following the laws of nature.

Things can be better

The Equilibrium of the 4Ms: Mind, Mouth, Mood, and Money

Achieving total life control requires the disciplined management of four essential domains.

The Mind is fortified through daily reading, regular exercise, and the constant acquisition of new skills through mindfulness.

Controlling the Mouth involves viewing food as fuel, opting for balanced meals and plenty of water while avoiding the mental fog caused by processed ingredients.

Managing one's Mood is a proactive task, utilizing gratitude and the endorphins from exercise to maintain stability, supported by adequate rest and connections with loved ones.

Finally, the domain of Money requires a clinical approach to budgeting, saving at least ten percent of income, and investing wisely to ensure capital works for the individual.

By tracking expenses and avoiding the shackles of debt, one creates the financial freedom necessary to support the other three pillars.

This holistic approach ensures that internal growth

and external stability are perfectly aligned, creating a life of intentionality and enduring peace.

* * *

The Irish Perspective: A Philosophy of Perspective

The Irish philosophy of worry is a master-class in radical perspective, reducing the complexities of life to a simple, binary logic.

It suggests that there are only two fundamental states: being well or being sick. If you are well, worry is an unnecessary thief of joy.

If you are sick, the path again splits into two outcomes: you will either recover or you will die.

Recovery renders previous worry moot, and death brings its own set of binary options regarding the after-life.

In the whimsical conclusion of this framework, if one finds themselves in heaven, there is nothing left to fear.

If the destination is hell, the philosophy posits that you will be far too occupied reconnecting with old friends and shaking hands to find even a moment for anxiety.

This light-hearted approach serves as a profound reminder that most things we fret over are beyond our control, and that maintaining a sense of humour is the ultimate defense against the inevitable.

The Iron Lady and the Architect

The Afternoon Tea That Thawed the Cold War

In the freezing December of 1984, the geopolitical landscape of the twentieth century shifted on its axis within the wood-paneled walls of Chequers. Margaret Thatcher, the "Iron Lady" whose political identity was forged in unyielding anti-communism, bypassed rigid diplomatic protocols to invite Mikhail Gorbachev into her private sanctuary. At the time, Gorbachev was not yet the supreme leader of the USSR, but an ambitious star in a crumbling Politburo. The world was trapped in the "Big Freeze" of the Cold War, suffocated by the persistent fog of potential nuclear annihilation.

Thatcher had explicitly tasked her intelligence services with finding a Soviet official whose mind was not fossilized by Marxist dogma. She sought an adversary capable of rational dialogue. When the charismatic Gorbachev arrived, the polite pleasantries of statecraft evaporated instantly. The two leaders plunged into a vicious ideological street fight, shouting over human rights, economic failures, and the morality of the arms race.

The electricity in the room reached a fever pitch when Gorbachev executed a daring psychological manoeuvre. He pulled a classified diagram of NATO nuclear strike targets from his briefcase and



Margaret Thatcher & Mikhail Gorbachev

slammed it onto the coffee table. Looking Thatcher in the eye, he demanded to know if this was the foundation of a sustainable peace.

Instead of taking offence, Thatcher was mesmerized. After years of dealing with robotic, ageing Soviet premiers who read from index cards, she had finally met a dynamic human being who argued with authentic passion. The aggressive shouting match evolved into a sophisticated, four-hour philosophical dialogue. They discovered a shared respect for raw psychological strength.

As Gorbachev departed, Thatcher stepped before the international press and delivered a verdict that would echo through history: "I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together." This

unscripted endorsement fundamentally unlocked the gates of the Cold War. In Washington, an intensely sceptical Ronald Reagan heard his closest ally's approval and agreed to come to the negotiating table.

The domino effect of that afternoon tea eventually led to the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dismantling of the Soviet empire. The profound irony of their meeting remains a poetic historical footnote: Thatcher was correct that she could "do business" with Gorbachev. However, the business of peace they initiated ultimately resulted in the extinction of his country. Gorbachev successfully negotiated for global stability, but the price of that peace was the permanent death of his own empire.

Mental Wellbeing

The Hidden Exhaustion of the Insecure Overachiever

On the surface, they seem to have it all: an enviable career, relentless drive, and a flawless track record. Yet, beneath this polished exterior lies a paradox. Many of the world's highest achievers are fuelled not by deep-seated confidence, but by a profound sense of insecurity. Being an "insecure overachiever" is an exhausting, treadmill-like existence where no milestone ever feels like enough, and self-worth remains perpetually out of reach.

In her insightful analysis, Anna Phillips-Waller identifies ten core behaviours that define this psychological pattern, drawing from both observation and intense personal experience.

The cycle of deflection and doubt

At the heart of the insecure overachiever's struggle is an inability to absorb success. When praised, they instinctively deflect or minimize their accomplishments, genuinely unable to internalize positive feedback. This stems from a permanent housemate: Impostor Syndrome. The more these individuals

achieve, the more fraudulent they feel, fearing that a higher status merely means a steeper fall when they are inevitably "found out."

This internal anxiety manifests as a relentless, harsh inner critic. Every minor misstep is catalogued as evidence of inadequacy, leading to endless rumination over years-old mistakes.

The weaponisation of productivity

For the insecure overachiever, rest is not a reward — it is a threat. When faced with unscheduled time, a low-grade anxiety spiral triggers a compulsive need to find a task. Busyness becomes a security blanket because their identity is entirely fused with output.

This mindset creates a severe reluctance to delegate or ask for help, as doing so is viewed as an admission of weakness. Consequently, they say "yes" to unreasonable demands, stretch their margins to the breaking point, and suffer from disproportionate threat responses to minor criticisms. This constant state of



high alert heavily bleeds into personal relationships, leaving them physically present but mentally trapped in spreadsheets and agendas.

"Our sense of worth has become so fused with productivity and output that rest stops feeling like a reward and starts feeling like a threat."

The cost of pushing through

The ultimate destination of these ten behaviours is chronic exhaustion. Rather than pausing at the warning signs, the

insecure overachiever reframes fatigue as a personal flaw and pushes through. Phillips-Waller shares that this cycle eventually led to her own severe burnout and chronic pain in her late 30s, forcing her to confront her relationship with achievement.

Recognizing these habits is not an overnight cure, but awareness is the essential first step toward decoupling external applause from internal self-worth.

Being Mum & Dad

Nurturing Healthy Eating Habits and Positive Body Image in Children

A significant number of children and adolescents worldwide struggle with problematic eating behaviors. In fact, research shows that about 22% of young people experience these issues, which include restrictive dieting, skipping meals, or binge eating. While these behaviors do not always lead to formal eating disorders like anorexia or bulimia, they often pave the way for them.

As a parent, your relationship with food and your body serves as the primary blueprint for your children. By adopting healthy habits and positive language, you can foster their self-esteem and protect them from developing future eating disorders, according to Courtney P. McLean & Chelsea Arnold of Monash University.

Four Pitfalls to Avoid

- Labelling Foods as "Good" or "Bad": Avoid attaching moral value to food. Describing choices as "good" or "bad" creates a cycle of guilt and shame. Instead, focus on

how different foods nourish the body or bring pleasure and satisfaction.

- Commenting on Others' Bodies: Criticizing or analyzing the physical appearance of anyone — whether a celebrity or a stranger — teaches children to judge themselves. When differences arise,



explain that bodies naturally come in all shapes and sizes.

- Focusing Compliments on Appearance: Shift praise away from physical looks. Instead of calling a child "pretty" or commenting on weight, celebrate their character, creativity, generosity, or hard work.

- Criticizing Your Own Body:

Children observe and repeat how parents treat themselves. Avoid expressing dissatisfaction with your weight or shape. Instead, practice body neutrality by honoring what your body can do, such as walking or offering a hug.

Three Strategies to Explore

- Trust Their Ability to Self-Regulate: Children are naturally capable of listening to their internal hunger and fullness cues. Avoid forcing them to clean their plates, which teaches them to ignore their body's signals. Look at their nutritional intake over a whole week rather than stressing over a single meal.

- Model the Pleasure of Eating: Enjoying a diverse, balanced diet without anxiety sets a powerful example. If you struggle with your own relationship with food, seeking guidance from a healthcare professional can benefit both you and your child.

- Encourage Open Dialogue: Actively listen to your child without judgment if they express worry about their appearance. If you notice sudden shifts in their weight, mood, or eating habits, do not hesitate to consult a pediatrician, psychologist, or specialized dietitian.

Personal Growth

The Pre-Sleep Ritual for Peak Performance

The secret to rising early is sleeping deeply. To operate at your highest level, you must protect your evening renewal. My private ritual involves a device-free family dinner, uplifting reading, and an Epsom salt bath to decompress.

The most critical component, however, is "thinking on paper." Use your journal to review your day by answering four questions: Where did I grow? Who did I help? What did I do well? And how can I make tomorrow better?

Life is too short to settle for ordinary. By resetting your evening, you recalibrate the course of your entire year. Do not let another twelve months pass without knowing what it feels like to be at your best.

The Six Elements of a Magnificent Life

To avoid the rut of moving enthusiastically in the wrong direction, we must define what a soulful life actually looks like.

It requires Creativity to breathe aliveness into our days and Productivity to gain the satisfaction of finishing meaningful projects.

It demands Community, because a gorgeous life is built on rich connections, and Prosperity, which grants the freedom to say "no" to what does not enchant you.

Furthermore, you need Vitality -- the physical energy to contribute to a better world -- and Majesty, the wisdom to savour the simple beauty in a starry night or a walk in the woods.

Robin Sharma

Humanitarian & Leadership Missionary

'Pati Patni Aur Woh Do'

How Bollywood reframes betrayal as a comedy of errors



Pati Patni Aur Woh Do (Husband, wife and the other two) is a 2026 Indian Hindi-language romantic comedy film written and directed by Mudassar Aziz. Produced by Bhushan Kumar and Renu Ravi Chopra under T-Series Films and B. R. Studios, it is a spiritual sequel to the 2019 film *Pati Patni Aur Woh*. The film features a new ensemble cast consisting of Ayushmann Khurrana, Wamiqa Gabbi, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh. The film theatrically released on 15 May 2026 to mixed reviews from critics.

With the release of *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do*, the spiritual successor to the 2019 film and a distant descendant of B.R. Chopra's 1978 Sanjeev Kumar-starrer, the industry's fondness for treating marital betrayal as a light-hearted farce is once again under scrutiny. As the narrator at the start of the new film wryly notes: "*Samay badal gaya, par ek chiz nahibadli, patiyon ki fitrat*" (Times have changed, but one thing hasn't: the nature of husbands).

This singular line exposes the foundational premise of Bollywood's infidelity sub-genre — the normalization of the unfaithful husband under the guise of an immutable biological or situational law.

Over the last four decades, the cinematic language surrounding adultery has meticulously avoided terms like "cheating," "deception," or "betrayal." Instead, promotional trailers, OTT synopses, and marketing campaigns deliberately reframe these narratives as "chaotic," "hilarious," or a "comedy of errors." Infidelity is rarely depicted as a conscious, deliberate ethical choice made by a flawed individual. Instead, the screenplay routinely works to strip the male protagonist of his agency, transforming him from a perpetrator of emotional hurt into a sympathetic victim of circumstances. He is cast as a man "trapped," "confused," "neglected," or simply "saddled" with domestic burdens.

Consider the historical marketing frameworks of these films. The streaming synopsis for the 1978 original frames the "other woman" as a destructive "storm" that inexplicably enters the male lead's peaceful life. Similarly, the description for *Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon* explicitly shifts accountability: "*Bhalu acquires three wives. It's actually all his mother's fault. She told him to never break a woman's heart or home.*" By locating the catalyst outside the husband's volition, the moral weight of the act is softened before the curtain even rises.

To sustain this comedic palatability, these films rely on three distinct narrative strategies:

The External Crisis Distraction: The emotional fallout of a fractured marriage is systematically overshadowed by high-stakes external absurdities — blackmail, accidental bigamy, ghosts, mistaken identities, or criminal misunderstandings. By the time the wife discovers the truth, the plot has pivoted to a larger problem that requires collective problem-solving, turning the crisis into an ironic vehicle for marital bonding.

The Caricaturisation and Flattening of Women: To justify the husband's wandering eye and subsequent easy forgiveness, the female characters are reduced to stark, exaggerated binaries. The wife is written as an endlessly accommodating, financially independent yet



emotionally bound figure who must introspect regarding her own "flaws" — whether being too overbearing, demanding, or conservative. Conversely, the "other woman" is denied emotional depth, coded visually and narratively as a youthful, modern "spec-tacle" or "temptation" meant to satisfy a transient male fantasy.

The Re-direction of Guilt: In the eventual climax, the confession scene focuses overwhelmingly on the husband's explanations — loneliness, emotional neglect, or the inherent "nature of man" — rather than the genuine trauma experienced by the partner. Anger is systematically redirected toward the external woman for "breaking a home," while the husband is welcomed back into the domestic fold.

Furthermore, these narratives are frequently laced with dated socio-political tropes disguised as humour. The trailer for *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do* features a traditional patriarch exclaiming, "*Jisekul ka deepaksamjhe the who phuljhadinikla*" (The one I imagined to be a worthy successor turned out to be a sparkler) — deploying derogatory, homophobic slang to police masculinity. Casual jests regarding domestic coercion and marital unhappiness are allowed to slide precisely because the constant tonal instability cues the audience to laugh at deception rather than confront its consequences.

Grace, Agency, and the 32-Year Legacy of Sushmita Sen

Thirty-two years ago, an eighteen-year-old from India stepped onto a global stage in the Philippines and redefined the nation's presence in international pageantry. This week, Sushmita Sen commemorated the anniversary of her historic 1994 Miss Universe victory with a poignant, minimalist tribute on social media, capturing a candid moment of herself flashing her signature smile aboard an airport transit bus.

"Grateful for the smile that never left me for 32 years & counting!!! This feeling of being blessed!! You are the reason!!! #happy32ndanniversary #India #missuniverse 1994 Mahal kita #philippines Forever Cherished!! I love you guys beyond...#duggadugga Yours truly," she wrote.

Sen's journey since that defining evening in Manila has been anything but conventional. Entering the film industry with her debut in the 1996 psychological thriller *Dastak*, she consistently navigated an industry notorious for its rigid scripts by choosing paths that prioritized personal autonomy over conventional stardom. Her

recent, critically acclaimed performance as the fierce, protective matriarch in Ram Madhvani's crime thriller series *Aarya 3* stands as a modern testament to her enduring dramatic command.

Yet, it is Sen's deliberate, uncompromising approach to her personal life that has cemented her status as a cultural icon of modern Indian womanhood. At the age of 24, at the turn of the millennium, she legally challenged social conventions by adopting her first daughter, Renee, later welcoming her second daughter, Alisah, in 2010.

Now entering her fifties, Sen continues to challenge deeply entrenched societal norms, particularly regarding traditional relationship dynamics and age gaps. Her highly publicized, transparent relationship with model Rohman Shawl — fifteen years her junior — consistently demonstrated that emotional companionship need not conform to patriarchal timelines.

Sen's legacy of autonomy reflects a broader, evolving trend within the contemporary entertainment industry, where



high-profile women are increasingly rejecting traditional relationship metrics and age-based expectations:

Sushmita Sen pioneered transparent, age-defying relationships in the mainstream media through her companionship with Rohman Shawl, who is 15 years her

junior. In a similar vein, Sanya Malhotra and her rumoured partner Rishab Rikharam Sharma, who is six years her junior, are frequently seen together socially; Malhotra recently clarified her personal priorities by stating that marriage is not her immediate focus due to her intense professional commitments.

Meanwhile, Nora Fatehi has become the subject of intense global speculation regarding her connection to Moroccan football captain Achraf Hakimi, who is six years junior to her, after being seen publicly supporting him during prominent international fixtures. Disha Patani has likewise captured the attention of the digital space following her public appearances alongside prominent Punjabi singer-songwriter Talwinder, who is five years her junior. Finally, Konkona Sen Sharma's relationship with Amol Parashar, who is seven years her junior, highlights an actress celebrated for her fierce privacy; her contemporary companionship continues to reflect her broader, progressive worldview both on and off-screen.



Vendredi 29 Mai - 20.30



Samedi 30 Mai - 21.30



Dimanche 31 Mai - 20.45



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 29 mai

MBC 1

05.28 Serial: Separe Par L'Amour
08.10 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Bowfinger
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Helena
13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Valentina
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Love Of My Life
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: Rencontres Du Troisieme

MBC 2

09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.03 Local: En Forme
14.18 Local: Nos Aines
15.12 Mama Mo Tresor Program...
17.01 Local: Deba Klima
18.06 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
19.42 Local: Benita Nabab
20.00 Mother's Behind Leged
21.37 Local: Les Klips
22.36 Local: Clin D'Oeil
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.21 Local: Coin Jardin
23.34 Ecriture Mauricienne
23.57 Local: Rodrig Zenn Aktif
00.27 Local: Toc Toc Doc
00.40 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Karambhumi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
16.08 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Yeh Shaam Mastani...
19.54 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
20.55 Serial: Crime Patrol
21.40 Serial: Mere Sai
22.26 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
23.10 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood
23.58 Local: Mati Ke Mol
00.24 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
01.18 Local: Khel Khiladi

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
06.30 Mag: Asia 2050
07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.29 Doc: My Five-Year Plan
10.14 Doc: Albania's Last Trains
11.27 Doc: Eco India
12.51 Mag: Tomorrow Today
13.56 Doc: My Five-Year Plan
15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
15.12 Momolu et Ses Amis
15.38 D.Anime: Samsam
15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.24 D.Anime: Slugterra
16.57 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.30 Mag: Eco India
18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
18.30 Doc: Business Beyond
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.50 Tele: Valentina

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
15.15 Film: Hum Dono
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
20.55 Anupamaa
21.30 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.00 Serial: Aladdin
23.30 Film: Hum Dono
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Nana Patekar

samedi 30 mai

06.27 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.52 Serial: The Lazarus Project
07.33 Serial: For Life
08.15 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
09.10 Serial: Quantico
09.55 Serial: Elementary
10.35 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: Rencontres Du Troisieme
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 MRIC - National Innovation...
20.45 Local: Deba Klima
21.30 Film: Morbius
23.14 Serial: For Life
23.55 Local: Le Journal Televisé
00.30 Serial: Last Kingdom

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.30 Local: Tous Egaux
06.45 Local: Arsiv 227
07.36 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.10 Local: Sur Prise
10.15 Local: Metie
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: J'ai Faim
15.59 Local: Retrovizor
18.05 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Maman, Toi Mon Soleil
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.00 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
23.23 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
23.33 Local: Saver Kiltirel

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Mag: Khel Khiladi
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Film: Rishtey
Cast: Shilpa Shetty, Anil Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.32 Local: Puranya Pakwan
19.23 Local: Virasat
19.35 Local: Hunarbaaz
21.00 Film: Zakhm
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Pooja Bhat
23.56 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.58 Local: Maa Ki Mahima
00.18 Local: Virasat
00.42 Local: Hunarbaaz
01.11 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
02.39 Film: Zakhm

06.00 D.Anime: Caillou
06.42 D.Anime: Agent 203
07.05 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.35 D.Anime: Word Party
09.56 Serial: H2O: Just Add Water
10.46 Film: Princess Halle And The Jester
13.43 Doc: Oumuamua
14.25 Doc: Saving The Moors
15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard
15.13 Momolu Et Ses Amis
15.38 D.Anime: Samsam
15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.57 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Kiruna
19.00 Mag: Initiative Africa
19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
20.45 Tele: Love Of My Life
22.20 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge
23.52 Doc: I Am Fine But

08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.08 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Chal Mere Bhai
With: Salman Khan And Sanjay Dutt
21.30 Beyhadh 2
22.00 Crime Patrol



dimanche 31 mai

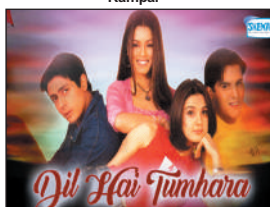
06.16 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
06.45 Film: Morbius
08.30 Serial: Elementary
09.20 Serial: Columbo
10.44 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
12.35 Film: Around The World In 80 Days
14.40 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Independence Day
17.48 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Local: Chef On Faya
20.45 Film: Une Chanson Pour Ma Mère
22.14 Serial: La Brea
22.56 Serial: Last Kingdom
23.43 Le Journal

08.05 Local: Evasion
09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.29 Local: Upclose And Personal
10.32 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
12.45 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
14.02 Local: En Forme
14.45 Local: Exceptionnelles: Fete Des Mere
17.01 Local: Deba Klima
18.10 Tele: Wildflower
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
19.42 Local: Benita Nabab
20.00 Local: Les Klips
20.37 Local: Maman La Star
21.37 Local: Les Klips
22.36 Local: Clin D'oeil
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin

06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan
08.26 Local: Maa Ki Mahima...
08.46 Local: Virasat
10.30 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Filhaal
Cast: Sushmita Sen, Tabu
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan
15.47 Local: Virasat
16.10 Local: Hunarbaaz
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Student Of The Year
19.11 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
20.11 Local: Mother In Bollywood
20.37 Tenali Rama
20.58 Crime Patrol
22.31 Sajawna Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar

06.00 D.Anime: Caillou
07.50 D.Anime: Dragons
08.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
09.26 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
09.48 Serial: Action Kidz
09.56 Serial: H2O: Just Add Water
12.32 A Mediterranean Journey
13.29 Doc: I Am Fine But
14.11 Doc: Tsunamis: A Global...
15.12 Momolu Et Ses Amis
15.35 D.Anime: Samsam
15.57 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.24 D.Anime: Slugterra
16.32 D.Anime: Mush Mush And...
17.00 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.30 Doc: Kiruna
18.00 Mag: REV Special
19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
21.45 Film: Hope Springs
Cast: Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, Steve Carell

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: Dil Hai Tumhaara
Cast: Rekha, Preity Zinta, Arjun Rampal
21.30 Beyhadh 2
22.00 Mahabharat
22.50 Dhruv Tara



lundi 1 juin

05.25 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour
07.04 Tele: All The Flowers
04.28 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage
07.52 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
08.18 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Une Chanson Pour Ma Mère
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Helena
13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
14.10 Tele: Valentina
15.00 Samachar
16.12 Serial: Les Enquetes Du Juge
17.29 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Live: Grand Titre
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.17 Nou Travay Nou Lavenir
21.02 Serial: Berlin Station

09.10 Local: Metie
09.43 Local: Benita Nabab
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.36 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
15.15 Local: Metie
15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
16.02 Local: Les Klips
16.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.30 Local: Couleur Marine
18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Local: Generations J
21.13 MRIC - National Innovation
21.29 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.55 Local: 19 Minutes
22.34 Local: Grand Titre
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajawna Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Aaradhna
Cast: Sharmila Tagore, Rajesh Khanna, Sujit Kumar
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: Aah
Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis
23.17 Mere Sai
00.04 Wagle Ki Duniya

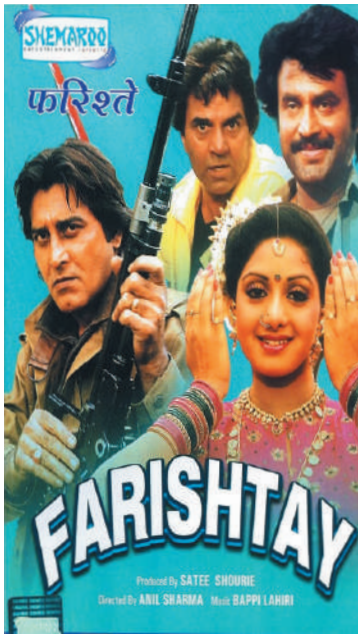
07.15 Mag: Arts Unveiled
07.41 Doc: La Chine Du Futur
09.21 Doc: Operations 1005
10.04 Doc: Protecting The Climate
11.46 Mag: Travel
12.43 Doc: Arts Unveiled
14.08 Doc: Paths Of Light
15.00 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
15.11 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami
15.38 D.Anime: Samsam
16.00 D.Anime: Jurassic World
16.24 D.Anime: Slugterra
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: Rencontres Du Troisieme Type
Cast: Richard Dreyfuss, François...

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Chaand Kaa Tukdaa
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.00 Anupamaa





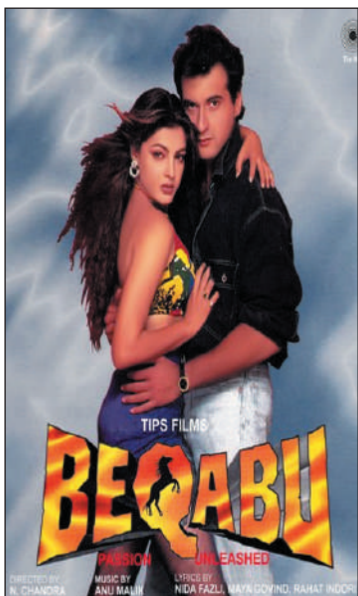
Mardi 2 Juin - 09.15



Mercredi 3 Juin - 21.40



Mercredi 3 Juin - 15.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 2 juin	05.13 Tele: Separe Par L'Amour 06.52 Serial: Quantico 07.58 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.47 Tele: La Desalmada 09.15 Film: Rencontres Du Troisième Type 11.35 Tele: Happily ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina 15.30 Film: Morbius 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.45 Film: Un Feu S'est Allume Sur Mer 20.58 Film: Le Rosier	09.52 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.38 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.34 Local: Grand Titre 12.33 Rodrig: Kot Nou 14.00 Local: Feminin Pluriel 14.30 Local: Coin Jardin 15.21 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.59 Local: Deba Klima 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 19.45 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.15 Local: Metie 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.03 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Fee Main 23.37 Local: Mama Mo Soley... 00.22 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: Chori Chori Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.29 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.48 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.10 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.01 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein 19.42 Local: Prakriti 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Mere Jeewan Saathi Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja	06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 06.25 Doc: Choices 06.52 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.22 Mag: In Good Shape 09.43 Music Under The Swastika 11.13 Mag: Eco Africa 12.36 Mag: In Good Shape 14.00 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: La Famille Blaireau... 15.12 D.Anime: Momolu Et Ses Ami 16.24 D.Anime: Slugterra 17.00 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.30 Mag: Eco Africa 18.00 Mag: REV 18.26 Doc: Asiatique 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.53 Tele: Valentina 21.38 Mag: Business Africa 22.06 Doc: Great Barrier Reef 23.19 Doc: Holding Up The Sky	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Farishtay Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 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 23.20 Film: Farishtay Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna
mercredi 3 juin	06.16 Serial: Sépare Par L'Amour 08.14 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 09.00 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Around The World In... 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: Un Feu S'est Allume... 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.20 Serial: New Amsterdam 21.05 Serial: La Brea 21.50 Tele: Helena 22.43 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 Local: Priorite Sante 10.46 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.35 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 12.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 12.45 Local: Toc Toc Doc 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 16.03 Local: GIlwar Dantan 16.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.03 Local: Music Tour 2026 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 21.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.15Local: National Innovation 21.45 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.17 Local: Grand Titre 23.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Clin D'Oeil	08.00 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Sahib Biwi Aur Cast: M. Kumari, Guru Dutt, Rehman, Waheeda Rehman 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.47 Radha Mohan 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.10 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yatra 18.58 Hindi Sahitya Meet Mahaveer Shastri 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.39 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.01 Film: Chori Chori Chupke Chupke 23.32 Mere Sai 00.14 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.50 Mag: Made In Germany 09.28 Doc: Holding Up The Sky 11.24 Mag: REV: The Global Auto 12.45 Mag: Global US 13.39 Doc: Great Barrier Reef 14.26 Mag: Euromaxx 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard 15.25 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 15.38 D.Anime: Will, La Série 16.01 D.Anime: Jurassic World 16.24 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier 16.34 D.Anime: Mush Mush And... 16.57 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.30 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.31 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.34 Doc: Urban Foraging 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Valentina 21.40 Film: Hope Springs	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Beqabu Starring: Sanjay Kapoor And Mamta Kurkani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Udne Ki Aasha 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Saavi Ki Savaari 21.00 Anupama 21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.00 Dhruv Tara 22.24 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.54 Aladdin 23.30 Film: Beqabu Starring: Sanjay Kapoor And Mamta Kurkani
jeudi 4 juin	05.22 Tele:Separe Par L'Amour 07.56 Tele: All The Flowers 09.14 Tele: La Desalmada 09.45 Serial: Columbo 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Helena 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.42 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.10 Tele: Valentina, My Special... 15.30 Film: Une Chanson Pour Ma... 17.15 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.15 MRIC - National Innovation... 20.50 Film: Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya Cast: Salman Khan, Sushmita Sen, Katrina Kaif	10.19 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.44 Local: Les Kliips 11.36 Local: Grand Titre 12.36 Local: Koze Zom 13.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.11 Local: Agir Ensemble 15.13 Local: Son Ladan Mem 16.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Emotion En Avant Plan 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 20.56 Local: Encounter 21.22 Local: Prog Culinaire 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.37 Menwar Dan Ros	08.00 Mag: Aastha TV 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: The Burning Train Cast: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Jeetendra 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 21.36 Mere Sai 22.23 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.54 Local: Amrit Vani	06.25 Mag: Travel 08.17 Mag: Focus On Europe 11.08 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.33 Mag: Arctic Blue 12.28 Doc: Words Of Peace 12.47 Mag: Arts Unveiled 14.07 Mag: Focus On Europe 14.37 Mag: Shift 15.00 La Famille Blaireau Renard 15.12 Momolu et Ses Amis 16.26 D.Anime: C'est Mon Metier 16.32 D.Anime: Mush Mush And... 16.55 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: In Good Shape Special 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 Live: New 20.50 Tele: Valentina 21.38 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Champion Stars: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Udne Ki Aasha 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 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: Champion Stars: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala



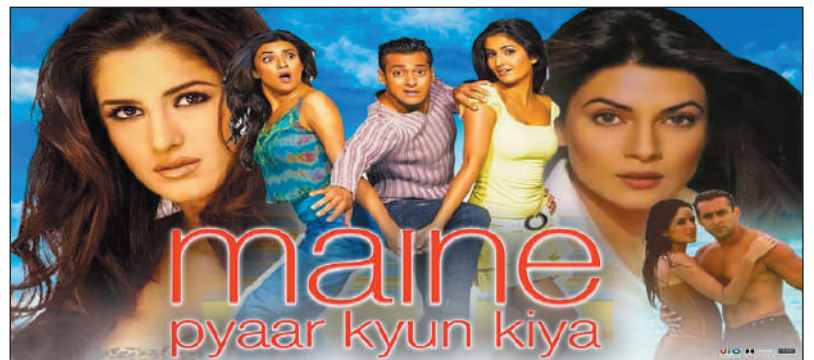
Jeudi 4 Juin - 15.30

Stars: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala



Jeudi 4 Juin - 20.50

Stars: Salman Khan, Sushmita Sen, Katrina Kaif





Kaajal Luckraz

Chemistry of Hidden Fat

Friday — Fri-nally!

Papa is an avid daily gym enthusiast who likes to do it all by himself, based on what his online feeds tell him. As he changes into his gym clothes, he hops onto the scale, which gives him good news. He looks at himself in the mirror and cannot help but think about the copious dinner he will have after his session, while wondering why his belly has started protruding...

We often think obesity is something we can visibly see: a number on a weighing scale, a larger clothing size, or a higher BMI. But modern medicine is teaching us something important — you can look “normal weight” on the outside and still be metabolically unhealthy on the inside. This is what we call metabolically obese normal weight (MONW).

In Mauritius, because of our Asian phenotype, this conversation is more important than ever. Anecdotally, if we look around us, we can see that weight-related health problems are becoming increasingly common. Recent surveys suggest that nearly 75% of Mauritians are overweight or obese. Yet, even among those who appear slim, many may still carry dangerous fat internally. This is visceral fat.

The Chemistry of Fat

Visceral fat is very different from the fat we can pinch under the skin. It surrounds vital organs such as the liver, pancreas, and intestines. It is metabolically active and inflammatory. Visceral fat tissue acts like an active chemical factory inside the body — like an organ, in fact!

It releases inflammatory chemicals called cytokines that continuously send the body into a state of silent inflammation. Over time, these chemicals cause an imbalance in nearly all bodily systems, leading to insulin resistance, hormonal disruption, mitochondrial dysfunction, and systemic inflammation.

Signs You May Have Hidden Fat

Many people with MONW feel generally fine, which is why it often goes unnoticed. Possible signs include fatigue after meals, sugar cravings, difficulty building muscle, and increased abdominal fat despite a normal weight.

One of the simplest ways to assess risk is by looking at:

Waist measurements: For the Asian population, risk begins at a lower waist measurement of more than 80 cm for females, as compared to 80–88 cm for a normal population.

Waist-to-hip ratio: Calculated as waist circumference divided by hip circumference. For women, a ratio of 0.75–0.79 is the healthy range, while for men, 0.85–0.89 represents moderate risk.

Sometimes the tape measure can reveal more than the weighing scale and general blood work.

The Pharmacist's Perspective

The body is remarkably adaptable. You can improve and become metabolically stronger, and the focus does not have to be solely on becoming thinner.

1. We need to rethink our relationship



“Regular walking remains one of the most underrated forms of exercise. Strength training helps build muscle and improve insulin sensitivity. Resistance exercises, swimming, cycling, and interval training can all help reduce visceral fat. Interestingly, many exercises we practise in gyms today are simply movements humans used to perform naturally every day...” - Pic - CNN

with food. What you consume and what you spend in energy depends greatly on your baseline. If your baseline calorie intake is already very high, your body adapts to it. This is why many people struggle to lose weight despite “trying.” The body becomes accustomed to excess intake and low movement.

Food was originally meant to nourish the body — to sustain life, energy, and health. Today, food has also become entertainment, comfort, celebration, and convenience. We eat while watching screens, driving, socialising, and scrolling. We order takeout more and we eat out more. The reality is that many families hardly cook at home anymore.

Yet, healthy home cooking does not need to be expensive, complicated, or dependent on imported superfoods. Nutrition can still exist in simple foods. A humble tin of pilchards makes for a famous “rougaille saumon.” Pair it with vegetables, pulses, and farata, and there you have a nutritious, affordable, and balanced meal that leaves our taste buds sated too!

2. We need to revisit our protein intake.

Protein is critical for ageing adults, people losing weight, and sedentary individuals — not just for gym-goers or athletes. A 70 kg person aiming for metabolic health and muscle preservation may benefit from around 105 g/day. However, remember that we generally absorb about 30 g at a time (equivalent to 100 g of cooked chicken breast, 120 g of fish, or 2 cups of cooked lentils). So be wise and mix your sources; the quality of proteins matters.

Should you decide on a protein supplement, speak to us. We will help you understand your whey protein from your casein protein, your plant-based protein, and even the latest trending collagen protein. Remember that supplementing protein is not for everyone, and you should seek medical advice from a healthcare professional before doing so. Social media is known to have many AI-driven characters and sites which might not be giving you the right advice.

3. We must also rethink movement. Let's take another look at ourselves in the mirror. In my eyes, it tells us what the body was designed to do. We have two arms designed to lift, carry, and work. We have two legs designed to walk, climb, and run.

Our bodies were built for movement, yet

modern living has engineered movement out of daily life. Staying active daily is different from formal exercise; simple movements throughout the day significantly improve glucose metabolism.

Regular walking remains one of the most underrated forms of exercise. Strength training helps build muscle and improve insulin sensitivity. Resistance exercises, swimming, cycling, and interval training can all help reduce visceral fat.

Interestingly, many exercises we practise in gyms today are simply movements humans used to perform naturally every day. The farmer's carry at the gym is literally carrying heavy loads while walking. Pulling exercises resemble drawing water or performing manual labour. Even wringing is now a trending gym move — yet hand-spinning our clothes after washing used to be a normal part of daily life!

4. Improving sleep. Poor sleep alters hunger hormones and increases fat storage. During deep sleep, growth hormone is released, muscle repair occurs, and metabolic recovery happens. Poor sleep increases hunger hormones and decreases satiety hormones. This reflects in more cravings, emotional eating, and late-night snacking, reducing insulin sensitivity in as little as a week!

5. Managing stress — stress promotes the “skinny fat” profile. Under chronic stress, people move less, protein intake worsens, cortisol stays elevated, and inflammation rises. The body then tends to preserve fat and lose muscle, especially around the abdomen, liver, and visceral organs.

Final Reflection...

I have not really told you anything you do not already know.

Deep down, most of us already know we should move more, eat better, sleep earlier, and take care of our bodies. The real difference lies in whether we are willing to take the first step, create new habits, remain consistent enough for those habits to transform our health over time, and pass it on to the Teenager of the family, the Tiny Human and Baby Bronny.

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

Tree of Knowledge



Personal Power

You Deserve to Have Your Dreams Come True

Power is not about exerting our will over others; it is about being in complete truth with yourself.

Many of us have do not understand what personal power means. We have been given the false notion that power is bad — that it is something we use to exert our will upon others. In fact, when our personal power is intact, we are neither overbearing nor meek. We have a clear sense of our strength and the impact we can have on others. This actually enables us to be more sensitive. Personal power is what permits us to work on behalf of our dreams and desires. It allows us to realize that we are worthy and deserve to be heard. In addition, our personal power lets us extend the respect we know that we deserve to the people around us. There is no reason to be afraid or ashamed of fully owning your power.

In the chakra system, the solar plexus is the seat of personal power. One way to evaluate your sense of power is to breathe into this part of the body. If it feels tight or nervous, it is an indication that you may not be fully expressing your power. You can heal this imbalance by expanding the area of the solar plexus with your breath. You can also visualize a bright yellow sun in this part of your body. Allow its heat to melt any tension, and let its light dissolve any darkness or heaviness. Repeating this exercise on a regular basis can restore and rejuvenate your sense of power.

Another way to nurture your personal power is to honor your dreams and desires by making concrete plans to manifest them in the world. Start by making a list of things you want, and let yourself think big. Choose one goal from the list and commit to bringing it to fruition. In addition, break the goal into tasks that you can work on each day. Know that you deserve to have your dreams come true and that you have the power to bring them into being.

Madisyn Taylor