

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."—Martin Luther King Jr.,

Editorial



Pic - heraldscotland.com

P2

DPP's Decisions: The Long Road from Allegation to Justice

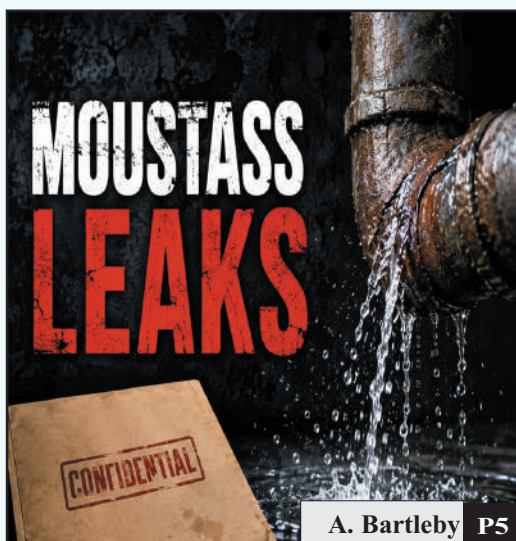
Opinion



U. Dasin P10

Unfinished Decolonisation?

Eclairages



A. Bartleby P5

Moustass Leaks

Le jugement Duval, entre prudence judiciaire et enjeux politiques

Interview: Yvan Martial

"Navin Ramgoolam a le choix entre la démagogie qui a conduit le pays à la perte sous le MSM, ou redresser ce qui peut l'être"



P7

• 'Tant que notre électorat persistera majoritairement à faire confiance à des démagogues, pensant parti et poche avant pays, le Bal des Voleurs se poursuivra'

Qs & As

Banking Secrecy vs the FCC: Where Should Mauritius Draw the Line?



Lex P 3

International Relations



Pic - PSM News

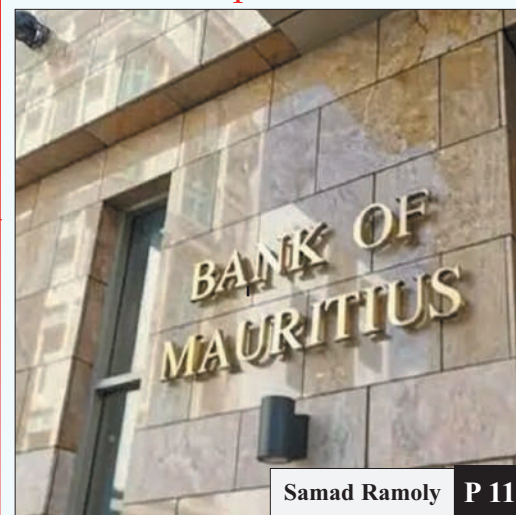
Vijay Makhan P3

Chagos

Proactive Diplomacy Cannot Wait

Lacking major power weight, our advantage lies in anticipation, preparedness, consistency, and mobilizing international law and diplomacy

Opinion



Samad Ramoly P 11

Many Decades of "No Alternative"

What the Rupee's Nosedive actually Reveals

DPP's Decisions: The Long Road from Allegation to Justice

Five individuals are now facing formal prosecutions before the Financial Crimes Division (FCD) of the Supreme Court, while three other major files have been returned by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) for further investigation and clarification. Taken together, these decisions send a clear message: the fight against corruption cannot be reduced either to arrests or political accusations. It must ultimately be won through evidence capable of standing up in court.

The DPP has made clear that its decision to prosecute is based on two established considerations: whether there is a reasonable prospect of conviction and whether prosecution is in the public interest. That distinction is crucial. A person may be politically unpopular, surrounded by suspicion or the subject of damaging allegations, but none of these is sufficient to secure a conviction. Equally, a powerful individual cannot be shielded from prosecution merely because a case is politically sensitive.

The formal prosecutions concern former senior public officials and individuals who occupied positions of considerable influence. Lilram Deal faces charges relating to allegedly using his position for gratification and money laundering. Former Attorney General and minister Maneesh Gobin, former Parliamentary Private Secretary Rajanah Dhaliah and former SIT Land Holdings chairman Harryduth Ramnarain face alleged corruption offences linked to the Eco Deer Park affair. Former Economic Development Board chief executive Ken Poonosamy faces an allegation of using his position for gratification in connection with the MIC/Avapou matter.

These are not ordinary cases. They concern the exercise of public power, the management of public resources and, in different ways, the credibility of institutions entrusted with protecting the public interest. Yet the most revealing part of the DPP's communiqué may not be the prosecutions. It may be the files that were not prosecuted. The SBM, St Louis and Reward Money cases have been sent back to the FCC for further enquiries and clarification. This is precisely what a prosecutorial authority should do when an investigation has not yet reached the required standard.

There is a temptation in public life to regard an arrest as evidence of guilt and a provisional charge as a form of conviction. That temptation must be resisted. The criminal justice system does not work on the principle that suspicion equals guilt. Nor should public pressure determine whether an individual is prosecuted.

The DPP's decision therefore represents an important assertion of institutional independence. Saying "there is sufficient evidence to prosecute" is one responsibility. Saying "there is not yet sufficient clarity to prosecute" is another — and sometimes more difficult — one. The latter requires investigators to go back to the drawing board.

That same principle was evident in the handling of the cases brought against Labour Party leader Navin Ramgoolam following his arrest in 2015. Several provisional charges were lodged against him, including allegations of money laundering and conspiracy. Most were subsequently withdrawn by the former DPP or struck out by the courts, while the case relating to cash found at his residence continued through prolonged legal proceedings. In June 2026, the Financial Crimes Division of the Intermediate Court ordered a permanent stay of those proceedings, a decision against which the DPP has since appealed.

The Ramgoolam case illustrates why provisional charges and arrests should never be confused with convictions. It also demonstrates the importance of allowing the prosecuting authority to assess whether the evidence ga-



Pic - mwntation.com

thered by investigators is sufficient to sustain a prosecution, rather than treating the initial police case as the final word.

This is particularly significant in cases such as St Louis, where allegations have been in the public domain for years and have acquired considerable political significance. The African Development Bank's revelations in 2020 concerning alleged fraudulent and corrupt practices surrounding the St Louis power station project transformed the matter into one of the country's most prominent public procurement controversies.

The public is entitled to ask why such cases have taken so long. Part of the explanation lies in the alleged foot-dragging of the former ICAC, which was widely perceived as being too close to, and insufficiently independent from, the former MSM government. But institutional shortcomings of the past cannot justify rushing prosecutions today simply to demonstrate political resolve. Justice requires more than speed: a hastily prepared or inadequately supported case can ultimately weaken, rather than strengthen, the fight against corruption.

The same principle applies to the SBM case. Allegations concerning a substantial banking facility and individuals with political connections naturally attract public interest. But political proximity is not itself a criminal offence. Investigators must establish the precise acts alleged, the evidence supporting them and the connection between the conduct and the offence charged.

The Reward Money affair is particularly troubling because it concerns funds allegedly intended to reward informants assisting the police in the fight against drugs. If public money allocated for such a purpose was improperly diverted, the implications would go beyond financial loss. Such conduct, if proven, would undermine confidence in the police and potentially damage the fight against organised crime.

But here again, the answer is not to convict through headlines. It is to establish the facts beyond reasonable doubt. This is where the DPP's intervention becomes particularly important. Law-enforcement agencies must conduct investigations to the highest possible standard before submitting files for a prosecutorial decision. The DPP should not be expected to repair incomplete investigations or fill gaps that investigators should have addressed themselves.

The distinction between investigation and prosecution must therefore be respected. Investigators gather evidence. Prosecutors assess it and determine whether the legal threshold for prosecution has been met. Courts ultimately decide guilt or innocence. When these boundaries become blurred, the entire system suffers.

Mauritius has experienced too many instances in which politically explosive cases have generated enormous public expectations, only for proceedings to drag on for years. Provisional charges can remain hanging over individuals

while the public assumes that guilt has already been established. At the same time, victims of alleged wrongdoing can be left wondering whether justice will ever be done.

Neither outcome is satisfactory.

The creation of the FCD offers an opportunity to break this cycle. Its purpose is to ensure that serious financial-crime cases receive appropriate judicial attention and are determined fairly and within a reasonable time. The DPP's decision to bring the three cases before the FCD should therefore be matched by an equally strong commitment to ensuring that they are heard and decided without unnecessary delay.

Justice delayed is not only justice denied to victims and the public. It can also become an injustice to defendants whose reputations and lives remain suspended over unresolved allegations.

There is another lesson in these developments. For years, anti-corruption investigations in Mauritius have been deeply politicised in public discourse. Successive governments have accused their predecessors of corruption, while opponents have accused institutions of protecting those in power. Such allegations cannot simply be dismissed, but neither should the criminal justice system become an instrument of political revenge.

The credibility of the present process will ultimately depend on consistency.

If a former minister can be prosecuted when the evidence warrants it, a former opposition figure, businessman, police officer or senior public servant should be treated according to exactly the same standard. Conversely, if an investigation involving politically connected persons does not meet the evidential threshold, the decision not to prosecute must also be respected.

This is why the three returned files deserve as much attention as the five prosecutions. The public should not interpret their return as evidence that the cases have collapsed. Nor should it interpret the five prosecutions as proof that those accused are guilty. Both conclusions would be premature. The proper conclusion is simpler: the process is moving from political allegation towards judicial determination. That is where it belongs.

Mauritius has suffered from a credibility deficit in the handling of high-profile corruption cases. The only way to repair it is through institutions that demonstrate, case by case, that nobody is above the law — and that nobody is below its protection either.

The DPP's latest communiqué is therefore more than an announcement of prosecutions. It is a reminder of how the system is supposed to work. Some files have crossed the evidential threshold and will now be tested before the Supreme Court. Others have not yet crossed it and must go back for further work.

That may seem less dramatic than a sweeping announcement of prosecutions. But, in a democracy governed by the rule of law, knowing when to prosecute — and when to wait — is a mark of institutional maturity, not weakness.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor: M. Ramlallah

*This paper 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

Banking Secrecy vs the FCC

Where Should Mauritius Draw the Line?

'Bypassing traditional judicial disclosure procedures weakens long-standing banking confidentiality and removes an important safeguard against state overreach'

The recent amendments to Mauritius's financial-crime legislation have opened a significant debate over where to draw the line between effective financial-crime enforcement and the protection of banking confidentiality and privacy. At the heart of the controversy is the expanded role of the Financial Crimes Commission and its ability, in certain circumstances, to obtain financial information directly from institutions without the traditional requirement of prior judicial authorisation.

There is little dispute that investigators need effective tools to follow the money, trace illicit assets and combat money laundering, corruption and financial crime. The more difficult question is whether greater investigative efficiency should come at the expense of safeguards designed to prevent arbitrary or disproportionate access to private financial information. In this week's Qs & As, Lex examines these questions, including the position before the amendments, the FCC's expanded powers, the role of judicial oversight, the constitutional and data-protection dimensions, and the avenues of redress available to anyone who believes that their banking information has been improperly accessed or used.

LEX

*** A provision introduced in the Finance Bill 2026 has sparked considerable debate, with many critics expressing the view that it would allow the FCC to obtain access to the banking details of suspects in criminal investigations. What exactly has changed in the law regarding the FCC's ability to obtain customers' banking and financial information, and what was the position before the recent amendments?**

Recent budgetary and legislative amendments in Mauritius have significantly expanded the powers of the FCC in relation to banking confidentiality. The new provisions allow the FCC to directly request and obtain bank records, use secured financial data as evidence in court without requiring bank employees to testify, and broaden disclosure orders to cover financial crimes generally, rather than limiting them to money-laundering cases.

Before these amendments, the legal framework was based on strict banking confidentiality. Statutory banking secrecy under the Banking Act 2004 protected customers' financial information, requiring stringent legal thresholds and judicial oversight — such as specific disclosure orders issued by a judge in chambers — before banks could release customer account details. A judge helps ensure that requests are linked to legitimate suspected criminal activity rather than becoming random or politically motivated fishing expeditions. Independent judicial oversight also helps prevent executive or investigative overreach and ensures that powers to breach banking confidentiality are not abused.

Disclosure orders and the targeted tracing of banking information were largely confined to specific and narrowly defined money-laundering or major asset-recovery investigations. Moreover, for banking records or transaction logs to be introduced as formal evidence in a criminal prosecution, the relevant documents generally had to be authenticated in court through direct testimony from a bank officer or other appropriate witness.

*** If the FCC is now able to obtain banking information directly from a financial institution without first obtaining an order from a Judge, in what precise circumstances can this happen?**

Statutory confidentiality may be overridden when the FCC requests customer information under the Financial Crimes Commission Act or the United Nations (Financial Prohibitions, Arms Embargo and Travel Ban) Sanctions Act, subject to applicable statutory conditions and safeguards. The FCC also has extensive powers to obtain and examine documents and conduct searches, while financial records lawfully obtained may be admitted directly as court evidence without requiring bank employees to appear as witnesses.

The crucial issue, therefore, is what precise legal thresholds, safeguards and forms of oversight apply when the FCC exercises these powers without prior judicial authorisation, and how effectively they protect the individual's right to privacy and banking confidentiality.

A judge helps ensure that requests are linked to legitimate suspected criminal activity rather than becoming random or politically motivated fishing expeditions. Independent judicial oversight also helps prevent executive or investigative overreach and ensures that powers to breach banking confidentiality are not abused.

*** What constitutional requirements must be met for the authorities to lawfully access a person's private financial information, particularly in terms of necessity, proportionality and the public interest?**

For authorities to lawfully access private financial information, any intrusion must be grounded in a clear and precise legal framework, strictly necessary and proportionate to a legitimate public-interest objective, such as preventing crime or protecting economic stability. It should also be subject to independent judicial or regulatory oversight.

Access must have an explicit basis in written law rather than broad or discretionary administrative powers. The financial records sought should be strictly necessary to achieve a specific and pressing objective, such as investigating a defined financial crime.

Any interference with privacy must be balanced against overriding public interests, including protecting the integrity of national and international financial systems from money laundering and fraud.

*** Why was it considered necessary to give the FCC this power? Is such direct access essential if Mauritius is to combat money laundering, corruption and the concealment of illicit assets effectively?**

Giving the FCC direct access to banking information was considered necessary to reduce bureaucratic delays, over-



“Merely launching an investigation into suspected money laundering or asset recovery does not, by itself, justify unrestricted access to private banking records. Legal frameworks and judicial safeguards generally require a compelling connection demonstrating that the specific banking information sought is necessary, relevant and proportionate to the investigation before banking confidentiality can be overridden...”

come traditional banking-secrecy barriers that may shield illicit funds, and bring Mauritius's investigative framework into closer alignment with international anti-money-laundering standards.

Such access can be particularly important for tracing hidden and cross-border assets swiftly. However, the key question is whether these objectives can be achieved without weakening the safeguards that protect privacy, due process and the legitimate confidentiality of banking information.

*** Is the fact that the FCC is investigating suspected money laundering or asset recovery sufficient justification for access to banking information, or should there be a further requirement demonstrating that the information sought is genuinely necessary and relevant to the investigation?**

Merely launching an investigation into suspected money laundering or asset recovery does not, by itself, justify unrestricted access to private banking records. Legal frameworks and judicial safeguards generally require a compelling connection demonstrating that the specific banking information sought is necessary, relevant and proportionate to the investigation before banking confidentiality can be overridden.

Granting blanket access simply because an investigation is under way could effectively turn statutory powers into general warrants, undermining privacy rights and due process. Investigators should therefore be required to establish reasonable grounds linking the specific bank accounts, transactions or records sought to the illicit conduct under investigation.

*** Does allowing the FCC to obtain detailed banking information without prior approval from a Judge weaken the usual principle of judicial oversight over intrusive investigations?**

Allowing the FCC to obtain confidential banking records directly, without prior judicial authorisation, alters the traditional requirement for independent oversight.

Cont. on page 4

Banking Secrecy vs the FCC

Where Should Mauritius Draw the Line?

☞ Cont. from page 3

Bypassing a judge or magistrate removes an important institutional safeguard designed to balance state investigative powers against individual privacy rights. Direct statutory overrides of banking confidentiality may therefore weaken the legitimate expectation of privacy that protects individuals and corporate entities from intrusive, exploratory or arbitrary government access to their financial information.

*** Does the Constitution of Mauritius expressly protect a person's right to privacy, and, if so, could access to an individual's banking information constitute an interference with that constitutional right?**

The Constitution of Mauritius provides a relatively limited right to privacy, focused mainly on the home and property rather than a broad, general right to personal or financial data. Unauthorised access to banking information may breach statutory or common-law confidentiality, but it does not necessarily amount to a constitutional violation unless it involves unlawful search or entry.

Sections 3 and 9 of the Constitution protect individuals against arbitrary searches of their homes and property. Courts, including in **Madhewoo v. The State**, have interpreted this constitutional privacy protection relatively narrowly, focusing primarily on physical spaces rather than extending it to all forms of digital or informational privacy. Broader protection for personal and financial information therefore comes mainly from legislation such as the **Data Protection Act**, rather than directly from the Constitution.

*** What recourse does a person have if he or she believes that the FCC has obtained banking information without sufficient grounds, or has used or disclosed that information improperly?**

If a person believes that the FCC has improperly obtained, used or disclosed their banking information, several avenues of redress may be available. These include:

- **Judicial review:** applying to the Supreme Court to challenge the lawfulness of the FCC's actions, including on the grounds that it exceeded its statutory powers or lacked sufficient legal grounds.
- **Constitutional redress:** seeking relief for an alleged violation of constitutional rights, including privacy and protection of property.
- **Challenging specific orders:** applying to vary, discharge or set aside freezing, tracking or disclosure orders where they were obtained on insufficient or misleading information.
- **Data protection complaint:** lodging a complaint with the Data Protection Office where the handling of personal financial data may have breached applicable data-protection requirements.

*** Ultimately, do you believe that the legislation has struck the right balance between the legitimate need to "follow the money" in the fight against financial crime and the individual's right to privacy and protection against disproportionate state intrusion?**

Granting the FCC direct access to banking information has generated debate within legal and financial circles. Supporters argue that it removes bottlenecks in tracing illicit wealth, enables investigators to

follow complex and fast-moving cross-border transactions without alerting suspects, and shortens investigation times. They also contend that it facilitates access to admissible financial records and helps Mauritius meet international anti-money-laundering standards, including those promoted by

the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Critics, however, warn that bypassing traditional judicial disclosure procedures weakens long-standing banking confidentiality and removes an important safeguard against state overreach. Without strong, independent oversight or prior judicial authorisation, broad investigative powers could be vulnerable to arbitrary or politically motivated use. Administrative efficiency, they argue, should not come at the expense of an individual's reasonable expectation of financial privacy or protection against unchecked state intrusion.

LEX



VACANCY NOTICE

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

MRA is looking for qualified and experienced candidates, with proven integrity, for the following posts:

A. SECTION HEAD, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Qualifications

A University degree or professional qualification in Accountancy or Finance from a recognized institution, or any relevant field acceptable to the MRA.

A Master's degree in the above fields would be an advantage.

Should be registered as a professional accountant with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants or equivalent body if not based in Mauritius.

Experience

At least 8 years' experience in the Finance Department of a large organisation and/or a reputable accounting or auditing firm or at the Mauritius Revenue Authority, of which 5 years' should be in a senior management or supervisory position.

B. TEAM LEADER, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Qualifications

A University degree or professional qualification in Accountancy or Finance from a recognized institution, or any relevant field acceptable to the MRA.

A Master's degree in the above fields would be an advantage.

Should be registered as a professional accountant with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants or equivalent body if not based in Mauritius.

Experience

6 years' experience in the Finance Department of a large organisation and / or reputable accounting or auditing firm or at the Mauritius Revenue Authority, of which at least 4 years' should be in a senior management or supervisory position.

Appointment, Remuneration and Age Limit

Post A

- Appointment will be on a three year contract basis, renewable based on performance, or as may be mutually agreed.
- Monthly Salary - Rs. 168,610 x 5,850 – 180,310 x 6,240 – 192,790 x 6,760 – 233,350.
- Gratuity payment equal to two months' basic salary on satisfactory completion of each period of 12 months.
- The selected candidate will be eligible for a duty free benefit on a 1600 cc car every six years, or to a cash allowance in lieu of duty of Rs 15,000 a month.

Post B

- Selected Candidate will be offered the option to join the MRA either on permanent basis or contractual basis (3-5 years as may be mutually agreed).
- Monthly Salary - Rs. 118,690 x 3,250 – 121,940 x 3,705 – 155,285.
- The selected candidate will be eligible for a duty free benefit on a 1500 cc car every seven years, or a taxable monthly cash-in-lieu of duty of Rs 8,500.

Age Limit for posts A and B

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

Mode of application

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

Closing Date: Friday 04 September 2026

MRA reserves the right:

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

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

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

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



05 August 2026



Moustass Leaks: le jugement Duval, entre prudence judiciaire et enjeux politiques

Par A. Bartleby

Le jugement rendu le 13 août 2026 par la Senior District Magistrate Pamela Veerabadran-Mudaliar, au tribunal de Rose-Hill, dans l'affaire opposant Adrien Duval à la justice, mérite d'être analysé bien au-delà de son aspect procédural. En rejetant la demande de la défense visant à mettre définitivement fin aux poursuites, la magistrate a ouvert la voie au procès sur le fond, prévu du 3 au 5 novembre.

À première vue, le titre «La justice écarte les Moustass Leaks» pourrait donner l'impression que la justice a conclu à la fausseté de ces enregistrements. Une telle interprétation serait toutefois excessive. Le jugement ne dit pas que les conversations n'ont jamais eu lieu, ni que les enregistrements sont nécessairement fabriqués. Il établit plutôt que, dans leur état actuel, les éléments produits par la défense ne possèdent pas la valeur probante nécessaire pour démontrer une manipulation de l'enquête et justifier l'arrêt définitif des poursuites.

C'est une distinction fondamentale.

Une faiblesse majeure: L'absence de preuves

La défense soutenait notamment que les Moustass Leaks révélaient une intervention ou une manipulation dans la procédure engagée contre Adrien Duval. Mais la magistrate a estimé que cette thèse n'avait pas été démontrée au niveau des preuves. Les témoins cités n'ont notamment pas pu établir la provenance des enregistrements, leur authenticité, leur intégrité ou l'identité des personnes dont les voix étaient audibles.

Le témoignage de Lindsay Luckhoo est particulièrement révélateur. Les enregistrements qu'il avait transcrits lui étaient parvenus à travers un lien YouTube. Il n'était pas en mesure de certifier qu'il s'agissait de fichiers originaux, qu'ils étaient complets ou qu'ils n'avaient pas été modifiés. Il ne pouvait pas davantage identifier les voix.

Sur le plan juridique, cette faiblesse est considérable. Une conversation diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux n'acquiert pas automatiquement la qualité de preuve judiciaire parce qu'elle paraît crédible ou parce qu'elle a suscité une forte réaction publique. Il faut pouvoir établir sa provenance, son authenticité, son intégrité et, surtout, l'identité des personnes qui parlent.

La justice doit précisément éviter qu'un élément dont la chaîne de conservation est inconnue puisse, à lui seul, servir à établir une accusation grave.

Le Hansard ne transforme pas une accusation en fait établi.

La défense s'était également appuyée sur le Hansard du 4 février 2025 et sur les déclarations faites au Parlement par le Premier ministre Navin Ramgoolam concernant les circonstances entourant le dossier Duval.

Le Hansard peut naturellement établir qu'une déclaration a été faite au Parlement. Mais il ne constitue pas, par lui-même, une preuve indépendante de la véracité de chacune des affirmations ou accusations contenues dans cette déclaration.

La distinction est essentielle: la justice peut constater qu'une accusation a été formulée sans considérer que cette accusation a été démontrée.

C'est précisément ce qui semble ressortir de l'approche de la magistrate: le contexte politique et parlementaire ne pouvait remplacer une preuve directe et suffisamment fiable d'une manipulation de l'enquête.

Le jugement ne dit pas que les Moustass Leaks sont faux

C'est probablement le point qui risque d'être le plus mal compris dans le débat public.

La décision ne constitue pas une certification judiciaire selon laquelle les Moustass Leaks seraient faux. Mais elle ne constitue pas non plus leur authentification.

En termes simples, le verdict de la justice dit essentiellement: vous n'avez pas démontré, avec les éléments présentés, que ces enregistrements permettent d'établir une manipulation de la procédure suffisamment grave pour mettre fin au procès.

Cette prudence judiciaire est parfaitement compréhensible. Le droit pénal exige davantage qu'une succession de soupçons, de coïncidences ou de révélations circulant sur Internet.

Dimension politique: un noeud indémêlable

Sur le plan politique, le jugement laisse un problème majeur intact.

Les Moustass Leaks ont constitué l'une des révélations politiques les plus retentissantes de ces dernières années à Maurice. Leur diffusion, à l'approche des élections de 2024, avait profondément bouleversé le débat public. L'épisode avait même été suivi par la suspension temporaire de l'accès aux réseaux sociaux à la veille du scrutin, ce qui avait suscité de vives interrogations sur la liberté d'expression et la gestion politique de la crise.

Le fait que les Moustass Leaks n'aient pas, dans l'affaire Duval, atteint le niveau de preuve nécessaire pour interrompre un procès ne fait donc pas disparaître les questions politiques qu'ils ont soulevées.

Au contraire, il existe ici un paradoxe. Plus les enregistrements sont politiquement explosifs, plus il devient nécessaire de déterminer judiciairement leur origine et leur authenticité. Sans cela, deux risques opposés apparaissent: soit des accusations extrêmement graves sont traitées comme des vérités établies alors qu'elles ne le sont pas juridiquement; soit, à l'inverse, l'absence d'authentification judiciaire permet à ceux qui sont mis en cause de rejeter en bloc des révélations qui pourraient éventuellement contenir des éléments authentiques.

Dans les deux cas, la démocratie est perdante.

Une responsabilité qui dépasse la justice

C'est ici que le dossier prend une dimension institutionnelle. Si les Moustass Leaks contiennent effectivement des conversations obtenues à la suite d'écoutes illégales, il s'agit d'une question grave de respect de la vie privée, de sécurité des communications et de protection de l'État de droit.

Mais si certains enregistrements ont été falsifiés, montés ou sortis de leur contexte dans le but de manipuler l'opinion publique, il s'agit également d'un problème extrêmement grave.

Et si des conversations authentiques démontraient effectivement une intervention dans une enquête policière ou une tentative de manipulation de la justice, la gravité serait évidemment d'un autre ordre encore.

Ces trois hypothèses ne peuvent pas être confondues. C'est la raison pour laquelle la question fondamentale n'est pas simplement de savoir si les Moustass Leaks sont «vrais» ou «faux». Il faut déterminer, enregistrement par enregistrement, les informations suivantes: qui a enregistré, comment, quand, à partir de quel dispositif, originalité du fichier ou altération palpable, qui parle et dans quel contexte les propos ont-ils été tenus.

Succès juridique mais revers politique?

Pour Adrien Duval, la décision constitue incontestable-



Une conversation diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux n'acquiert pas automatiquement la qualité de preuve judiciaire parce qu'elle paraît crédible ou parce qu'elle a suscité une forte réaction publique. Il faut pouvoir établir sa provenance, son authenticité, son intégrité...

P - NewsMoris

ment un revers procédural: son procès ne sera pas interrompu et il devra répondre aux accusations au fond. Mais il serait prématuré d'y voir une victoire définitive de la poursuite. Le procès reste à venir, et la défense conserve le droit de contester les preuves, de contre-interroger les témoins, de mettre en cause leur crédibilité et de soulever les questions relatives à l'admissibilité des éléments produits.

Inversement, la décision ne constitue pas une condamnation de la thèse politique soutenue par la défense concernant les Moustass Leaks.

La justice n'a pas dit: «il n'y a jamais eu de manipulation». Elle a dit, en substance, que la défense n'a pas démontré suffisamment qu'il y en avait eu pour justifier l'arrêt du procès.

Cette différence est capitale.

Un test pour l'État de droit

Le procès Duval pourrait donc devenir beaucoup plus important que la seule responsabilité pénale de l'ancien Speaker de l'Assemblée nationale. Il pourrait contribuer à préciser la manière dont les tribunaux mauriciens doivent traiter les enregistrements anonymes et les contenus provenant des réseaux sociaux lorsqu'ils sont invoqués pour soutenir des accusations de manipulation ou de faute institutionnelle.

D'un point de vue juridique, le message du jugement est clair: la gravité d'une accusation ne dispense pas celui qui l'avance de la démontrer.

D'un point de vue politique, le message est tout aussi important: les institutions ne peuvent pas laisser une affaire aussi sensible demeurer éternellement dans la zone grise des révélations anonymes, des accusations politiques et des démentis.

La seule manière de sortir de cette zone grise est d'établir les faits.

Le jugement Duval ne clôt donc pas le dossier Moustass Leaks. Il en souligne plutôt la principale faiblesse actuelle: certains enregistrements peuvent avoir une immense puissance politique sans avoir encore acquis la force probante nécessaire devant une cour de justice.

Il appartient désormais à l'enquête, aux tribunaux et, le cas échéant, à des expertises techniques indépendantes, de déterminer ce qui relève de la preuve, ce qui relève du soupçon et ce qui relève de la manipulation.

Car au-delà du sort d'Adrien Duval, l'enjeu est beaucoup plus vaste: dans une démocratie, la vérité politique ne peut durablement se substituer à la vérité judiciaire — et la vérité judiciaire ne peut être construite sans une investigation sérieuse, indépendante et transparente.



Chagos: Proactive Diplomacy Cannot Wait

Lacking major power weight, our advantage lies in anticipation, preparedness, consistency, and mobilizing international law and diplomacy

Barely a week after I argued in these columns that Mauritius must retain the diplomatic initiative on Chagos, developments in both London and Malé (Maldives) reinforce that imperative. The appropriate response is neither public agitation nor diplomatic overreaction. It is quiet preparedness, sustained engagement and anticipation of what may come next.

Last week, writing under the title *"Keeping the Diplomatic Initiative"*, I drew attention to the succession of Parliamentary Questions in the House of Lords and, more particularly, to the carefully calibrated and distinctly non-committal responses emanating from the British government.

My purpose was not to suggest that the UK-Mauritius Agreement had been abandoned. It was rather to sound a note of caution. Diplomacy cannot be conducted on the assumption that an agreement, once signed, will necessarily implement itself. Mauritius must remain vigilant, engaged and, above all, proactive.

Developments since then have only reinforced that conviction.

No Ministerial Contact?

A reply provided by the FCDO on 4 August is, in that respect, particularly revealing. Asked about ministerial-level engagement between London and Port Louis on the Chagos issue, the response indicated that there had been **no ministerial contact since 20 January**.

If that is indeed the position, it should give us pause.

Not because ministerial conversations constitute the entirety of diplomacy. They plainly do not. Diplomatic channels remain open through High Commissions, officials and other forms of engagement. Nor do we know everything that may have occurred through channels not reflected in a Parliamentary Answer. But more than six months without ministerial-level contact on an issue of such fundamental importance to Mauritius would sit uneasily with the very principle I sought to emphasise in these columns only last week — **keep the diplomatic initiative**.

The Chagos dossier should be kept constantly on the burner.

This does not mean pestering London with repetitive representations or transforming every diplomatic encounter into another discussion about Chagos. It means ensuring that the issue remains firmly present within the political dialogue between our two governments and that Port Louis is never reduced to awaiting developments in Westminster before determining its response.

The same principle applies to Washington.

The strategic interests of the United States in Diego Garcia are central to the arrangements under consideration. Continuous political engagement with Washington should therefore be regarded not as an occasional adjunct to our discussions with London but as an indispensable component of the process.

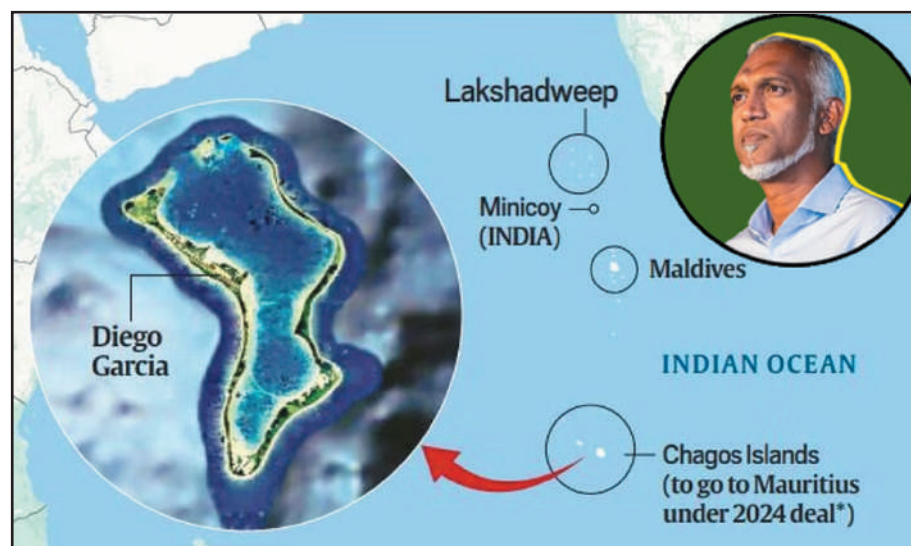
We should be talking consistently to both.

And Now Malé

There is an added reason why such engagement has acquired greater urgency.

The Maldives has indicated that it is consulting international experts regarding its claim over Chagos and considering how the issue might be pursued internationally. Whatever the ultimate legal merits of that position, Malé appears to be moving beyond political declarations towards the elaboration of a legal and diplomatic strategy.

Mauritius should, in my view, resist any temptation to engage in a public exchange with the Maldives. There is little to be gained by doing so.



“The Maldives has indicated that it is consulting international experts regarding its claim over Chagos and considering how the issue might be pursued internationally. Whatever the ultimate legal merits of that position, Malé appears to be moving beyond political declarations towards the elaboration of a legal and diplomatic strategy. Mauritius should, in my view, resist any temptation to engage in a public exchange with the Maldives. There is little to be gained by doing so. Our position rests upon a formidable body of international law and international legitimacy... We do not need to shout about that record...” Pic - sanatanprabhat.org

Our position rests upon a formidable body of international law and international legitimacy, the 2019 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, the subsequent United Nations General Assembly Resolution, the relevant findings of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the consistent support extended to Mauritius by the African Union and the wider international community.

We do not need to shout about that record. We need to be ready to deploy it.

Do Not React — Prepare

If the Maldives is consulting international lawyers, Mauritius should already be ensuring that its own legal preparation is complete. If Malé is examining possible avenues through which to internationalise its claim, Port Louis should be anticipating what those avenues might be. And if arguments are being assembled elsewhere, our counter-arguments should not await their formal presentation before being prepared.

That is proactive diplomacy.

There should therefore already be a discreet examination of every plausible legal or multilateral avenue available to the Maldives; the jurisdictional issues that would arise; the relevance of the ICJ Advisory Opinion, the UNGA Resolution and the ITLOS proceedings; the Maldives' own previous

positions; and the diplomatic support upon which Mauritius could rely should the issue eventually surface in an international forum.

Preparation for possible litigation does not imply that litigation is inevitable. It means ensuring that we are never taken by surprise.

Engage London - Quietly

There is another dimension which should perhaps receive greater attention. The United Kingdom and Mauritius may still have matters to resolve concerning implementation of their Agreement, but on the fundamental question of sovereignty their interests now intersect in an important respect. London negotiated and signed an Agreement recognising Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. It therefore has its own political, legal and diplomatic interest in defending the integrity of the settlement it concluded.

This creates an opportunity which Mauritius should quietly explore. Without dramatising the Maldivian statements, Port Louis should begin discussions with London about the implications of any attempt by Malé to internationalise its claim and about the manner in which the two governments might respond should that eventuality arise.

This need not take the form of a public alliance against the Maldives. Indeed, it would be preferable that it did not. It should simply be part of the normal diplomatic conversation between two governments that have concluded an international agreement concerning the very territory whose sovereignty a third state now proposes to contest.

And here, again, the importance of sustained ministerial contact becomes evident. It is difficult to build common diplomatic positions if political dialogue is allowed to lie dormant.

London, Washington and the Wider International Community

Mauritius should therefore be operating simultaneously along several tracks. Ministerial engagement with London should be re-energised. Washington should remain continuously engaged. Our traditional partners

should be kept properly informed. Our African partners, particularly through the African Union, and other regional organisations should remain alert to any attempt to reopen a decolonisation question upon which Africa has spoken with remarkable consistency.

None of this requires megaphone diplomacy. Quite the contrary. Some of the most effective diplomacy is conducted away from microphones. What matters is that when developments eventually become public, the necessary diplomatic groundwork has already been laid.

That is particularly important for a small state. We do not possess the political, economic or strategic weight of the major powers. Our advantage must therefore lie elsewhere — in anticipation, preparedness, consistency and the intelligent mobilisation of international law and diplomatic partnerships.

It is precisely a proposition I develop in my forthcoming monograph on the changing geopolitics of the Indian Ocean — in today's fragmented and increasingly unpredictable international environment, small and vulnerable states cannot afford the luxury of reactive diplomacy. Strategic foresight and the capacity to retain the initiative have become necessities of statecraft.

☞ Cont. on page 18

Yvan Martial

“Navin Ramgoolam a le choix entre la démagogie qui a conduit le pays à la perte sous le MSM, ou redresser ce qui peut l’être”



Justice, administration publique, fléau de la drogue et impunité chronique: Yvan Martial, journaliste et historien, dresse un état des lieux sans concession de la situation politique et institutionnelle à Maurice. Dans cet entretien, il revient sur les poursuites judiciaires visant plusieurs personnalités, l’efficacité du gouvernement de l’Alliance du Changement et les maux profonds qui gangrènent la société mauricienne, insistant sur la nécessité impérieuse de moraliser la vie publique et de restaurer la confiance des citoyens.

Mauritius Times: Un développement majeur est intervenu hier: le DPP a engagé des poursuites formelles contre cinq personnalités dans plusieurs affaires, notamment le scandale du “Reward Money”, l’affaire Saint-Louis, celle de l’Eco Deer Park Association, ainsi que le “MIC/Appavou Deal”. Toutes les personnes concernées sont, bien entendu, présumées innocentes jusqu’à ce qu’un tribunal en décide autrement. Mais peut-on voir dans ces poursuites le début d’une nouvelle phase dans la lutte contre la corruption et les malversations financières à Maurice?

Yvan Martial : “Développement majeur” pourrait paraître exagéré. Il s’agit, après tout, de quatre procès semblables aux dizaines, voire aux centaines, logés, jour après jour, devant nos instances judiciaires. Pour juges, magistrats et collaborateurs, c’est “business as usual”, comme pour n’importe quel autre procès. Nous, opinion publique et médias, corsons l’affaire outre mesure. Nous ne sommes, d’ailleurs, qu’au début d’un processus pouvant prendre des années, voire des lustres. À moins que les accusés ne plaident coupables.

Arrêtons de rêver. Le public peut avoir une perception différente, sous prétexte que, parmi ces accusés, se trouvent des politiciens, dont d’anciens ministres, leurs proches, quelques personnalités mais de vertu suspecte. Pour le Judiciaire, ce sera un procès comme tant d’autres, avec

Demeure le tribunal populaire, plus expéditif mais pas forcément juste ou équitable. Rançon de la popularité multiforme, bonne ou mauvaise. Nous l’acceptons quand elle nous honore. Nous ne pouvons pas la récuser quand elle nous dessert. Heureux ceux qui n’ont pas à juger autrui. Laissons ce travail à celui qui scrute les reins et les cœurs. Il sait mieux que nous le bien que nous délaissions et le mal que nous faisons allègrement. Puisse-t-il prendre pitié des pauvres pécheurs que nous sommes...

*** Par ailleurs, le fait que plusieurs affaires distinctes aboutissent aujourd’hui à des poursuites formelles révèle-t-il des failles plus profondes dans la gestion des fonds publics et dans le fonctionnement de certaines institutions de l’État?**

Ce sont en effet des “affaires distinctes”. D’un côté, la Justice doit juger d’innombrables procès, souvent dans l’indifférence générale. Les coupables ne sont pas toujours “Honorables”, hier ou aujourd’hui. De l’autre, il y a la saine gestion des fonds publics, puisés dans nos poches de contribuables et de consommateurs. C’est notre argent, et jamais celui du gouvernement. Seuls les nigards gobent la gratuité mensongère des services publics. Nous avons le cœur “cassé” quand notre argent est outrageusement gaspillé.

Pouvoir et Opposition sont en quête de responsabilité fiscale. Mettraient-ils “la tête ensemble” en quête d’une formule consensuelle qu’elle serait trouvée plus rapidement. Elle aurait surtout davantage de chances de survivre à la prochaine alternance du pouvoir.

Toutefois, un autre danger menace. Plus impitoyables seront les sanctions anti-gaspi, plus tarderont des fonctionnaires à apposer signature ou cachet, feu vert pouvant leur valoir, en cas d’enquête, un transfert punitif ou pire. Retour alors à la vitesse Grand V de la bureaucratie la plus paralysante. Nous sauverons quelques sous pour perdre parfois des milliards. En tout régime, surtout politique, ce ne sont jamais les peaux de banane qui manquent. Notre secteur privé connaît-il ces problèmes de gaspillage des fonds de l’entreprise? Et si le privé connaît moins de gaspillage, quelle est sa recette?

*** Pour revenir aux décisions du DPP, pensez-vous que le gouvernement devrait aller plus loin et procéder à un examen systématique des décisions et transactions controversées prises sous l’ancien régime, afin de déterminer si les cinq dossiers actuellement devant la justice ne constituent que la partie émergée de l’iceberg?**

Quand un véhicule zigzague dangereusement sur la route, quelle est l’utilité d’analyser ses zigzags les uns après les autres? Le plus simple et le plus sécurisant est de changer immédiatement de chauffeur. Le remplaçant va-t-il droit, sans zigzaguer? Satisfaisons-nous de notre recrutement. Si les zigzags continuent, c’est que le recruteur — peut-être notre électorat — a fait le mauvais choix.

“ Jamais ne l’a effleuré l’envie de transférer un Dayendranath Burrenchobay du Bureau du Premier ministre pour l’expédier à la Pêche, ou de catapulter un Frank Richard de l’Éducation aux Coopératives. Les ministres demandaient à leur Permanent Secretary s’ils pouvaient faire ceci ou cela. En cas de conflit, porté devant SSR, le ministre avait rarement raison. Si un Permanent Secretary se plaignait à SSR de son ministre, les jours de ce dernier au Cabinet étaient comptés...”

Les moniteurs d’auto-école ne manquent pas. Nos meilleurs experts-comptables non plus. Mais si le propriétaire du véhicule préfère un chauffeur zigzagueur, ayant eu son permis dans l’enveloppe, que peuvent faire des moniteurs d’auto-école compétents? Mais si nous pouvons réellement interdire de volant un accro aux zigzags, gageons que tous les fous du volant deviendront sages. L’impunité est l’ennemi N° 1 de notre population.

*** Enfin, comment garantir que ces poursuites soient perçues non pas comme une opération politique de “nettoyage” après un changement de gouvernement, mais comme l’application impartiale de la justice, indépendamment de l’identité ou de l’appartenance politique des personnes concernées?**

L’électorat mauricien doit d’abord et avant tout savoir voter pour les candidats, partisans ou indépendants, ayant amplement prouvé leur compétence en gérant excellemment leur entreprise ou les responsabilités publiques qui leur ont été confiées.

Où les trouver? Comment jauger leur compétence?

☞ Suite en page 8

“ L’électorat mauricien doit d’abord et avant tout savoir voter pour les candidats, partisans ou indépendants, ayant amplement prouvé leur compétence... Mais tant que notre électorat persistera majoritairement à faire confiance à des démagogues, pensant parti et poche avant pays, le Bal des Voleurs se poursuivra, au bénéfice de requins pouvant marcher sur le cadavre de leur mère pour mieux exploiter notre population, probablement trop naïve...”

Tant que notre électorat persistera majoritairement à faire confiance à des démagogues, pensant parti et poche avant pays, le Bal des Voleurs se poursuivra'

☞ Suite de la page 7

Voyons-les à l'œuvre, à la tête de leur entreprise, d'associations, de services sociaux et caritatifs, de forces vives, de lutte contre les fléaux et, plus particulièrement, à l'œuvre dans la saine gestion des collectivités locales (villages, quartiers urbains, municipalités, conseils de district). S'ils excellent dans la gestion de petites institutions, ils sauront faire de même à l'Assemblée nationale ou à l'Hôtel du Gouvernement.

Mais tant que notre électorat persistera majoritairement à faire confiance à des démagogues, pensant parti et poche avant pays, le Bal des Voleurs se poursuivra, au bénéfice de requins pouvant marcher sur le cadavre de leur mère pour mieux exploiter notre population, probablement trop naïve.

*** Durant cette même semaine, le Premier ministre a publiquement dénoncé les blocages administratifs dans le secteur de la santé. Il est rare — voire inédit — qu'un chef de gouvernement s'en prenne aussi ouvertement au fonctionnement d'un service public. Cette dénonciation publique traduit-elle une volonté réelle de réformer le fonctionnement de la fonction publique ou risque-t-elle de rester au stade d'une déclaration politique?**

Au lendemain de l'Indépendance, notre fonction publique, heureux legs d'un système colonial, injustement décrié car il comptait autant de réussites que d'abus de pouvoir de *British-born* au détriment des indigènes que nous étions alors. Dans son incontestable sagesse, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Premier ministre incontesté même des 44 % de Mauriciens ayant voté contre l'Indépendance, avait davantage confiance en nos secrétaires permanents d'alors qu'en ses ministres, pourtant non des moindres.

Jamais ne l'a effleuré l'envie de transférer un Dayendranath Burrenchobay du Bureau du Premier ministre pour l'expédier à la Pêche, ou de catapulter un Frank Richard de l'Éducation aux Coopératives. Les ministres demandaient à leur *Permanent Secretary* s'ils pouvaient faire ceci ou cela. En cas de conflit, porté devant SSR, le ministre avait rarement raison. Si un *Permanent Secretary* se plaignait à SSR de son ministre, les jours de ce dernier au Cabinet étaient comptés.

À un certain seuil de toute hiérarchie ministérielle, les hauts fonctionnaires se savaient attachés à leur ministère jusqu'à leur départ à la retraite. Ils se retiraient en sachant que leur successeur, formé par eux-mêmes, resterait irréprochable et performant pour le plus grand bien du ministère. Les journalistes d'alors préféraient consulter les secrétaires permanents plutôt que leur ministre, afin d'avoir une

meilleure information.

Depuis, tout a viré sens dessus dessous. Voilà pourquoi le pays va à vau-l'eau et que deux ophtalmologues de la diaspora mauricienne ne peuvent mettre bénévolement leurs compétences au service de l'île Maurice souffrante. Trop de fonctionnaires s'emploient à se constituer une zone de confort, dans laquelle ils squattent sous prétexte qu'ils sont proches d'une petite cousine d'un parent éloigné du chauffeur d'un garde du corps d'un ministre!

Le meilleur ministre demeure celui qui parvient à redonner confiance à tous les fonctionnaires de son ministère. Il redeviendra le maître de tous en se mettant à l'écoute de tout un chacun, avec le souci de ressusciter l'ambition initiale de ce dernier en entrant dans la fonction publique: ambition d'offrir le meilleur service possible à notre population.

*** Peut-on se contenter de dénoncer publiquement des dysfonctionnements sans en identifier les responsables ni prendre les mesures correctives qui s'imposent? Et si, après une dénonciation aussi explicite du Premier ministre, aucune mesure disciplinaire n'est prise, quel message cela risque-t-il d'envoyer aux fonctionnaires et, plus largement, à l'ensemble de la population?**

Quitte à me répéter, je reviens à ce directeur British-born de l'Éducation de la fin des années 1940. Peut-être un certain Nichols. Dès son entrée en fonction, il réclame la loi régissant le système éducatif colonial d'alors. Il en dégage les points disciplinaires majeurs. Il réunit le corps enseignant au théâtre de Port-Louis (n'ayant pas besoin de rénovation car quotidiennement entretenu par quelques ouvriers). Il se présente à l'assistance et promet sa détermination à appliquer à la lettre la législation existante et en vigueur. D'autres auraient, erreur impardonnable, promis une réforme du système éducatif et de sa législation.

Il détaille les principales infractions à propos desquelles il sera intransigeant et appliquera impitoyablement la loi. Quelque temps après, on lui signale le cas d'un enseignant désinvolte, s'absentant fréquemment, souvent en retard. Il le convoque, s'assure de sa présence à sa convocation initiale. Le fautif est forcé de reconnaître ses torts. Il est immédiatement limogé. À la fin de son mandat, ce directeur de l'Éducation avouera avec satisfaction n'avoir pas eu à prendre d'autres sanctions.

L'impunité est l'ennemi N° 1 de la population mauricienne. Et si l'impunité sévit, c'est parce que nous, électeurs, prêtons trop l'oreille à des démagogues invétérés, pensant parti ou syndicat avant de penser pays.

*** Ne faudrait-il pas, parallèlement aux sanctions éventuelles, revoir les procédures administratives qui permettent à de tels blocages de se prolonger?**

Dernière chose à faire. Il y a forcément une loi en vigueur régissant chaque sphère de nos activités publiques ou privées. Bonne ou mauvaise, la loi existe, fait autorité et tous, à commencer par le Premier ministre, doivent s'y soumettre. S'il y a un délit, infraction, plainte, doléance, accusation, enquêtons, appelons les témoins pouvant faire progresser l'enquête, trouvons les coupables, les commanditaires ayant permis ou ordonné le délit, le blocage, le boycott, la négligence professionnelle mais coupable.

Sanctionnons et faisons confiance à l'effet pédagogique, à l'effet dissuasif qui en résultera. Vainquons l'impunité, cas

“ Tout a viré sens dessus dessous. Voilà pourquoi le pays va à vau-l'eau et que deux ophtalmologues de la diaspora mauricienne ne peuvent mettre bénévolement leurs compétences au service de l'île Maurice souffrante. Trop de fonctionnaires s'emploient à se constituer une zone de confort, dans laquelle ils squattent sous prétexte qu'ils sont proches d'une petite cousine d'un parent éloigné du chauffeur d'un garde du corps d'un ministre! ”



après cas, et elle finira par lâcher prise, car chat échaudé craint l'eau froide. Si, au cours d'une enquête, un besoin de réforme se fait sentir, confions-la à l'institution chargée de réformer ce qui va de travers dans notre jungle administrative. Au besoin, confions cette tâche à une personnalité ou à une équipe restreinte (pas plus de quatre personnes, quitte à coopter d'autres compétences pour des tâches précises). Que cet oiseau rare ou l'équipe ad hoc vienne avec un projet de réforme qui sera soumis à l'expertise d'autres spécialistes pour le peaufiner.

Il sera toujours temps, après, de consulter les parties prenantes, y compris politiciens et syndicalistes de tous bords. Si un consensus se pointe à l'horizon, alors pourra-t-on avertir la population que telle ou telle réforme modifiera, dans un délai raisonnable, tel ou tel secteur de nos activités, à partir de telle ou telle date.

Réformer, oui, car nous devons tenir compte d'une inévitable évolution. Consulter, oui, mais toujours à partir d'un texte de base, préparé par des techniciens compétents et peaufiné par des spécialistes encore plus expérimentés. Réformer, oui, mais sérieusement, méthodiquement. Jamais dans le vide. Ce dernier ne peut engendrer qu'un néant encore plus nocif.

☞ Suite en page 9

“ Nous ne pouvons vaincre la Mafia de la drogue. Mais nous pouvons détruire son trafic tellement juteux. N'oublions pas : la Prohibition puritaine américaine des années 1920 a surtout inventé le mythe d'Al Capone. L'alcool et le tabac sont aussi meurtriers. Ils sont en vente libre ou presque. Gratuite ou vendue à prix d'or, si quelqu'un, un jeune de surcroît, veut s'empoisonner avec la drogue, il saura trouver son poison préféré et se l'offrir... ”

'Nous ne pouvons vaincre la Mafia de la drogue.

Mais nous pouvons détruire son trafic tellement juteux'

☞ Suite de la page 8

*** L'arrestation du mari de l'ancienne Junior Minister Véronique Leu-Govind, soupçonné de trafic de drogue, a une nouvelle fois mis en lumière la proximité présumée entre le milieu de la drogue et certains proches du pouvoir. Les personnes concernées sont, bien entendu, présumées innocentes jusqu'à preuve du contraire. Mais au-delà de cette affaire, le phénomène n'est pas nouveau et révèle un problème plus profond, qui perdure depuis des décennies. Pourquoi, malgré les saisies, les arrestations et les opérations policières, le trafic de drogue continue-t-il de prospérer et de s'enraciner à Maurice?**



J'ai connu Seewoosagur Ramgoolam dirigeant le pays après la double dévaluation de la roupie de 50 %, avec, au départ, seulement deux voix de majorité, auxquelles devait s'ajouter la dissidence d'Harish Boodhoo. J'ai connu Sir Anerood Jugnauth devant compter sur les quatre voix parlementaires d'Amsterdam Boys pour sauver une misérable majorité parlementaire. Navin Ramgoolam n'a aucune excuse, pour l'instant, de ne pas faire ce qui doit se faire pour le bien du pays...

Je me refuse obstinément, à partir d'un seul cas que je connais mal, à extrapoler pour soutenir que notre classe politique serait de mèche avec une quelconque mafia. Je préfère passer pour un naïf impénitent plutôt que de commettre le moindre jugement téméraire, simplement pour paraître *plus connu* que d'autres.

En revanche, ceux détenant des preuves incontestables que tel ou tel politicien ou parti serait proche d'une quelconque mafia, avec un quelconque gang, avec une quelconque vermine, et qui se taisent ou qui n'osent pas fournir leurs preuves à la Police, sinon au public, sont encore plus coupables que les pires de nos politicards et autres gangsters.

*** On parle beaucoup de consommateurs, de passeurs et de petits trafiquants arrêtés. Mais où sont les gros trafiquants, les commanditaires et surtout les financiers qui se trouvent derrière ces réseaux? Avons-nous aujourd'hui une véritable stratégie nationale contre la drogue, ou sommes-nous essentiellement dans une politique de réaction au cas par cas?**

Je n'ai aucune compétence en matière de lutte anti-drogue. Je ne connais aucun gros trafiquant de drogue (ni petit, d'ailleurs). Encore moins les commanditaires et les financiers derrière ces réseaux. N'étant d'aucun secours à celles et ceux risquant, jour après jour, leur vie et celle de leurs proches pour combattre le commerce de la mort, je leur fais pleinement confiance. Je sais que leur tâche herculéenne est pleine de risques.

Je déplore toutefois que de graves dénonciations aient été faites publiquement et reprises par nos valeureux journaux, mais en pure perte. Je me souviens plus particulièrement, dans les années 1980-90, de l'affichage, dans le centre de Port-Louis, des noms de hauts gradés de la police, accusés de complicité avec la mafia de la drogue. Il n'y eut aucune suite à cela. Indifférence générale, à commencer par

l'Hôtel du Gouvernement et les "cavernes centrales". Un travailleur social a, depuis, pris le risque, au XXe siècle, de publier dans au moins un journal une liste de dealers avec leurs coordonnées et lieux de travail, sinon de vente de drogue, dans des rues de Port-Louis. Même coup d'épée dans l'eau. L'impunité est l'ennemi N° 1 des Mauriciens.

Le seul et dernier article sur la drogue à Maurice que j'ai écrit, au XXe siècle, sinon lors d'un précédent millénaire, disait ceci : je n'ai aucune suggestion à faire en matière de lutte antidrogue. En revanche, je proposais de couper l'herbe sous les pieds du trafic de la drogue, du commerce de la mort, en permettant à notre Police d'offrir gratuitement à nos toxicomanes leur ration quotidienne narcotique, à condition que cette consommation gratuite de drogue se fasse sous contrôle médical, et que ces consommateurs de drogue attendent, dans un endroit sécurisé, sous vigilance policière, que l'effet hallucinogène se dissipe et qu'ils puissent reprendre normalement leurs activités ordinaires.

J'ai par la suite appris, non sans réconfort, qu'un ancien commissaire de prison et l'éminent et combien regretté Claude Michel étaient du même avis. Tous les drogués ne se seraient pas pointés aux portes de cette distribution gratuite. Mais des mères et grand-mères éplorées auraient eu la vie sauve, au lieu d'être trucidées par un enfant ou un petit-enfant venu leur extorquer quelques centaines de roupies pour satisfaire ses pulsions narcotiques.

Satan peut dormir sur ses deux oreilles. Certains Mauriciens sont devenus assez démoniaques pour vouloir enfermer dans le pire esclavage qui soit leur semblable, leur frère. Où trouver pire esclave qu'un zombie ambulant, jeune Mauricien de 2026 de surcroît, emprisonné dans les chaînes de la drogue synthétique? Le prix coûtant de ce poison est de quelques piécettes. Le commerce de la mort multiplie ce prix par milliers avec la complicité de notre indifférence criminelle.

Nous ne pouvons vaincre la Mafia de la drogue. Mais nous pouvons détruire son trafic tellement juteux. N'oublions pas : la Prohibition puritaine américaine des années 1920 a surtout inventé le mythe d'Al Capone. L'alcool et le tabac sont aussi meurtriers. Ils sont en vente libre ou presque. Gratuite ou vendue à prix d'or, si quelqu'un, un jeune de surcroît, veut s'empoisonner avec la drogue, il saura trouver son poison préféré et se l'offrir.

Avec quelle tristesse nos ancêtres contemplant ce pays nommé Maurice qu'ils nous ont légué et que nous devons léguer aux enfants de nos enfants...

*** La révocation de Sydney Pierre et la controverse entourant l'arrestation du mari de l'ancienne Junior Minister Véronique Leu-Govind, suivie de la démission de cette dernière, ont indéniablement été embarrassantes pour le gouvernement. Considérez-vous ces développements comme des incidents isolés, ou pourraient-ils être le signe de problèmes politiques plus profonds pour le gouvernement et l'Alliance du Changement?**

Si j'étais politicien et qu'un Premier ministre m'offrait un poste de ministre ou de ministre délégué, après m'avoir accordé le ticket électoral triomphateur, faisant enfin de moi un... Honorable, la première chose que je ferais, ce serait de rédiger, séance tenante, ma lettre de démission non datée, que je remettrais au Premier ministre, en lui faisant comprendre qu'il n'aura qu'à la dater pour que ma lettre de démission prenne effet immédiatement.

Mgr Michael Durhône m'accusera peut-être de plagiat. Mais je tiens à mon principe : un Premier ministre m'offre gratuitement une quelconque nomination. Le moins que je puisse faire, c'est de lui offrir gratuitement ma démission sur papier. Libre à lui, par la suite, de la rendre publique si l'élec-

tron libre que j'entends demeurer lui cause un quelconque embarras.

Nos petites libertés ou autres problèmes conjugaux ne sont pas de taille à contrecarrer une quelconque tâche gouvernementale. Avec un gouvernement disposant d'une majorité de 60 sièges, il serait difficile de parler d'une véritable gêne gouvernementale après quelques incidents ou difficultés individuelles.

J'ai connu Seewoosagur Ramgoolam dirigeant le pays après la double dévaluation de la roupie de 50 %, avec, au départ, seulement deux voix de majorité, auxquelles devait s'ajouter la dissidence d'Harish Boodhoo. J'ai connu Sir Anerood Jugnauth devant compter sur les quatre voix parlementaires d'Amsterdam Boys pour sauver une misérable majorité parlementaire.

Navin Ramgoolam n'a aucune excuse, pour l'instant, de ne pas faire ce qui doit se faire pour le bien du pays que nous devons léguer aux enfants de nos enfants, même si, pour cela, il doit piétiner ses promesses électorales, surenchérissant une démagogie adverse ne pouvant conduire notre pays qu'à sa perte.

*** Après plusieurs mois au pouvoir, quel bilan faites-vous de la performance du gouvernement de l'Alliance du Changement? L'impression qui se dégage actuellement est celle d'un gouvernement qui doit encore trouver son rythme et ses marques. Est-ce une perception injuste ou y a-t-il effectivement un problème d'efficacité gouvernementale?**

Laissons à l'Histoire et à la postérité le soin de porter un jugement sur la performance du présent gouvernement 60-0. Navin Ramgoolam a le choix entre une démagogie aussi facile que celle qui a tristement conduit le pays à sa perte entre 2014 et 2024, sous la férule du MSM et de Pravind Jugnauth, ou redresser ce qui peut l'être et restaurer la confiance des décideurs étrangers, dont le FMI et Moody's, pouvant nous aider ou nous laisser périr si nous persistons dans nos erreurs économiques démagogiques.

Corriger, non pas le gaspillage, mais le pillage des fonds publics, de notre argent nous, contribuables, odieusement pratiqué par le MSM entre 2014 et 2024, est une tâche herculéenne. L'opinion publique, tellement à l'écoute de démagogues de bas étage, médias compris, ne lui saura peut-être aucun gré. Cela pourrait même lui coûter sa réélection en 2029, si notre électoral ne sait pas se ressaisir.

Mais il vaut mieux entrer dans l'Histoire comme celui qui a courageusement essayé de réparer la criminelle gabegie du MSM de 2014-2024, plutôt que d'ambitionner des lauriers aussi flétris.

Corriger, non pas le gaspillage, mais le pillage des fonds publics, de notre argent nous, contribuables, odieusement pratiqué par le MSM entre 2014 et 2024, est une tâche herculéenne. L'opinion publique, tellement à l'écoute de démagogues de bas étage, médias compris, ne lui saura peut-être aucun gré. Cela pourrait même lui coûter sa réélection en 2029, si notre électoral ne sait pas se ressaisir. Mais il vaut mieux entrer dans l'Histoire comme celui qui a courageusement essayé de réparer la criminelle gabegie du MSM de 2014-2024, plutôt que d'ambitionner des lauriers aussi flétris...



Unfinished Decolonisation?

Going Beyond the Coloniser-Coloniser Paradigm in the Reality of Multicultural and Multilingual Mauritius

U. Dasin

There is a profound insight in the statement attributed to the founding father of Singapore — Lee Kuan Yew — on the transplantation of Western political institutions into societies whose historical evolution had been radically different from that of the West. The West, he understood, had developed its secular institutions over centuries, against the background of its own particular history of individualism, citizenship, class formation and nation-building. Yet, once Western powers had exported those institutions to the rest of the world — often after having first extracted or expropriated its resources — they tended to assume that the institutions themselves were universal and that the societies receiving them would eventually conform to their logic.

Lee Kuan Yew's point was not that modern institutions were undesirable. It was that institutions do not float free of history. Beneath the apparently rational and universal structures of the modern state remain older loyalties: family, community, ethnicity, religion, language, memory and collective identity. These do not disappear because a constitution is adopted, a parliament established or independence proclaimed. Indeed, when historical identities are suppressed in the name of an abstract universalism, they have a tendency to return in other forms.

Freud's famous observation about repression has an unexpected political resonance here: what is driven out of consciousness does not necessarily disappear; it returns, displaced and transformed. The same can happen to collective identities. The modern state may declare all citizens equal, but equality proclaimed at the level of political institutions does not automatically dissolve the historical inequalities, memories and communal structures inherited from the past.

There is an additional irony in the history of Western modernity. The language of universal equality arrived relatively late in the story. It emerged after centuries in which European powers had built empires, appropriated territories and resources, and organised populations according to profound hierarchies of race, class and civilisation. For the populations subsequently incorporated into the modern nation-state, therefore, the arrival of the universal language of equality could not simply erase the material and historical differences produced by the preceding order.

This is one reason why the simple transplantation of Western institutions has produced such uneven results. The problem is not necessarily the institutions themselves. It is the assumption that institutions can be detached from the historical and social conditions that produced them.



“Mauritius was constituted through successive movements and displacements of people: enslaved Africans and Malagasy, indentured labourers from different parts of India, migrants from China, Europeans and others, all incorporated into a colonial order characterised by profound inequalities of status, wealth and power. Consequently, Mauritian decolonisation cannot simply mean the restoration of an original identity that colonialism suppressed. There is no single precolonial Mauritian identity waiting to be recovered. The Mauritian historical experience is instead one of multiple populations becoming, over time, a society...” Pic - Defi-Media

Mauritius: A different postcolonial reality

Mauritius presents an especially complicated version of this problem because it does not fit neatly into the familiar postcolonial binary of coloniser and indigenous population. There was no indigenous Mauritian population that existed as a coherent national community before colonialism and could subsequently reclaim its sovereignty. Mauritius was instead constituted through successive movements and displacements of people: enslaved Africans and Malagasy, indentured labourers from different parts of India, migrants from China, Europeans and others, all incorporated into a colonial order characterised by profound inequalities of status, wealth and power.

Consequently, Mauritian decolonisation cannot simply mean the restoration of an original identity that colonialism suppressed. There is no single precolonial Mauritian identity waiting to be recovered. The Mauritian historical experience is instead one of multiple populations becoming, over time, a society. This distinction matters enormously for the way we understand the present debate over Kreol.

The Kreol question

The proposal to begin discussing the introduction of Kreol in the National Assembly is, on its face, an eminently defensible democratic proposition. A language spoken extensively in the everyday life of the country should not be treated as inherently inferior simply because the colonial state elevated other languages into formal institutional domains. Indeed, the parliamentary recognition of Kreol can be understood as part of the continuing democratisation of Mauritian public life.

But the question becomes much more

complicated if the matter is framed through the familiar binary of colonial language versus indigenous language. Kreol is certainly a language of Mauritius. But the historical meaning of Mauritius cannot be reduced to Kreol, any more than the history of its population can be reduced to a single ethnic experience. This is where the exceptional complexity of the Mauritian case needs to be acknowledged.

What does it mean to speak of an “indigenous” language in a society whose populations were themselves brought together through slavery, indentureship, migration and colonial structures? What happens when the legitimate recognition of one historically marginalised identity is interpreted, consciously or otherwise, as requiring the marginalisation of other historically constituted identities? These are not semantic questions. They go to the heart of nation-building.

A plurality of histories and identities

For the descendants of indentured populations, for example, “Indian” is hardly a sufficient description of the historical inheritance they carry. The linguistic and cultural histories of Bhojpur, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and other communities are distinct. They have generated their own literary, religious, musical and cultural traditions, while simultaneously participating in the making of a distinctly Mauritian society.

This plurality is visible if we care to look: Bihar Diwas, Maharashtra Day, Telugu cultural celebrations and Tamil Heritage celebrations are not simply exercises in religious or folkloric nostalgia. Nor are Cavadee, Holi and Ganesh Chaturthi merely religious festivals in a narrow sense. They are immense collective performances through which language, music, dance, food, dress, ritual, memory and social relations are reproduced and transmitted between generations.

Culture is lived.

It is performed.

It is remembered.

And people understandably become anxious when they believe that the recognition of one identity is being achieved at the expense of another. This is why the distinction between language and ethnicity becomes so important in the Kreol debate. Kreol can be understood as a language, a lingua franca, a literary medium, a language of popular culture and, potentially, a powerful expression of a shared Mauritian inheri-

tance. But none of these propositions automatically makes Kreol the exclusive linguistic expression of Mauritian identity, still less the cultural property of a single community.

Indeed, there is a particularly important distinction to be made between Kreol as a common language of Mauritius and Kreol as an ethnic marker. The former can unite. The latter can divide.

This distinction is especially significant when we recall the work of Dev Virahsawmy, for whom *Morisien* could signify something larger than the linguistic possession of one community: a collective inheritance produced through the historical encounter of different peoples and languages. In that conception, the language itself becomes evidence of Mauritius's hybridity. The danger comes when the semantics of language and race are quietly conflated. Once Kreol becomes identified primarily with a particular ethnic community, the very people who might otherwise embrace its wider national significance may begin to fear that they are being asked to exchange one identity for another.

What does decolonisation really mean?

And this brings us to perhaps the most important question of all: what exactly do we mean by decolonisation?

Decolonisation does not end with the lowering of one flag and the raising of another. Independence is a constitutional event. Decolonisation is a much longer historical process. It involves the restructuring of economic power, educational opportunity, cultural prestige, institutional representation, land ownership, social mobility, knowledge systems and the psychological inheritance of colonial hierarchy.

To equate decolonisation primarily with the introduction of Kreol into Parliament would therefore be to reduce an immense historical problem to a single symbolic intervention. The introduction of Kreol may be desirable. But it is not, by itself, decolonisation.

Indeed, there is a danger in allowing symbolic recognition to substitute for structural transformation. This is where Mauritius needs to resist another imported intellectual binary: the assumption that there must be one authentic postcolonial subject — the indigenous, the colonised, the subaltern — and that once that subject has been recognised, the work of decolonisation has been accomplished.

There was never a single Mauritian subaltern

The Mauritian subaltern was never singular. There were — and remain — subalterns, with different histories, languages, religions and memories. Their experiences of colonialism overlapped, but they were not identical.

The indentured labourer from Bihar did not arrive with precisely the same history as the Tamil or Telugu labourer; the enslaved African did not occupy the same position as the Chinese migrant; and none of these histories can simply be collapsed into a single postcolonial identity.

☞ Cont. on page 17

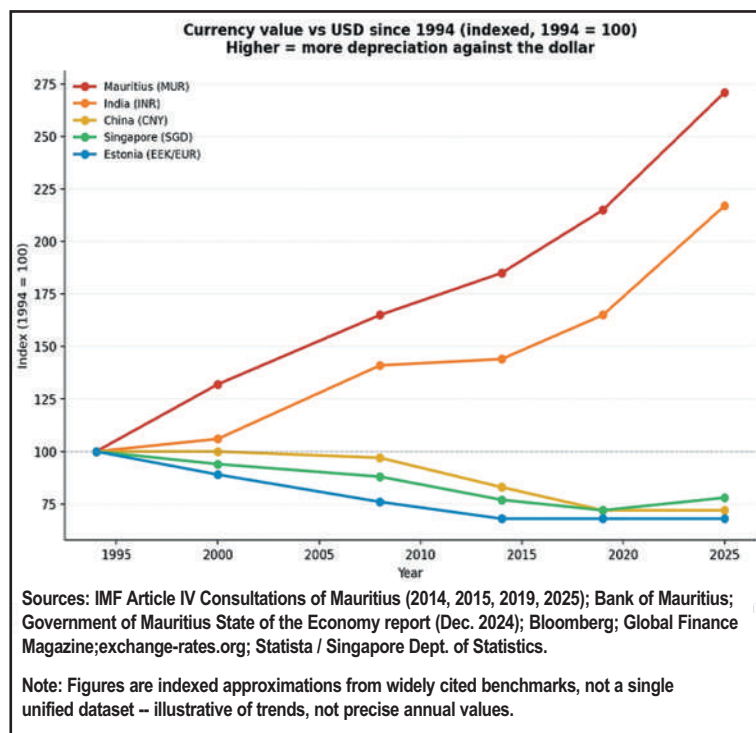


Samad Ramoly

Many Decades of “No Alternative”: What the Rupee’s Nosedive actually Reveals

When the Bank of Mauritius abolished exchange controls in July 1994 and let the rupee float, the promise was simple: a currency set free by markets, disciplined by fundamentals, would find its natural level — and a “competitive” rupee would carry the island’s export sector into a new era of growth. Three decades on, the rupee has lost roughly two-thirds of its value against the dollar. The export sector it was meant to support now imports more than it earns. And the official language used to justify each fresh depreciation reads almost word for word like the language used to explain the last one, and the one before that.

This is worth pausing over, because it is not really a story about currency mechanics. It is a story about how a plausible economic idea, applied without sufficient regard for the structure of the economy to which it was applied, gradually hardened into an alibi.



The idea, and where it broke

The theory behind the 1994 float was standard textbook fare: a weaker currency makes your exports cheaper abroad, which should lift export volumes, which should lift growth. Mauritius had just spent a decade liberalising — interest rates freed in stages through the late 1980s, exchange controls loosened progressively, capital account restrictions lifted — and the float was the capstone. This was the dominant policy consensus of the era, and Mauritius was a diligent student of it.

The trouble is that the mechanism only works cleanly if a country’s exports are not themselves built on imported inputs. Mauritius’s are. Its manufacturing and services sectors run on imported fuel, imported machinery, imported intermediate goods and now on imported labour too. So, a weaker rupee doesn’t just make Mauritian exports cheaper — it simultaneously makes them more expensive to produce. The theoretical gain and the practical cost arrive by the same channel, and depending on the sector, they can cancel out or worse. The Bank of Mauritius knew this by the late 1990s: after the rupee fell sharply in 1996, 1997 and 1998, the central bank spent the next several years fighting the

inflation that depreciation itself had fed, not export-led growth.

That should have been the moment the underlying model got revisited. It wasn’t. Instead, the explanation shifted from “the float will work” to “the float is working, we just need complementary reforms” — and that reframing has held, with minor variations, for the better part of thirty years.

The recycled diagnosis

Read the IMF’s Article IV consultations on Mauritius back-to-back and the pattern is almost eerie. In 2014, the Fund noted that the

authorities, faced with falling competitiveness, believed structural reform and labour productivity gains — not currency management — were the real fix. In 2019, months before the pandemic, the Fund was again flagging a deteriorating external balance and an accommodative, expansionary policy stance alongside calls to “regain competitiveness.” By 2025, following a currency collapse that the country’s own Bank of Mauritius audit attributes substantially to internal policy choices, the Fund’s language is nearly identical: the external position is weaker than fundamentals justify, and structural reform is what’s needed.

Ten years, the same diagnosis, the same prescribed remedy, and a currency that has done nothing but slide. At some point a repeated diagnosis that never produces a cure is not a diagnosis. It’s a script.

Two convenient untruths

Two claims have done most of the work in keeping that script alive.

The first is that productivity gains are the master key — that if Mauritius reforms education, labour markets and the ease of doing business sufficiently, competitiveness will return regardless of what the currency does. This is not so much false as radically incomplete: productivity reform is slow, structural and politically costly, which makes it both comfortable to recommend and comfortable to leave unfinished. It allows policymakers to point to a long-term horizon rather than confront the balance-sheet decisions being made this quarter.

The second is that imported-input inflation is a regrettable side effect of depreciation rather than a central feature of it. It is not a side effect. In an import-dependent economy, it is close to the whole story: the trade deficit puts pressure on the currency; the weaker currency, in turn, raises the cost of the next shipment of fuel and other inputs; and the cycle tightens. Mauritius’s own trade data shows this mechanism at work, with the current-account deficit widening even as officials describe the situation as temporary.

What TINA obscures

None of this means Mauritius had unlimited room to manoeuvre. Small open economies exposed to global capital flows and tourism receipts genuinely do face real constraints, and “there is no alternative” (TINA) is sometimes simply an accurate description of a narrow reserve position. But TINA has been doing double duty in Mauritius: describing a real constraint in the moment, while quietly erasing



the question of how the constraint was built.

It was built, in large part, by choices that had nothing to do with market forces finding a natural level. Public capital injected into failing banks in 2015 and 2016, financed off the state’s own balance sheet. Roughly eighteen billion rupees pumped into the system since 2019 — liquidity creation that a government-commissioned audit later found had accelerated the rupee’s fall and stoked the very inflation officials were publicly attributing to global shocks.

The same audit went further, questioning whether the central bank’s independence had been compromised during this period. These are not the actions of an economy passively absorbing an unavoidable external shock. They are the actions of institutions repeatedly reaching for the balance sheet as the path of least resistance, then describing the bill for it as fate.

Fatalism, cynicism, or incompetence — probably all three, in sequence

It would be simpler if this were one villain: an incompetent central bank, or a cynical government protecting narrow interests. The record over thirty years suggests something less tidy and, in a way, more damning — a form of institutional path dependency that has survived multiple governments and multiple central bank governors.

The diagnosis has rarely been wrong. Article IV reports going back more than a decade correctly identified a widening external imbalance and a weakening competitive position. What has failed, repeatedly, is the choice of instrument. Each time a difficult structural choice presented itself, the easier lever was pulled: recapitalise a bank rather than allow it to fail transparently and account for the cost in the budget; inject liquidity rather than raise taxes or cut protected spending; let the currency absorb the strain rather than confront the interests that benefit from the status quo.

None of this required believing that the depreciation story was false. It required only that believing it be convenient. And after a decade of convenience, the belief and the convenience became difficult to tell apart.

That is what makes **fatalism** the wrong word for where things stand today. Fatalism implies that nothing could have been done. In fact, something could have been done — repeatedly, by identifiable people in identifiable institutions — and the record, including the country’s own government audit, says so in plain language.

Whether that amounts to incompetence or cynicism is, in the end, a less useful question than the one that should be asked instead: **when the same institutions are faced with the same choices again, will they reach for the same lever?**

When disaster strikes, home insurance protects



NIC OASIS HOME PLAN

Terms & Conditions apply.

Get your quote

602 3000 | www.nicl.mu

NIC
General

NIC General Insurance Co. Ltd (IS15000025) is licensed by the Financial Services Commission.

Did Iran know exact location of Trump's stay in Turkey for NATO summit?

President Donald Trump has confirmed that he secretly swapped planes as he left a Nato summit in Turkey last month due to a possible threat.

"I go by Secret Service and the military. They wanted me to go in a different flight, different plane," Trump told reporters. "I just have to do what they say."

The revelation comes after reports that Trump boarded Air Force One on 8 July in view of television cameras, before hiding in a catering truck to be transported to a military aircraft.

The last-minute switch has raised questions about whether those left on the decoy plane were in danger, but Trump said on Tuesday the jet he boarded instead could have been at "greater risk... because that would be the plane, I think, that they would be more likely to go for".

Officials told the BBC's US partner, CBS News, that the US had detected a credible Iranian threat to fire a missile at the plane. The *New York Times* reported that US intelligence had information of a person near the Nato summit who had been seen with a shoulder-fired missile.

Report reveals what led to plane swap

Iran was aware of US President Donald Trump's exact location in Turkey, including the floor of the building where he was staying during the NATO summit in Ankara, according to a *New York Times* report, which cited two US officials familiar with the threat.

The report said that US intelligence received information through several channels, reports HT. It indicated a specific threat involving a surface-to-air missile targeting Air Force One, referring to whichever aircraft was carrying the president.

Intelligence also reportedly showed that a person near the NATO summit had been seen carrying a shoulder-fired missile.

The information was considered serious enough that Trump and senior officials in his administration carried out an unusual decoy



operation to get him out of Turkey.

He first boarded the older Air Force One in view of cameras, before quietly leaving inside an airport catering container and departing the country aboard a military aircraft.

News agency Reuters also reported on Wednesday, citing a person briefed on the matter, that concerns over a possible shoulder-fired missile attack on Air Force One led the secret service to secretly transfer Trump to a smaller government aircraft.

'The plane that I flew on was at greater risk': Trump

Trump and a few aides used a catering truck to quietly move from the large blue-and-white presidential aircraft to a smaller, unmarked C-32A jet as they left Turkey on July 8, Reuters reported, citing the source.

Air Force One then reportedly left separately, carrying senior administration officials, White House staff and members of the travelling press corps.

Trump said on Tuesday that the secret service, which is responsible for protecting the president, ordered the switch. He travelled from Ankara to a refuelling stop in Britain without any incident.

"I think actually the plane that I flew on was at greater risk," Trump told reporters. "I think it was at greater risk because that would be the plane I think that they would be more likely to go for."

India, Indonesia launch project to restore 9th-century Prambanan Temple

India and Indonesia have launched a landmark project to restore the 9th-century Prambanan Temple near Yogyakarta, one of Southeast Asia's most important Hindu heritage sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its exquisite Ramayana sculptures.

The temple, which houses three grand shrines dedicated to Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, is also home to a famed Ramayana tradition that continues through its elaborate dance ballet performances, reports HT.

This beautiful temple dates to the 9th century and is the second-largest Hindu temple in Southeast Asia, after the Angkor Wat Temple in Cambodia.

The Parmanand Temple (widely known as Prambanan) was originally built around 850

CE during the reign of King Rakai Pikatan of the Sanjaya Dynasty in Java, Indonesia. It was later expanded by subsequent kings and is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Ramayana Ballet at the Prambanan Temple is a spectacular traditional performance.

It brings the Hindu epic to life with over 200 professional dancers and gamelan musicians against the backdrop of the illuminated temples. The epic story is performed over 150 times every year and keeps the grand tradition alive.

The Prambanan Temple also has exquisite sculptural reliefs depicting the story of the Ramayana. In terms of the quality of the art, this is one of the finest depictions of the Ramayana story anywhere in the world.

Across the Globe

Heat shrivels Europe's economy

Europe's fifth heatwave of the year looks set to peak today, with the region's economy facing increasing pressure. Temperatures in parts of Germany and France are expected to top 38C, or 100F. The heat has hit energy supplies: Romania began disconnecting its sole functioning nuclear reactor from the grid because of record-low levels of water in the Danube, while a fifth of France's nuclear capacity is offline. Europe's tourism-dependent economies are also worried about the fallout — Roman restaurants and bars reported falling sales last month — while reinsurance giant Swiss Re warned in a report that rising temperatures on the continent will "reduce agricultural productivity, strain water and energy systems, damage infrastructure, and lower labor productivity."



Germany's economy at risk as Rhine river hits record level.
Pic - The Independent

Mecca defense pact may grow

Türkiye said a mutual defense pact with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan could be expanded to include Egypt. Several countries want to join the trilateral agreement signed in Mecca on Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told the state-run Anadolu Agency, saying only technical matters stood in the way of them signing up.

The so-called Mecca pact, which was formed against the backdrop of the war in Iran, commits members to jointly retaliate against attacks on any of them, in the style of NATO's Article 5. Egypt would bring one of the region's largest militaries. Pakistan's involvement also signals ambitions beyond the Middle East: Islamabad's foreign minister said the accord is open to any regional state willing to uphold its principles.

US intelligence targets Cuba



Why the US is ramping up intelligence activity in Cuba.
Pic - Strait Arrow News

The US is increasing its intelligence presence in Cuba in an apparent bid to force regime change on the island. The CIA has designated Havana a "priority 1" target alongside China, Iran, and Russia, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio called Cuba "an influence and espionage superpower." Washington has stepped up pressure on the island this year: An oil embargo has pushed Cuba's energy system to the brink of collapse, and basic goods are in short supply. The White House is looking to boost its information flow as it considers an operation comparable to the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, *El País* reported, although US military resources are already under considerable strain because of the war in Iran.

China reshapes food markets

China's growing focus on food security is reshaping geopolitics, analysts said. While conflict and climate change are major factors, Beijing's strategy of building a hefty stockpile and controlling strategic resources is also increasingly affecting the global system: "Elements of its food strategy mirror its approach to advanced manufacturing," JP Morgan economists wrote in a note to clients, pointing to its "reducing reliance on imports through substitution while building competitiveness in selected exports." At the same time, China is using its purchasing power as a tool of leverage against rivals, such as Japan and the US. Two experts wrote in *Foreign Affairs* that Beijing is "wielding its market for food products as a weapon in political disputes."

The ghost jets: Inside the high-stakes decoy flights of Trump and Clinton. The latter has an India-Pakistan link

When Donald Trump secretly switched planes while departing Turkey last month, he unwittingly revived a long-forgotten playbook from the Clinton era.

Twenty-six years earlier, in March 2000, Bill Clinton pulled the fairly same bait-and-switch in Pakistan. The then-US President touched down in Islamabad in a plain, unbranded executive jet, while a fully badged decoy landed first to draw potential fire, reports HT.

How Clinton's decoy plane worked

Clinton was travelling through South Asia when he flew from India to Pakistan on March 25, 2000. The security plan involved two C-20 Gulfstream executive jets.

According to reports at the time, Clinton was seen boarding an unmarked aircraft in Bombay. Secret Service personnel boarded another jet displaying US markings and an American flag.

That marked aircraft landed first in Islamabad. A



Secret Service officer who reportedly resembled Clinton showed up to create the impression that the president had arrived.

Minutes later, Clinton landed on the unmarked aircraft. United Press International (UPI) reported it as a "small, drab, grey executive jet with no identifying

markings".

The aim was to make it harder for anyone planning an attack to identify the aircraft carrying the president.

Why was Clinton kept out of sight?

Pakistan was considered a high-risk destination at the time. US officials were concerned about possible attacks, although the White House did not publicly link the precautions to one specific threat.

Historian Taylor Branch later gave a more detailed account in *The Clinton Tapes: Wrestling History with the President*. He wrote that intelligence indicated al-Qaeda marksmen were in position in Islamabad to assassinate Clinton.

"He felt bad for the pilots who flew an empty decoy plane with the markings of Air Force One, but this nerve-racking mission was their job," Branch wrote in his book.

"Clinton landed secretly off-schedule in an unmarked plane, taking with him the smallest functional entourage 'consistent with the dignity of the United States'," an excerpt from the book read.

Iran-US war to end in 2029?

Tehran official's answer and 'there is a price' warning as impasse over peace deal remains

Six months, one interim deal and multiple rounds of talks later, the war between the United States and Iran continues to simmer. The question that has been a constant throughout these months of Washington and Tehran launching strikes against each other is "when will the war end?"

A top official of the Iran Guards may have answered this question in a recent interview. Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a general in the Islamic Revolutionary

Guard Corps, told PBS News Hour that Tehran could 'prolong' the war until US President Donald Trump's term ends, which is January 20, 2029, reports HT.

"We have to attain deterrence so that the enemy never dares to attack us, so we can live with security. One way is to prolong this war until we get to the next term of the presidency and cause attrition, so that if anyone else wants to attack Iran, they will know there is a cost," Naqdi said in the interview.

'Confusion, bewilderment in America'

He claimed that Iran has been victorious in the war after it defeated the US in its objectives of the toppling of the leadership and the breaking up of Iran.

"We saw confusion and bewilderment in America. It became a war without a strategy. Every two or three days, they

announced a new objective. For several nights, they said they want to invade Kharg Island. They said they want to open the Strait of Hormuz. They mobilized their battleships.

Everything they tried, we can show how we were victorious," he said.

Iran yet to achieve 'final objective'

Naqdi added that Iran is yet to achieve its 'final objective.'

"The longer this war lasts, the more experience we gain. We had never seen a real war to gain real experience to learn how to fight with America. In these five months, we have learned how. We have also seen how the American military is weaker than what we perceived," he added.

The remarks of the top Iran military official come amid reports that Iran has

reorganised its military to be more aggressive abroad as talks on ending the war with the US remain mired in stalemate. This hints towards the fact that

Tehran may be preparing for a protracted era of regional conflict.

A raft of top military appointments by Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei marks a shift to an "offensive doctrine," Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps who advises the force's new commander, said in an interview on state TV late Tuesday.

"Whenever the conditions are favorable and the order is issued, we must be able to take the operation into enemy territory," he said, contrasting the approach with a pre-war doctrine that was "primarily based on defense and the preservation of the country."

Across the Globe

Faith fails to stem fertility drops

Religious encouragement for childbirth has been unable to stem the downward trend in fertility, with some of Europe's most Catholic countries, including Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Spain, seeing rapid declines. Utah, famous for large Mormon families, has seen the largest fertility-rate decline of any US state. The state had America's highest number of births per woman but, since its 2007 peak, has seen fertility rates drop 37% and is now in sixth place. The Mormon church encourages childbirth, but an influx of new residents, people turning away from religion, and Mormon women increasingly putting off starting families have pushed down fertility rates, The New York Times reported.

Science grants turn to lotteries

Science-funding bodies are increasingly turning to lotteries to hand out grants, arguing that predicting which research projects will work is near-impossible. Swiss, British, and German national funders, as well as some universities and major philanthropic bodies, have made the switch, randomizing allocations between reasonable proposals.

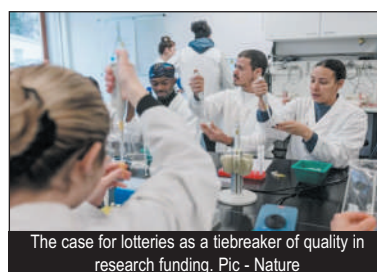
Research has shown that reviewers rarely agree on

what makes good research project, and moving to a lottery system also removes apparent funding biases: Female and Asian applicants, in particular, did better under the new system, Nature reported.

It may also have other benefits: Randomization creates natural experiments, meaning future researchers could have a source of data on which proposals do and do not do well when funded.

Tensions rise in East Asia

A series of diplomatic spats this week underscored rising security tensions across East Asia. North Korea fired a missile into the sea for the second time in a week over imminent US-South Korean military drills that Pyongyang says are an invasion rehearsal. Taiwan condemned planned joint Chinese-Indonesian navy exercises off the self-ruled island's coast as "wilful and irresponsible." And Japan lashed out at Russian President Vladimir Putin after he visited the Kuril Islands, including one Tokyo claims as its own. Friction in the



The case for lotteries as a tiebreaker of quality in research funding. Pic - Nature

region has been exacerbated by the war in the Middle East, The Diplomat argued, as East Asian nations — heavily reliant on energy imports from the Gulf — are forced into "hard choices they have long deferred."

German cabinet approves new spy rules

Germany's cabinet approved new rules for its spies Wednesday to lift World War II-era restrictions on offensive cyber operations, sabotage, and espionage. The changes augur a "revolution" in Berlin's intelligence infrastructure, the German interior minister said, fueled by a growing perception across Europe that the threat of Russian sabotage and influence operations is increasing as Moscow's battlefield position deteriorates.

Sweden is also rolling out a new intelligence agency as the Russia-Ukraine war escalates: Russian civilian deaths are growing at a rapid clip in the five-year war, The New York Times reported, and Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened on Wednesday to seize European commercial vessels in response to further interceptions of suspected Russian "shadow fleet" tankers.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

8th Year No 342	MAURITIUS TIMES	Friday 24 March, 1961
• "Truth is too simple for us; we do not like those who unmask our illusions." — Ralph Waldo Emerson		

Mauritius — Birth Control or Starvation

Under this caption, the London weekly, *New Statesman*, of March 10, comments on the Titmuss Report as follows:
One of the results of the improvement of health facilities in colonial territories since the war is the rapid increase in population. Whilst this can be welcomed in, for instance, the African territories which can sustain much larger populations than at present, its effect can be catastrophic in small island communities such as Mauritius, Malta and the West Indies. The resultant economic and social problems are clearly expressed in two reports recently published about the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.



The Labour Party government of the island is to be congratulated on its initiative in appointing Professor Titmuss and Dr Abel-Smith to study social policy and welfare services, and Professor Meade to report on the economic and social structure of its community. This is the first time that a colonial government has attempted to set up practical schemes of social insurance and health services before it has even become independent.
The choice which faces the people of Mauritius emerges starkly from both reports. Between 1954 to 1960 the population of the island rose from 420,000 to 650,000. The reason for this is a successful attack on malaria, a lowering of infant mortality and better health services enabling longer lives. But the birth rate is so high that four infants are born for every person who dies. At this rate, by 1982 this present population will have doubled. As there are tremendous difficulties in any rapid expansion of the economy, now almost entirely dependent on sugar production, this means that there will be less food, fewer houses, less medical attention and shorter education available for each individual, while unemployment will assume frightening proportions.
Thus, if there is to be any chance at all of introducing the social insurance, health service, school meals, free or cheap

shoes free milk, sickness and unemployment benefits which are proposed in Professor Titmuss's report, or the industrial effort proposed by Professor Meade, limitation of the population increase is essential. Professor Titmuss hinges his whole social security scheme on the statistical average of a three-child family instead of the present six to ten.

The Mauritius government introduced a birth control measure some time ago, but was forced to postpone discussion of it because of the outburst of religious feeling within its own party and among the public. Its efforts should be reinforced by these reports, with their specific proposal for birth control propaganda and assistance. But it will need all its courage to face an electorate still widely influenced by the Catholic Church; now, however, it has formidable evidence to convince Mauritian that their choice is between birth control and starvation.



VACANCY NOTICE

RISK AND TREASURY OFFICER

The State Trading Corporation (STC) wishes to recruit experienced and dynamic candidates willing to take an active role in the position of Risk and Treasury Officer.

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

Candidates, unless already in Service, should not have reached their 45th birthday by the closing date for the submission of applications. Selected candidates will be placed on permanent and pensionable basis after completion of a satisfactory probationary period of twelve months'.

Envelope clearly marked **"Risk and Treasury Officer"** 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 **Monday 31 August 2026 by 15:00 hrs**.

Late application and application 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), including submission of certificate of character.

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: 11 August 2026

Obituary Dr A. G. Jeetoo

We learnt with grief of the passing away of Dr A. G. Jeetoo.
Dr Jeetoo had a brilliant career as a medical practitioner. For many years, he served as a physician with the Public Assistance Department. But, above all, Dr Jeetoo will be remembered by the working class as one of the founders of the Labour Party.
At a time when people were ostracised for being labelled socialists and had to suffer all kinds of humiliation, Dr Jeetoo joined hands with Dr Curé and others in the struggle for the betterment of the oppressed classes.

L'échec de la stratégie américaine face à l'Iran: entre enlisement et impasses diplomatiques

Le conflit qui oppose les États-Unis à l'Iran semble enfermé dans une boucle perpétuelle, un cycle infernal de violence où aucune des deux parties ne peut tolérer une défaite stratégique, tout en se révélant incapable de trouver une issue diplomatique durable.

Selon l'analyse de Jessica Genauer, professeure agrégée en relations internationales à l'University of New South Wales (UNSW), cette dynamique de «recommencement» est alimentée par des exigences contradictoires. Téhéran réclame la levée des sanctions, le dégel de ses avoirs et la fin du blocus maritime en échange de la réouverture du détroit d'Hormuz, rappelant les termes d'un protocole d'accord conclu en juin dernier. De son côté, l'administration de Donald Trump exige des compensations financières pour les pertes subies au cours des cinquante dernières années et réaffirme le contrôle total de Washington sur le passage stratégique.

Faute de compromis, les deux nations continuent de basculer alternativement entre des menaces d'escalade militaire massive et des tentatives de négociations infructueuses. Le président américain oscille entre des déclarations belliqueuses et des promesses de désengagement, tandis que le régime iranien, sous la direction de son nouveau Guide suprême Mojtaba Khamenei et de figures dures comme Mohsen Rezaei, mise sur la survie du régime par la résistance prolongée et le contrôle absolu du détroit.

L'échec des accords passés illustre l'incapacité profonde de Washington à accepter un recul stratégique qui conférerait à

l'Iran un ascendant incontesté sur cette route maritime essentielle. L'administration américaine maintient une posture de fermeté, affirmant pouvoir faire durer le blocus naval pour protéger les intérêts énergétiques mondiaux, tandis que Téhéran persiste à rejeter ces prétentions en bloc.

Le piège intérieur: le dilemme politique de Trump face aux évangéliques

Au-delà des impasses géopolitiques au Moyen-Orient, Donald Trump fait face à une crise politique intérieure majeure. Comme le soulignent André Gagné, professeur titulaire au département d'études théologiques de l'Université Concordia, et Jason Piché, doctorant spécialisé dans le sionisme chrétien et le dispensationalisme au sein de la même institution, la guerre contre l'Iran est devenue l'un des conflits les plus impopulaires de l'histoire américaine. Les sondages indiquent qu'une majorité croissante de citoyens américains désapprouve cette confrontation, plaçant le président dans une position extrêmement délicate à l'approche des échéances électorales.

Dans ce contexte de rejet populaire, l'administration Trump dépend plus que jamais du soutien indéfectible de sa base chrétienne évangélique et des sionistes chrétiens. Des organisations puissantes comme Christians United for Israel (CUFI), dirigée par le pasteur John Hagee, considèrent l'affrontement avec l'Iran non pas seulement comme une question géopolitique, mais comme un combat existentiel et spirituel.



Le conflit américano-iranien est enfermé dans une impasse perpétuelle: aucun camp ne peut accepter la défaite ni trouver d'issue diplomatique. P- Special Euresia

En vertu de leurs croyances théologiques ancrées dans le dispensationalisme — popularisées au XIXe siècle par des érudits tels que John Nelson Darby —, ces groupes estiment que la sécurité d'Israël et le soutien indéfectible à l'État hébreu sont des conditions indispensables à l'accomplissement des desseins divins et au retour du Christ.

Pour cette frange influente de l'électorat républicain, toute tentative de négociation ou de compromis avec Téhéran est perçue comme une menace intolérable. Ils exhortent les dirigeants politiques à «terminer le

travail» plutôt que de chercher des accords diplomatiques de compromission.

Par conséquent, Donald Trump est pris au piège d'un redoutable dilemme: mettre fin au conflit pour regagner l'approbation de la majorité des Américains risquerait d'aliéner sa base religieuse la plus fidèle, tandis que persister dans la voie de la confrontation militaire l'isole davantage du reste de l'opinion publique. Ses tactiques oscillant entre frappes ciblées et annonces de pourparlers ne parviennent à satisfaire aucune des parties, laissant entrevoir une prolongation de la crise pour de longs mois.



L'ultimatum de quatorze jours donné par le ministre Shakeel Mohamed pour libérer l'accès au littoral à Pointe-d'Esny relance la question fondamentale de la propriété des plages à Maurice. P - Top FM

Pointe-d'Esny: quand le droit de la plage publique doit enfin devenir une réalité

La décision du ministre du Logement et des Terres, Shakeel Mohamed, de donner quatorze jours aux propriétaires de campements et autres occupants pour enlever les structures et panneaux entravant l'accès au littoral à Pointe-d'Esny remet sur le devant de la scène une question aussi ancienne que fondamentale à qui appartiennent réellement les plages de Maurice?

La réponse du droit mauricien est beaucoup plus claire que ne l'a souvent été l'action des autorités.

Dans un communiqué officiel publié en juin dernier, le ministère du Logement et

des Terres rappelait que les plages appartiennent au domaine public et que le public doit pouvoir y accéder librement. Le communiqué précisait notamment que la bande située entre les limites des eaux et les *Pas Géométriques* relève du domaine de l'État destiné à l'usage public. Il soulignait également qu'un bail accordé sur des terres de l'État en bord de mer ne confère pas au locataire le droit d'y exclure le public.

Le principe est donc sans ambiguïté: un campement privé peut être loué, mais la plage ne devient pas privée pour autant.

A. Bartleby

Suite en page 17

Pointe-d'Esny: quand le droit de la plage publique doit enfin devenir une réalité



P - Defi Media

☞ Suite de la page 16

La législation va dans le même sens. La *Beach Authority Act* définit notamment la «public beach» comme un espace côtier déclaré plage publique par le ministre compétent, tout en y incluant la zone s'étendant de la ligne des hautes eaux (high-water mark) jusqu'à une distance de 100 mètres à partir de la ligne des basses eaux (low-water mark).

Plus significativement encore, le droit mauricien prévoit une protection directe contre les entraves au passage. La législation environnementale prévoit qu'une personne qui empêche ou entrave le libre passage d'un piéton sur le littoral, sans autorisation légale, commet une infraction. Lorsqu'une obstruction permanente existe, le tribunal peut même ordonner sa destruction aux frais du contrevenant.

Il ne s'agit donc pas simplement d'une question de courtoisie, de «bon voisinage» ou de tolérance administrative. C'est une question de droit.

La Cour suprême l'avait d'ailleurs déjà clairement établi dans l'affaire *Grand Bay Cruise Ltd v Ocean Blue Island Company Ltd* en 2008. Le gouvernement rappelle dans son récent communiqué que la Cour avait confirmé que la plage fait partie du domaine public et ne peut normalement être soustraite à l'usage du public, gratuitement et sans entrave. Un bail accordé par l'État donne au preneur un droit contractuel à l'égard de l'État, mais ne transforme pas ce dernier en propriétaire pouvant exclure les autres citoyens.

Cette jurisprudence est particulièrement importante dans le contexte de Pointe-d'Esny. Pendant trop longtemps, une certaine confusion semble avoir prévalu entre occupation légale d'un terrain et appropriation de l'espace public. La présence d'un campement, d'un hôtel ou d'une propriété privée à proximité de la mer ne saurait créer une zone d'exclusivité sur le littoral.

Les panneaux «Private», les barrières,

clôtures, chaînes ou autres dispositifs destinés à intimider les usagers ou à leur faire croire qu'ils doivent demander une permission sont donc particulièrement problématiques lorsqu'ils empiètent sur le domaine public.

Une question de droit, mais aussi de gouvernance

C'est ici que l'initiative de Shakeel Mohamed prend une dimension politique.

Le problème n'est pas nouveau. Les gouvernements successifs ont régulièrement affirmé que les plages mauriciennes sont accessibles au public. Pourtant, dans différentes régions du pays, des citoyens ont continué à se heurter à des obstacles physiques ou psychologiques lorsqu'ils souhaitaient accéder au littoral.

Le vrai problème n'était donc pas nécessairement l'absence de loi, mais l'absence d'application constante de la loi.

La détermination affichée aujourd'hui par le ministre constitue dès lors un test de crédibilité pour l'État. Donner quatorze jours aux occupants concernés pour retirer les obstacles est un premier pas. Mais la véritable mesure de la volonté gouvernementale sera ce qui se passera au terme de ces quatorze jours.

Si certaines structures demeurent, les autorités appliqueront-elles effectivement les dispositions légales? Les panneaux seront-ils retirés? Les obstacles seront-ils démantelés? Les contrevenants seront-ils sanctionnés lorsque la loi le prévoit?

Le gouvernement ne peut pas demander au public de respecter la loi tout en donnant l'impression que certains privilégiés peuvent l'ignorer. Le littoral n'est pas un privilège de quelques-uns!

Il faut également éviter que cette question soit présentée comme une confrontation

entre propriétaires de campements et simples citoyens. Le véritable enjeu est celui de l'égalité devant le domaine public.

Le littoral est un patrimoine collectif. Un Mauricien ne devrait pas avoir moins de droits d'accès à une plage parce qu'un hôtel de luxe, un campement ou une propriété privée se trouve à proximité.

La question est d'autant plus importante à une époque où l'espace côtier subit des pressions croissantes liées au développement immobilier, au tourisme et au changement climatique. Le droit d'accès au littoral ne peut devenir progressivement théorique au fur et à mesure que certaines portions de la côte sont occupées ou commercialisées.

La Law Reform Commission elle-même s'est penchée en 2024 sur la question de la criminalisation du refus d'accès aux plages publiques, signe que le problème mérite une réflexion institutionnelle plus approfondie.

Il faut donc saluer la volonté du ministre de «prendre le taureau par les cornes». Mais la fermeté ne doit pas être ponctuelle. Elle doit s'inscrire dans une politique nationale cohérente et permanente.

Le gouvernement devrait à terme procéder à un inventaire des accès publics au littoral, identifier les obstructions existantes, clarifier la situation juridique de chaque site et imposer aux autorités compétentes un devoir de contrôle régulier.

Au fond, Pointe-d'Esny pose une question beaucoup plus grande que celle de quelques panneaux ayant la mention «Private».

Si la plage appartient au public, le droit du public d'y accéder ne doit pas dépendre de la bonne volonté d'un propriétaire, d'un hôtelier ou d'un gouvernement. Il doit être garanti par l'État et protégé par la loi.

Après des années d'incivisme toléré et d'inaction dénoncée, l'heure est peut-être venue de passer des déclarations à l'application effective du droit. Une plage publique qui n'est accessible au public que sur le papier n'est pas réellement publique.

A. Bartleby

Opinion

Unfinished Decolonisation?

☞ Cont. from page 10

This does not diminish the importance of Kreol. It makes the recognition of Kreol more intellectually demanding. The challenge is to recognise it without requiring anyone else to disappear.

Perhaps this is where Lee Kuan Yew's insight about ethnicity becomes useful again. His achievement in Singapore was not that he abolished ethnicity. He did something more difficult: he acknowledged ethnicity as a powerful social reality while attempting to prevent ethnicity from becoming the organising principle of the state.

Singapore's lesson, adapted rather than copied, is therefore not "suppress ethnic identity". It is almost the

opposite: recognise identities fully, while refusing to make any single identity the definition of the nation.

Beyond the hyphen

A Mauritian can be Mauritian-Tamil, Mauritian-Telugu, Mauritian-Marathi, Mauritian-Bihari, Mauritian-Creole, Mauritian-Chinese, Mauritian-Muslim, Mauritian-Hindu, Mauritian-Christian — or simply Mauritian without feeling compelled to specify the second half of the hyphen.

The hyphen need not signify division. It can signify layering.

It can say: *I have inherited this history, and I also belong to this nation.*

But there is an equally legitimate Mauritian who may not wish to define herself through a hyphen at all. She may inhabit several cultural worlds simultaneously and consider them all part of her inheritance without allowing any one of them to become her political identity. The state must have room for both.

This may be the real challenge before us today: not how to eliminate communal identities, but how to prevent any one of them from claiming exclusive ownership of the national identity.



P - Defi Media

The answer is therefore neither the old fiction of a completely post-ethnic Mauritius nor the newer temptation to divide the nation into competing claims of historical authenticity. The strongest Mauritian identity may ultimately be the one that does not demand the disappearance of all the others.

Mauritius should not be forced into a binary that was never made for it.

U. Dasin

Chagos: Proactive Diplomacy Cannot Wait



Cont. on page 6

Retaining the Initiative — Again

Returning to the subject barely a week after writing *"Keeping the Diplomatic Initiative"*, events themselves seem determined to make the point. If there has indeed been no ministerial contact between London and Port Louis on Chagos since 20 January, that hiatus should now end. Not because Mauritius should panic. Not because the Agreement is necessarily imperilled. And certainly not because every statement from Malé requires a response from Port Louis. But because diplomacy abhors a vacuum. Leave space, others will inevitably seek to occupy it.

We have travelled too far on the Chagos journey to allow ourselves now to become reactive. The legal achievements painstakingly accumulated over the years provide us with considerable strength. But legal strength must be accompanied by diplomatic vigilance.

Our response to the latest developments should therefore be calm but purposeful — no public quarrel with Malé, rather quiet preparation for every eventuality. Renewed political engagement with London and sustained dialogue with Washington. And constant attention to the wider international constituency that has supported Mauritius throughout the Chagos struggle.

That is not alarmism. It is foresight.

And for a small state navigating increasingly turbulent geopolitical waters, it is not merely desirable statecraft. It is an imperative.

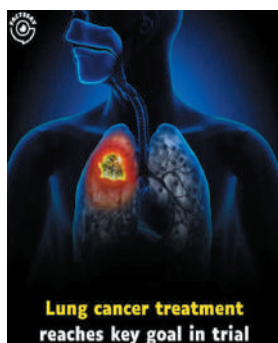
Vijay Makhan
12 August 2026

Science & Medicine

A 'miracle month' for global medicine

A lung cancer drug reduced the risk of death by 34% in a late-stage trial, the latest indication of China's growing pharmaceutical influence. Results from a trial conducted in China showed that, when combined with chemotherapy, the drug kept patients with squamous non-small-cell lung cancer alive for a median of four months longer than standard treatment, although scientists continue to debate the findings. "The Chinese biotech industry has arrived," one oncologist said, as the country continues to generate pharmaceutical innovations.

The results cap what one journalist described as "a miracle month in medicine" globally. Eli Lilly's new obesity drug helped patients in a trial lose nearly one-third of their body weight, while a pancreatic cancer drug demonstrated potential to extend life.



VACANCY NOTICE

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

MRA is looking for qualified and experienced candidates, with proven integrity, for the following posts on a three-year contract.

A. DIRECTOR, RESEARCH, POLICY AND PLANNING

Qualifications

A university degree in Economics, Accounting, Finance, Statistics or any other field acceptable to MRA. Possession of a Master's Degree and/or PhD would be an advantage.

Experience

At least 15 years' experience in Revenue, Tax, Compliance Environment or Policy, Planning and Research, or other related activities, of which 10 years' should be in a senior management position.

B. DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Qualifications

A post-graduate degree or professional qualification in Accountancy from a recognised institution or other relevant qualifications.

Should be registered as a Professional Accountant with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants.

Experience

At least 15 years' experience in the finance department of a large organisation, of which 10 years should be in a senior management position.

Proven experience in the application of a commercial/accruals accounting and requirement/zero base/performance based budgeting would be an advantage.

C. DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMPLIANCE (REVENUE COLLECTION) &

D. DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CUSTOMS

For C & D:

Qualifications

A university Degree in Administration, Law, Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Commerce, IT/IS/ Computer Science/Software Engineering, Mathematics/Statistics, Data Science, Engineering, or an equivalent professional qualification in any of those subjects, or other relevant qualifications.

Possession of post-graduate qualifications in Taxation, Customs, Trade, Law, Public Administration, Management or any other field relevant to the MRA would be an advantage.

Experience

At least 12 years' experience in Revenue, Tax, Compliance Environment, or Customs, Trade Facilitation, Shipping Logistics and Warehouse, Supply Chain, or other related activities, of which a significant period must be in a senior management position.

Age Limit

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

Appointment and Remuneration

Posts A & B

Appointment will be on a three year contract renewable based on performance.

Monthly Salary - Rs. 257,660 x 7,410 - 279,890 x 9,425 - 345,865.

Gratuity payment equal to two months' basic salary on satisfactory completion of each period of 12 months.

Car Allowance - Rs. 61,000 a month.

Posts C & D

Appointment will be on a three year contract renewable based on performance.

Monthly Salary - Rs. 235, 430 – Rs. 279, 890.

Gratuity payment equal to two months' basic salary on satisfactory completion of each period of 12 months.

Car Allowance - Rs. 35,000 a month.

Job details & Application

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

Closing Date: Monday 24 August 2026

MRA reserves the right:

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

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

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

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



03 August 2026



Less Effort, More Power: The Rise of Eccentric Exercise

For decades, the "no pain, no gain" mantra has dominated fitness culture, leading many to believe that muscle growth requires grueling hours at the gym. However, a new study from Edith Cowan University (ECU) suggests a much more efficient path to strength. According to Professor Ken Nosaka, ECU's Director of Exercise and Sports Science, the secret to building muscle isn't intensity -- it's control.

The research focuses on **eccentric exercise**, which prioritizes the "lowering" or lengthening phase of a movement. Think of the moment you slowly lower a dumbbell, descend a staircase, or sit down into a chair with control. During these phases, muscles actually produce greater force while consuming significantly less energy compared to "concentric" movements, like lifting or pulling.

Why Eccentric Training Works

Because the body is more efficient during lengthening



movements, you can stimulate muscle size and strength improvements without the exhaustion or heavy strain on the heart and lungs associated with traditional workouts. Professor Nosaka emphasizes that soreness and burnout are not prerequisites for progress.

"The idea that exercise must be exhausting or painful

is holding people back," Nosaka explains. By focusing on quality over intensity, individuals can achieve superior results with far less perceived effort.

Practical Strength at Home

One of the most significant findings is that meaningful health improvements can be achieved in just **five minutes a day** without any specialized equipment. Simple, familiar movements include:

- * **Chair Squats:** Slowly lowering yourself into a seat.
- * **Wall Push-ups:** Focusing on the slow movement toward the wall.
- * **Heel Drops:** Controlled lowering of the heels off a step.

This approach is particularly beneficial for older adults or those with chronic conditions, as it mirrors daily functional movements and is easier to maintain long-term. By making exercise feel achievable and practical, this "lowering" technique offers a smarter, sustainable way to stay strong at any age.



How does thunder work? And why is it so loud?

Why is thunder so loud? It's because the amount of electrical energy that flows from the cloud to the ground is so enormous.

Thunder is the sound that lightning makes. So before I can explain how thunder works, I have to explain how lightning works, and clouds too -- they all go together.

Thunderclouds

Not every cloud can make thunder and lightning. Thunderclouds are very tall -- of course, from the earth you can't always tell how tall the cloud is because you just see the bottom. But above that, it stretches up tall into the sky.

Clouds are made of tiny water droplets. It's so cold high up in the sky that ice crystals start to form inside the clouds. Then the ice crystals move to the top of the cloud and the water droplets stay near the bottom of the cloud. When they move past each other and rub against each other, they make static electricity.

You can make static electricity by rubbing a balloon against your hair and then the static electricity makes your hair stand up. Sometimes, if you have socks on and you rub your feet on a carpet, then it makes a tiny shock when you touch somebody else. That is also static electricity.

The static electricity in the cloud makes the ice crystals positively charged and the water droplets negatively charged. If you have ever played with magnets, you will know that the positive side of a magnet is attracted to the negative side of another magnet -- but it pushes away the positive side of another magnet. Opposites attract each other: those with the same charge (that is, positive or negative) push each other



A thunderstorm builds over the Karoo in South Africa. Sean Nel/Shutterstock

away. The same thing happens with the negatively charged water droplets near the bottom of the thunder cloud.

All the negative bits that collect near the bottom of the cloud are called electrons. Positive bits known as particles start to collect under the thunder cloud because they are attracted by the electrons near the bottom of the cloud.

The attraction of positive and negative bits is strong, so the electrons in the cloud start to make jagged fingers reaching down to the earth. As soon as the negative bits from the cloud connect with the positive bits from the earth, a huge current made of all those electrons flows to the earth -- and that is the lightning flash you see.

The lightning flash heats the air around it so quickly that the air expands very fast. When you heat something, it gets bigger -- it expands. The air around the lightning flash expands so fast that it makes a shock wave in the air. That shock wave is the thunder that you hear.

A big noise

Why is thunder so loud? It's because the amount of electrical energy that flows from the cloud to the ground is so enormous: it's like a very big waterfall of electricity.

The louder the sound that you hear, the closer you are to the lightning. Light travels through air

much faster than sound. That's why sometimes you see the lightning flash first and then you hear the thunder a few seconds later. If you see the lightning and hear the thunder immediately, then the lightning is very close to you.

Lightning is very dangerous.

So, remember this important lesson: when thunder roars, go indoors. You can listen to the thunder getting louder as it gets closer, and softer as it moves away -- and you'll be safe from the lightning inside your house.

Estelle Trengove

Associate professor in electrical engineering, with a research interest in lightning safety, University of the Witwatersrand

Africa Is Slowly Breaking Apart: What the Earth's Cracks Reveal About Human History

Deep beneath East Africa, the Earth is undergoing a dramatic transformation. Scientists have found new evidence that the African continent is gradually splitting apart, with the crust beneath the Turkana Rift in Kenya and Ethiopia becoming thinner and weaker than previously thought.

The findings, published in Nature Communications, suggest that this region has reached an advanced stage of continental rifting -- a process that, over millions of years, could eventually lead to the formation of a new ocean.

The Turkana Rift is part of the wider East African Rift System, where tectonic plates are slowly moving away from each other. In the region, the African and Somali plates are separating at around 4.7 millimetres per year, stretching and cracking the Earth's crust as magma rises from below.

Researchers from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory analysed seismic data to map the underground structure of the region. They discovered that the crust at the centre of the rift is only about 13 kilometres thick, compared with more than 35 kilometres in surrounding areas -- evidence of a process known as "necking", where the crust thins before eventually breaking apart.

The lead author, Christian Rowan, explained that East Africa has progressed further in the rifting process than scientists previously realised. However, any complete separation will occur on a geological timescale, likely millions of years from now.

The discovery also offers new insights into human evolution. The Turkana region contains one of the world's richest collections of early human fossils, with more than 1,200 hominin discoveries. Scientists now suggest that the same geological forces splitting the continent may have helped preserve this remarkable record.

As the land slowly sank during the rifting process, volcanic activity and accumulating sediments created ideal conditions for fossil preservation. Rather than being only the birthplace of humanity, Turkana may also be the place where Earth's geological changes helped preserve the story of our origins.

The study provides a rare opportunity to observe how continents break apart -- a process that has shaped the planet throughout its history and continues to influence its future.



The Math Teacher

A man is shopping in a grocery store when a pretty woman smiles at him and says hello. He is surprised and can't place her.

"Do I know you?"

"I think you are the father of one of my children," she replies.

He racks his brain to figure out how this could be. Then he recalls the only time he has ever been unfaithful to his wife.

"Wow! Are you the stripper from my bachelor party who tied me down on the pool table and had sex with me while all my buddies cheered and your friend sprayed whipped cream on my backside? Boy, that was insane!"

"No," she replies. "I think I'm your son's maths teacher."

* * *

Professional Acquaintance

A well-respected doctor and his wife were having drinks in the theatre lobby during the intermission of a musical's opening night.

A blonde woman walked by wearing an evening gown that seemed to be painted onto her curvy figure. She smiled, waved, and said:

"Well, hello there, Doc!"

Then she continued walking.

After a brief pause, the doctor turned to his wife and said:

"Don't worry, dear. She's just a young lady I know professionally."

Without missing a beat, his wife replied:

"Hers or yours?"

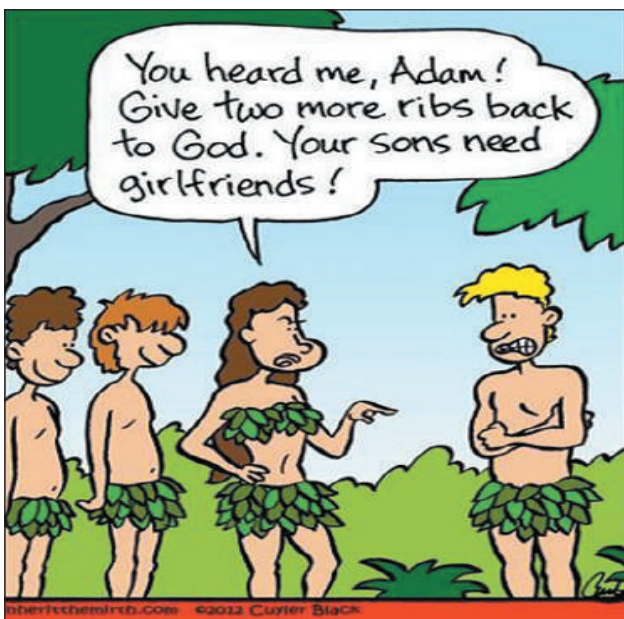
* * *

The Confession and the Three Good Leads

A teenager goes to confession and tells the priest that he slept with a girl. The priest tells the boy that he cannot be forgiven unless he reveals the identity of the girl.

"I promised not to tell anyone," he says.

"Was it Mary Prudence, the butcher's daughter?" the priest asks.



"No, I can't tell," replies the boy.

"Was it Mary Smith, the journalist's daughter?"

"No, I still cannot tell."

"Was it Mary Black, the baker's daughter?"

"No," says the boy.

"Well, son, I have no choice but to excommunicate you for six months," says the priest.

Outside the church, the boy's friends ask him what happened.

"Well, I got six months, but I also got three good leads," he tells his friends.

* * *

The Medal-Winning Pig

A salesman is invited for dinner with a farm family. In the dining room, he finds the farmer, his wife, three children, and a pig seated at the table.

The pig has three medals around its neck and a wooden leg. The salesman cannot help but comment, "I find it unusual that a pig is joining us for dinner."



"Yes, this is a special pig. See those three medals around his neck? You should know how he earned them," says the farmer.

"I am really interested to know," replies the salesman.

"Well, one day our eldest son fell into the pond and was drowning. That pig dived into the pond, swam over, and rescued our boy. So, he received his first medal."

"He received the second medal when a fire accidentally started in the barn, trapping our daughter inside. The pig ran through the flames and pushed our girl outside."

"Then, two weeks later, our youngest boy was cornered in the paddock by a fierce bull. The pig squeezed under the fence, grabbed the bull by the tail, and held it back, allowing my son to escape. He received his third medal for that."

The salesman, having listened carefully, said, "I can see that the pig is special, and I understand why he is wearing those medals and deserves to join us at the table. But tell me, how did he get the wooden leg?"

The farmer smiled and replied, "Well, sir, a pig that good, you don't eat all at once."

* * *

The Hunter and the 911 Operator

Two hunters are walking through the woods when suddenly one of them collapses.



He is lying still, not breathing, with his eyes glazed over.

His companion panics, grabs his mobile phone, and calls emergency services.

"My friend is dead!" he cries. "What should I do?"

The operator calmly replies:

"Please stay calm. I can help you. First, make sure he is really dead."

There is a brief silence.

Suddenly, the operator hears a loud gunshot.

The hunter returns to the phone and says:

"Alright... now he is definitely dead. What should I do next?"

* * *

The Old Couple

Old man: "My wife and I have been together for 50 years."

Friend: "What's your secret?"

Old man: "We never argue."

Friend: "Never?"

Old man: "No. She argues, I agree."

* * *

The Phone Addiction

Mother: "You spend too much time on your phone."

Son: "That's not true."

Mother: "How do you know?"

Son: "I searched it online."

* * *

The Honest Politician

A politician said, "I always keep my promises."

Someone asked, "Which ones?"

He replied, "The ones I remember making."

* * *

The Password

Computer: "Your password is too weak."

Man: "Fine, I'll make it stronger."

New password: "MyPasswordIsVeryStrong123."

* * *

The Job Interview

Interviewer: "Where do you see yourself in five years?"

Applicant: "Hopefully not answering this question again."

Life's Stories

Fyodor Dostoevsky The Man Who Faced Death -- and Wrote a Masterpiece

Few writers have explored the depths of the human soul as profoundly as Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. Born in Moscow in 1821, the Russian novelist lived a life marked by extraordinary suffering, hardship and personal redemption -- experiences that shaped some of the greatest works in world literature.

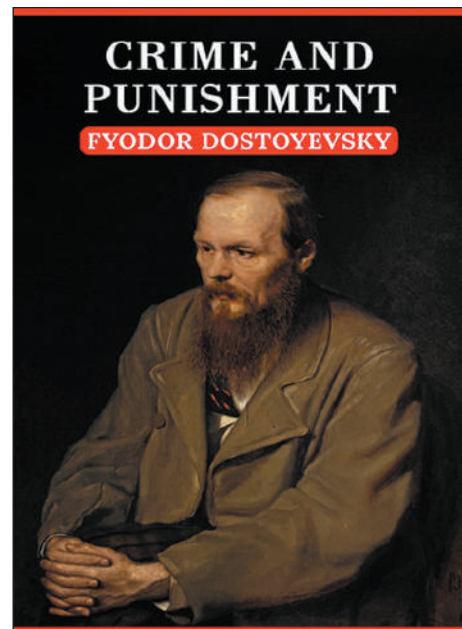
As a young intellectual, Dostoevsky was arrested in 1849 for participating in a radical discussion group that read banned political works. Condemned to death, he stood before a firing squad, only to receive a last-minute reprieve from the Tsar. The traumatic mock execution, followed by four years in a Siberian prison camp and years of military exile, transformed his outlook on life. During this period he also developed epilepsy, a condition that

remained with him until his death.

By the mid-1860s, his life had descended into crisis. His wife and beloved brother had died, and gambling addiction had left him heavily indebted. Desperate for money, he promised his publisher a novel about a young man who commits murder and attempts to justify it. Written under immense financial pressure and completed with the assistance of his future wife, Anna Grigoryevna Snitkina, *Crime and Punishment* was serialised in 1866 before appearing as a book in 1867. It became an immediate literary triumph.

The novel follows Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished former student in St Petersburg who convinces himself that extraordinary individuals may violate moral laws for a greater purpose. To test this theory, he murders an elderly pawnbroker and, unexpectedly, her innocent sister. Rather than achieving greatness, he descends into psychological torment, pursued not only by the perceptive investigator Porfiry Petrovich but, more importantly, by his own conscience.

The novel's enduring power lies in the profound lessons it offers. Dostoevsky shows that the greatest crime is not simply



murder but the dangerous ideology that seeks to justify it. Ideas divorced from morality can become destructive forces capable of rationalising terrible acts.

Equally important is the author's belief that suffering can become a path to personal transformation. Raskolnikov's redemption begins only when he accepts

responsibility for his actions, suggesting that genuine growth often emerges through pain rather than comfort.

Another striking lesson comes through Sonya Marmeladova, a young woman forced into prostitution to support her family. Despite society's contempt, she embodies compassion, faith and moral strength, reminding readers that dignity and goodness often reside among those the world overlooks.

Finally, Dostoevsky presents redemption not as a single dramatic moment but as a lifelong process. Even after confession and punishment, Raskolnikov continues to struggle, illustrating that moral renewal requires perseverance and humility.

More than 150 years after its publication, *Crime and Punishment* remains far more than a crime novel. It is a timeless exploration of guilt, conscience, justice and hope. Through one man's fall and gradual awakening, Dostoevsky challenges readers to confront enduring questions about morality, suffering and the possibility of redemption -- questions that remain as relevant today as when he first penned his masterpiece.

The Way to the Top

Declutter Your Mind, Transform Your Life

I discovered *The Organized Mind* during a week of chaos -- too many tabs open (on screen and in my head), notifications pinging, and focus in tatters. I didn't expect a neuroscientist to offer the lifeline I needed, but Daniel J. Levitin delivered exactly that.

This book felt like a system reboot. Levitin breaks down how our brains process (and misprocess) information and offers practical strategies to bring order to the mental mess. It wasn't just helpful -- it was sanity-saving. 10 Lessons from *The Organized Mind* that stuck with me:

1. Your brain isn't built for multi-tasking.

We think we're getting more done by juggling tasks -- but we're not. The brain can focus deeply on only one complex task at a time. Switching drains time and energy.

2. Offload your memory.

Your brain is for processing, not storage. Use lists, calendars, and notes to free up mental space. External systems help you focus.

3. Clutter clouds your thinking.

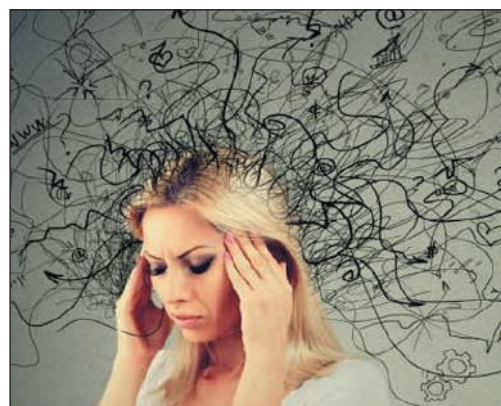
A messy environment equals a distracted mind. Clearing physical space clears mental space, too.

4. Decision fatigue is real.

Every choice chips away at your mental reserves. Minimize small decisions (outfits, meals) to save energy for what matters.

5. Categorize everything.

Your brain loves structure. Group similar items -- emails, tasks, files -- to reduce over-



whelm and speed up decision-making.

6. Attention is a limited currency.

Treat it like money. Spend it intentionally. Interruptions and notifications are expensive distractions.

7. Routines save mental energy.

Automate predictable parts of your day to preserve brainpower for creative or high-stakes thinking.

8. Too much information paralyzes.

More data doesn't equal more clarity. Curate your inputs. Choose what you consume carefully.

9. Sleep is your brain's housekeeping.

Memory, focus, and mental order depend on good sleep. It's when your brain processes the day and clears the clutter.

10. Organizing your life clears space for meaning.

An orderly environment isn't about perfection -- it's about creating room for clarity, creativity, and calm.

Final Thought - This book didn't just help me clear off my desk -- it helped me clear out the noise in my head. I realized many of my distractions were self-inflicted, and that peace isn't about doing less, but about doing what matters with focus.

Inspiration

Dispelling Drama

The drama in some people's lives can serve as excitement, prompting the body to manufacture adrenaline, producing a pleasurable surge of energy

There are scores of people in the world who seem to be magnets for calamity. They live their lives jumping from one difficult situation to the next, surrounded by unstable individuals. Some believe themselves victims of fate and decry a universe they regard as malevolent. Others view their chaotic circumstances as just punishments for some failing within. Yet, in truth, neither group has been fated or consigned to suffer. They are likely unconsciously drawing drama into their lives, attracting catastrophe through their choices, attitudes, and patterns of thought.

Drama, however disastrous, can be exciting and stimulating. But the thrill of pandemonium eventually begins to frustrate the soul and drain the energy of all who embrace it. To halt this process, we must understand the root of our drama addiction, be aware of our reactions, and be willing to accept that a serene, joyful life need not be a boring one.

When people are used to living in the dramatic world they create, they often feel uncomfortable when confronted with the prospect of a lifetime of peace and contentment. The drama in their lives serves multiple purposes. Upset causes excitement and prompts the body to manufacture adrenaline, which produces a pleasurable surge of



energy.

For those seeking affection in the form of sympathy, drama forms the basis of their identity as a victim. And when drama is familial, many people believe they can avoid abandonment by continuing to play a key role in the established family dynamic. The addiction to drama is fed by the intensity of the feelings evoked during bouts of conflict, periods of uncertainty, and upheaval.

Understanding where the subconscious need for drama stems from is the key to addressing it effectively. Journaling can help you transfer this need from your mind onto a benign piece of paper. After repeated writing sessions, your feelings regarding the mayhem, hurt feelings, and confusion associated with drama can become clear. When you confront your emotional response to drama and the purpose it serves in your life, you can reject it.

Each time you consciously choose not to take part in dramatic situations or associate with dramatic people, you create space in your inner being that is filled with a calm and tranquil stillness and becomes an asset in your quest to lead a more centered life.

Ageing Gracefully

Your 60s: A Decade of Change, Challenges and New Opportunities



Turning 60 marks an important stage of life. It is often described as a golden decade, bringing greater confidence, freedom and appreciation of life's experiences. However, it is also a period when the body undergoes significant changes, requiring greater attention to health, prevention and lifestyle choices.

According to journalist Danny Bonvissuto, writing in *WebMD* and medically reviewed by Dr Zilpah Sheikh, the 60s can be both a rewarding and challenging time. "Surveys show that aging and happiness often form a U-shaped curve," he notes, explaining that happiness tends to decline during middle age before increasing again later in life. Around one in three people in their 60s describe themselves as "very happy", slightly higher than younger adults.

However, the decade also brings new concerns, including health problems, financial pressures and the loss of loved ones. Understanding the changes that come with ageing can help people take preventive measures and maintain a fulfilling life.

One of the most important health considerations during the 60s is cancer prevention. The risk of developing many cancers increases with age, making regular screening essential. Bonvissuto points out that half of breast cancers are diagnosed in women aged 61 or older, while the median age for colon cancer diagnosis is 68. Regular mammograms, colonoscopies and prostate checks can improve the chances of early detection and successful treatment.

Hearing loss is another common issue. About four

in 10 people in their 60s experience hearing difficulties, often because of the natural loss of sensory cells in the inner ear. Despite the availability of hearing aids, many people delay seeking help for years, affecting communication, social interaction and quality of life.

Weight management also becomes increasingly important. Although metabolism may slow with age, poor diet and insufficient physical activity are often greater contributors to weight gain. Building muscle through exercise, staying active and maintaining a balanced diet can help preserve strength and mobility.

Skin changes are another visible sign of ageing. During the 60s, the skin becomes thinner, drier and more fragile. Wrinkles, age spots and bruising become more noticeable, while wounds may take longer to heal. Protecting the skin and monitoring unusual changes remain important.

Heart health requires particular attention during this decade. Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death, but lifestyle choices can significantly reduce risks. Bonvissuto recommends regular physical activity, avoiding smoking and limiting salt, sugar and unhealthy fats.

Cognitive changes are also common. Many people notice that recalling names or solving problems may take longer. However, knowledge, vocabulary and long-term memories often remain strong. Keeping the brain active through reading, learning new skills and social engagement can support mental sharpness.

Other age-related concerns include declining vision, weaker bones, joint problems, poorer sleep, rising blood pressure, bladder changes and a weaker immune system. Regular medical check-ups, vaccinations and preventive care become increasingly important after 60.

Dental health should not be overlooked either. Dry mouth, often caused by medication, can increase the risk of dental problems. Older adults also face a higher risk of oral cancer, making regular dental visits essential.

Ultimately, the 60s should not be viewed only as a period of decline but as a time for adaptation and renewed focus on wellbeing. Maintaining physical activity, eating sensibly, staying socially connected and monitoring health conditions can help people enjoy a longer, healthier and more active life.

As Bonvissuto's article suggests, ageing brings unavoidable changes — but many of the challenges associated with growing older can be managed through awareness, prevention and positive lifestyle choices. The goal is not merely to add years to life, but to add life to those years.

shoulders; and unexplained shortness of breath. Cold sweats, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, anxiety and unusual fatigue may also occur. Women may be more likely to experience less typical symptoms, including pain in the neck, shoulder, upper back or abdomen.

If symptoms occur, call emergency medical services immediately rather than driving to hospital yourself. An ambulance crew can begin treatment on the way and respond if cardiac arrest occurs.

While waiting, keep the person calm and seated or lying down. If they are unresponsive and not breathing normally, begin CPR if trained and use an automated external defibrillator (AED), if available.

Do not wait for symptoms to become severe. When it comes to a heart attack, time is heart muscle — and acting quickly can save a life.

Your Safety Matters

This 1 Common Phone Charger Habit Could Be a Major Safety Hazard

You could get seriously injured—or put your home at risk—if you do this.

We use phone chargers daily, but your choice of charger can have lasting safety implications.

When replacing a lost iPhone or Android charger, it's tempting to buy a cheaper, generic version. These often promise faster USB-C charging, but they may come with serious risks, writes Monica Torres.



"A poorly made charger could come apart, or a plug blade may remain in the outlet when removed, exposing live parts and creating a shock risk," said Pamela Rucker Springs of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Inadequate internal circuitry can also lead to malfunctions.

A study by the British organisation *Electrical Safety First* tested 64 generic Apple device chargers and found that **58% failed electric strength tests**, making them prone to **overheating, fire, or electric shock**.

In one case, detailed in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, a 19-year-old woman suffered second-degree neck burns while sleeping—her necklace came into contact with a generic charger under her pillow.

Use Manufacturer-Approved or Certified Chargers

CPSC recommends always using the charger that came with your device. If you must buy another, choose one marked by a third-party certification lab, such as: UL Solutions (marked "UL certified"); Intertek, or CSA.

These labs rigorously test devices for overload, overheating, and burn/fire risks.

Warning Signs Your Charger Is Unsafe

Even if your charger isn't generic, watch for these red flags:

- **Frayed or exposed wires:** A visible wire means electrocution risk. Replace immediately.

- **Too hot to touch:** Warm is okay, hot is not. Overheating may signal a defect or insulation problem.

- **Charging multiple or incompatible devices:** A phone charger may not safely handle a laptop or gaming device.

Always check device compatibility and power specifications before use.

And remember: if the price is too good to be true, it probably is.

Health & Life Hacks

Heart Attack: Recognise the Signs and Act Fast

A heart attack is a medical emergency where every minute counts. Recognising the warning signs and seeking immediate help can limit heart damage and potentially save a life.

Although many people associate a heart attack with crushing chest pain, symptoms can be milder and may develop gradually. Warning signs include pressure, squeezing or discomfort in the chest that lasts several minutes or comes and goes; pain spreading to the arms, back, neck, jaw, stomach or

Bollywood Stars become Faces of Global Luxurys New Place in the World of Luxury

Bollywood's biggest stars are increasingly moving beyond the traditional boundaries of Indian cinema to become global ambassadors for some of the world's most prestigious luxury brands. From jewellery and watches to haute fashion, names such as Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone are now helping European maisons reach new audiences across India and beyond.

As Chonx Tibajia of Tatlér observes, it is no longer unusual to see leading Bollywood actors at Paris or Milan Fashion Week, starring in international advertising campaigns or attending high-jewellery launches. Their appeal lies not simply in their fame but in their ability to embody the glamour, sophistication and cultural reach that luxury brands seek to project.

Among the most prominent examples is **Priyanka Chopra Jonas**, who has built a major presence in both Bollywood and Hollywood. Italian jewellery house Bulgari appointed her global brand ambassador in 2021, placing her alongside international stars including Anne Hathaway and Zendaya. In 2026, Swiss watchmaker Rolex also appointed her as a global ambassador and Testimonee. According to *Tatlér*, Rolex highlighted both her artistic achievements and her 15-year commitment to Unicef.

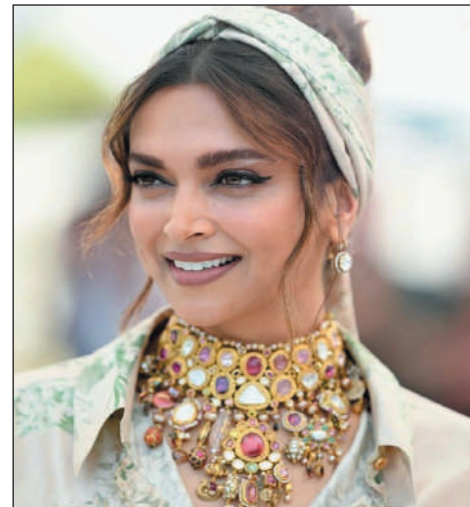
Alia Bhatt became the first Indian



global brand ambassador for Gucci in 2023. Her appointment, announced around Gucci's Cruise 2024 show in Seoul, reflected the fashion house's desire to connect with younger, internationally minded consumers while strengthening its relationship with India.

Deepika Padukone has similarly established herself in the global luxury arena through partnerships with Louis Vuitton and Cartier. She became Louis Vuitton's first Indian global ambassador in 2022 and was subsequently appointed a global ambassador for Cartier. Her roles span fashion, jewellery, international red carpets and major brand events.

The younger generation is also gaining ground. **Ananya Panday** became Chanel's first Indian brand ambassador, signalling the French maison's interest in younger consumers and the rapidly expanding South Asian luxury market.

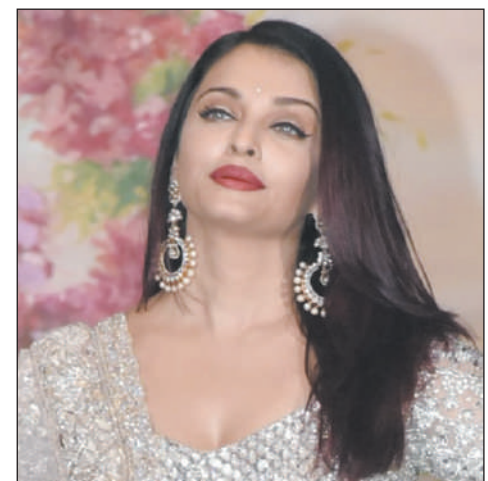


Sonam Kapoor, long recognised as one of Bollywood's leading fashion personalities, serves as Dior's South Asian global brand ambassador. Her association with the house builds on Dior's growing cultural and commercial engagement with India.

Perhaps the most enduring partnership belongs to **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan**, whom Swiss watchmaker

Longines appointed an "Ambassador of Elegance" in 1999. Her association has continued for more than two decades, making it an example of the long-term value of an established Indian star to a global luxury brand.

Together, these partnerships reveal a broader transformation. Bollywood stars are no longer merely consumers or regional endorsers of luxury; they are increasingly becoming part of the international identity of the brands themselves. As Indian cinema's leading personalities acquire global reach, luxury houses are recognising that Bollywood glamour can be a powerful bridge between heritage brands and a new generation of consumers.



BollyBytes

Bollywood's Celebrities Who Prefer Life Away from the Limelight



In an era dominated by social media and constant celebrity coverage, several Bollywood stars continue to guard their private lives with remarkable determination.

Anushka Sharma and cricketer Virat Kohli are among the best-known examples. Despite their global popularity, the couple rarely shares details of family life and have consistently requested photo-

graphers to respect the privacy of their children, Vamika and Akaay.

Ranbir Kapoor has adopted an equally discreet approach. Although he does not maintain an official Instagram account, he has admitted to secretly following people through a private "finsta" account, believing that his acting — not social media — should define his public identity.

Ayushmann Khurrana and his wife Tahira Kashyap also keep their children largely away from the spotlight, while actress Radhika Apte rarely discusses her marriage or family life publicly.

The Deol family, including Sunny, Bobby and Esha Deol, similarly avoids unnecessary publicity, appearing together only on rare occasions. Veteran actress Rani Mukerji and filmmaker Aditya Chopra have maintained one of Bollywood's most private marriages, with virtually no public photographs from their wedding.

Actor John Abraham is another celebrity who rarely discusses his personal life, preferring to focus public attention on his films and business ventures.

Their approach reflects a growing belief among many stars that fame should not come at the expense of personal space or family privacy.

Sushant Singh Rajput's Sister Reiterates Murder Claim

More than six years after Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead in his Mumbai apartment, his sister, Shweta Singh Kirti, has once again alleged that he was murdered and that there was a subsequent cover-up. Rajput was found dead on June 14, 2020. While the case initially generated widespread speculation about suicide, allegations of foul play have continued to surround his death.

According to News18.com, Shweta reiterated her belief in foul play during a recent interview with Supertalks By Themovingship. She questioned several aspects of the circumstances surrounding her brother's death, including the urgency surrounding the post-mortem and the fact that his room was reportedly locked from the inside. She said there were still unanswered questions about what happened.

Shweta also recalled that Sushant had been deeply disturbed following the death of his manager, Disha Salian, who died after falling from a residential building in Mumbai. She claimed that he had repeatedly said that "they" would not spare him and wondered whether he might have possessed information he intended to reveal. However, she acknowledged that the identity of the people he was referring



to remained unknown.

Shweta further said that she no longer sought closure from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), saying she believed there had been a cover-up. Rather than keeping the controversy alive, she said she wanted to focus on preserving and celebrating her brother's legacy.

The allegations remain Shweta's claims, while the circumstances of Rajput's death continue to attract public interest.



Vendredi 14 Août - 20.30



Samedi 15 Août - 20.15



Dimanche 16 Août - 20.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 14 août

MBC 1

06.16 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour
08.15 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Les Figures De L'Ombre
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Rosalinda
13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Love Of My Life
17.00 Doc: China Farm
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.30 Film: Le Gendarme Et Les Extraterres

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles
12.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.03 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
14.26 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
15.10 Local: Artizan
17.01 Local: La Sosiete
19.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
19.45 Local: Evasion
20.15 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
21.30 Local: La Sosiete
22.26 Local: Generations J
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
23.38 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
00.22 Local: Metie
00.38 Local: Mangeons Veg
01.04 Les Grandes Lignes
01.29 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
01.42 Local: Evasion
01.54 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.14 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Duniya
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
15.48 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
16.33 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Geet Gawai Ki Naya Peheloo
19.53 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
21.12 Serial: Beyhadh 2
21.33 Serial: Shrimad Ramayan
21.56 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
22.48 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood
00.19 Local: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

06.40 Mag: Asia 2050
07.07 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.32 D.Anime: The Treflik Family
10.57 Serial: So Awkward
12.10 Film: Pororo, L'île Aux Tresors
13.30 Film: Yoko And His Friends
14.48 Serial: Patamuse
15.08 D.Anime: Les Carnets Nature De Lulu Vroumette
17.03 Serial: Dead Gorgeous
17.30 Mag: Eco India
18.40 Mag: The Dip
19.00 Mag: Eco Africa
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.30 News
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.35 Doc: Beethoven In Time
22.36 Doc: Our Innate Rhythm
00.00 Doc: From The Ashes

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Bumm Bumm Bole
Cast: Darsheel Safari, Atul Kulkarni
18.30 Udné Ki Aasha
19.00 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.32 Pandya Store
20.01 Mannat - Har Khushi Paane Ki
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: Bumm Bumm Bole
Cast: Darsheel Safari, Atul Kulkarni

samedi 15 août

06.16 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
06.40 Serial: A Spy Among Friends
07.40 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
08.30 Serial: New Amsterdam
09.10 Serial: Quantico
09.55 Serial: Elementary
10.40 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
11.32 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Serial: Seref Meselesi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Raison Et Sentiments
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: SOS Fantômes: La Menace De Glace
22.15 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
23.01 Serial: Berlin Station
23.30 Le Journal
00.25 Quotes By Famous People
01.18 Serial: Quantico

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.30 Local: Tous Egauux
06.45 Local: Point Culture
07.31 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
09.30 En Direct De L'Eglise Notre Dame De La Délivrande, Montagne Longue
12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
14.00 Local: Evasion
14.15 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
14.55 Local: Point Culture
15.10 Local: Tous Egauux
18.10 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
19.30 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.15 Local: Dis-Nous Marie
21.45 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.05 Zournal Kreol

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
13.26 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
14.00 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha
15.22 Film: Kunwara
Cast: Urnila, Govinda
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.32 Local: Puranya Pakwan
18.57 Local: Sangeet Sarita
19.24 Local: Gyan Vigyan
21.00 Film: Deewar
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, Amrita Rao
23.15 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.41 Local: Sangeet Sarita
00.07 Local: Gyan Vigyan
00.24 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
02.27 Film: Deewar

06.00 Film: The Secret Kingdom
07.33 D.Anime: La Savane En Délire
08.18 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
08.56 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
09.29 Film: Monsta
13.30 Film: L'Epée Magique
14.56 Serial: Bo Bear
15.10 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu...
15.19 D.Anime: Baby Dino Tales
15.39 D.Anime: Badjelly
16.00 D.Anime: Agent
16.21 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: No One-Size-Fits-All...
19.00 Doc: Initiative Africa
19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Love Of My Life
22.24 Doc: Marilyn Monroe
23.20 Doc: Surviving Globalisation
23.59 Doc: Plastic Fantastic

08.00 Pandya Store
10.02 Mannat - Har Khushi Panne Ki
12.08 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
17.30 Vidrohi
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Raju Chacha
With: Ajay Devgn, Kajol



21.30 Beyhadh 2
21.51 Crime Patrol

dimanche 16 août

06.01 Tele: Terre D'esperance
06.25 Film: SOS Fantômes
08.25 Serial: Elementary
09.10 Serial: Columbo
10.40 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
11.30 Tele: Terre D'esperance
12.35 Film: Les Figures De L'Ombre
14.37 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Le Gandarme Et Les Extraterres
17.51 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: The Arrival
22.10 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria
23.44 Serial: Berlin Station
23.44 Le Journal
00.19 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées

08.45 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
10.35 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Dis-Nous Marie
12.26 La Fete De L'Assomption
13.21 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.30 Snow White Musical Annual
15.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
16.25 Local: Nos Aines
16.55 Local: Tous Egauux
17.15 Local: Les Petits Genies
17.37 Local: En Toute Intimite
18.10 Tele: Wildflower
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.15 Local: Les Klips
21.10 Local Production
22.35 Local: Itinerer Moris
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan
08.26 Local: Sangeet Sarita
08.52 Local: Gyan Vigyan
10.30 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: 7 1/2 Phere: More than A Wedding
Cast: Juhi Chawla, Irrfan Khan
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Puranya Pakwan
15.47 Sangeet Sarita
16.56 Gyan Vigyan
18.00 Samachar
19.27 Local: Prakriti
20.30 Tenali Rama
20.51 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il...
21.41 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
23.54 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood Hits
00.50 Local: Prakriti

06.00 Film: Retour Au Temps Des Dinosaurés
07.20 Film: Sea Level 3: Dolphin...
09.00 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
09.39 Film: Yoko And His Friends
10.53 Serial: Home Sweet Rome!
11.44 Mag: Unseen
12.00 Film: Super Wings
15.02 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.06 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu
15.35 D.Anime: Bad Jelly
15.58 D.Anime: Agent 203
16.53 D.Anime: Dead Gorgeous
17.22 Doc: When Night Falls In...
18.00 Mag: REV Special
18.14 Mag: Travel
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
21.45 Film: Officer Black Belt
23.15 Doc: Cities On The Sea
00.16 Mag: REV Special

08.14 Dhruv Tara
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Serial: Laughter Chefs
12.38 Dance Deewane Juniors
14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.22 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Jab We Met
Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor



21.30 Beyhadh 2
21.50 Mahabharat

lundi 17 août

05.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.15 Tele: S.W.A.T.
08.18 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.41 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
09.04 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: The Arrival
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.02 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.49 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Cyrano De Bergerac
17.32 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
20.40 Film: Decemrer Horses
21.55 Serial: Rosalinda

09.00 Local: Metie
09.15 Local: En Forme
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.00 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
15.00 Rodrig: Komater
15.35 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Zournal Rodrig
21.15 Local: Tous Egauux
21.30 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point
21.55 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
22.35 Local: Grand Titre
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Shree 420
Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis, Nadira
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: Darshan
19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.09 Local: Charcha
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Agent Vinod
Cast: Mahendra Sandhu, Asha Sachdev
23.18 Shrimad Ramayan
23.42 Wagle Ki Duniya

07.46 Mag: Arts Unveiled
08.12 Doc: 700 Requins
09.00 Doc: Cities On The Sea
09.51 Doc: Superpower Laughter
11.16 Mag: REV Special
12.37 Mag: Arts Unveiled
14.42 Mag: Shift
15.00 D.Anime: Patamuse
15.08 D.Anime: Les Carnets Nature De Lulu Vroumette
15.13 D.Anime: Word Party
15.26 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.20 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
16.31 D.Anime: Dragons
16.57 Serial: Dead Gorgeous
18.00 Doc: Eye On SADC
18.30 Mag: History Stories
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.35 Doc: Voyage Around A Volcano

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud



15.30 Film: Sangdil
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Udné Ki Aasha
19.00 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.30 Pandya Store
20.05 Mannat
20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.00 Anupamaa
21.30 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya



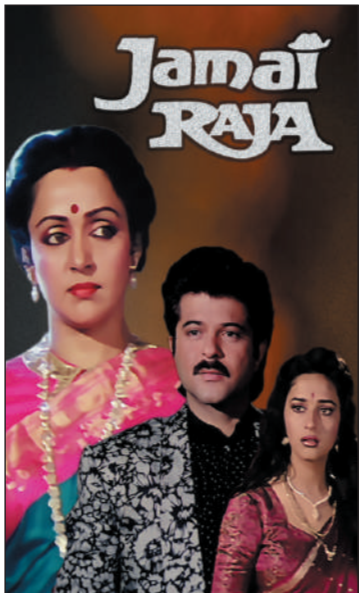
Mardi 18 Août - 21.30



Mercredi 19 Août - 20.40



Mercredi 19 Août - 15.00



Programme TV



mardi 18 août

MBC 1

05.24 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.04 Serial: Nautilus
07.52 Tele: All The Flowers
08.17 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.02 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: December Horses
11.30 Tele: Happily ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Lying Heart
13.45 Tele: Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.30 Film: Les Figures De L'Ombre
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
19.30 Le Journal
21.25 Film: Maigret

MBC 2

09.15 Local: Avan Tro Tar
11.40 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Rodrig: Komanter
12.18 Local: Toc Toc Doc
14.30 Local: Coin Jardin
14.45 Local: Tous Egaux
15.15 Local: Fam Model
17.00 Festival Kreol 2025
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
20.15 Local: Anou Kombat Ladorg
20.45 Local: Priorite Sante
21.15 Local Production
22.47 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.04 Local: Fam Model
23.24 Local: Fam Model
23.34 Local: Music Tour 2025
00.21 Parlons Sante Senior

MBC 3

08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
08.28 Local: Darshan
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Mehbooba
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.50 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: MBC Prod Tuesday
18.57 Local: Natya Kala Guest
19.53 Local: Prakriti
20.30 Serial Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Do Waqt Ko Roti
Cast: Nikhlesh Rathore

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
07.20 Mag: In Good Shape
07.46 Voyage Around A Volcano
08.29 Doc: This Is My Body
09.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today
10.34 Doc: The Cuban Missile Crisis
11.29 Mag: Eco Africa
11.55 Mag: History Stories
13.59 Doc: This Is My Body
15.14 D.Anime: Word Party
15.26 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.38 D.Anime: Bad Jelly
16.06 D.Anime: Agent
17.30 Mag: Eco Africa
18.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...
18.30 Mag: Shift
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.53 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.35 Mag: Business Africa
22.06 Doc: A La Reconquete Des...

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Khatta Meetha
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Twinkle Khanna, Hiren Gandhi, Dhilin Mehta, Dhaval Jatania
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udne Ki Aasha
19.03 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.33 Pandya Store
20.06 Mannat - Har Khushi...
20.29 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.04 Dhruv Tara
22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.04 Serial: Aladdin
23.30 Film: Khatta Meetha
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Twinkle Khanna, Hiren Gandhi, Dhilin Mehta, Dhaval Jatania

mercredi 19 août

05.24 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
08.21 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.07 Tele: La Desalmada
09.35 Film: Maigret
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Lying Heart
13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.15 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: SOS Fantômes
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Live: Grand Titre
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.15 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.40 Film: Officer Black Belt
22.15 Tele: Rosalinda
23.00 Tele: Happily Ever After
23.30 Le Journal

09.30 Local: Festival Kreol 2025
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.30 Local: Les Petits Genies
12.01 Local: Nos Aines
12.25 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.05 Local: Anou Kombat Ladorg
14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.25 Local: Saveurs Plus
16.05 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.30 Rodrig - Coin Zen
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan
19.30 Rodrig Spor
20.00 Zournal Rodrig
20.45 Drogue Une Urgence...
21.15 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
21.30 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.56 Local: Les Klips
22.47 Local: Grand Titre
23.28 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.32 Local: Evasion

08.12 Local: Natya Kala Guests
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Muqaddar Ka Faisla
Cast: Raj Kumar, Raj Babbar
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
19.01 Local: Swadharma
19.48 Local: Virasat
20.02 Local: Kaam Daam
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.01 Film: Aashiqui
23.16 Shrimad Ramayan
23.33 Wagle Ki Duniya

06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...
06.52 Mag: Made In Germany
10.17 Doc: Green Shipping
12.00 Mag: Made In Germany
13.30 Doc: A La Reconquete Des Rocheuses
14.25 Mag: Euromaxx
15.00 D.Anime: Patamuse
15.05 D.Anime: Charlotte Aux Fraises
16.12 D.Anime: Agent
16.33 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
17.34 Mag: Carnet De Sante
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.31 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Couchsurfing In Argentina
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.32 Doc: The Gothic Mystery
22.22 Mag: Close Up
22.50 Mag: Focus On Europe

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.22 Film: Jamai Raja
Starring: Hema Malini, Durgeshwari Devi, Anil Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.02 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.33 Pandya Store
20.00 Mannat - Har Khushi
Paane Ki
20.31 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.00 Anupamaa
21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
22.00 Dhruv Tara
22.24 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.54 Aladdin
23.30 Film: Jamai Raja
Starring: Hema Malini, Durgeshwari Devi, Anil Kapoor

jeudi 20 août

04.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
05.21 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.05 Serial: The Lazarus Project
07.50 Tele: All The Flowers
09.06 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Serial: Columbo
10.45 Doc: China Farm
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.03 Tele: Lying Heart
13.50 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.13 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.20 Film: The Arrival
17.21 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: Welcome Back
Cast: John Abraham, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar

10.25 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
10.37 Local: Saver Lokal
11.40 Local: Grand Titre
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel
14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
15.15 Local: Son Ladan Mem
15.45 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Viens Decouvrir
20.00 Zournal Rodrig
20.45 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.15 Local: Encounter
21.41 Local: Music Tour 2025
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.35 Local: La Sosiete
00.04 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
00.36 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef

08.26 Local: Swadharma
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Pyar Kiye Jaa
Cast: Sashi Kapoor, Kishore Kapoor
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.29 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.42 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani
19.01 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.30 Serial Tenali Rama
21.00 Serial: Shakti

06.25 Mag: Planet A
08.33 Mag: Close Up
09.31 Doc: Abolish Prisons
11.53 Doc: Words Of Peace
13.48 Mag: Close Up
14.16 Mag: Focus On Europe
15.01 D.Anime: Patamuse
15.26 D.Anime: Redy Jet Go!
15.50 D.Anime: Bad Jelly
16.33 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
16.44 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.30 Live: New
20.50 Tele: Eclat De Vie
21.30 Doc: From Gray To Green
22.04 Doc: Stumbling Stones
22.47 Doc: Hotel Hope

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.21 Film: De Dana Dan
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udne Ki Aasha
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Pandya Store
20.00 Mannat - Har Khushi
Paane Ki
20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.02 Anupamaa
21.34 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.05 Aladdin
23.31 Film: De Dana Dan
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty



Jeudi 20 Août - 15.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif and Suniel Shetty



Jeudi 20 Août - 20.20

Stars: John Abraham, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

India's Transformation and Its Independent Voice

Post-2014 India instilled an unparalleled commitment to the upliftment of the country's 1.4 billion people in the hearts and minds of the new government team, backed by a strong spirit of patriotism. The face of

India underwent a tremendous and spectacular transformation, resulting from a long-awaited dynamism, and henceforth began looking towards the future with self-confidence and optimism. The Delhi central government set itself the task of initiating grand operations to galvanise citizens and take them on board to participate collectively in the development of their country.

Spectacular national initiatives marked the first years of the ruling party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (the People's Party of India). To name a few, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan promoted cleanliness in public areas, alongside the financing of millions of toilets and the creation of millions of bank accounts to connect the masses to the modern financial system, enabling them to access financial aid directly and thus liberating them from the feudal system of unscrupulous landlords. Electricity networks reached thousands of rural regions that had been deprived of them for decades. To top it all, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a digital payment system, drastically changed the way money circulated, from hand-to-hand transactions to mobile phones. What a former Congress finance minister thought was impossible on account of widespread illiteracy was made possible. 'Modi hai to mumkin hai' became the new slogan.

Modern public infrastructure was, and continues to be, developed at an unrelenting pace. Highways, bridges, high-speed trains and new airport buildings sprang up in many regions. The 'Make in India' policy, formulated in response to the domestic market for Western fighter jets and trade deals, has been implemented with conditions on the transfer of technology. Geopolitical tensions, warring factions and volatile partnerships have urged India to reinforce its self-

reliance through locally made weapons, tanks, missiles and naval assets, thus strengthening its defence system in a way never seen before. India's Operation Sindoor, in retaliation for a Pakistan-backed terrorist attack on Indian citizens in Kashmir in 2025, showed the efficiency of BrahMos missiles in strikes on the Kirana Hills in Pakistan.

Successive governments' policies on trade deals with Western nations echo the stance taken by Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee's famous statement in the 1990s: 'We don't want predators, we want partners.' It set the tone for the future of India's diplomacy and international relations. Current External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has boosted the country's self-image through the clarity of thought he has demonstrated in press conferences. The statement, "India is not sitting on the fence. India is standing its ground," sums up a no-nonsense approach to maintaining an independent position and refusing to yield to pressure, bullying or harassment from superpowers.

Millions of people have joined the ranks of the middle class over the last 10 years despite two years of Covid-19 and the calamity of the Ukrainian conflict. It never rains, but it pours, as the saying goes. The conflict involving Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz present a third major disaster for the maritime transport of goods and oil supplies, potentially crippling the world economy. After last year's major economic agreements between the European Union and India, the Prime Minister has toured several countries to secure new trade deals and partnerships. The Netherlands agreed to transfer technology for the manufacture of chips to India.

Street protests by Gen Z recently were openly hostile to the ruling BJP and demonstrated little awareness of what



Pic: Amazon

their country looked like before 2014. Riots, coarse language, acts of vandalism, attacks on police forces, marches on Parliament and open mockery of the Prime Minister shocked the public. The opening of the media to American television networks from the year 2000 and the expansion of social media certainly brought in a Western style of behaviour and irreverent language contrary to Indian culture. The root cause was the examination-paper leaks that angered students. The ministry swiftly reacted by rescheduling exams, but protesters pinned the blame for the suicide of 22 students on the

government. Unemployment is another cause of discontent, while a Supreme Court judge's labelling of a few student agitators as 'cockroaches' was blown out of proportion.

Chaos is what rival parties need to discredit a government and grab power, not to mention the alleged complicity of hostile foreign powers. To the critics, another Gen Z faction responded by coming up with the Reservation Hatao Andolan — a movement that seeks to abolish reservations for castes, sub-castes and minorities, a system perceived by many as discriminatory and destructive to meritocracy. Healthy debate on key issues remains the cornerstone of democracy.

India's achievements in propelling itself to the rank of the fifth-largest economy and a major power on the world stage are largely due to the personality of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. More than a politician, he has devoted his whole life to public service with the spirit of a fighter, a soldier and a son of the soil, deeply rooted in the country's civilisational ethos and dharmic culture. Shri Modi's leadership is unique in the history of India since independence. The unity of Indians and the kshatriya spirit of its citizens and people of Indian origin abroad, in standing unambiguously for their civilisational ethos, are indispensable factors in the continuous advancement of what India stands for.



Dr Mansi Metrorotra

International Relations

Hormuz Under Toll

Every transaction routed around the dollar challenges its financial reach. Hormuz has become a

contest over the flow of money and oil. Before 2011-12, Iranian oil was sold through the conventional international oil-trade system, with dollar pricing and access to international banks. Oil revenues were held in foreign accounts and could be used only for humanitarian purchases or bilateral trade. After US and European sanctions were imposed, financial channels were severely restricted, and transactions involving the Central Bank of Iran were targeted. Iran developed alternative channels to the dollar, trading in yuan, bitcoin, stablecoins (USDT/USDC), and other forms of settlement, such as barter or cash, that are less dependent on US-controlled financial systems. However, Iranian oil could still be priced in dollars even when settlement was not in dollars. By 2018-20, the workaround had become even more pronounced, and Iran's exports fell dramatically, with half of its 2020 exports going to China.

Iran is now testing whether oil can be

sold without the dollar. According to Cryptobriefing, Iran's parliament formalised the framework as the "Strait of Hormuz Management Plan" (or a closely equivalent arrangement) on March 31, 2026. Tehran is trying to show that countries facing sanctions, as well as neutral traders, can find ways to trade without relying on the US dollar. This could be more important as a precedent than for the volume of trade involved. Some reports suggest that Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-linked charges are currently around US\$1 per barrel, or up to US\$2 million per Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC).

Hormuz may be a strategic chokepoint, but the human cost is measured in lives and livelihoods. Widows, orphans, displaced people, and destroyed assets create long-term social burdens. Economically, the war has led to higher inflation, GDP contraction (5-6% in 2026), currency depreciation, shortages of imported goods, eroded purchasing power, and pressure on subsidies as oil revenues are utilised for regime priorities rather than broad welfare. The net effect for ordinary Iranians has typically been higher living costs, reduced real wages, and greater



hardship — especially for the urban middle class, youth, and those outside IRGC-linked networks.

The cost of isolation is not only lost trade, but also lost talent, technological access, investment, and reduced choices. Even its strategic flexibility is beginning to look like strategic inconsistency. Tehran is moving from defiance to negotiation to confrontation. Each tactical reversal may win short-term concessions, but it also tells adversaries and citizens that red lines are negotiable under pressure. If Iran pushes Hormuz too far, it could turn leverage into an economic liability.

Meanwhile, Iran remains deeply reliant on Hormuz staying open enough for its crude exports to move, currency stability, inflation control, fuel and food subsidies, the government budget, and purchasing-power stability. Thus, a large share of the economy depends on oil revenues reaching Iran.

On the other hand, the US government has two major tools — military and financial power — to deal with Iran. If Iran manages to work around the US dollar, it could damage US credibility and its ability to exert influence through sanctions. Washington has to play a strategic trade-off game. It must respond aggressively by interdicting tankers, tightening sanctions, targeting yuan or crypto intermediaries, and increasing naval presence. This would demonstrate that sanctions have teeth but could also disrupt oil flows through Hormuz. At the same time, Washington needs to exercise restraint by allowing some oil flows, issuing temporary licences, and avoiding aggressive interdiction that could trigger an oil shock.

For the American economy and people, the transmission is mostly through oil prices and shipping risk. Escalation risk in the Gulf shows up in crude futures and insurance premiums within days and is reflected in gasoline prices within weeks — a regressive tax that hits lower-income households and transport-heavy industries hardest, regardless of who "wins" the settlement-currency contest. The dollar's day-to-day value and its role in Americans' savings and pay checks are not meaningfully threatened by this one dispute. The real cost to the average American is the inflationary pass-through of Gulf instability, not any near-term crisis of dollar dominance.