

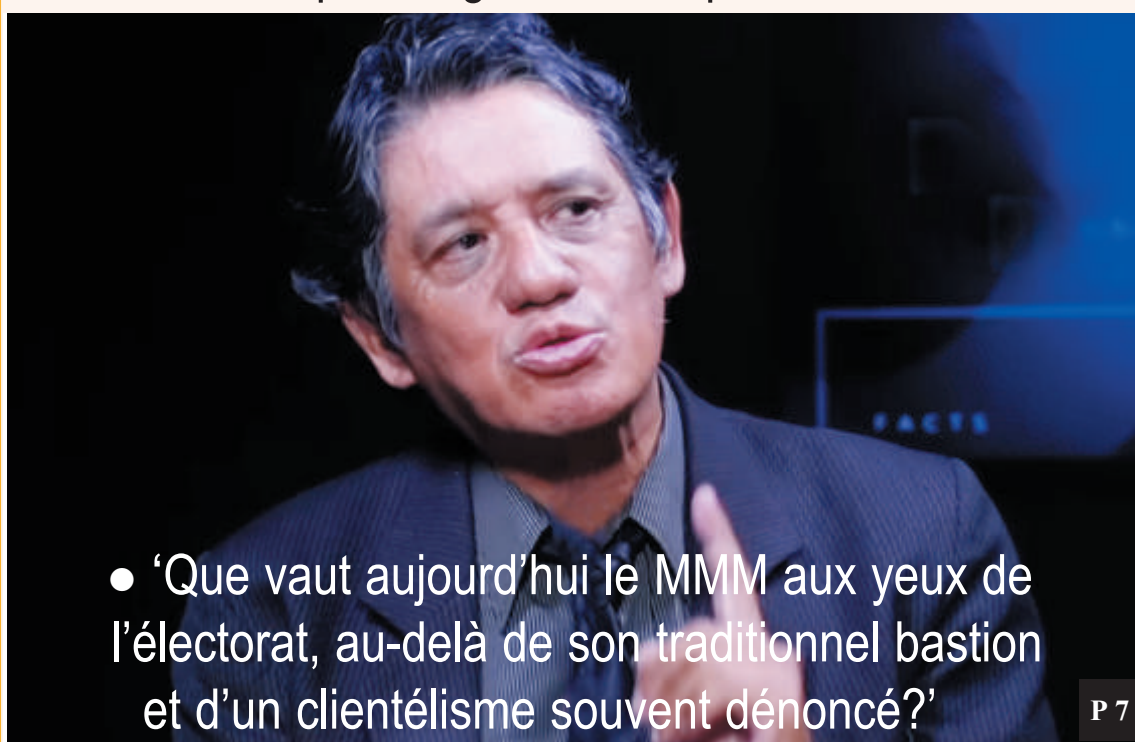
MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions." — Harold S. Geneen

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

"Une alliance Bleu-Blanc-Rouge ne peut être totalement exclue"

'L'histoire politique de Maurice a souvent été marquée par de grandes surprises'



- 'Que vaut aujourd'hui le MMM aux yeux de l'électorat, au-delà de son traditionnel bastion et d'un clientélisme souvent dénoncé?'

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Debunking the Doomsday Narrative

By shifting our focus away from rating agency drama and toward fundamental structural reforms, Mauritius will ensure its long-term resilience and continued success as a leading financial hub



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A Fertile Ground for Populist Politics

Mauritian politics has entered a new and intriguing phase. The recent public meetings of Roshi Bhadain's Reform Party and, more significantly, the MSM rally at Flacq — the first major public appearance by Pravind Jugnauth since his party's crushing defeat in the November 2024 general elections — suggest that the political opposition has begun to stir after months of relative silence. Both gatherings have sought to capitalise on the public discontent triggered by the Alliance du Changement government's pension reform. The immediate question is obvious: is the government beginning to lose political ground? And if so, could the opposition, with the MSM in the lead, rebuild itself over the next two or three years into a credible alternative capable of challenging the Labour-led alliance?

The answer is neither straightforward nor immediate.

Politics rarely follows a linear path. Governments often experience a decline in popularity shortly after taking difficult decisions, particularly those affecting citizens' pockets. Equally, opposition parties frequently enjoy temporary gains by capitalising on public discontent. Whether these shifts represent a passing mood or a more durable political realignment is another matter altogether.

As historian Jocelyn Chan Low aptly observes (in this week's interview), Mauritius may today be experiencing something more profound than another cycle of political alliances and electoral manoeuvring. The country appears to be undergoing a gradual transformation in its political culture. Traditional party loyalties have weakened considerably, voter behaviour has become more fluid, and confidence in established political leaders has steadily eroded. This does not necessarily mean that a new political order has emerged. Rather, Mauritius seems to be caught between an old political model that is losing its appeal and a new one that has yet to take shape.

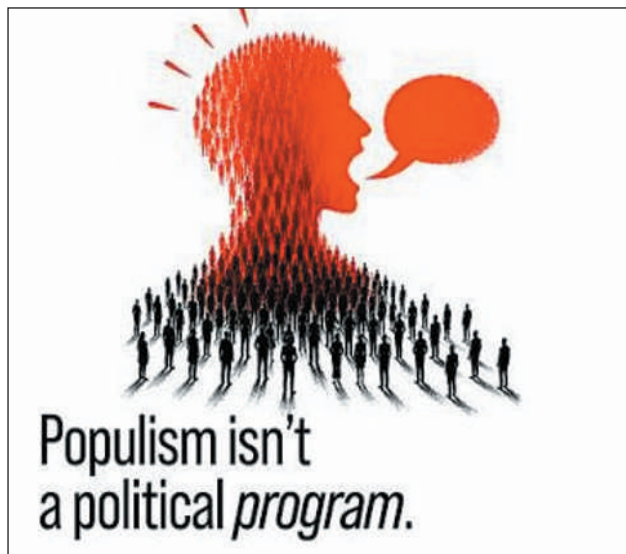
The Alliance du Changement entered office with an overwhelming parliamentary mandate. A 60-0 electoral victory created expectations of sweeping reforms, institutional renewal and a decisive break from the excesses of the previous MSM-led government. Yet overwhelming electoral victories can themselves become political traps. They raise expectations to levels that no government can easily satisfy.

The pension reform has become the most visible manifestation of this dilemma.

There is little dispute among economists, international institutions and many policy analysts that Mauritius' pension system, in its present form, is fiscally unsustainable. An ageing population, lower fertility rates and increasing life expectancy mean that the financial burden of maintaining a universal Basic Retirement Pension will continue to grow faster than government revenues. Without reform, expenditure on pensions risks crowding out investment in education, healthcare, infrastructure and other essential public services. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam has acknowledged these realities and, despite the political cost, has insisted that the reforms will proceed.

But what is economically necessary is not always politically acceptable.

Many Mauritians, particularly within the middle class, feel they are being asked to shoulder sacrifices at a time when they are already struggling with the rising cost of living. More importantly, there exists a widespread perception that the burden has not been distributed fairly. Critics argue that before reducing future pension entitlements,



government should have explored more ambitious measures to increase contributions from those with greater financial means. The continued preferential treatment of certain forms of investment income, including dividends and capital gains, has reinforced the impression that ordinary citizens are once again being asked to pay the highest price.

Whether this perception is entirely justified is less important politically than the fact that it exists.

Successful reform requires not only sound economics but also public trust. This explains why the opposition has found fertile ground upon which to rebuild. The Reform Party has attempted to position itself as the voice of those disillusioned with both traditional political blocs. The MSM, meanwhile, has sought to present itself once again as the defender of the welfare state and of pensioners, notwithstanding the fact that difficult fiscal realities would have confronted any government, irrespective of political colour.

Yet it would be premature to conclude that the opposition has regained the initiative.

Here again Jocelyn Chan Low's analysis deserves careful consideration. While public dissatisfaction has undoubtedly increased, it has not automatically translated into renewed confidence in the traditional opposition. The crisis confronting Mauritian politics is not merely one of government popularity; it is equally one of political representation.

The country's principal political parties continue to suffer from declining credibility. Years of shifting alliances, repeated scandals, unfulfilled promises and highly personalised leadership structures have weakened public confidence across the political spectrum. Electoral "fixed deposits" — once the defining characteristic of Mauritian politics — appear considerably less secure than they once were. Increasingly, voters are willing to move between parties or simply withdraw their confidence altogether.

A growing weariness with familiar faces and established political practices creates both opportunity and uncertainty.

Emerging political actors such as Roshi Bhadain, Rama Valayden, Nando Bodha and others undoubtedly benefit from this environment of voter dissatisfaction. Yet translating public frustration into electoral success remains extraordinarily difficult under Mauritius' First Past the Post electoral system. Without nationwide organisational structures, strong constituency networks, credible candidates and substantial financial resources, new political movements struggle to convert sympathy into parliamentary

representation.

This structural reality explains why Mauritian politics continues to revolve around alliances, however unpopular these may sometimes appear. The electoral system rewards coalition-building, often at the expense of ideological coherence. Consequently, the coming years are unlikely to witness the disappearance of alliance politics. Rather, they may produce another round of negotiations, realignments and unexpected partnerships as political actors seek the most advantageous electoral arithmetic.

The government's greatest challenge therefore lies elsewhere.

If the Alliance du Changement wishes to retain public confidence, it must persuade Mauritians that today's sacrifices will produce tomorrow's gains. Pension reform cannot remain an isolated measure. It must form part of a broader national strategy aimed at restoring sustainable public finances while preserving the social compact that has long distinguished Mauritius.

That requires demonstrating equal determination in tackling wasteful public expenditure, strengthening public sector efficiency, broadening the tax base where appropriate, combating tax avoidance, stimulating productive investment and generating higher economic growth. Citizens are generally prepared to accept difficult reforms when they believe that sacrifices are shared fairly and that government itself is exercising fiscal discipline.

Political legitimacy rests as much upon perceived fairness as upon economic necessity.

Ultimately, Prime Minister Ramgoolam appears to be making a calculated political wager. His government is betting that by the next general election the economy will have strengthened sufficiently for voters to recognise that today's unpopular decisions were indispensable to preserving the Mauritian welfare state for future generations.

It is undoubtedly a high-risk strategy.

Should economic growth accelerate, inflation moderate, employment expand and living standards improve, today's political turbulence may gradually recede. History offers many examples of governments that recovered from deeply unpopular reforms once their benefits became visible.

Should economic conditions fail to improve, the political consequences could be significant. In that case, the MSM — despite the baggage of its recent past — may once again find fertile ground for the populist politics that have repeatedly served it well.

Mauritius thus stands at a political crossroads rather than on the brink of revolution. The old political order has weakened, but no credible alternative has yet emerged. The next election may well be decided by whichever political force best reconciles economic necessity with social justice, and fiscal responsibility with the preservation of the welfare state.

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The FCC: Independent Guardian or Political Instrument?

'An anti-corruption agency can become too independent if it operates without adequate oversight and accountability, potentially leading to unchecked power'

The controversy surrounding the timing of recent FCC actions involving former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and former Minister Balgobin highlights a fundamental democratic challenge: how to preserve the effectiveness and confidentiality of investigations while ensuring that anti-corruption institutions remain insulated from political influence. This week's Qs & As column explores the legal, constitutional, and institutional safeguards required to maintain public trust.

LEX

* There are currently insinuations within the MSM that the summoning of former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and former Minister Balgobin of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) was deliberately timed to embarrass them, coming just two days before their first public appearance at a political meeting scheduled for later this week. From a legal standpoint, what principles should govern the timing of investigative actions to avoid any perception of political manipulation?

From a legal standpoint, the timing of investigative actions by the FCC should be governed by objective necessity, chronological proportionality, and institutional insulation, specifically following the principles of objective threshold triggers, operational continuity, and political dormancy.

Investigations must commence solely upon the receipt of reasonable suspicion or verifiable evidence, rather than being influenced by external calendar triggers or political milestones.

Investigative steps must follow a logical, sequential workflow dictated by the availability of evidence and forensic readiness, while disregarding external political cycles.

In other words, decisions regarding the timing and execution of searches must be taken independently, based on legal criteria and investigative imperatives, rather than political considerations.

* Is there a legal duty for investigative agencies to explain publicly why urgent investigative action cannot reasonably be delayed?

No, general investigative and law enforcement agencies do not have a broad legal duty to publicly explain why an urgent investigative action cannot be delayed. Operational secrecy, the privacy rights of suspects, and the integrity of ongoing investigations routinely take precedence over public transparency during active investigative phases.

Bodies such as the Mauritius Police Force or the FCC are legally required to protect the confidentiality of ongoing inquiries in order to prevent the destruction of evidence, obstruction of justice, or the flight of suspects.

* In cases involving senior political figures, should investigative agencies adopt formal protocols or publicly available guidelines governing the timing of arrests, summonses and public communications in order to minimise allegations of political bias?

Indeed. Investigative bodies in Mauritius should adopt formal protocols and transparent guidelines for handling high-profile cases to standardise procedures, safeguard constitutional rights, and reduce perceptions of political interference. Clear rules help limit arbitrary decisions regarding arrests and summonses. Transparent guidelines can also help rebuild public confidence in agencies such as the



“The Constitution should ideally guarantee the operational independence of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) and its Director-General in order to shield anti-corruption efforts from political interference, matching the robust constitutional protections already afforded to the DPP. As a statutory body, the FCC conducts sensitive investigations involving high-ranking public officials. Without constitutional safeguards, changes in government or political pressure may undermine the stability of its leadership...”

Mauritius Police Force and the FCC. Neutral, carefully regulated public communications may further reduce sensationalism and perceptions of bias.

* Allegations of political influence over successive anti-corruption bodies — particularly the ICAC, now replaced by the FCC — have persisted under successive governments. Does the Financial Crimes Commission Act provide sufficient statutory safeguards to protect the FCC from executive influence?

The Financial Crimes Commission Act does not provide sufficient statutory safeguards, as legal experts and civil society groups argue that the appointment and removal powers granted to the Prime Minister over key leadership positions create the impression that the FCC is subject to political influence.

The Prime Minister has the sole authority to appoint the Director-General and the commissioners. Critics note that this direct appointment process differs little from that which existed under the defunct ICAC. They further argue that the provisions governing tenure and dismissal lack independent oversight by a judicial or parliamentary body, thereby

increasing the institution's vulnerability to political influence.

* Should the Constitution, as it does for the Director of Public Prosecutions, also guarantee the operational independence of the FCC and its Director-General?

Yes, the Constitution should ideally guarantee the operational independence of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) and its Director-General in order to shield anti-corruption efforts from political interference, matching the robust constitutional protections already afforded to the DPP.

As a statutory body, the FCC conducts sensitive investigations involving high-ranking public officials. Without constitutional safeguards, changes in government or political pressure may undermine the stability of its leadership and the integrity of its investigations.

* However, many constitutional lawyers argue that institutional independence depends less on legislation than on how leaders are appointed and removed. Does the current appointment process for the FCC's Director-General provide adequate safeguards of independence, or should appointments instead be entrusted to an independent constitutional commission?

The appointment of the FCC's Director-General does not provide adequate institutional safeguards, and many legal experts therefore argue that the appointment should instead be entrusted to an independent constitutional commission.

Under Section 10(1) of the Financial Crimes Commission Act, the Director-General is appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is required to consult the Leader of the Opposition; however, this consultation is limited, as it is not binding and does not require the Leader of the Opposition's agreement.

Critics and legal experts contend that vesting the appointment process primarily in the executive creates the potential for conflicts of interest, particularly where high-profile political figures or government policies are the subject of investigation or scrutiny.

* Even where legislation appears satisfactory, subtle forms of influence may still exist. Can governments influence investigative agencies indirectly through budgetary control, staffing decisions or administrative oversight?

Yes, governments can indirectly influence investigative agencies through budgetary constraints, key staffing and appointment decisions, and administrative oversight. Even where the law formally guarantees institutional independence, these subtle levers of influence may enable the executive branch to shape operational priorities or delay sensitive investigations.

* What legal mechanisms exist to challenge investigations that appear to be politically motivated?

In Mauritius, the legal mechanisms available to challenge politically motivated investigations include constitutional motions, applications for judicial review, and pleas of abuse of process.

Individuals may apply to the Supreme Court of Mauritius under Section 17 of the Constitution, alleging violations of fundamental rights, such as the right to the protection of the law (Section 3) or the right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time (Section 10). They may seek constitutional relief or declaratory orders where investigative bodies, such as the Police or the Financial Crimes Commission, are alleged to have acted under political direction rather than in the independent exercise of their statutory functions.

Applications for judicial review under Order 53 of the Supreme Court Rules enable persons affected by arbitrary or unlawful state action to seek orders of **certiorari** (to quash unlawful decisions), **prohibition** (to prevent unlawful action), or **mandamus** (to compel the performance of a public duty). Such applications may be founded on the recognised grounds of **illegality**, **irrationality**, or **procedural impropriety** in the conduct of an investigation or the exercise of administrative discretion.

☞ Cont. on page 17



Anil Madan

The Iran War: A Potential Triangular Choke Emerges

The political effluvia of the sensational dressing-down that Ukraine's President Zelensky suffered at the hands of President Trump and VP Vance at the White House last year, still lingers in the ether. The stinging words, laced with seeming truth still echo: "You don't have the cards right now..."

It appears that the Iran war and Putin's war on Ukraine are converging and Zelensky may have cards. The question is whether Trump wants to play the hand or fold.

Last Friday, the White House confirmed that Trump and Zelensky would meet in Washington the following Tuesday, July 28. Zelensky was scheduled to attend the funeral of Senator Lindsey Graham.

Zelensky then stated:

I will instruct the intelligence services to share with our partners the information we have about Russia's new assistance to the Iranian regime. Since the beginning of July, we've been tracking active satellite surveillance by Russia over the Gulf countries and the American military facilities there. These images then end up in Iran. And there's a clear correlation between Russian satellite images of targets and Iranian strikes – both before the attacks and after, to assess the damage caused. Just on July 19 and 20, four airbases fell into the area of interest for Russian satellites: two in Bahrain and one each in Jordan and Kuwait. It's obvious why. We all around the world should not close our eyes to a very simple fact: evil always looks for ways to make things worse and spread. Russia must be stopped. The war must be stopped. Pressure on the aggressor must work.

On the same day, Friday, in an apparent response to Zelensky's claim, Trump posted this on his Truth Social outlet:

President Xi, at our recent meeting in Beijing, China, told me that he would not, under any circumstances, give or sell Weapons to the Islamic Republic of Iran — And that statement included Chinese Companies. Considering our relationship, I take him at his word and, besides, I am doing him very big favors, also. Likewise, President Putin, despite the horrible War going on in Ukraine (The relationship remains, as it does with President Zelenskyy), told me that he would not sell Weapons to Iran. He understands that I do not sell Weapons to Ukraine, but to NATO Countries. They pay full price, and how those Weapons are distributed, I have no idea. Therefore, two major Countries that people speak of often in terms of Iran are, in my opinion, not participating. If they did, it would be very bad for them — Certainly not in their best interests. Thank you for your attention to this matter! President DONALD J. TRUMP

Despite having dismissed the idea that China or Russia were "participating" in aiding Iran, on the following Monday, July 27, Trump said that his administration would investigate Zelensky's claim that Russia had passed images of American military bases to Iran and had been helping Iran strike military targets belonging to the US and Gulf states. Trump's somewhat peculiar approach was: "Well, we'll find out if that's true. I'll ask Putin about it. But even if they did, it had no impact whatsoever." The president added that he doubted such cooperation could have occurred at a high level.

Trump pooh-poohed the significance of Russian assistance to Iran. "They don't have an army, they don't have an air force, they don't have a navy, they don't have

anything," Trump said. "So, it didn't work."

Zelensky's information was quite specific. He pointed out that Russian surveillance by satellites had homed in on four airbases in the Gulf on July 19 and 20. Two bases in Bahrain, and a base in Jordan and another in Kuwait were the targets. Zelensky noted that the timing left little doubt about the reason for the surveillance. And Zelensky allowed that Ukraine had recorded the active Russian satellite surveillance.

Zelensky charged that Russian satellite imagery of American military assets in the Gulf was used by Iran to target strikes as well as for damage assessment after strikes.

Zelensky's charges should not have been news to President Trump. First, it is inconceivable that Israeli and US intelligence have not been monitoring Russian surveillance and Iranian targeting.

Second, more than four months ago, in mid-March, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that "Russia has been expanding its intelligence sharing and military cooperation with Iran, providing satellite imagery and improved drone technology to aid Tehran's targeting of US forces in the region."

The *Journal* postulated that Russia was trying to "prolong a war benefitting Russia militarily and economically."

Russia is said to have provided technology to Iran including components of modified Shahed drones with improved communication, navigation and targeting. Russia has grown a knowledge base from its experience using drones in attacking Ukraine. Russian cooperation with Iran appears to involve tactical guidance on optimizing drone targeting and usage and, as well, targeting locations of US military forces in the Middle East. Of greater concern are reports that Russia is sending upgraded drones to Iran.

Russian assistance has been key to successful Iranian strikes in Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

It is not clear what Mr Trump hopes to gain from confronting Putin about Russian aid to Iran. Putin is likely to deny everything. The US has no interest in engaging with Russia in a direct conflict. Trump's only option would be to reinstate sanctions and once again strangle Russia's economy.

As has been well documented, Iran supplied Russia with Shahed drones. Putin evolved that relationship into domestic Russian manufacturing of Shahed-type drones. It has been reported that Russia was preparing to supply Iran with 5,000 short-range drones equipped with fiber-optic control systems, as well as train Iran's forces against US forces. *The Economist* reported that Russia also planned to send an unspecified number of long-range drones using satellite guidance technology to Iran.

Compounding matters, Ukraine has also charged that Russia has provide satellite intelligence and military assistance on Israeli energy targets.

A war getting more complex

Given these developments, the Iran war is getting ever more complex.

On Saturday, Ukraine destroyed an Iranian cargo ship in the Caspian Sea with a long-range drone. President Zelensky declared that Ukrainian forces had achieved "very good results" with long-range strikes against vessels transporting Iran-origin military cargo to



Russia.

Iran confirmed the strike by Ukraine accusing the latter of "an act of aggression that could further inflame and expand the flames of war" and insisted that its ship was a commercial vessel. Then Iran issued a customary threat of retaliation.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister was not impressed and dismissive: "Iran's threats are unjustified and groundless," He went on to make a direct accusation: "The regime in Tehran is a direct accomplice to Russian aggression against Ukraine, fuelling Moscow's criminal war with weapons that have killed Ukrainians since 2022."

The ceasefire between the US and Iran, such as it was, is no more. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) rapidly disintegrated into a memorandum of misunderstanding as I predicted.

Many observers have declared Iran the winner in the showdown with Israel and the US The thesis was that all Iran had to do to win was survive.

But that is a naïve view. To be sure, the MoU was poorly worded, even carelessly so and the sloppiness gave Iran way too much room to claim concessions that perhaps were not intended. Instead of leaving things as they were and taking advantage, the Iranians made the mistake of pressing too hard. This led Trump to disavow the MoU and then Iran as well declared it dead.

Iran's regime needs more than just survival to claim victory. The country has been devastated by the aerial bombardment already inflicted and with the resumption of what could be full-scale hostilities, things could get worse.

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Vijay Makhan

When the General Assembly Speaks

Despite all the turbulence of our times, right, when collectively upheld by the community of nations, can still prevail over might

The overwhelming renewal of Volker Türk as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is about far more than one individual or one office. It is a timely reminder that, despite mounting geopolitical fragmentation and growing pressures upon the multilateral system, the collective will of the international community can still prevail over the preferences of even the most powerful nations. For those inclined to believe that international affairs have become governed solely by the doctrine that might is right, the General Assembly has offered a salutary reminder that this need not always be so.

From time to time, events within the United Nations transcend the immediate issue under consideration and become a measure of the institution itself. The recent renewal of Volker Türk as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is one such occasion.

Much has already been written about the opposition voiced by the United States, Israel and Russia to Mr Türk's reappointment. Equally noteworthy, however, was the overwhelming response of the United Nations General Assembly, which endorsed the nomination made by Secretary-General António Guterres by an emphatic majority. In doing so, the Assembly was not merely renewing the mandate of an individual. It was reaffirming the integrity of an institution and the principles upon which it rests.

For those of us — including this writer — who have, over recent years, repeatedly expressed concern in these columns and elsewhere over the gradual erosion of multilateralism and the weakening of the international rules-based order, this vote deserves careful reflection. In a succession of articles examining the retreat from multilateralism, the growing recourse to unilateralism and the resurgence of the doctrine that "might is right", I argued that the international system was entering one of its most testing periods since the founding of the United Nations. If there was one abiding concern running through those reflections, it was whether multilateralism still possessed sufficient resilience to withstand the pressures of great-power politics.

The General Assembly's overwhelming endorsement of the Secretary-General's nominee offers a reassuring, if cautious, answer. It reminds us that the narrative is not exclusively one of institutional decline. It demonstrates that, notwithstanding the influence and pressures which major powers are capable of exerting, there remain domains within the United Nations where the collective judgement of the international community continues to carry decisive weight.

The significance of this vote lies precisely in that distinction. It was never simply about Volker Türk. It was about the ability of

the wider membership of the United Nations to assert its collective will in defence of an institution whose independence many regard as indispensable.

Nor was this a simplistic contest between East and West, or between North and South. One of the more remarkable features of the vote was that China, India and Pakistan all supported Mr Türk's reappointment. China's vote came despite repeated criticism by the Office of the High Commissioner regarding the treatment of the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang. India and Pakistan, each of which has also been the subject of scrutiny by the international human rights machinery, likewise endorsed the Secretary-General's nominee. Their convergence on this occasion demonstrates that governments may profoundly disagree with the observations or conclusions of an international institution while nevertheless recognising the importance of preserving its independence, credibility and legitimacy.

The significance of this convergence should not be underestimated. China, India and Pakistan seldom find themselves on the same side of issues touching upon international politics. Yet on this occasion they joined the overwhelming majority of the General Assembly in affirming the authority of the Secretary-General's nomination and the independence of one of the United Nations' principal human rights institutions. This broad consensus lends additional weight to the Assembly's decision and underscores that this was less a vote about one individual than about the preservation of an institutional principle.

Institutional Independence

That lesson deserves careful reflection. International institutions are not established to comfort governments or shield them from criticism. They exist precisely to uphold principles which may, from time to time, prove inconvenient to those exercising power. If the occupants of such offices were to be judged solely on whether they pleased the governments they were



“Volker Türk was the Secretary-General's nominee. The General Assembly's overwhelming endorsement therefore also represented an expression of confidence in the authority of the Secretary-General and in the integrity of the established procedures governing senior appointments within the United Nations. Had the Assembly yielded to political pressure from a handful of influential capitals, it would have weakened not merely one office, but the institutional balance painstakingly developed over decades...”

Pic - Arab News

expected to scrutinise, their independence would rapidly evaporate, and with it their credibility.

There is another constitutional dimension that should not escape attention. Volker Türk was the Secretary-General's nominee. The General Assembly's overwhelming endorsement therefore also represented an expression of confidence in the authority of the Secretary-General and in the integrity of the established procedures governing senior appointments within the United Nations. Had the Assembly yielded to political pressure from a handful of influential capitals, it would have weakened not merely one office, but the institutional balance painstakingly developed over decades.

The vote also serves as a reminder of something too often overlooked. While international attention is understandably focused upon the Security Council and the rivalries among its permanent members, the General Assembly remains the most representative organ of the international community. It is there that the sovereign equality of states finds its fullest expression. Each Member State, irrespective of its size, military capability or economic strength, speaks with one voice and exercises one vote.

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Invitation for Expression of Interest

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SICOM Properties Ltd (SPL) is inviting suitable Firms to participate in an Expression of Interest (EOI) exercise to provide senior living operator services.

The selected firm shall be required to provide the above-mentioned services as morefully described in the Expression of Interest (EOI) document. Interested Firms are invited to complete the Bidder Registration Form available on the Company's website at sicom.mu/bidder-registration-form in order to request a copy of the EOI document.

Proposals in sealed envelopes clearly marked **“EOI – Senior Living Operator Services”** and indicating the corresponding Procurement Reference Number: **SIC-EOI-2026-SL001** should be addressed to the Group Chief Executive Officer, State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd, SICOM Building 1, Sir Célicourt Antelme Street, Port Louis 11302, Mauritius and deposited in the Tender Box located at the Ground Floor of SICOM Building 1 **not later than 18 August 2026 at 15.00 hours (Mauritian time) at latest.**

Proposals may also be sent to the following email address: sicom.property@sicom.mu, before the deadline.

Late proposals will not be accepted.

SICOM Properties Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the applications received, and to cancel this process at any time prior to selection without incurring any liability towards any applicants.

21 July 2026



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When the General Assembly Speaks



“Countries such as Mauritius have never depended upon military might to defend their national interests. Their greatest protection has always resided in international law, in the authority of multilateral institutions and in the legitimacy conferred by broad international consensus. Our own experience in the Chagos struggle bears eloquent testimony to the strength that can be derived from patient diplomacy, legal principle and the mobilisation of overwhelming support within the General Assembly...”

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Power of the UN General Assembly

History reminds us that this is by no means the first occasion on which the General Assembly has asserted its collective authority in the face of opposition from major powers. Mauritius knows this better than most. The overwhelming support accorded by the Assembly to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Chagos Archipelago, and subsequently to the resolutions calling for the completion of the decolonisation of Mauritius, demonstrated that when the international community rallies around the principles of international law, justice and decolonisation, even the most entrenched geopolitical positions can, over time, be compelled to yield. The renewal of Volker Türk's mandate is another illustration that the collective voice of nations continues to matter.

For small and vulnerable states, this principle is far from an abstract constitutional ideal. It is an indispensable strategic asset. Countries such as Mauritius have never depended upon military might to defend their national interests. Their greatest protection has always resided in international law, in the authority of multilateral institutions and in the legitimacy conferred by broad international consensus. Our own experience in the Chagos struggle bears eloquent testimony to the strength that can be derived from patient diplomacy, legal principle and the mobilisation of overwhelming support within the General Assembly.

This is why the outcome of this vote deserves to be welcomed beyond the immediate issue of human rights. It demonstrates that the United Nations, despite all its imperfections and notwithstanding the undeniable pressures to which it is subjected, continues to possess an institutional resilience which many had begun to question.

The Relevance of the National Human Rights Commission

The broader lesson extends well beyond the United Nations itself. Every democratic society requires institutions capable of safeguarding the rights and freedoms of its citizens, particularly at times when political passions run high or when public confidence in governance is being tested. A credible, independent and adequately empowered National Human Rights Commission is therefore not a luxury but an

essential pillar of democratic governance. It provides citizens with confidence that grievances can be heard impartially and that the principles enshrined in our Constitution and in the international conventions to which Mauritius is a party are translated into meaningful protection.

In Mauritius today, as our democracy continues to evolve and as society grapples with increasingly complex social, economic and governance challenges, the relevance of such institutions has become even more pronounced. Their effectiveness depends not merely upon their statutory existence but upon the confidence they inspire through their independence, professionalism and moral authority. Institutions command respect not because they are created by law, but because they discharge their responsibilities without fear, favour or political influence.

The same principle applies internationally. Just as national human rights institutions derive their authority from their independence, so too does the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. To weaken that independence would be to weaken the confidence upon which the protection of human rights ultimately depends.

There will undoubtedly continue to be disagreements over the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Such disagreements are inevitable within an organisation composed of sovereign states with different political systems, histories and priorities. But that is precisely why the independence of the office must remain beyond the reach of political expediency. Institutions derive their legitimacy not from pleasing governments but from applying principles consistently, impartially and without fear or favour.

Might Is Not Always Right

If one broader lesson emerges from this episode, it is that power, however formidable, does not invariably prevail. For some time now I have cautioned against the growing perception that international relations had entered an era in which might had finally displaced right. The General Assembly has demonstrated that, while power remains an undeniable feature of world politics, it is not always determinative. Collective legitimacy, patiently forged among nations with widely differing political systems, strategic interests and ideological orientations, can still prevail over the preferences of even the strongest powers.

The multilateral system undoubtedly remains under severe strain. It continues to face challenges from unilateralism, geopolitical rivalry and a worrying erosion of confidence in international institutions. Yet this episode reminds us that the system is far from defeated. Beneath the turbulence of contemporary international politics, the institutions painstakingly constructed since 1945 continue to possess a resilience that should neither be underestimated nor taken for granted.

The General Assembly has spoken. In doing so, it has reminded the international community that the United Nations belongs not to its most powerful members, but equally to its smallest and most vulnerable. When the overwhelming majority of nations speak with one voice, even the strongest powers would do well to listen. For therein lies the enduring strength of multilateralism — and the enduring reminder that, despite all the turbulence of our times, right, when collectively upheld by the community of nations, can still prevail over might.

Vijay Makhan
29 July 2026

Breakfast with Bwana

The Iran War: A Potential Triangular Choke Emerges



Cont. from page 4

By all reports, despite the temporary reprieve that allowed oil shipments, the economy is in a shambles. Survival for those at the top of the current regime is, obviously, an existential problem. If they were displaced, a significant percentage of Iran's populace would tear them limb from limb. They need to retain control of the administrative and police apparatus of the state to remain in power. And that requires a functioning economy.

What is unknown is how much missile and drone capacity Iran retains and how much of that is readily deployable in the Gulf and against US assets.

Iran has rejected efforts to strip away its claims to the right to control the Strait of Hormuz and to extort payment from ships for safe passage. Iran rejected a proposal by Oman for a sharing arrangement on equal terms, insisting on usurping a controlling position.

Now that Iran launched an attack while Netanyahu and Zelensky were in Washington for the late Senator Graham's funeral, and retaliatory strikes by the US are underway as I write this, the course of this war is very much an unknown.

An Unwinnable War

Iran cannot win a war against the US. The damage that US forces can inflict is immense. But perhaps we shouldn't think of this as a war of Iran against the US. Rather, viewing this as a war of Iran against the Gulf countries, Iran's ability to inflict damage on them and on US assets in the Middle East are difficult to quantify. And that difficulty is cause for concern. There are reports that US intelligence agencies assess that Iran has retained a significant part of its drone and missile launch capability. If the reports of advanced technology drone shipments from Russia are true, the situation will be in even more flux.

We have seen that Iran's threats to shipping are sufficient to all but shut down the Strait of Hormuz and that the Houthis are threatening to shut down the Bab-al-Mandeb Strait which would effectively shut down shipping traffic to the Red Sea.

Adding to these is a report that there has been a drone strike on a US-owned gas storage tanker at the Egyptian port of Damietta. There are conflicting reports from a maritime security firm and several news outlets that a drone strike was involved, whereas the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources officially denied that drones were involved, and asserted that the fire did not affect port infrastructure.

If it turns out that Iran, or one of its proxies, has successfully attacked an Egyptian port with a drone, this puts the Suez Canal under threat. A look at the map of the Middle East shows that closing Hormuz, Bab Al-Mandeb, and the Suez Canal would be a triangular choking of virtually all shipping into and out of the Middle East.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

“Une alliance Bleu-Blanc-Rouge ne peut être totalement exclue”

‘L’histoire politique de Maurice a souvent été marquée par de grandes surprises’

Le paysage politique mauricien semble entrer dans une phase de recomposition. Affaiblissement des partis traditionnels, émergence de nouvelles formations et défiance croissante des électeurs: assistons-nous à un simple réaligement politique ou à une transformation plus profonde du système? Dans cet entretien, l'historien Jocelyn Chan Low analyse les forces en présence, les limites des alliances traditionnelles et les perspectives d'un possible renouvellement de la classe politique.

Mauritius Times: Le paysage politique mauricien semble traverser une période de recomposition. En tant qu'historien, observez-vous des similitudes avec d'autres périodes charnières de notre histoire politique, ou sommes-nous confrontés à une transformation plus profonde du système politique?

Jocelyn Chan Low: Recomposition oui, si l'on se réfère à la cassure de l'Alliance du Changement avec le départ de Paul Bérenger, de Joanna Bérenger et de Chetan Baboolall. En outre, ce dernier ayant déclaré publiquement sa volonté d'assumer le poste de leader de l'opposition, il faudra s'attendre à des développements majeurs à ce niveau.

Il faut ajouter, à cela, le rapprochement du Front Militant Progressiste (FMP) avec Nando Bodha, Rama Valayden et Patrick Belcourt. Il faut souligner qu'au moment de la cassure de l'Alliance du Changement, Paul Bérenger avait signifié son intention de rassembler — au sein d'un large front progressiste — des éléments de l'opposition extra parlementaire, des membres de la société civile et même des éléments issus du PTr. Il semblerait que sa stratégie est en marche.

Evidemment, tout cela est du déjà-vu. L'histoire politique de l'île Maurice indépendante est surtout une histoire d'alliances, de renversement d'alliances et de recomposition politique en permanence. Certains diront que la politique à Maurice, c'est le pont d'Avignon où l'on danse et on tourne en rond. Mais c'est le système électoral *First Past The Post* qui est à l'origine de ces alliances, mésalliances et recompositions permanentes.

La différence fondamentale, c'est qu'aujourd'hui les dépôts fixes — les *die-hard* — se sont rétrécis comme une peau de chagrin, et rien ne garantit que les recompositions produiront l'effet escompté.

Ajoutez à cela le fait que les leaders à la fois du PTr et du FMP ont atteint un âge très avancé. S'ils se présentent pour un prochain mandat, ils seront presque des nonagénaires à la fin de leur mandat. Les Mauriciens voudront-ils s'enfoncer davantage dans la gérontocratie?

Enfin, depuis quelques années, tous les sondages révèlent une profonde défiance des électeurs à l'égard des partis traditionnels et de leur personnel politique. Le désir de renouvellement de la classe politique est désormais majoritaire. Cette inadéquation entre l'offre et la demande poli-



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*** L'histoire politique mauricienne montre effectivement que les périodes de domination d'un parti ou d'une coalition ne sont jamais permanentes. Voyez-vous aujourd'hui les signes d'un nouveau cycle politique?**

Il est évident que l'Alliance du Changement, ou ce qu'il en reste, est en nette perte de vitesse. La désillusion des électeurs qui lui ont donné un 60-0 est profonde. Cet électorat a l'impression de s'être trompé sur la marchandise. Le Mauricien n'avait surtout pas voté pour une politique d'austérité, pour le démantèlement de certains acquis sociaux, et la continuation de certaines pratiques décriées de l'ancien régime, notamment en ce qu'il s'agit ses nominations de petits copains, encore moins pour l'immobilisme au lieu du

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changement et du développement.

Mais il est un fait qu'il subsiste une distance considérable entre cet électorat et le MSM. En réalité, c'est le slogan «Ni Navin, ni Pravind» — PRB étant désormais hors course — qui gagne du terrain, ce qui semble annoncer l'ouverture d'un nouveau cycle politique marqué par le déclin des partis traditionnels. Cependant, les nouveaux partis, à l'instar du Reform Party de Roshi Bhadain, s'ils ont gagné en crédibilité, notamment à la faveur de la crise des pensions, ont encore beaucoup de chemin à parcourir.

*** Voulez-vous dire que les grands partis historiques ne répondent plus aux attentes d'une société mauricienne en pleine mutation, ou assistons-nous plutôt à un essoufflement de leur modèle politique?**

C'est effectivement le cas, si l'on en croit les derniers sondages qui révèlent que plus de 80 % des électeurs ne se sentent plus proches de ces grands partis historiques.

Avec le temps, ceux-ci se sont progressivement décrédibilisés, notamment en raison de leurs trajectoires politiques en zigzag, particulièrement en matière d'alliances préélectorales, des scandales qui ont éclaboussé certains de leurs dirigeants, de leur incapacité à répondre aux attentes du public, ainsi que des pratiques politiques marquées par un manque de constance lorsqu'il s'agit de défendre de grands principes.

À cela s'ajoute, pour certains d'entre eux, le fait que leurs dirigeants sont aujourd'hui des «very senior citizens», parfois perçus comme étant en décalage avec une île Maurice qui a profondément changé.

Malgré leurs défaites successives, certains leaders se sont toujours accrochés au leadership de leur parti respectif, avec pour résultat qu'il n'y a jamais eu de véritable renouvellement. Au fond, il n'y a jamais eu de remise en question profonde de leurs pratiques ni de leurs structures.

Leur stratégie a souvent consisté à attendre l'usure du pouvoir de leurs adversaires afin de bénéficier d'un fort «protest vote» pour revenir aux affaires et reproduire, à terme, les mêmes pratiques qui avaient contribué à leurs précédentes débâcles. Mais, à la longue, l'électorat n'est pas dupe. Combien de temps acceptera-t-il encore de se contenter d'un choix qui n'en est pas réellement un?

Par ailleurs, chaque génération a produit son propre personnel politique, mais cela n'a pas véritablement été le cas à Maurice. Comment voulez-vous que ces partis ne s'essouffent pas dans ces conditions?

● Suite en page 8

'Que vaut aujourd'hui le MMM aux yeux de l'électorat, au-delà de son traditionnel bastion et d'un clientélisme souvent dénoncé?'

« Le MMM sort affaibli après le départ de son leader. Quelle est aujourd'hui l'influence réelle du MMM auprès de l'électorat, au-delà de son traditionnel bastion et d'un clientélisme souvent dénoncé? Que vaut aujourd'hui le MMM aux yeux de l'électorat, au-delà de son traditionnel bastion et d'un clientélisme souvent dénoncé?... »

● Suite de la page 7

*** Comment analysez-vous aujourd'hui le rapport de forces sur l'échiquier politique? Le gouvernement bénéficie-t-il d'un avantage structurel durable, ou l'opposition conserve-t-elle une réelle capacité de rebond?**

Le gouvernement est évidemment en mauvaise posture. D'abord, en raison du décalage entre certaines promesses faites à la population et les politiques mises en œuvre par la suite, notamment l'adoption d'une politique d'austérité qui a suscité de nombreuses interrogations. Ensuite, en raison de certaines nominations qui auraient été en contradiction avec la promesse de méritocratie, et qui ont fini par le fragiliser davantage.

À cela s'ajoutent la hausse du coût de la vie et l'appauvrissement progressif de la classe moyenne, qui semble supporter une part importante du poids de cette politique d'austérité. Il faut également évoquer la question de la pension de vieillesse, qui a profondément marqué les *senior citizens*, lesquels représentent près de 20 % de l'électorat et dont le poids électoral est appelé à augmenter avec le vieillissement de la population.

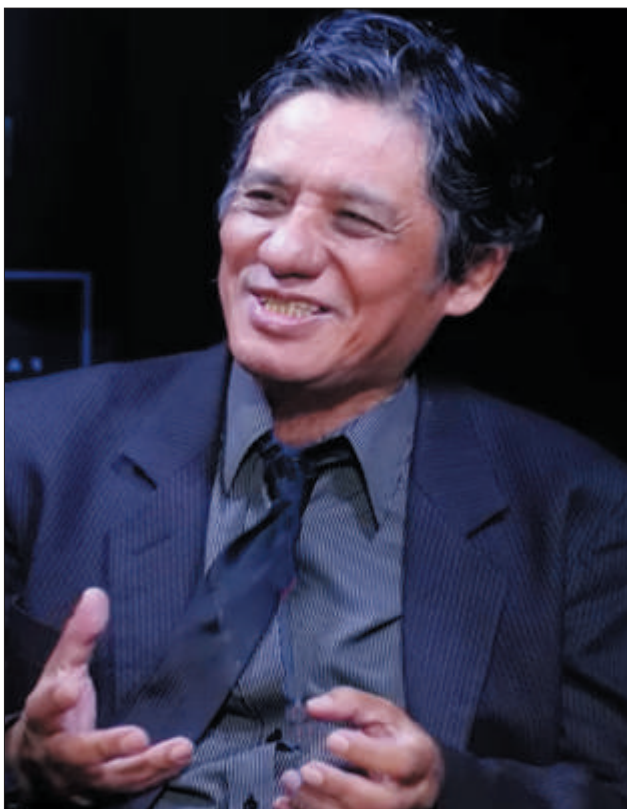
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Quant à Rezistans ek Alternativ, sa participation au gouvernement contribue, à mon avis, à l'éroder politiquement. Le parti affirme régulièrement que les grands intérêts économiques influencent les politiques publiques mais, en même temps, deux élus de ce parti occupent des fonctions ministérielles. Comme le dit une célèbre expression de séga: «*Rhum-la na pa bon mem, to bwar mem*»...

Il n'y a que le retour d'un *feel-good factor* qui puisse véritablement sauver le gouvernement. Encore faudrait-il, pour cela, qu'il s'accompagne d'un retour à une forte croissance économique. Or, les conditions ne semblent pas réunies à court terme, notamment en raison du contexte géopolitique mondial. Au contraire, 2027 risque d'être une année particulièrement difficile pour l'économie mondiale. Si la conjoncture venait à se détériorer davantage, le gouvernement pourrait alors être confronté à une véritable descente aux enfers.

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*** La réforme du système des pensions a effectivement permis à certaines composantes de l'opposition, notamment le Reform Party de Roshi Bhadain et, dans une moindre mesure, le MSM, de reprendre l'initiative politique. Mais cette opposition est-elle aujourd'hui en mesure d'incarner une alternative crédible et de convaincre une majorité d'électeurs?**

À Maurice, malheureusement, l'alternative est souvent une question de personnalités plutôt que de projets ou de programmes. En ce sens, il est regrettable que Rezistans ek Alternativ ait choisi de s'engager dans ce qui s'est révélé être un véritable guépier en intégrant l'Alliance du Changement lors des dernières élections générales.

Autrement, ce parti – ou, à tout le moins, les idées qu'il défend – aurait pu constituer l'ossature d'un véritable front progressiste en faveur d'un changement profond à Maurice.

Quant à l'opposition actuelle, il est vrai qu'une partie de son personnel politique a été éclaboussée par diverses affaires. Mais il est tout aussi vrai que l'électorat a souvent la mémoire courte et qu'un scandale ou une grosse bétise finit généralement par en chasser un autre.

Enfin, il reste encore du temps avant les prochaines élections générales, ce qui laisse à l'opposition comme au gouvernement la possibilité de rebattre les cartes.

*** Les difficultés rencontrées par les formations de l'opposition, notamment celles de Roshi Bhadain, Rama Valayden, Nando Bodha, Stéphane Belcourt et d'autres figures émergentes, tiennent-elles à un déficit de leadership, à l'absence d'un projet politique mobilisateur ou à leur incapacité à dépasser les rivalités personnelles et les ambitions individuelles?**

Il y a sans doute un peu de tout cela. Mais il faut surtout tenir compte du caractère inédit de la dernière campagne électorale, marquée par les "Moustass Leaks", qui ont large-

ment contribué à orienter le vote dans une seule direction.

Le contexte demeure néanmoins favorable à l'émergence de nouvelles formations politiques. Certes, celles-ci se heurtent à des obstacles importants, notamment le financement politique et la logique du scrutin *First Past The Post*, où les électeurs ont souvent tendance à se rallier aux partis perçus comme ayant une réelle chance de l'emporter, plutôt que de «gaspiller» leur vote en faveur de petites formations.

Il faut également souligner que ces nouvelles formations politiques – celles de Roshi Bhadain, Rama Valayden, Nando Bodha, Stéphane Belcourt et d'autres – disposent généralement d'un ancrage davantage urbain que rural. Ainsi, le Reform Party devra s'implanter durablement dans les circonscriptions 4 à 14. Est-ce que cela explique le choix de donner la parole à Alan Ganoo lors de son meeting à La Louise et d'organiser son prochain rassemblement à Rose-Belle? C'est une hypothèse qui mérite d'être examinée.

Quant aux rivalités de personnes, elles ont toujours fait partie de la vie politique mauricienne. Mais, en règle générale, les responsables politiques finissent par mettre de côté leurs différends et leur ego lorsque les circonstances l'exigent. Il faudra également compter avec les initiatives du FMP et le rôle que pourrait encore jouer le vieux renard de la politique qu'est Paul Bérenger.

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*** Il nous semble cependant qu'à terme, ces nouvelles formations sont condamnées à rechercher une place au sein d'une alliance plus large dirigée soit par le Parti travailliste, ou par le MSM. Pensez-vous qu'elles disposent d'un potentiel réel pour construire une force politique autonome capable de peser durablement sur l'échiquier national?**

C'est évident que, sans une véritable réforme électorale – qui est loin d'être acquise –, nous resterons condamnés aux grandes alliances préélectorales, à l'image de l'Alliance sociale, de l'alliance MSM-MMM de 2000, de l'Alliance Lepep, de l'Alliance du Changement ou encore de l'Alliance Bleu-Blanc-Rouge.

*** Qu'en est-il du Front Militant Progressiste de Paul Bérenger? Dispose-t-il du potentiel nécessaire pour s'imposer durablement dans le paysage politique mauricien, ou risque-t-il de rester un acteur marginal?**

Le parti est encore en gestation et il faudra sans doute attendre la tenue de son congrès pour se faire une idée plus précise de sa force de frappe. Il est vrai que Paul Bérenger est désormais en retrait, tandis que Joanna Bérenger occupe le devant de la scène avec un certain succès. Par ailleurs, des figures expérimentées, à l'instar de Kee Chong Li Kwong Wing, ont rejoint le parti.

Pour le moment, il me semble que son objectif prioritaire pourrait être de conquérir le poste de leader de l'opposition. Un tel statut constituerait un atout important pour consolider son implantation sur l'échiquier politique.

● Suite en page 9

'Seul le retour d'un *feel-good factor*, accompagné d'une amélioration du niveau de vie des Mauriciens, pourrait favoriser un retour de l'électorat vers le pouvoir en place'



« Malgré leurs défaites successives, certains leaders se sont toujours accrochés au leadership de leur parti respectif, avec pour résultat qu'il n'y a jamais eu de véritable renouvellement. Au fond, il n'y a jamais eu de remise en question profonde de leurs pratiques ni de leurs structures. Leur stratégie a souvent consisté à attendre l'usure du pouvoir de leurs adversaires afin de bénéficier d'un fort 'protest vote'... »

● Suite de la page 8

* Pensez-vous toutefois que le MMM, le PMSD et les autres formations politiques disposent encore d'un potentiel de croissance électorale, ou devront-ils nécessairement repenser leur stratégie, leur identité et leur organisation pour retrouver un nouvel élan?

Le MMM, ébranlé par le départ de Paul Bérenger, est condamné à dépérir davantage au sein de l'électorat en raison de son association avec un gouvernement impopulaire. D'ailleurs, son avenir apparaît particulièrement sombre et incertain dans le jeu des alliances, notamment en ce qui concerne le nombre d'investitures qu'il pourrait obtenir.

Tel n'est pas nécessairement le cas du PMSD, qui a toujours été un partenaire privilégié du PTr, tout en ayant également entretenu de bonnes relations avec le MSM. Il faut ajouter qu'une alliance Bleu-Blanc-Rouge ne peut être totalement exclue: l'histoire politique de Maurice a souvent été marquée par de grandes surprises et de nombreux rebondissements.

leur parti.

C'est cela qui a empêché tout véritable renouvellement. Les jeunes qui y étaient parachutés avaient réellement peu de voix au chapitre. Mais il est aussi vrai que certains leaders, de par leur âge très avancé, auront à s'éclipser tôt ou tard. Comment aura lieu cette transition? *It is anyone's guess*. En tout cas, nous sommes clairement dans une période de transition.

* Au fait, des rumeurs de contacts entre dirigeants de camps opposés — comme celles évoquant récemment Navin Ramgoolam et Pravind Jugnauth — circulent régulièrement en période d'incertitude. Ce ne sont peut-être que de simples conjectures, non?

Doit-on vraiment s'étonner que de telles rumeurs circulent? La vie politique mauricienne est depuis longtemps marquée par des rebondissements et des renversements d'alliances.

Nous sommes aujourd'hui dans une période de transition, avec le vieillissement de certains de nos leaders politiques qui ont atteint, ou approchent, l'âge de la retraite.

« Roshi Bhadain, Rama Valayden, Nando Bodha, Stéphane Belcourt... disposent généralement d'un ancrage davantage urbain que rural. Ainsi, le Reform Party devra s'implanter durablement dans les circonscriptions 4 à 14. Est-ce que cela explique le choix de donner la parole à Alan Ganoo lors de son meeting à La Louise et d'organiser son prochain rassemblement à Rose-Belle?... »



* Les grands partis offrent-ils aujourd'hui suffisamment d'espace à leurs jeunes cadres pour accéder aux responsabilités, ou leurs structures continuent-elles de privilégier les figures historiques?

Les partis traditionnels ont dérivé au cours de leur histoire en des partis personnels, ni collectifs, ni démocratiques, aux mains d'un leader tout puissant qui contrôle les finances du parti. Même les défaites cuisantes aux élections générales n'ont jamais ébranlé leur mainmise sur

Cela ajoute une nouvelle source d'incertitude dans le jeu des alliances et des mésalliances politiques.

* Cependant, le gouvernement bénéficie aujourd'hui d'une majorité parlementaire confortable et donc d'une importante marge de manœuvre politique. Son véritable test se situera-t-il davantage sur le terrain économique que sur celui de la politique?

Institutionnellement, le gouvernement dispose effectivement d'une large majorité au Parlement. Mais, en dépit de son score

de 60-0, il demeure fortement contesté par une partie de la population. Le programme d'austérité, ainsi que la réforme des pensions semblent, aux yeux de leurs détracteurs, manquer de légitimité démocratique.

Il est vrai que ce mécontentement ne s'est pas encore traduit par une adhésion à l'opposition, elle-même très fragmentée. Évidemment, seul le retour d'un *feel-good*

factor, accompagné d'une amélioration du niveau de vie des Mauriciens, tant des travailleurs que de la classe moyenne, pourrait favoriser un retour de cet électorat vers le pouvoir en place.

Or, le contexte international, conjugué aux hésitations et aux tâtonnements du régime, ne semble guère favorable à une telle évolution dans l'immédiat.



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

(Authorised under Section 16 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

Procurement Reference No.: OAB/04/2026

e-Procurement Reference No.: WMA/IFB/2026/1873

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Contract WW 580C - Procurement for the Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study, Detailed Design and Preparation of Bidding Document for Automation and Centralised SCADA System for Wastewater Pumping Stations and Treatment Plants

- The Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) is pleased to invite eligible and qualified Local and International Firms to submit their best proposals through the Government eProcurement System for the consultancy services for Feasibility Study, Detailed Design and Preparation of Bidding Document for Automation and Centralised SCADA System for Wastewater Pumping Stations and Treatment Plants, as more fully described in the bidding document.
- Request for Proposal document may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2026/1873**
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Consultants are invited to attend a pre-proposal conference that will be held through online video conference on **Thursday 13 August 2026 at 13.00 hrs Mauritian time (GMT+4)**.
Video Conference link:
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Meeting ID: 377 579 478 374 420
Passcode: kx3V9FR3
- Proposals must be submitted online on the e-procurement System at latest by **Wednesday 09 September 2026 up to 13.29 hrs (Mauritian time)**.
- Consultants who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt and re-encrypt** their bids from **Wednesday 09 September 2026 from 14.31 hrs till Friday 11 September 2026 up to 14.00 hrs (Mauritian time)**.
- Proposals will be opened online in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Friday 11 September 2026 as from 14.01 hrs (Mauritian time)**.

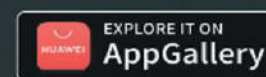
**The Wastewater Management Authority,
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22 July 2026



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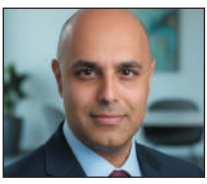


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Sameer Kumar Sharma

Debunking the Doomsday Narrative

By shifting our focus away from rating agency drama and toward fundamental structural reforms, Mauritius will ensure its long-term resilience and continued success as a leading financial hub

I recently appeared on the radio to discuss our macroeconomic realities and a potential Moody's rating adjustment. The reaction was immediate — prompting a wave of online commentary from the usual contingent of anonymous accounts and political “keyboard warriors.”

While a healthy, open democracy depends on robust public debate, the tendency for political commentary in Mauritius to instantly spiral into partisan panic is unhelpful. Regardless of which regime is in power, one would hope our civic culture matures past internet outrage, where complex economic realities get reduced to headlines designed to provoke anxiety rather than clarity.

Beyond the noise, however, there were genuine reactions from people whose opinions carry real weight in our national policy debate. Chief among them was our Junior Minister of Finance — someone I know well, hold in high regard, and consider a friend. In his recent radio interview, he was not participating in the online spectacle; rather, he raised a focused, serious, and well-intentioned policy concern. While acknowledging that foreign direct investment (FDI) is generally insensitive to sovereign credit ratings, he expressed concern that a one-notch downgrade from Baa3 to Ba1 could trigger an outflow of foreign currency deposits held by Global Business Companies (GBCs).

I respect his intent and share his dedication to safeguarding our financial system. However, I believe the alarming scenarios currently being discussed stem from overly cautious, flawed advice that has conflated three distinct variables: the operational flow of money through our jurisdiction, the real-time market pricing of credit risk, and a rating agency's lagging opinion. Conflating these three creates unnecessary panic rather than effective risk management.

The Reality of Our Banking Market

The warning that losing investment grade would trigger systemic disruption overestimates the role rating stamps play in day-to-day banking. To hear the pessimistic narrative, one would assume our entire offshore sector shelters behind pristine investment-grade ratings. The reality on the ground tells a very different story:

- **A Single Investment-Grade Domestic Bank:** Exactly one commercial bank in the entire domestic sector carries an investment-grade rating.
- **The Non-Investment-Grade Reality:** Major, highly respected institutions operate successfully below that line. ABSA Bank Mauritius carries a Ba1 rating and attracts steady foreign currency inflows. Standard Bank, despite a sub-investment-grade parent, runs its most successful offshore corporate and investment banking franchise out of Mauritius, servicing blue-chip multinationals across Africa.
- **The Unrated Majority:** AfrAsia Bank — one of the island's largest corporate and custodian banks, holding vast pools of dollar liquidity — carries no formal rating at all. Yet all of these institutions clear massive cross-border transactions daily. Corporations and fund managers choose Mauritius for transactional efficiency, robust legal frameworks, tax treaty networks, and routing into emerging markets. If letter grades alone dictated where corporate treasury money sits, these banks would be inactive; instead, they are thriving.

Will some deposits move? Naturally. Mandate-constrained institutions — such as certain sovereign wealth funds



“A one-notch adjustment is a manageable economic headwind, not a structural crisis. Sound financial systems adapt to shifting conditions by managing funding costs, maintaining strong compliance, and communicating clearly with global partners. The true priority for Mauritius is not managing rating agency cycles, but tackling core structural reforms to boost long-term competitiveness...”

or rigid institutional lines — may be required by charter to operate only in investment-grade jurisdictions. However, this capital represents a small fraction of total GBC liquidity. Relocating a corporate structure involves immense administrative friction and legal cost; corporations simply do not dismantle their operational treasury setups over a single notch.

Regulatory Stability and Strong Balance Sheets

If a one-notch adjustment posed a genuine threat to our financial stability, we would see clear signal fires from our regulators. Yet the Bank of Mauritius has issued no emergency directives, hiked no statutory capital requirements, nor raised liquidity ratios. On the contrary, its Financial Stability Report highlights a resilient banking sector, with capital and liquidity buffers well above regulatory minimums in both rupees and foreign currencies, and GBC foreign currency deposits continuing to show solid momentum.

The banks themselves reflect this stability. For example, MCB Group's Q2 FY 2025/26 disclosures demonstrate the depth of this balance-sheet strength:

MCB Group Financial & Liquidity Metrics	Reported Value (Q2 FY 2025/26)
Total FCY Liquid Assets	Rs 286 Billion (~USD 6.2+ Bn)
FCY Cash & Interbank Placements	Rs 190 Billion
Short-Term & Trade FCY Loans	>54% of total FCY loan book
Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)	20.9% (Tier 1: 18.7%)
Net Loan-to-Deposit Ratio	60.1%
Return on Equity (ROE)	17.1%

Source: MCB Group Q2 FY 2025/26 investor presentation

Modern banking relies on strict Asset and Liability

Management (ALM). MCB matches short-term foreign currency deposits against short-term trade finance, backed by a deep pool of US Treasuries and USD balances at the Bank of Mauritius. If foreign deposits shift, the trade finance book unwinds naturally, and US Treasuries can be liquidated immediately. With a liquidity coverage ratio exceeding 500% and a 60% loan-to-deposit ratio, nearly half the balance sheet is already in liquid assets.

Furthermore, international capital markets have already factored this risk in. Credit spreads — the extra yield investors demand to hold a bank's bonds over risk-free US Treasuries — distill real-time risk into a single price. MCB's dollar bonds, originally issued in 2023 at wider spreads, have steadily tightened over time, trading inside larger, better-rated regional peers. Its recent issuance priced at 225 basis points over US Treasuries: precisely the rate the market charges for a Ba1 credit.

In short, global bond markets have already priced Mauritius at sub-investment grade, and the result was neither panic nor capital flight — deposits continued to grow. Market participants evaluate banks and sovereign states on distinct merits, a critical nuance that advisers advising our leadership appear to be overlooking.

Ratings vs. Market Prices: Understanding the Difference

It is worth reminding our economic advisers of the distinction between an audit and a credit rating. An audit is a formal verification of accounting records. A credit rating is simply a published opinion — one that agencies themselves legally defend as subjective judgment.

By contrast, debt capital markets establish prices continuously through real-world transactions. Because Mauritius maintains an open capital account, capital is free to move at any time. Yet deposits remain steady and bond spreads remain firm. When market prices and rating agency opinions diverge, market prices provide the far more accurate, forward-looking indicator.

History repeatedly shows that rating agencies lag behind market realities:

- **The 1997 Asian Financial Crisis:** Agencies maintained solid single-A ratings on South Korea until the brink of the crisis before executing multi-notch downgrades after markets had already reacted.
- **Lehman Brothers (2008):** On the day of its bankruptcy, Lehman held strong single-A ratings from major agencies, even while its credit default swaps had exploded to over 1,450 basis points, signalling severe distress weeks prior.
- **Greece (2009):** Greece held A-grade ratings well into its structural fiscal challenge, with ratings adjusting long after market yields had spiked.

Spreads reflect market expectations in real time; ratings inevitably arrive after the fact. Advisers guiding our policy team should focus on these forward-looking market signals rather than overly weighing backward-looking agency assessments.

The Panamanian Precedent

We do not need theoretical models to understand how an offshore financial centre manages a rating shift. Panama offers a clear, real-world case study.

Cont. on page 12

Debunking the Doomsday Narrative

Cont. from page 11

Fitch adjusted Panama's rating below investment grade in March 2024, while Moody's holds it at Baa3. Panama operates a fully dollarized economy with an international banking centre roughly twice the size of ours, built on similar non-resident liquidity.

Nearly two years later, total deposits in Panama's International Banking Centre stood at USD 118 billion (up 7.3% year-on-year), while non-resident deposits grew by nearly 15% to USD 48 billion, with bank liquidity ratios holding comfortably above 57%. While Panama experienced higher sovereign borrowing costs in international bond markets, its banking deposits remained resilient and continued to grow. Given that Mauritius does not issue sovereign dollar debt in international markets, our direct exposure to these higher borrowing costs is even lower.

Rather than treating a rating adjustment as a crisis, the government would be well-served by engaging specialized credit rating advisory counsel to manage agency relationships professionally and constructively.

Focusing on Meaningful Structural Reforms

A one-notch adjustment is a manageable economic headwind, not a structural crisis. Sound financial systems adapt to shifting conditions by managing funding costs, maintaining strong compliance, and communicating clearly with global partners.

The true priority for Mauritius is not managing rating agency cycles but tackling core structural reforms to boost long-term competitiveness. Instead of spending energy on rating scenarios, our economic team should focus on five essential policy pillars:

1. Modernizing Fiscal Policy, Rewarding Work & Taxing Unproductive Rent-Seeking

Our tax code has grown increasingly complex through accumulated surcharges, levies on corporate profits, and stacked social contributions on personal income. Layering levies onto personal income destroys our competitiveness and severely hinders our ability to attract foreign talent and skilled professional expertise. We need a coherent fiscal philosophy that actively rewards work, hiring, and domestic reinvestment while penalizing passive rent-seeking.

We should replace our current fragmented tax structure with:

- **A Standard Baseline Corporate Rate:** A clear 22% default corporate tax rate across sectors.
- **A 15% Statutory Floor with Targeted Credits:** A strict 15% minimum floor, offering structured tax credits down to that baseline for companies investing heavily in R&D, strategic industries, and local employment.
- **Competitive Income Tax & Contributions:** A simplified, competitive personal income tax regime that avoids compounding contributions on wages, incentivizing local productivity and talent retention.
- **Taxing Rent-Seeking via Land Value Taxes:** Shifting the fiscal burden away from productive labour and toward unproductive assets through a **Land Value Tax** on non-agricultural land held purely for speculative real estate gains.

2. Strategic Asset Optimization & State Efficiency

State-owned enterprises that operate in commercial sectors often place unnecessary demands on public finances. A structured privatization program — listing minority or majority stakes of non-strategic state assets on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius — would deepen domestic capital markets, improve corporate governance, and help reduce public debt.

3. Streamlining Bureaucracy & Digital Administration

Administrative delays and lengthy licensing processes increase operational costs for businesses. Fully digitizing public administration through automated, single-window por-



tals will remove arbitrary delays, streamline approvals, and create a transparent environment for domestic and foreign investors alike.

4. Enhancing Market Competition & Human Capital

Key segments of our domestic economy remain concentrated, raising input costs for small and medium enterprises. Empowering an independent Competition Commission to ensure open market access, alongside continued investment in education and initiatives to raise female labour force participation, will drive sustainable, broad-based growth.

5. Professionalizing Pillar 2 Pensions: Building a Modern Investment Authority

A sustainable country requires a resilient three-pillar pension system. Given our national debt profile, Pillar 1 (the tax-funded state pension) cannot bear the full weight of demographic shifts alone. We must urgently strengthen Pillar 2 (the mandatory/statutory pension funds, including the National Pensions Fund and National Savings Fund) to relieve fiscal pressure on the state over time, while continuing to encourage optional, tax-incentivized Pillar 3 private savings.

To achieve this in 2026, we must modernize how Pillar 2 assets are managed:

- **Establish an Independent Investment Authority:** Shift management away from traditional civil service frameworks and salary constraints into a single-point, highly professional Investment Authority accountable directly to Parliament.
- **Modern Asset Allocation & Liability-Driven Investing (LDI):** Implement sophisticated LDI frameworks with competitive, performance-based compensation structures that allow top-tier fund managers to outperform strategic asset allocation benchmarks.

By enabling Pillar 2 funds to generate superior, risk-adjusted returns, we build a robust financial backstop that reduces future calls on public revenues, protects Pillar 1, and restores long-term national solvency.

Conclusion

A one-notch sovereign rating adjustment represents an operational variable to be managed, not a national crisis. The suggestion that Mauritius faces an imminent banking shock is contradicted by commercial bank liquidity, refuted by empirical evidence from peers like Panama, and inconsistent with international bond pricing.

I know our leadership and their team are deeply committed to safeguarding the economy. However, relying on overly pessimistic advice risks distracting us from the real work at hand. Capital flows, credit spreads, and rating opinions operate on different timelines — and managing our economic future requires focusing on real-market realities.

By shifting our focus away from rating agency drama and toward fundamental structural reforms — fiscal modernization, administrative efficiency, market openness, and professional institutional asset management — Mauritius will ensure its long-term resilience and continued success as a leading financial hub.

Sameer Kumar Sharma

Opinion

The Mauritian Paradox How We Sacrifice Our Cosmopolitan Soul and Break Our Global Momentum



Samad Ramoly

Consuming our news and entertainment primarily through TF1 and Canal+ is not just a simple choice of leisure. It is an invisible filter that shapes our worldview. Although our administrative and educational systems are English-speaking, our mental software remains deeply wired to Paris. This cultural dependence creates a systemic and widespread impact across all of Mauritian society:

- **A public debate shaped by Paris:** We analyse geopolitics and societal issues through the French editorial prism, adopting their controversies and style of verbal confrontation at the expense of local pragmatism.
- **The academic cognitive gap:** Our youth study and sit for their Cambridge exams in English, but they gather information and dream almost entirely in French. This disconnect breeds an inhibition toward researching, finding entertainment, and expressing themselves spontaneously in English.
- **Limited geographical aspirations:** The French lifestyle dictated by our screens directs our immigration, education, and tourism plans primarily toward France, unconsciously closing us off to the massive opportunities in English-speaking, African, or Asian hubs.
- **The legal software conflict:** Caught between a Napoleonic Civil Code and English Common Law, our Francophile mindset constantly clashes with institutions and laws drafted in English, complicating the citizens' relationship with the judicial system.
- **Globalisation by proxy:** By neglecting the direct information ecosystem of English — the raw language of tech, finance, and AI algorithms — we receive global innovations that are already translated, filtered, and interpreted by France.

By staying in the comfort of the "Gallic bubble," Mauritius excels within its region but imposes a glass ceiling on itself when facing the raw speed of the English-speaking "global village." Ironically, my first publication, released over 25 years ago, was titled *The Mauritian Paradox*. Alongside my warnings about our widening disconnect from the dollar — the world's dominant currency — I have consistently sounded the alarm about the adverse consequences of our growing estrangement from the world's primary language. While we do observe increased English immersion among younger generations thanks to the Internet, it is clear that our political choices remain under the grip of toxic influences.

This is not about nostalgia for a colonial language, nor is it an infatuation with God Save the King or the biting and multicultural wit of Trevor Noah.

It is about instinctively protecting ourselves against insularity, sharpening our intellect, and collectively celebrating the world in all its diversity — without ever losing our soul. Today, social media algorithms and shrinking attention spans control how we think, leaving us vulnerable to hidden and harmful forces of all shades.



Nandini Bhautoo

Salon de Mai: When Art Meets Memory and the Politics of the Present

Salon de Mai opened at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) last Friday, curiously defying its own name. Although traditionally associated with the month of May, the exhibition is now held in July, apparently to avoid clashing with examinations and marking at the MGI, a higher education institution deeply engaged in tertiary-level assessment. The change in timing may appear incidental, yet it reflects the evolution of the Salon itself. More than a calendar event, Salon de Mai has become an institution in its own right - a landmark annual rendez-vous where established and emerging artists gather under one roof at the School of Fine Arts.

This year's edition is imbued with a strong sense of remembrance. Visitors are greeted by a striking, larger-than-life portrait of the late Moorthy Nagalingum, made as a collage of small tableaux by current students. The installation is a fitting tribute to the man widely regarded as the founding spirit of the School of Fine Arts. Moorthy Nagalingum devoted decades to building the institution and mentoring generations of young artists, and his presence continues to permeate its walls long after his passing.

As always, Salon de Mai brings together an eclectic mix of artists, each instantly recognisable through a distinctive visual language. Mala Chummun Ramyeed presents *Shraddhanjali*, an installation inviting visitors to share their memories of Moorthy Nagalingum, transforming remembrance into a collective artistic act. Nalini Treebohun continues her subtle explorations of texture, colour and light with her painting entitled 'Where have all the flowers gone?', while Neermala Luckeenarain 'Precious Memories' extends her experiments with printmaking on mixed media to construct a meditation on memory and art.

Among the most imposing works is Krishna Luchoomun's monumental installation, positioned near the entrance. Composed of slender branches and strips of bark stretching towards the ceiling, the work is described as an exploration of the many forms of loss experienced in modern society. Yet artistic meaning often exceeds the artist's own explanation. Beyond its intended political symbolism, the installation also evokes the airy freedom of Mauritius' coastal filao forests, illustrating how art continually generates interpretations beyond those envisaged by its creator.

Another work that immediately commands attention is Nooreen Lallmamode's sculpture inspired by an oversized supermarket receipt bearing the now familiar phrase "Sab Monte Hogalba". Anyone who has followed Mauritian public debate over recent months will immediately recognise the topical reference. Positioned some-



Composed of small tableaux by current students, a larger-than-life portrait honours the late Moorthy Nagalingum, remembered as the founding spirit of the School of Fine Arts



With Precious Memories, Neermala Luckeenarain deepens her exploration of mixed-media printmaking in a reflective study of memory and art



Made from recycled plastic bottles, Sultana Haukim's sculpture speaks directly to our ecological conscience, turning waste into a compelling work of art



Mala Chummun Ramyeed's *Shraddhanjali* turns visitors' memories of Moorthy Nagalingum into a shared artistic experience



Krishna Luchoomun's monumental installation of slender branches and bark strips reaching towards the ceiling explores the many forms of loss in modern society



Nalini Treebohun's *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* is a subtle meditation on texture, colour and light

where between political commentary and satire, the work succeeds not only because of its message but because of its ingenuity: transforming one of the most mundane artefacts of everyday consumer life into an object of aesthetic contemplation.

Indeed, the growing convergence between art and political engagement is one of the defining characteristics of this year's Salon. Increasingly, artists appear less interested in producing works that are merely beautiful than in prompting reflection on the social, environmental and political tensions that shape contemporary existence. The purely aesthetic has not disappeared, but it now frequently coexists with an ethics of engagement. In this spirit, Sultana Haukim's sculpture interpellates with its assembly of recycled plastic bottles, which speaks directly to our ecological consciousness, demonstrating how discarded materials can be transformed into compelling artistic state-

ments.

Beyond the individual works, Salon de Mai also celebrates continuity. It must be deeply rewarding for lecturers at the School of Fine Arts to see former students return each year, no longer as apprentices but as accomplished professionals exhibiting alongside their teachers. Few disciplines within the humanities make professional growth so immediately visible. Every canvas, sculpture and installation bears witness not only to individual creativity but also to years of guidance, experimentation and artistic maturation.

More than an exhibition, Salon de Mai has become a living chronicle of Mauritian contemporary art. It honours memory while embracing innovation, celebrates individual expression while reflecting collective concerns, and reminds us that art remains one of the most eloquent ways through which a society narrates itself.



An oversized supermarket receipt bearing the now-familiar phrase "Sab Monte Hogalba" forms the basis of Nooreen Lallmamode's striking and thought-provoking sculpture

'Create a WAR': Pentagon AI photo sparks confusion among netizens

A social media post from the Pentagon highlighting its growing use of artificial intelligence sparked confusion online. A photograph included in the post appeared to show an AI chatbot receiving instructions to "create a WAR."

The image, shared by the Department of Defense Chief Technology Office on X, quickly went viral, with users questioning whether the US military was using generative AI to plan warfare, reports HT.

The photograph was part of a post showcasing the deployment of the Pentagon's GenAI Task Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

According to the Department of Defense, the team developed more than 20 custom AI agents to help sailors automate operational reporting, briefing preparation and other administrative tasks.

What did the photo show?

Among the bunch of pictures, one laptop screen displayed Google's Gemini interface with a prompt beginning, "I NEED HELP BUILDING AN AGENT TO CREATE A WAR [...]". This prompted widespread online speculation.

Before a clarification was issued, the screenshot circulated widely on X, where users posted memes and questioned the wording. Some joked that artificial intelligence had been tasked with "starting a war."

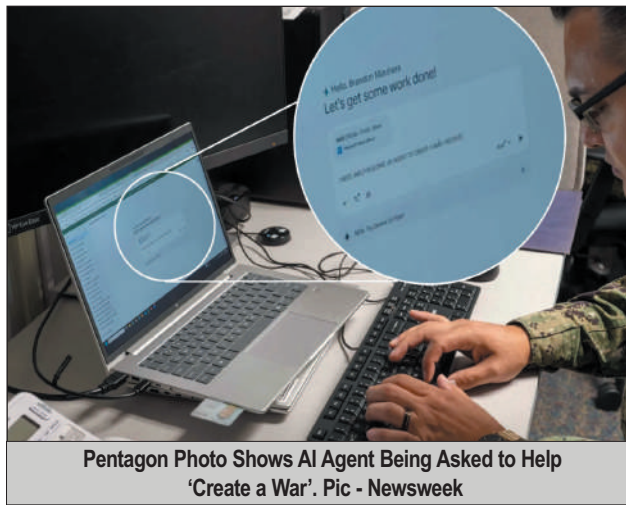
One user on X wrote, "Can't tell what's crazier: 1. The prompt 2. Doxxing this guy's full name 3. 'WAR.docx'"

Another user wrote, "Bro fighting wars with prompt templates."

Another user shared a zoomed-in image of the laptop screen and wrote, "Most r*****d government in history. Nice one Pete!"

However, some others correctly guessed that "WAR" was likely a military acronym.

One user commented under the zoomed in image and wrote, "What's r*****d about having an AI do something with weekly action report. Look at the doc he attached."



Some other users joked and wrote, "using gemini 3.5 flash is the most criminal part of this picture."

"We deeply apologize that our employees use AI to create a WAR"

A Defense Department official told Newsweek that the prompt referred to creating an AI agent for generating a Weekly Action Report (WAR) rather than initiating military conflict. The official said the image showed a warfighter using the Pentagon's GenAI.mil platform to automate a recurring reporting process.

The photograph identified the user as Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Mizuhara of the US Pacific Fleet during a July 21 GenAI.mil training event.

US Under Secretary of Defense Emil Michael also responded to the online frenzy.

Sharing the Newsweek story, he wrote on X, "We deeply apologize that our employees use AI to create a WAR (Weekly Action Report). This micro-aggression will not stand." He sarcastically suggested renaming the document the "Department of War Seven-Day Progress Report By Component."

The Pentagon's original post emphasized that AI is intended to help military personnel act faster, automate repetitive work and improve decision-making and is not intended to replace human judgment. The accompanying caption also described GenAI.mil as part of efforts to remove barriers to AI adoption across the department.

Unrest grows in Pakistan-administered Kashmir amid mounting frustration



Frustration of their failure: Ex-envoy Vidya Bhushan Soni slams Pakistan over PoK unrest. Pic - TOI

Violent clashes in Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir have drawn renewed attention to growing public discontent, with protests reflecting broader frustrations over governance, economic hardship, and the handling of local grievances.

Former Indian Ambassador to Ukraine, Vidya Bhushan Soni, has argued that the unrest stems from mounting frustration within Pakistan as expectations of renewed international support and economic assistance have failed to materialise. Speaking to ANI, Soni said Pakistan had become "pushed to the wall", prompting various groups, including those in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and Balochistan, to intensify pressure on the authorities.

According to Soni, Islamabad has remained preoccupied with international issues while neglecting domestic concerns. He contended that the government should prioritise addressing the needs of its own people instead of seeking to

project itself internationally as a stable and responsible actor. He also warned that the authorities could respond to the unrest with increased use of force, particularly in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, where he said residents feel their grievances have long been ignored.

Meanwhile, the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKAAC) has expressed concern over the ongoing security crackdown. In a series of posts on X, the committee alleged that injured civilians had been mistreated and questioned the presence of masked individuals in civilian clothing accompanying police officers during the clashes.

The committee also claimed that civilian property and surveillance equipment had been deliberately destroyed, raising questions about transparency, accountability, and the preservation of evidence. It called on the United Nations, international media, diplomatic missions, and international human rights organisations to independently investigate the recent events in Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir. The allegations made by the JKAAC and the comments by Soni have not been independently verified. Pakistani authorities had not publicly responded to these specific claims at the time of writing.

Across the Globe

US cities are losing children

Major US cities are experiencing a sharp decline in their child populations. Over the past decade, the number of people under 18 living in large urban areas has fallen by 6%, while the number of children under five has dropped by 15%. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that families are leaving cities because of concerns over the cost of living, safety, and quality of life.

The decline extends beyond urban areas, with the overall number of American children falling by 1% since 2016 and the under-five population declining by 7%. The trend is also affecting businesses: doll sales have fallen 36% over the past four years, while sales of adult-oriented games and puzzles have risen by the same amount. Hasbro's best-selling product is now the trading-card game *Magic: The Gathering*.

Pension funds under pressure



Pic - libertarianparty.in

Global pension systems are facing mounting pressure from climate change, ageing populations, and shifting government policies. Major investors, including Allianz and Standard Life, are increasingly concerned that climate "tipping points" could trigger widespread asset repricing, with a leading

JP Morgan analyst warning that debt markets may be the first to be affected.

Rapidly ageing populations — including in developing countries that are growing old before becoming wealthy — are placing additional strain on already stretched social security systems. At the same time, governments such as those of Britain, Denmark, and Japan are encouraging pension funds to invest more domestically, a move that one London law firm partner warned could conflict with their fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of their members.

Record settlement in South Korea divorce

A South Korean court has ordered SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won to pay his former wife a record \$640 million divorce settlement after a sharp rise in the value of SK Hynix transformed the country's so-called "divorce of the century." The AI boom has roughly doubled Chey's wealth, while his former wife, Roh Soh-yeong, the daughter of a former South Korean president, had sought half of his assets. Although Chey may need to sell some shares to finance the settlement, analysts believe it is unlikely to weaken his control of the company, whose memory chips are increasingly essential for AI hardware. *The New York Times* noted that MacKenzie Scott retained 25% of the Amazon shares she shared with Jeff Bezos following their 2019 divorce, leading to significant philanthropic donations in the years that followed.

* More on page 15

Report claims Iran to acquire Chinese air defence missiles amid regional tensions



Iran is set to boost its air defenses with portable Chinese systems. Pic - Sada News Agency

Iran is reportedly preparing to receive an initial shipment of Chinese-made shoulder-fired air-defence missile launchers under a deal estimated to be worth between US\$60 million and US\$70 million, according to a Reuters report citing sources familiar with the matter.

The reported agreement covers the purchase of between 300 and 400 man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), including China's QW-12 and FN-16 missiles. If completed, the acquisition would represent one of Tehran's most significant recent efforts to strengthen its short-range air-defence capabilities following US-Israeli strikes that reportedly exposed vulnerabilities in the country's military infrastructure.

According to Reuters, the contract was signed with Hong Kong-based Zhongqing Baoshang International Investment, acting as an intermediary for a Chinese manufacturer. The report added that the missiles

would reportedly be transported from western China via Pakistan before reaching Iran, although delivery schedules and logistical arrangements could still change.

Beijing, however, has strongly denied the report. China's Foreign Ministry dismissed the claims as "completely groundless", insisting that China has consistently sought to promote peace and de-escalation in the region. Neither the Chinese companies

named in the report nor the Iranian authorities have publicly commented.

Defence analysts quoted by Reuters noted that while the QW-12 is less advanced than newer variants such as the QW-18 and QW-19, the systems could still provide an effective layer of protection against drones and low-flying aircraft.

The report comes amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran. US President Donald Trump has warned China and Russia against supplying weapons to Iran, saying he had received assurances from Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin that no such transfers would take place. Meanwhile, senior US officials have accused both Beijing and Moscow of enabling Iran, allegations that both countries have previously rejected.

As of now, the reported missile deal remains unconfirmed independently.

More than half of England officially declared in drought

More than half of England has officially been declared in drought following months of exceptionally dry weather and record-breaking temperatures, prompting concerns over water supplies, agriculture and the environment.

The UK government's Environment Agency announced that 51.4 per cent of England is now affected by drought after what is expected to be the driest July on record. According to the agency, only seven per cent of the month's average rainfall has been recorded nationwide, while some areas in southern England have received as little as one per cent of their normal rainfall.

The drought declaration covers seven regions, including London, East Anglia, the South West and the West Midlands. England is also experiencing its fourth widespread heatwave of 2026, with authorities describing the situation as a "flash drought" caused by a combination of exceptionally low rainfall and prolonged high temperatures.

The Environment Agency warned that rivers are running at unusually low levels, farmers have been forced to harvest crops earlier than usual, the risk of wildfires has increased, and millions of people are now subject to restrictions on water use.

The National Drought Group, comprising government departments, regulators, meteorologists, water companies, farmers and environmental organisations, met this week to assess the situation and coordinate



response measures. Water companies have been instructed to prioritise repairing leaks and managing supplies efficiently.

Helen Wakeham, the Environment Agency's Director of Water and Chair of the National Drought Group, described a second consecutive summer drought as an "exceptionally serious situation" with potentially long-lasting consequences for the environment, wildlife and the economy.

Meanwhile, the UK Met Office confirmed that June set a new national daily temperature record of 38°C for both England and the UK, exceeding the previously reported figure of 37.7°C and underscoring the severity of this summer's extreme weather conditions.



US completes 'heavy wave' of strikes on Iran. Pic - compas.id

'Heavy wave' of US attacks

The United States launched a "heavy wave" of attacks on Iran as fighting in the Gulf intensified.

Oil prices remained broadly stable overnight. Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz continued to face disruptions, while tankers were still transiting the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

The conflict is reshaping regional geopolitics. Saudi Arabia, which joined US strikes against Iran-backed militias this week, is lobbying to purchase F-35 fighter jets, building on momentum generated by a recently signed nuclear agreement. Saudi investment in the US and broader security cooperation are also part of ongoing discussions.

However, the proposed F-35 sale is expected to face opposition in the US Congress from lawmakers determined to preserve Israel's military advantage in the region.

Iran war could drag on for months

The US-Iran war is likely to continue for months, ana-

Across the Globe

lysts predict, as fresh strikes have disrupted a fragile pause and widened the conflict.

Hostilities "could easily continue into 2027," security expert Richard Fontaine wrote, oscillating between "hot and cold war indefinitely." He warned that the US must contain the conflict as more countries become involved. After Saudi Arabia joined US strikes on Wednesday, a drone struck a US-owned gas facility in Egypt, while the Houthis threatened to impose tolls on ships transiting the Red Sea.

Meanwhile, Washington sanctioned Chinese companies for transporting Iranian oil, while Tehran has reportedly relied on Chinese technology and Russian tactics to target US bases. Even if a deal is reached, officials told *Bloomberg* that "low-level" fighting could continue

* * *

Hitler's birthplace transformed

Austria has opened a police station in the house where Adolf Hitler was born, a move Vienna hopes will prevent the site from becoming a pilgrimage destination for neo-Nazis as antisemitism rises across Europe.

Anti-Jewish hate crimes were already increasing before the October 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas and the subsequent Gaza war. The rise in recent years has been particularly concerning in Europe. In May, the German government issued a report warning that "the threat to Jewish life is worse than at any time since the Holocaust," while France recorded 1,320 antisemitic attacks last year alone.



Place of democracy': Hitler's birthplace converted into police station in Austria. Pic - <https://www.dawn.com>

* * *

Berlin attack fuels migration debate

A deadly attack at a Pride celebration in Berlin on Saturday intensified Europe's already contentious debate over migration and extremism. Authorities said a 21-year-old German citizen, whose family had immigrated from Lebanon, drove a van into the crowd, killing one person and injuring more than 25 others. The incident comes just weeks before regional elections, where the far-right Alternative for Germany party, which opposes migration, is leading in the polls. The suspect, who was shot and killed by police on Sunday, had previously been known to authorities and was participating in a deradicalization programme, with his next session scheduled for Monday, *Die Welt* reported. An editor at *Berliner Zeitung* argued that such attacks are the "inevitable consequence of a deliberately overburdened system."

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

8th Year No 341

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 17 March, 1961

• "Truth provokes those whom it does not convert." — Bishop Thomas Wilson



Peter Ibbotson

The Meade and Titmuss Reports III

The Titmuss Report is well-nigh Mauritius' last chance of attaining socio-economic salvation'

Last week I dealt mainly with the Meade Report, and this week I would like to deal with some of the major issues raised by the Titmuss Report.

From the outset, let me say that it would be a tragedy

for Mauritius if the Titmuss Report were to be Ignored and not acted upon like so many of the reports which have preceded it. The report carries a long list of official enquiries into social conditions and problems from 1910 to 1960. No fewer than 25 appear in the list, even counting all of Dr Balfour's reports in 1921 as a single report. Twenty-five reports in fifty years — that is, one report every two years! And, since the list starts with Dr Balfour's 1921 enquiries, the position is actually 25 reports in 30 years or very nearly an average of one a year!

If action had followed the plethora of past reports, it is tolerably certain that the present situation, socially as well economically, in Mauritius would be nowhere near so drastic as it is. The Titmuss Report is well-nigh Mauritius' last chance of attaining socio-economic salvation; it is a chance that must be taken; and taken quickly.

The root of the evils now besetting Mauritius is, of course, as I pointed out in these columns only a few weeks ago, poverty. The spectre that stalks Mauritius is not, *pace Action*, the spectre of Communism; it is the spectre of destitution, the spectre of overpopulation and an even greater degree of misery and hunger than at present. The Meade Report makes suggestions and recommendations to diversify the island's agriculture and attract new industries; those recommendations, if put into practice, would help to relieve the economic distress to some extent. But it is the major recommendations of the Titmuss Report which will go the furthest to avoid the evils which will inevitably ensue from further neglect to tackle the problems of incipient overpopulation.

A digression may be permitted. It may well be urged by opponents of the Meade Report and its suggestion of the 5 per cent *ad valorem* tax on sugar production that the report is the work of long-haired theorists who have no practical experience of what they are talking about. So let us look at what the hard-headed businessmen say. Here is a short extract from the economic survey of Mauritius published by Barclays DCO Bank in July 1960:

"Mauritius is a sugar island to an even greater extent than Barbados or any West Indian island. More than half the food supply of the population is imported... Some further improvement may come from more efficient production and taking marginal land into use of growing fruit and vegetables, maize and manioc and for livestock; but there is little hope of the island being anywhere near self-supporting in food owing to the limited amount of cultivable land and the rapidly growing population unless there is deliberate interference with the growing of sugar cane... some diversification of the economy is agreed to be desirable..."

So, the businessmen are prepared to envisage restrictions on unlimited expansion of sugar production; and for the reasons given by Professor Meade and his colleagues, the *ad valorem* tax is a better way of restricting this unlimited



Port Louis - Leoville
L'Homme Street after
Cyclone Carol - 1960 -
Pic - Vintage Mauritius

production than a system of licences and quotas such as is practised by certain other sugar-growing countries.

To return to the report by Professor Titmuss and his colleagues. As a whole the report is a sound, well-argued and well-based and fully workable, scheme for a system of social security. All the recommendations have been suggested and worked out for the particular circumstances of Mauritius; everyone will applaud the honest attempts made to set up such a social security system.

Little time must be lost in putting the Titmuss recommendations into effect.

But of course, the recommendations stand or fall by the one central recommendation, the most important single measure of all. That recommendation, which is the nub of the report, is of course that a family planning service shall be provided and a three-child family shall become accepted as the social norm. This is the recommendation which will attract the criticisms of the anti-family planners; will draw the fire of the irresponsible brigade of Destroyers and the witless, demagogic, peripatetic windbags who call themselves the leaders of the Destroyers.

It is clear that without an acceptance of the three-child family and a family planning service, the population cataclysm is inevitable in view of the declining death rate and the high birth rate. Professor Titmuss' forecasts of the future population are worth repeating as is his stark conclusion: "the likelihood of the population of Mauritius reaching one million long before the end of the century is as certain as anything can be in the field of population forecasting. The prospect, indeed, if present trends continue is a population approaching three million by the end of the century".

Perhaps the opponents of family planning and a family planning service are able to view that prospect with equanimity; I know that I am not. Three million people on 720 square miles — 42,000 to the square mile! Where would they all live? On the top of Pieter Both? How would they all get a living? If half the island were under sugar cultivation, that would mean 84,000 to the square mile on the rest of the land; 84,000 to the square mile — that is to say, the whole population of Port Louis today cramped and squashed into an area one mile long and one mile wide. Possible? No, you

will say; and I will agree with you. But that is what will have to happen if the opponents of family planning have their way and the number of births continue to rise and rise... as it inevitably will as and when the girls born in the immediate post-war births boom begin to bear their own children.

To avoid such a population explosion is absolutely necessary and the only way to avoid it is to introduce a widespread family planning service. This is no time for scoring debating points about how such a service would operate if all the Roman Catholic doctors and nurses opted out on religious grounds; this is no time for further abstruse debate about Old or New Testament condemnation of family planning; this is no time for moral abstractions about 'natural' or artificial means of contraception. On the other hand, the time has come for everyone to

say with one voice "Family planning is necessary to save Mauritius. We will have a family planning service. We will; we will; we will." And, alongside the family planning service will come all the other social benefits adumbrated in the Meade Report.

What do the projections for future population growth reveal? Professor Titmuss developed three forecasts based on different demographic assumptions: (A) constant fertility and declining mortality; (B) declining fertility and constant mortality; and (C) rapidly declining fertility combined with declining mortality. (In simple terms, fertility refers to births and mortality to deaths.) Based on these assumptions — particularly Scenario C, which assumes the widespread adoption of the three-child family — the Meade Report projected the future population.

It is clear from this population forecast that the lowest population in 1972 comes from the adoption of the three-child family, that is for the widespread adoption of family planning. Moreover, family planning gives the smallest increase in the number of children by 1972... a rise of only 19 per percent over the 1957 child population; and this rise could be coped with in the island's schools. An unchecked rise in child population (which would come if family planning were not adopted) would cause chaos in the schools and a probable breakdown in the education system.

By 1972 there will be a 50% increase in the working population, and all the suggestions in the Meade Report will have to be put into operation if these extra workers are to be employed. All the implications, in the same report, underlying criticisms of practices in the sugar industry will have seriously and deeply to be studied too; in the past, as the Titmuss Report reminds us, the sugar barons have sought to evade their responsibilities to the community being satisfied with extracting profits from the sweat of the workers without being prepared to do something for the worker's welfare; but that time, when the sugar industry could attempt to insulate itself from the people's predicament, is past. All must pull together for the sake of the future of Mauritius; and all must realise that Professor Titmuss is quite right when he says that only family planning can save Mauritius.

* To be continued next week

The FCC: Independent Guardian or Political Instrument?

☞ Cont. from page 3

*** How can Parliament ensure accountability without undermining the operational independence of investigative agencies? Would stronger parliamentary oversight enhance or weaken public confidence?**

Parliament can strike an appropriate balance by confining its oversight to the structural, financial, and procedural aspects of investigative agencies, rather than intervening in individual investigations or operational decisions. Effective parliamentary scrutiny should focus on governance, resource allocation, statutory compliance, and institutional performance, while respecting the operational autonomy of investigators.

Stronger parliamentary oversight is likely to enhance public confidence, provided it is exercised through independent, bipartisan, and transparent mechanisms. However, if oversight becomes politicised or is used to influence ongoing investigations, it risks undermining both the perceived independence and the credibility of investigative agencies.

*** A complete independence without accountability can itself create problems. Can an anti-corruption agency become too independent? If so, what checks and balances are necessary to prevent abuse of its investigative powers?**

An anti-corruption agency can become **too independent** if it operates without adequate oversight and accountability, potentially leading to unchecked power, politically motivated investigations, or infringements of citizens' fundamental rights. In the absence of effective external oversight, an agency may risk becoming a law unto itself.

Broad powers of search, seizure, arrest, and asset freezing may infringe the rights to privacy, liberty, and due process if they are not exercised lawfully, proportionately, and subject to judicial scrutiny.

Moreover, without transparent governance and robust accountability mechanisms, public trust may erode if investigations appear to be selective, inconsistent, or politically motivated, even where no actual bias exists.

*** Looking at comparative constitutional practice, are there models from other democratic jurisdictions that Mauritius could draw upon to strengthen both the independence and the accountability of its anti-corruption institutions?**

Mauritius can draw on several established international models to strengthen the independence and accountability of its anti-corruption framework, notably those of Hong Kong,

South Africa, and Botswana.

Hong Kong: The Independent Commission Against Corruption provides a robust operational model, with a clear separation from regular police structures and a tripartite strategy combining investigation, corruption prevention, and community education.

South Africa: Its constitutional framework provides safeguards designed to protect investigative bodies from direct executive interference, while subjecting them to oversight

mechanisms involving Parliament and multiple stakeholders rather than placing control solely in the hands of the executive.

Botswana: Its experience demonstrates how strong ethical standards among public officials, institutional continuity, and adherence to strict legal frameworks can operate alongside statutory oversight mechanisms to maintain public trust and promote sustained anti-corruption compliance.

LEX



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OPEN INTERNATIONAL BIDDING

CARGO SURVEYING SERVICES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE: STC/IFB/2026/229

1. The State Trading Corporation (STC) is inviting bids from eligible bidders through the Government e-Procurement System (e-PS) of the Republic of Mauritius for Cargo Surveying Services for Petroleum Products for the period covering **01 November 2026 to 31 October 2027** as per requirements contained in the bidding document.
2. Bids must be submitted online on the e-PS by **11 August 2026 up to 14:00 hrs** (Mauritian Time) at latest.
3. Bidders having submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall have to decrypt and re-encrypt their bids on **11 August 2026 as from 15:30 hours** (Mauritian Time) till **13 August 2026 at 14:00 hours** (Mauritian Time).
4. Bids will be opened on **13 August 2026 as from 14:01 hours** (Mauritian Time) and the result of the bids will be available accordingly on the e-PS.
5. Interested Bidders should register by signing up on the e-PS of the Government of Mauritius on <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org> in order to participate in the bidding exercise and download the bidding document.
6. Bidders are advised to view the following videos through the below links for guidance on the registration and bidding processes on the above website:
For Supplier Registration Guide: How to register as a supplier by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvH-PgQRS3k>
For Bidding procedures - Part 1 by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap9gXdhmL-A>
For Bidding procedures - Part 2 by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcPelUeLTfQ>
7. The e-Procurement helpdesk can equally be contacted for assistance and training via the following link: <https://epssupplier.govmu.org/>.
8. Bidders are encouraged to procure their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and submit their bids online well before the submission deadline.
9. The STC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

24 July 2026



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

COMMUNIQUÉ

NON PAIEMENT DES FACTURES D'ÉLECTRICITÉ

Le **Central Electricity Board (CEB)** tient à rappeler à ses abonnés qu'une facture non réglée dans le délai de la date limite de paiement peut entraîner une interruption de la fourniture d'électricité à tout moment.

Après l'interruption, les abonnés concernés devront régler toutes les factures impayées, ainsi que les frais de reconnexion, avant que le service ne soit rétabli.

Le CEB se voit contraint de procéder régulièrement à des débranchements en cas de non-paiement des factures. Les abonnés sont priés de respecter les délais de paiement afin d'éviter ces désagréments.

La Direction

STATE TRADING CORPORATION

55, Business Zone, Ebene Cybercity 72201

Ebene, Reduit

Tel: +230 401 0800



US-China space race intensifies

China is narrowing the satellite technology gap with the United States as Beijing seeks to overtake Washington as the world's leading space power.

China's BeiDou navigation system now comprises 56 satellites, offering more resilient -- and in some cases more advanced -- capabilities than the 31 satellites that power the US Global Positioning System (GPS).

After China's military was denied access to GPS during military exercises near Taiwan in 1996, Beijing accelerated development of its own navigation system and has since expanded access to partner nations through the Digital Silk Road.

In May, the Pentagon sanctioned several Chinese companies for supplying satellite imagery to Iran during Operation Epic Fury. By providing independent surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, BeiDou also strengthens China's ambition to shape international time standards.

NOTICE

A Special General Meeting of the **Conseil des Syndicats** will be held on **Thursday, 13 August 2026**, at **10:00 am at St Pierre Hall, St Pierre.**

AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM).
2. Matters arising.
3. President's Report.
4. Amendments to the Rules.
5. Any Other Business (AOB).

All compliant members are invited to attend.

Secretary

NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that I, Mrs Marie Nadine Angie Jootna will apply to the district council of Rivière du Rempart for a proposed Beauty Parlour at No 40, Morcellement Beau Plateau, Mapou.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named council within 15 days as from the date of this publication.

Date: 31.07.2026

Water bomber shortage imperils firefighting

Europe's worsening wildfire season has exposed a critical shortage of firefighting aircraft.

The Canadair water bomber, the primary aircraft capable of scooping water directly from lakes and seas to fight fires, was out of production between 2015 and 2024. The sole Canadian factory that manufactures the aircraft now produces only about 10 each year.

Europe's existing fleets are both small and ageing.

Ironically, global wildfire activity has declined overall. Scientists note that fires in Africa have fallen by about one-quarter since 2000 as grasslands have increasingly been converted to farmland. However, forest fires in Europe and North America have become more frequent and economically destructive,



driving demand for water bombers that manufacturers cannot currently meet.



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

COMMUNIQUÉ

HOUSEHOLD ROOFTOP SOLAR PV SCHEME

AMENDEMENTS ET PRÉCISIONS

Dans le cadre du lancement du **Household Rooftop Solar PV Scheme**, le **Central Electricity Board (CEB)** informe le public des amendements et précisions suivants :

1. Nouvelle procédure d'inscription

Désormais, les clients souhaitant s'inscrire au programme ne sont plus tenus de remplir le formulaire de demande (*Application Form*). Ils doivent se rendre dans l'un des *Customer Service Centres* du CEB, munis d'une pièce d'identité, d'une facture récente et de leur titre de propriété, afin d'obtenir le *Connection Agreement*. Une fois cette procédure complétée, ils devront entreprendre les démarches auprès de la Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) pour obtenir la subvention (*Grant*), en présentant le *Connection Agreement* dûment signé.

2. Stockage d'énergie par batterie

Pour les systèmes solaires photovoltaïques d'une capacité d'exportation n'excédant pas **3,5 kWac**, l'installation d'un système de stockage d'énergie par batterie (*Battery Energy Storage System - BESS*) n'est pas nécessaire. En revanche, toute installation dont la capacité d'exportation est supérieure à **3,5 kWac** doit être équipée d'un BESS.

3. Alimentation triphasée

Une alimentation électrique triphasée est obligatoire pour tout système solaire photovoltaïque dont la capacité d'exportation vers le réseau du CEB est supérieure à **5 kWac**.

4. Étude préliminaire du réseau

Une étude du réseau (*Network Survey*) est requise avant la mise en service de tout système solaire photovoltaïque dont la capacité d'exportation est supérieure à **10 kWac**. Par conséquent, le demandeur devra attendre la réception de la lettre d'Intention (*Letter of Intent*) émise par le CEB avant de procéder à l'installation du système solaire photovoltaïque.

5. Limites applicables aux installations solaires photovoltaïques

Dans le cadre de ce programme, la capacité maximale autorisée pour une installation solaire photovoltaïque est fixée à **50 kW**. Par ailleurs, la puissance maximale pouvant être exportée vers le réseau du CEB est limitée à **5 kWac par phase**.

Le document mis à jour, intégrant ces amendements et ces précisions, est disponible sur le site web du CEB (<https://ceb.mu>).

Pour toute assistance ou demande de renseignements, veuillez contacter l'un des *Customer Service Centres* du CEB ou appeler la *CEB SSDG Unit* au **601 1100**.

La Direction
27 juillet 2026

Scientists Estimate Earth Could Be Home to 20 Million Insect Species

Scientists may have vastly underestimated the number of insect species living on Earth. While around one million insect species have been formally described over the past three centuries, new research suggests this represents only a small fraction of the planet's true insect diversity. According to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Earth could harbour as many as 20 million insect species—more than three times the previous estimate of six million.

Insects are already recognised as the most diverse group of animals on the planet, ranging from giant moths with wingspans of half a metre to tiny fairy wasps smaller than grains of sand. Yet countless species may still be waiting to be discovered.

To arrive at the new estimate, researchers analysed insect surveys conducted in Costa Rica's Guanacaste National Park, focusing on a group of parasitoid wasps known as Microgastrinae. These wasps lay their eggs inside caterpillars and are among the best-studied insect groups.



Scientists compared species collected through insect traps with those identified by examining parasitised caterpillars. Surprisingly, there was very little overlap between the two methods, suggesting that each captured only a small portion of the park's actual insect diversity.

The researchers then applied statistical techniques

originally developed by epidemiologists to estimate disease outbreaks from incomplete data. Their analysis indicated that the park could contain far more insect species than previously recorded. By comparing the park's tree diversity with global tree diversity, they extrapolated a worldwide estimate of between 13.3 million and 24.7 million insect species, with a midpoint of 20.3 million.

Although the figure remains an estimate, scientists believe it is likely to be conservative.

The findings have important implications for biodiversity research and conservation. More than 40% of known insect species are already considered threatened with extinction, raising concerns that many undiscovered species could disappear before they are even identified.

As one entomologist aptly observed, humanity may be witnessing a tragedy in which "the library is being burned before the books can be read." The study is a reminder that much of Earth's biodiversity remains unknown—and that protecting nature requires understanding what still lies hidden.



What makes muscles contract? A physiologist explains how muscles move

It takes an entire team of electricity, calcium, energy and proteins all working together to move your muscles.

Muscles are amazing. They're what let you strum a guitar, kick a soccer ball and high-five your friends. When you decide to move, your brain tells your muscles what to do, and they spring into action. But what is actually happening inside your muscles to make that happen?

To answer that question, you first need to understand how your muscles are put together.

What muscles are made of

Every muscle in your body is an organ, and just like every other organ, muscles are made of cells. Muscle cells, called muscle fibers, are shaped a little differently than most other cells. Muscle fibers are long and ropelike. They can stretch and shorten, kind of like a bungee cord.

Each muscle contains a bunch of these fibers all lined up together, side by side, like a bag of dry spaghetti noodles. Some muscles are made of hundreds of thousands of fibers.

The muscles that you use to move your body are called skeletal muscles because they move your bones. Each muscle is attached to bones by tendons. When a muscle shortens, it tugs on the tendon, which pulls on the bone, allowing you to move.

Microscopic rope pulls

Your cells are filled with molecular machines made out of proteins. They help your cells do their jobs.

Actin and myosin are two proteins that are super important for muscle fibers. Actin is like a microscopic rope, and myosin is like a microscopic hand. When millions of tiny myosin hands grab onto actin ropes and pull at the same time, the muscle fiber gets shorter. Scientists say the muscle is



contracting.

Notice that the tiny hands can only pull on the ropes. They never push. That is why muscles can only pull.

See for yourself. Go ahead and bend your elbow. That muscle on the inside of your upper arm is called your biceps. When it gets shorter, it pulls to bend your arm. Now straighten your arm out. That muscle on the back of your arm is called your triceps, and it is pulling to straighten your arm. No pushing necessary.

Sending the message to move

That's how muscles create movement, but those tiny myosin hands aren't pulling all the time. What tells them when to pull? The answer is your brain.

Your brain and muscles communicate using electricity. When you decide to move, your brain generates an electrical signal it sends to your muscles. To reach your muscles, the signal travels down your spinal cord, then along nerves that connect to your muscle fibers.

These signals travel at speeds of over 200 miles per hour. They reach the muscles so quickly that movement feels almost immediate. Luckily, for common movements like walking or writing, the brain sends these signals automatically so you don't need to think about them.

When an electrical signal reaches the muscle fibers, it tells tiny sacs full of calcium to open. When calcium is stuck in these sacs, the myosin hands cannot get ahold of the actin ropes. But when the calcium is released, it acts like a key and unblocks the actin ropes so the myosin hands can grab on.

Scientists call this calcium storage system the sarcoplasmic reticulum.

Once calcium lets the myosin hands grab the actin ropes, they still need energy to pull. That energy comes from a special cellular fuel called ATP. ATP is the main source of energy for all of the cells in your body. Your body uses the food you eat to make ATP, and ATP helps power your proteins so that cells can do their jobs.

Putting it all together

So, what makes muscles contract? It takes an entire team of electricity, calcium, ATP and proteins all working together.

First, your brain sends an electrical signal to your muscle fibers. This causes calcium to be released in those fibers. Calcium lets myosin proteins grab onto actin proteins. ATP provides the energy for myosin to pull. When millions of tiny pulls happen at the same time, your muscle shortens and creates movement.

Next time you wave to a friend or scroll to another Curious Kids article, you'll know that thousands of muscle fibers and millions of microscopic proteins are working together to make it happen.

Kiki Crawford

Lecturer of Biological Sciences,
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts
and Sciences

Loneliness May Affect Memory, but Not Accelerate Cognitive Decline

Loneliness has long been associated with poorer health, emotional distress, and concerns about cognitive decline among older adults. However, a new European study suggests that while loneliness may be linked to weaker memory, it does not necessarily cause memory to deteriorate faster over time.

The research, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Aging & Mental Health*, followed 10,217 adults aged 65 to 94 across 12 European countries for seven years. The study was based on data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), a long-running research project examining the health and wellbeing of older populations.

Researchers found that participants who reported higher levels of loneliness initially performed worse on memory tests, including immediate and delayed recall tasks. However, their rate of memory decline over the seven-year period was similar to that of people who felt less lonely.

The findings challenge the assumption that loneliness directly accelerates cognitive decline or increases the risk of dementia. Instead, loneliness may have a greater impact on a person's existing level of cognitive performance rather than the speed at which memory changes with age.

The study was led by Dr Luis Carlos Venegas-Sanabria from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Universidad del Rosario in Colombia, in collaboration with researchers from Spain's Clínica Universitaria de Navarra and Universitat de València, as well as Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

The researchers emphasise that loneliness remains an important public health issue. Older adults who feel isolated often experience poorer mental health, lower physical activity, and greater vulnerability to other health problems.

They suggest that screening for loneliness could become part of routine assessments of healthy ageing. Addressing loneliness through stronger social connections, community engagement, and emotional support may help improve quality of life—even if it does not necessarily prevent age-related memory changes.



Paying a Debt

A group of colleagues were joking around during their lunch break, sharing classic jokes and having a good laugh.

I decided to tell an old joke:

"What do you do if you see a person having an epileptic fit in a bathtub?"

Everyone looked curious.

"What?" they asked.

I replied: "Throw your washing in!"

The group burst out laughing, except for one colleague who looked uncomfortable.

He pulled me aside and said: "Hey mate, I don't think that's very funny. My brother died from an epileptic fit in a bathtub."

I immediately felt terrible.

"Oh my God, I'm so sorry. Did he drown?" I asked.

The man shook his head and replied: "No... he choked on a sock."

The Ten-Year Wait for a Car

In the old Soviet Union, a man finally saved enough rubbles to buy a car.

Excited, he went to the dealership and began the process.

The clerk informed him:

"You have to pay the full amount upfront. There is also a 10-year waiting period. Exactly 10 years from today, come back and collect your new car."

The man thought for a moment and asked: "Should I come in the morning or the afternoon?"

The clerk laughed: "What difference does it make? It's ten years from now!"

The man calmly replied: "Well, the plumber is coming in the morning."

A Very Insulting Parrot

An elderly woman, recently widowed, decided that having a pet might help ease her loneliness. She went to a pet store but quickly ruled out puppies, kittens, and other common pets.



Just as she was about to leave, she heard a voice say:

"My, do you look lovely this afternoon, madam."

She turned around to see who had spoken, but there was no one there. The only thing she saw was a large green parrot sitting on a perch inside a cage.

"Did you say that?" she asked.

"Why, yes, I did!" replied the parrot. "And may I add that your dress is a beautiful colour on you."

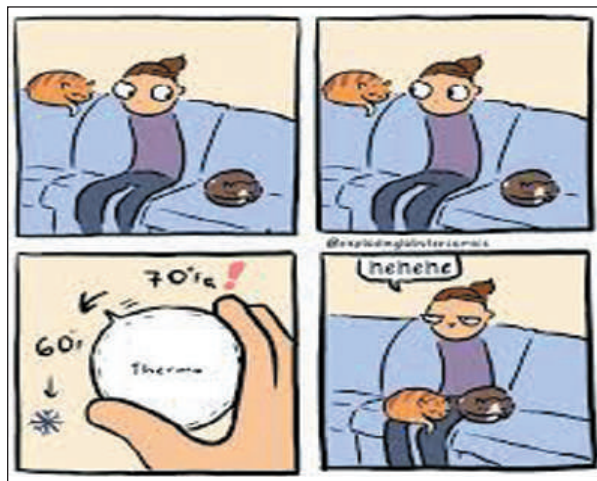
The woman was delighted. A talking parrot that gave compliments seemed like the perfect companion. She bought the bird and took him home.

On the way, she said, "You know, I am so pleased with you that I think I'll take you out for dinner. Would you like that?"

The parrot replied, "Why yes, that would be delightful. I know a charming place on 7th Street."

When they arrived home, the woman went upstairs to change for dinner, taking the parrot with her.

But the moment they entered the house, the parrot's personality suddenly changed. He began shouting insults, using terrible language, and even bit her once.



The woman was horrified.

She grabbed the parrot, carried him downstairs to the basement, and put him in the freezer. After five long minutes, she took him out.

The parrot was freezing cold.

"Well?" she asked. "Have you learned your lesson? I will not tolerate that kind of language in my house!"

The parrot shivered and replied, "Yes, yes! I promise it will never happen again. I am truly sorry."

But within five minutes, the parrot was back to his old ways. He started swearing again and bit her once on the arm and once on the finger.

The woman was furious. She grabbed the parrot, marched downstairs, and put him back in the freezer. This time, she left him there for fifteen minutes.

When she finally took him out, the parrot was barely able to move. He was shivering, and frost covered his beak.

"I swear I will never insult you again!" he pleaded. "I promise!"

As the parrot slowly warmed up, he looked at the woman and asked:

"I do have one question, though... That turkey in there -- what did he do to make you so angry?"

He Is a Very Smart Dog

I went to the cinema the other day, and sitting in the front row was an old man with his dog.



It was one of those sad-but-funny films -- the kind that makes you laugh one moment and feel emotional the next.

During the sad scenes, the dog cried his eyes out. During the funny scenes, the dog laughed his head off. This continued throughout the entire movie.

When the film ended, I decided to speak to the man.

"That is the most amazing thing I've ever seen," I said. "Your dog really seemed to enjoy the film!"

The man looked at me and replied:

"Yeah, it is amazing. He hated the book."

A Cat's Dictionary

Purring: The sound a cat makes while manufacturing cuteness.

Purrverse: A poem about a strange or unusual kitty.

Purranoia: The fear that your cat is secretly up to something.

Human being: A cat's automatic door opener, food provider, and personal assistant.

Purrpetual: Endless and everlasting love for domesticated felines.

Purrson: A male kitty.

Purrpetual motion: A kitty happily playing, jumping, and creating endless movement.



The Wisdom of Balance: Sixteen Paradoxes That Shape Our Lives

Life is not a straight path. It is a journey shaped by contradictions, tensions and opposing forces. Much of human suffering comes from believing that we must choose one side and reject the other: independence or connection, ambition or contentment, control or surrender.

Yet wisdom begins when we understand that opposing forces often complement rather than contradict each other. The goal is not to live at either extreme, but to develop the maturity to hold both sides in balance.

Independence and Connection

We need both individuality and belonging. Too much independence can lead to isolation, while excessive dependence can cause us to lose ourselves. True connection allows us to love others deeply while remaining secure in who we are.

Freedom and Responsibility

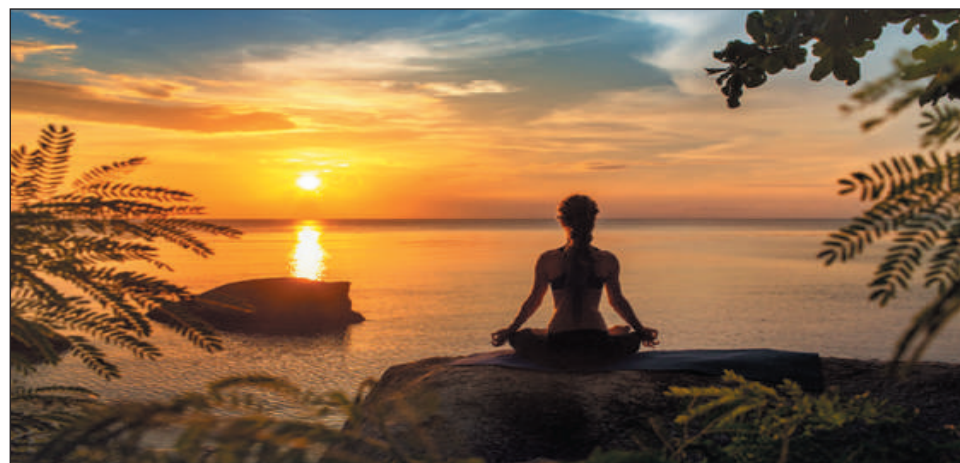
Freedom is meaningful only when accompanied by responsibility. The question is not merely, "What can I do?" but "What should I do?" Every choice carries consequences, and wisdom lies in using freedom wisely.

Control and Surrender

Trying to control everything creates anxiety, while giving up all control leads to helplessness. We must learn to control our efforts and attitudes while accepting that outcomes are not always in our hands.

Logic and Intuition

Reason helps us understand what is known; intuition allows us to explore possibilities beyond immediate evidence. The



best decisions emerge when rational thinking and inner wisdom work together.

Strength and Vulnerability

Strength is not the absence of weakness. Genuine courage includes the willingness to be open, honest and emotionally vulnerable. Sometimes removing our armour is the greatest sign of strength.

Self-Love and Humility

Recognising our worth is essential, but self-respect should never become arrogance. True confidence allows us to appreciate our own value while respecting the greatness in others.

Security and Growth

Comfort provides stability, but too much comfort can prevent progress. Growth requires stepping beyond familiar boundaries and accepting temporary discomfort for long-term development.

Acceptance and Change

Acceptance does not mean passivity.

We must first understand reality as it is, then work to improve it. Energy spent resisting facts is better used creating solutions.

Individuality and Belonging

The desire to fit in can make us hide our true selves. Yet authentic belonging comes from relationships where we are valued for who we are, not for who others want us to become.

Order and Chaos

Structure creates discipline, while uncertainty creates innovation. Too much order produces rigidity; too much chaos creates confusion. Creativity flourishes when organisation leaves room for imagination.

Ambition and Contentment

Ambition drives achievement, but endless striving can steal appreciation for the present. The ideal balance is to pursue meaningful goals while remaining grateful for today.

Action and Patience

Moving too quickly can create mistakes, while waiting too long can mean missed opportunities. Wisdom lies in knowing when preparation is necessary and when it becomes an excuse for delay.

Certainty and Mystery

Conviction provides direction, but absolute certainty closes the door to learning. A wise person remains confident while staying open to new knowledge and perspectives.

Justice and Compassion

Justice ensures accountability, while compassion recognises human complexity. Justice without compassion becomes cruelty; compassion without justice allows wrongdoing to continue.

Ego and Service

The ego asks, "How can I become important?" Service asks, "How can I be useful?" The greatest legacies are often built by those who focus on creating value for others.

Mortality and Meaning

Knowing that life is limited gives it greater significance. Mortality reminds us to use our time wisely and live in a way that our future selves and those we love will appreciate.

Ultimately, wisdom is not about escaping life's contradictions. It is about learning from them. The mature mind does not ask, "Which side is right?" but rather, "What is this paradox teaching me?"

True freedom is found not in extremes, but in balance. And balance is where awareness, growth and fulfilment begin.

Life's Stories

Paul Newman & Joanne Woodward: A Love That Never Left the Room

When Paul Newman walked into the memory care facility, he already knew what the nurses might tell him. Today could be one of the days she wouldn't recognize him. He nodded quietly.

Inside the room, Joanne Woodward sat beside a window, staring out at the trees. She didn't turn when he entered. After a moment, she glanced toward him politely--without recognition.

"Can I help you?" she asked softly.

Paul smiled. "You already have."

Then he reached into his coat pocket, pulled out a worn copy of one of her favourite books, and began reading aloud.

Slowly, Joanne relaxed.

She may not have remembered his name, but somewhere deeper than memory itself, she still recognized his voice.

That quiet morning became one of many. As Joanne's Alzheimer's progressed through the mid-2000s, Paul Newman kept showing up every single day. Flowers. Books. Small jokes. Simple conversation. Sometimes she called him "the nice man who reads." Sometimes she said nothing at all.

He returned the next morning. And the next.

Their story had begun in the 1950s at the Actors



Paul Newman & Joanne Woodward

Studio. Joanne was already respected for her intelligence and discipline. Paul was still finding himself--handsome beyond reason, but uncertain. They married in 1958 and built a life that was deliberately quieter than Hollywood expected. They raised daughters together in Westport, Connecticut, co-founded the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for children facing serious illnesses, and chose each other, repeatedly, over the machinery of fame.

"She's the best thing that ever happened to me," Paul once said--not performatively, not poetically. Just honestly.

Friends said Joanne grounded the parts of Paul that Hollywood might otherwise have swallowed whole. She didn't compete with him. She anchored him.

Then time reversed the balance between them.

As she faded, he became her caretaker. No cameras. No awards. No scripts. Just daily devotion.

He spoke publicly about her illness only rarely. But during one fundraiser, he quietly said:

"She's still here. Even when she isn't. And I'll keep showing up. That's what love looks like now."

Paul Newman died in 2008.

Friends said Joanne didn't always fully comprehend the loss. Some days she asked where he was. Other days she believed he had visited recently.

Their daughters never tried to force reality onto her. They simply let the memory remain wherever it felt safest.

Years earlier, someone had asked Paul Newman the secret to such a long marriage.

He shrugged and said: "We don't keep score."

Joanne smiled beside him and added, "We stay in the room."

And in the end, even after she no longer remembered his name, Paul Newman kept doing exactly that.

He stayed in the room.

Beyond the Numbers: Understanding Intimacy in Modern Marriage

Recent findings from the General Social Survey indicate a notable shift in behavioral trends: American couples are having less intimate moments than they did a decade ago. The data paints a picture of a wide spectrum rather than a single standard. While 25% of adults report making love weekly, nearly half of married couples (47%) engage in intimacy less than once a week. Furthermore, about 10% of adults reported not having any intimate moment within the past year.



The Foundation of Satisfaction

If frequency isn't the sole barometer for a healthy marriage, what is? Most studies point toward the quality of the interpersonal connection. Sexual satisfaction is frequently rooted in mutual respect and emotional safety rather than a tally of encounters. When surveyed about what would improve their intimate lives, most individuals did not ask for more "acts," but rather for:

- * More quality time together.
- * An increase in romantic gestures.
- * A reduction in daily stress.

Open communication remains the most effective tool for navigating these needs. Couples who speak honestly about their desires and boundaries tend to report higher levels of satisfaction. Conversely, avoiding these conversations — often out of a desire to protect a partner's feelings — can lead to a sense of detachment.

Navigating Life's Seasons

It is important to recognize that a marriage's intimate rhythm is not static. It is naturally influenced by aging, health status, and the logistical demands of daily life. While a prolonged lack of intimacy can leave a relationship vulnerable to "the roommate syndrome," a temporary decline does not inherently signal a failed marriage.

Intimacy often falls to the bottom of a busy to-do list, yet it serves as a vital point of connection. The "ideal" frequency is not found in a medical journal but through negotiation and compromise between partners.

Moving Forward

As we approach commemorative dates that celebrate love, the focus for many couples may benefit from shifting away from "how often" and toward "how well." When both partners feel heard and respected, the frequency of intimacy tends to find its own natural, healthy equilibrium.

Health & Life Hacks

Nine Smart Habits That Can Help You Advance Your Career

Career success rarely depends on luck alone. In an increasingly competitive and uncertain job market, professionals who continue to grow are often those who cultivate the right habits rather than simply waiting for promotions or opportunities to arrive. Career development experts argue that consistent self-improvement, adaptability, and a positive attitude are among the strongest predictors of long-term success.

One of the most important steps is to find purpose in everyday work. Even routine tasks become more rewarding when they contribute to personal growth or help develop valuable skills. Employees who demonstrate genuine enthusiasm and commitment are more likely to attract the attention of managers and decision-makers.

Strong organizational skills are equally essential. Managing time effectively, running productive meetings, and maintaining reliable work systems improve efficiency and build a reputation for professionalism. At the same time, continuous learning remains indispensable. Acquiring new technical and interpersonal skills ensures that employees remain relevant and well-positioned for future opportunities.

Understanding workplace dynamics is another valuable asset. Observing how leaders make decisions and communicate can provide useful insights into organizational priorities and prepare ambitious professionals for leadership roles. Equally important is focusing on results rather than merely counting hours worked. Employers increasingly value measurable contributions over time spent at a desk.

Employees should also take full advantage of workplace benefits, many of which often go unnoticed. Beyond health insurance and retirement plans, organisations may offer training opportunities, transport subsidies, or wellness programmes that can improve both



financial security and quality of life.

Networking remains one of the most powerful career-building tools. Maintaining genuine relationships, offering assistance without expecting immediate returns, and staying connected with colleagues and mentors can create opportunities that may not be advertised publicly.

Personal well-being should never be overlooked. Regular exercise, healthy eating, and adequate sleep help sustain productivity, reduce stress, and prevent burnout. After all, professional performance depends heavily on physical and mental health.

Finally, developing conflict-resolution skills can significantly enhance career prospects. The ability to manage disagreements calmly and professionally strengthens teamwork, builds trust, and demonstrates leadership potential.

Ultimately, career advancement is built through consistent effort rather than dramatic breakthroughs. By combining continuous learning, strong relationships, effective work habits, and personal resilience, professionals can position themselves for lasting success regardless of economic conditions or workplace challenges.

Sweet Treats and Diabetes: Separating Fact from Fiction

People living with diabetes often believe they must completely eliminate sweets from their diet. However, experts say this is a common misconception. While moderation remains essential, enjoying the occasional dessert can still be part of a healthy diabetes management plan.

According to medical experts, the key is not simply avoiding sugar but managing overall carbohydrate intake. Starchy foods such as white bread and potatoes can raise blood sugar levels just as much as sugary treats. In contrast, carbohydrates from vegetables and whole grains are digested more slowly and generally have a milder effect on blood glucose.

This means that a small slice of cake at a special occasion can be enjoyed, provided it replaces another carbohydrate-rich food in the meal rather than being consumed in addition to it. Sugar-free desserts and beverages made with artificial sweeteners may also be suitable alternatives, as many con-



tain few or no carbohydrates. Over time, reducing sugar consumption can also help decrease cravings, making naturally sweet foods like fruit more satisfying.

Moderate alcohol consumption is another area often misunderstood. For people whose diabetes is

well controlled, having a glass of wine with dinner is generally considered safe. Health experts recommend limiting intake to one drink a day for women and two for men. However, alcohol should be avoided by individuals with poorly controlled blood sugar or diabetes-related nerve damage.

Another important dietary component is fibre. Foods rich in fibre, such as beans, lentils, whole grains, fruits and vegetables, help slow the absorption of glucose into the bloodstream, improving blood sugar control. High-fibre diets may also reduce cholesterol, promote weight management and improve digestive health.

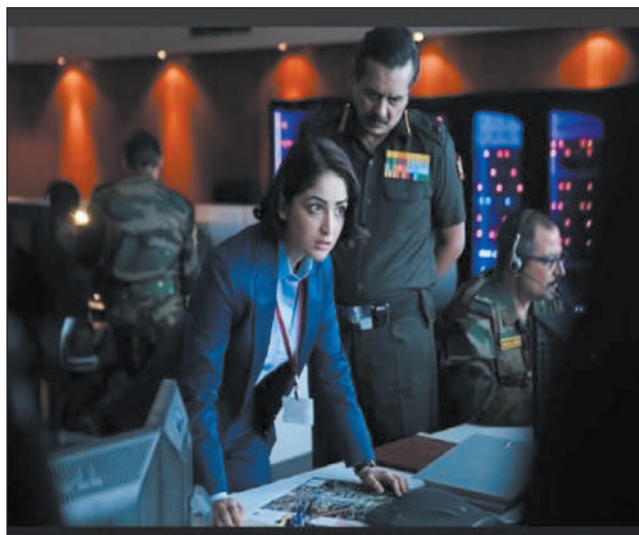
Experts advise reading food labels carefully, as some products marketed as high in fibre may also contain added sugars. Ultimately, people with diabetes do not need to fear sweets, but they should make informed choices, monitor portion sizes and focus on a balanced diet that supports stable blood sugar levels and overall health.

BollyBytes

Yami Gautam: The career she almost walked away from

Success in Bollywood is often portrayed as glamorous, but actor Yami Gautam has revealed just how close she came to abandoning her dream before her career took an unexpected turn.

Speaking in a recent interview, Yami recalled that despite earning critical appreciation for her debut in *Vicky Donor* (2012), meaningful roles became increasingly scarce. She found herself struggling against industry perceptions that her debut had not been a "conventional launch", forcing her to accept projects simply to remain visible rather than fulfil her artistic ambitions.



The turning point came just before the release of *Uri: The Surgical Strike* and *Bala* in 2019. Having resigned herself to leaving Mumbai, Yami had begun planning a return to her family's home in Himachal Pradesh, where she imagined a quieter life helping to manage the family's farmland. Encouraged by her parents to do what made her happy, she says she finally let go of the fear of failure — and almost immediately her fortunes changed.

Both *Uri* and *Bala* proved major successes, transforming her career and reinforcing a lesson she now holds dear: decisions driven by fear rarely lead to fulfilment.

Yami, who initially dreamed of becoming an IAS officer while studying law in Chandigarh, also reflected on her understated 2021 wedding to filmmaker Aditya Dhar, saying she deliberately chose a simple family celebration over an extravagant event. Today, she regards authenticity — both on and off screen — as the foundation of her personal and professional life.

Sanjay Dutt at 67: A career defined by reinvention

Few Bollywood actors have experienced a career as dramatic and enduring as Sanjay Dutt's. As the actor celebrates his 67th birthday, fans are reflecting on a film journey spanning more than four decades, marked by memorable performances across action, romance, comedy and drama.

Dutt made his debut in *Rocky* (1981), quickly establishing himself as a charismatic leading man. He went on to deliver acclaimed performances in films such as *Naam* (1986) and *Saajan* (1991), demonstrating both emotional depth and versatility. However, it was his portrayal of the anti-hero Ballu Balram in *Khal Nayak* (1993) that cemented his place among Bollywood's most compelling screen personalities.

Sonam Kapoor's heartfelt birthday tribute to husband Anand Ahuja

Actor Sonam Kapoor has shared a touching birthday message for her husband, entrepreneur Anand Ahuja, celebrating his 43rd birthday with a heartfelt tribute that resonated with fans across social media.

Posting a collection of personal photographs on Instagram, Sonam offered a glimpse into the couple's journey together through candid moments, including pictures from a romantic dinner, their *roka* ceremony and several informal selfies. Accompanying the images was an affectionate message in which she described Anand as her "safest place", "biggest supporter", "favourite travel companion", "sounding board" and "reality check".

"Happy Birthday to my favourite human. I'd choose you in every life-



time," she wrote, expressing gratitude for his constant support and companionship.

Sonam and Anand married in a traditional ceremony in May 2018 after several years of dating. They

welcomed their first son, Vayu, in 2022 and expanded their family with the birth of a second baby boy earlier this year.

While fans celebrated the couple's enduring relationship, attention has also turned to Sonam's professional comeback. The actress, last seen in *Blind* (2023), is set to return to the big screen in *Battle for Bittora*, an adaptation of Anuja Chauhan's best-selling novel. The political romantic comedy revolves around two ambitious politicians whose personal relationship is tested when they become electoral rivals.

Sonam's warm birthday message once again highlighted the couple's close bond, earning admiration from fans and fellow celebrities alike.

Grand ambitions as Ramayana trailer unveils epic vision

The makers of *Ramayana: Part One* have unveiled the film's first trailer, offering audiences a spectacular glimpse into what is being billed as one of the most ambitious productions in Indian cinema. With a reported budget of around Rs 4,000 crore for the two-part saga, the film is set for a Diwali 2026 release.

Producer Namit Malhotra described the project as a blend of the visual grandeur of *Avatar*, the emotional intensity of *Gladiator* and the epic scale of *The Lord of the Rings*. He said the ancient Indian epic tells a timeless story of Lord Vishnu descending to Earth in human form as Lord Ram to restore righteousness, making its themes of duty, sacrifice and compassion universally relatable.

Director Nitesh Tiwari emphasised that, despite its spectacular visuals, the film remains rooted in the emotional journeys of its characters. He described *Ramayana* as a story of sacrifice, revenge, courage and resilience that aims not only to entertain but also to leave audiences with meaningful reflections.

The trailer introduces Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Kannada superstar Yash as



Ravana, whose imposing screen presence has already attracted widespread attention online. It follows the familiar arc of Ram's exile, Sita's abduction and the eventual battle between good and evil.

The film also features Ravie Dubey, Vivek Oberoi, Rakul Preet Singh and Saurabh Sachdeva. Early reactions to the trailer have been overwhelmingly positive, with many viewers praising its visual effects, scale and pan-Indian cast.

His role as Raghu in *Vaastav* (1999) remains one of the defining performances of his career, while *Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.* (2003) and *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* (2006) transformed him into one of Indian cinema's most beloved characters. The Munna Bhai films combined humour with social commentary, earning widespread critical and commercial success.

Dutt also proved equally convincing as a villain, delivering a chilling performance as Kancha Cheena in *Agneepath* (2012). He later showcased his flair for comedy in *All the Best: Fun Begins* and continued to take on diverse roles in action films, including his latest project, *Dhurandhar*.

Despite the many personal and professional challenges he has faced over the years, Sanjay Dutt has remained one of Bollywood's most resilient and enduring stars. His ability to reinvent himself across genres has secured his place among the industry's most iconic actors.

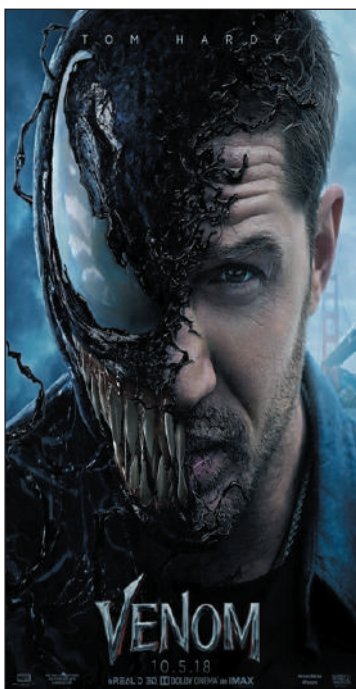




Vendredi 31 Juillet - 20.30



Samedi 1 Août - 20.15



Dimanche 2 Août - 21.14



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 31 juillet

MBC 1

06.16 Serial: Living To Love
08.10 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Transcendence
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 Se Marie
22.14 Tele: Rosalinda
23.00 Tele: Happily Ever After

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Paroles Agricoles
12.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.03 Local: Itinerer Moris
14.18 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
15.01 Rodrig: Rod'Art
17.01 Local: La Sosiete
19.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
19.45 Local: Evasion
20.00 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
21.15 Local: La Sosiete
22.36 Local: En Toute Intimite
23.32 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.27 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
23.38 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
00.27 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: Radha Tara Naino Na Vaghyra Teer
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
21.45 Serial: Shrimad Ramayan
22.09 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
22.48 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood
23.53 Local: Mati Ke Mol

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: Eye On SADC
06.40 Business Beyond
07.07 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.32 D.Anime: Peanuts
11.01 Serial: Dance Academy
11.35 Mag: Eco India
12.34 Doc: Destination Mars
13.30 Film: Hopper Et Le Hamster Des Ténébres
15.07 Serial: Bo Bear
17.03 Serial: I Woke Up A Vapire
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: Coral Reefs Survivors
22.27 Doc: What Makes Us Happier
23.09 Doc: Bolts From Blue

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Golmaal Returns
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor
18.30 Ude 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: Golmaal Returns
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor

samedi 1 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: La Vague
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: Venom
22.05 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
22.52 Serial: Chucky
23.34 Local: Le Journal Televisé
00.09 Serial: Quotes By Famous...
00.15 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.30 Local: Tous Egaux
06.45 Local: Arsiv
07.31 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
09.30 Local: La Sosiete
12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.20 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
14.00 Local: Evasion
14.15 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
14.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
15.15 Local: Tous Egaux
18.10 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
19.47 Local: Metie
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.05 Journal Kreol
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
23.35 Local: Saver Kiltirel

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 Vahalo Dariyo
13.23 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
14.00 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha
15.30 Film: Faulad
Cast: Dharmendra, Seema
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.32 Local: Puranya Pakwan
18.57 Local: Sangeet Sarita
19.24 Local: Gyan Vigyan
21.00 Film: Rudraksh
Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Suniel Shetty
00.07 Local: Puranya Pakwan
00.33 Local: Sangeet Sarita
00.59 Local: Gyan Vigyan
01.17 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
02.28 Film: Rudraksh
Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Suniel Shetty

06.00 D.Anime: Caillou
06.44 D.Anime: Carmen Sandiego
07.07 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.43 D.Anime: Yétili
08.51 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
09.29 Film: La Princesse Des Cygnes
13.30 Film: L'Impermeable Magique
14.56 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.00 D.Anime: Bo Bear
15.10 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu...
15.30 D.Anime: Trolls
15.53 D.Anime: Team Zeniko Go
16.16 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Couchsurfing In Argentina
19.00 Doc: Initiative Africa
19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
21.53 Tele: Love Of My Life
22.24 Doc: La Vraie Histoire De...
23.20 Doc: Greek Islands

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: Fool N Final
With: Sunny Deol And Shahid Kapoor



21.30 Beyhadh 2
21.49 Crime Patrol

dimanche 2 août

06.15 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
06.45 Film: Venom
08.40 Serial: Elementary
09.25 Serial: Columbo
10.40 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
11.30 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
12.35 Film: Highlander II
14.22 Doc: China Farm
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Le Gendarme Se Marie
17.20 Doc: Country Dreams
17.51 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Laws Of Attraction
21.50 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria
22.36 Serial: Chucky
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées

08.45 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.30 Local: Festival Kreol
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits
12.40 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.05 Local: Music Tour 2026
14.00 Belle Et Mystérieuse
16.35 Local: Coin Jardin
16.48 Local: Tous Egaux
17.09 Local: Les Petits Genies
17.37 Local: En Toute Intimite
18.05 Tele: Wildflower
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.01 Local Production
22.30 Local: Face Cachée
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal 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: Bhagam Bhag
Cast: Akshay Kumar, Govinda, Paresh Rawal
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Puranya Pakwan
15.47 Sangeet Sarita
16.56 Gyan Vigyan
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Local: Prakriti
18.59 Local: Virasat
20.30 Tenali Rama
20.47 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il...
21.29 Sajana Bai Ho Gaile Hamar
22.58 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood Hits
01.37 Film: Bhagam Bhag

06.00 D.Anime: Caillou
08.20 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
08.42 D.Anime: Yetili
08.50 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
09.28 Film: Hotel Transylvanie
10.56 Serial: The Athena
11.50 Couchsurfing In Argentina
13.10 Film: Percy et Ses Amis
13.30 Film: Pororo, L'île Aux Tresor
15.00 D.Anime: Patamuse
15.08 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.35 D.Anime: Trolls
15.58 D.Anime: Team Zenko Go
16.51 D.Anime: Sunny Girl No.23
17.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics
18.00 Mag: REV Special
18.12 Mag: Travel
19.14 Mag: Shift
19.30 Doc: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
21.45 Film: Cyrano De Bergerac

08.15 Dhruv Tara
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Laughter Chefs
13.00 Dance Deewane Juniors
14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Salaam-E-Ishq
Cast: Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra and Anil Kapoor



22.13 Beyhadh 2
22.35 Mahabharat

lundi 3 août

05.24 Tele: Living To Love
06.58 Tele: S.W.A.T.
08.10 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.35 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Permis De Tuer
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 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
20.20 Film: Le Hussard Sur La Toit
22.24 Serial: Rosalinda

09.25 Local: Metie
09.54 Face Cachée
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
15.30 Rodrig: Plat DU Chef
16.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.00 Couleur Marine
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Journal Rodrig
20.15 Local: Générations
21.30 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point
21.30 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
22.35 Local: Grand Titre
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajana Bai Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Zameer
Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Saira Banu, Amitabh Bachchan
15.00 Samachar
15.48 Kundali Bhagya
16.30 Local: Aaj Ki 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: Kaalia
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Parveen Dabir
23.46 Shrimad Ramayan
00.10 Wagle Ki Duniya

07.37 D.Anime: Magic Wonderland
08.25 D.Anime: The Treflik Family
09.00 D.Anime: Harrison & Me
09.25 Film: Joey & Ella
10.31 Serial: Dance Academy
11.45 Mag: Travel
13.30 Film: Le Trésor Perdu De Tom Sawyer
15.00 Serial: Bo Bear
15.05 D.Anime: Les Carnets Nature De Lulu Vroumette
15.26 D.Anime: Trolls
15.49 D.Anime: Team Zenko Go
16.23 D.Anime: Dragons
16.46 D.Anime: Sunny Girl No.23
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
21.40 Film: Night In Paradise



14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Toonpur Ka Superrhero
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Ude 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 4 Août - 21.30



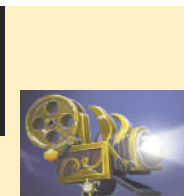
Mercredi 5 Août - 20.20



Mercredi 5 Août - 15.00



Programme TV



mardi 4 août

MBC 1

05.28 Tele: Living To Love
07.04 Serial: Nautilus
07.51 Tele: All The Flowers
08.15 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Rescue Dawn
11.30 Tele: Happily ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.45 Tele: Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.30 Film: Le Hussard Sur Le Toit
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
19.30 Le Journal
21.30 Film: Tout Sauf Toi

MBC 2

09.10 Local: Générations
11.35 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Rodrig: Komanter
12.25 Local: Toc Toc Doc
14.30 Local: Coin Jardin
14.45 Local: Sur Prise
15.15 Local: Mangeons Veg
17.00 Festival Kreol 2025
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
20.15 Local: Anou Kombat Ladorg
20.45 Local: Priorite Sante
21.30 Local: Parliamentary
22.35 Local: Arsiv 240
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanfan
23.29 Music Tour 2026
00.29 Parlons Sante Senior

MBC 3

08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
08.28 Local: Paap O Meter
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Sanam Teri Kasam
Cast: Kamal Hassen, Reena Roy
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.38 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.18 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Hindi Poets Meet
18.57 Local: Natya Kala Guest
19.53 Local: Prakriti
20.30 Serial Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Waqt
Cast: Sunil Dutt, Sadhna
23.58 Serial: Shrimad Ramayan

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
06.38 Mag: Her: Women In Asia
06.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics
07.07 Charlotte Aux Fraises
09.25 Film: Charlotte Aux Fraises Et La Bete Des Marais
10.07 Serial: Dance Academy
11.55 Mag: In Good Shape
13.30 Film: Jurassic Pet 2
15.00 Serial: Bo Bear
15.10 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu
15.53 D.Anime: Team Zenko Go
16.16 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
17.30 Mag: A Wild River In The Brink
18.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...
18.30 Mag: Shift
19.00 Mag: Made In Germany
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.53 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.30 Mag: Business Africa
22.06 Il Etait Une Fois Le Musee...

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Hello Brother
Starring: Salman Khan, Rani Mukerji, Arbaaz Khan, Arpita Khan Sharma, and Aayush Sharma
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udné Ki Aasha
19.03 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.33 Pandya Store
20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.29 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.04 Dhruv Tara
22.34 Waggle Ki Duniya
23.04 Serial: Aladdin
23.30 Film: Hello Brother
Starring: Salman Khan, Rani Mukerji, Arbaaz Khan, Arpita Khan Sharma...

mercredi 5 août

05.25 Serial: Living To Love
08.17 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.02 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Jungle
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.10 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 Film: Tout Sauf Toi
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Live: Grand Titre
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.15 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.20 Film: Turn In For Love
22.21 Tele: Rosalinda
23.02 Tele: Happily Ever After
23.30 Le Journal

09.10 Local: Son Ladan Mem
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.30 Local: Les Petits Genies
12.01 Local: Nos Aines
12.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.05 Local: Anou Kombat Ladorg
14.40 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan
19.30 Rodrig Spor
20.00 Journal Rodrig
20.30 Drogue Une Urgence...
21.15 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
21.30 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.56 Local: Les Klips
22.47 Local: Grand Titre
23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.32 Local: Evasion

08.00 D.Anime: Tarak Mehta
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Khote Sikkay
Cast: Firoz Khan, Rahana Sultan
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 MBC Prod
19.48 Local: Virasat
20.02 Local: Kaam Daam
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.01 Film: Bitiya Chaathi Maiya Ke
23.24 Shrimad Ramayan
23.47 Waggle Ki Duniya

06.00 Film: L'Epee Magique
07.29 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
11.12 Serial: Dance Academy
13.30 Film: Polly Pocket
13.15 Film: Charlotte Aux Fraises Et Le Printemps Fabuleux
15.02 Serial: Bo Bear
15.12 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu
15.17 D.Anime: Baby Dino Tales
16.26 D.Anime: Dragons
16.50 D.Anime: Suny Girl
17.34 Mag: REV: The Global Auto
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.31 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled
19.30 Doc: New Perspectives...
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.40 Film: Venom: The Last Dance
23.34 Mag: Close Up
00.03 Mag: Focus On Europe
00.29 Mag: Afrimaxx

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Fun2Shh
Starring: Anuj Sawhney, Iqbal Khan
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Udné 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 Anupama
21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
22.00 Dhruv Tara
22.24 Waggle Ki Duniya
22.54 Aladdin
23.30 Film: Fun2Shh
Starring: Anuj Sawhney, Iqbal Khan

jeudi 6 août

04.58 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
05.42 Tele: Living To Love
07.45 Tele: All The Flowers
09.06 Tele: La Desalmada
09.35 Serial: Columbo
10.49 Doc: China Farm
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.42 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.20 Film: Venom
17.15 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: Fida
Cast: Kareena Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Shahid Kapoor

10.10 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
10.29 Local: Saver Lokal
11.35 Local: Grand Titre
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel
14.00 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
15.48 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Decouvertes
20.00 Journal Rodrig
20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.15 Rencontre Avec Soeur Nathalie Becquart La Voix
21.40 Local: Music Tour 2025
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.36 Local: La Sosiete
00.04 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
00.24 Local: Tous Egaux

07.57 D.Anime Tarak Mehta
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke
Cast: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.29 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.42 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.07 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani
19.01 Local: Shiva Musical
19.58 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.30 Serial Tenali Rama
21.00 Serial: Shakti
21.32 Serial: Shrimad Ramayan

06.25 Mag: Planet A
08.53 D.Anime: The Treflik Family
09.53 Film: Hopper Et Le Hamster Des Ténébres
12.25 Mag: Afrimaxx
12.51 Mag: Planet A
13.30 Film: Le Reveil Des Pouvoirs
15.02 Serial: Do Bear
16.03 D.Anime: Team Zenko Go
16.26 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
17.00 D.Anime: Sunny Girl No.23
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Mapped Out
19.00 Doc: Urban Foraging
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.30 Live: New
20.50 Tele: Eclat De Vie
21.30 Doc: The Secret Of The Stone
22.18 Doc: Heat Waves
23.03 Doc: Battle Of The Deep Sea

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.21 Film: Golmaal
Stars: Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor and Sharman Joshi
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udné Ki Aasha
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Pandya Store
20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.02 Anupama
21.34 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Waggle Ki Duniya
23.05 Aladdin
23.31 Film: Golmaal
Stars: Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor and Sharman Joshi



Jeudi 6 Août - 15.30

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor and Sharman Joshi



Jeudi 6 Août - 20.20

Stars: Kareena Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Shahid Kapoor





Kaajal Luckraz

The Chemistry of Inflammageing: The Anti-Ageing Formula

Friday — Fri-nally!

Not cheugy — Mummy and Papa have a date night. It has been a while. They have both made a conscious effort to dress up and look their best today — after all, it is a date!

Over a lovely meal by the seaside, they are looking at each other and quietly thinking. She has saggy skin and drooping eyelids now... her hair is greying and thinning... His smile lines and cheeks have started making him look old... and his posture too... oh, where is his muscle mass?

We often think of ageing as something we see in the mirror — grey hair, wrinkles, or aching backs and joints. Yet, some of the most profound changes occur at a microscopic level, where chemistry quietly determines how well we age.

One of the most exciting concepts in modern medicine that explains this phenomenon is inflammageing — a state of persistent, low-grade inflammation that develops with age. Unlike the inflammation that helps us heal after an injury, inflammageing is subtle, chronic, and destructive. Over decades, it gradually damages tissues, accelerates biological ageing, and increases the risk of many chronic diseases.

The Chemistry Behind Inflammageing

Every second, billions of chemical reactions occur within our cells. During normal metabolism, our bodies generate reactive oxygen species (ROS), commonly known as free radicals. In healthy cells, these molecules are balanced by antioxidants.

With advancing age, however, this balance begins to shift. Mitochondria — the tiny powerhouses of our cells — become less efficient, producing more oxidative stress. Damaged proteins, oxidised fats, and injured DNA accumulate, activating inflammatory signalling pathways such as NF-κB. The immune system remains permanently switched on at a low level, continuously releasing inflammatory molecules including interleukin-6 (IL-6), tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α), and C-reactive protein (CRP).

Over time, this chronic inflammation contributes to cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, arthritis, neurodegeneration, cancer, and metabolic disorders.

Senescent Cells: When Cells Refuse to Retire

An important driver of inflammageing is the accumulation of senescent cells. Healthy cells divide, perform their functions, and eventually die through a controlled process known as apoptosis. Senescent cells, however, stop dividing but refuse to die. Instead, they remain in tissues where they continuously release inflammatory chemicals, enzymes, and growth factors collectively known as the Senescence-Associated Secretory Phenotype (SASP).

These dysfunctional cells behave like “bad neighbours,” spreading inflammation to surrounding healthy cells and accelerating tissue ageing.

Research suggests that reducing the burden of senescent cells may one day become one of the most promising strategies for extending healthspan — the number of years we remain healthy, active, and independent — not merely lifespan.

Inflammageing and the Brain: The Link to Type 3 Diabetes

Scientists increasingly recognise that chronic inflammation and insulin resistance affect not only muscles and the liver but also the brain. This has led to the term Type 3 diabetes, used by many researchers to describe the insulin resistance observed in Alzheimer's disease. Although it is not an official medical diagnosis, growing evidence suggests that impaired insulin signalling within the brain contributes to memory loss, cognitive decline, and neurodegeneration.

Persistent inflammation, oxidative stress, and vascular damage appear to connect metabolic disease with declining brain health. Protecting our metabolic health today may therefore help preserve our cognitive health tomorrow.

Inflammageing and Visceral Fat

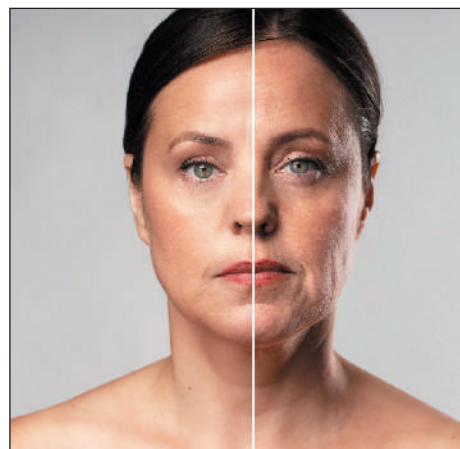
Excess visceral fat has been strongly associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease, certain cancers, and cognitive decline. It also promotes the accumulation of senescent cells, further amplifying the inflammatory cycle. Encouragingly, studies have shown that even modest weight loss — particularly when achieved through regular physical activity, a Mediterranean-style diet, and improved sleep — can reduce visceral fat, lower inflammatory markers, and improve metabolic health.

The Gut Microbiome: An Invisible Ally Against Inflammageing

Hidden within our digestive tract are trillions of microorganisms — collectively known as the gut microbiome — that play a remarkable role in regulating immunity, metabolism, and inflammation. Often described as our “forgotten organ,” the gut microbiome communicates continuously with the immune system through what scientists call the gut-immune axis.

As we age, the diversity of beneficial gut bacteria often declines, while less favourable bacteria may become more abundant. This imbalance, known as dysbiosis, can weaken the intestinal barrier, allowing bacterial toxins such as lipopolysaccharides (LPS) to enter the bloodstream. The result is activation of the immune system and a persistent state of low-grade inflammation that contributes to inflammageing.

Emerging evidence also suggests that an unhealthy gut microbiome may promote the



accumulation of senescent cells, worsen insulin resistance, increase visceral fat deposition, and influence the development of conditions such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and even neurodegenerative disorders. Conversely, beneficial gut bacteria produce short-chain fatty acids, particularly butyrate, which nourish the cells lining the colon, strengthen the intestinal barrier, and help suppress inflammatory pathways.

Food as Everyday Chemistry

Every meal represents an opportunity to influence the body's chemistry.

Foods that reduce inflammation include:

- Colourful berries rich in polyphenols and anthocyanins
- Leafy green vegetables providing folate, magnesium, and antioxidants
- Extra virgin olive oil containing oleocanthal, a natural anti-inflammatory compound
- Fatty fish such as salmon, sardines, and mackerel, rich in omega-3 fatty acids
- Nuts, especially walnuts and almonds
- Beans and lentils, which provide fibre that supports beneficial gut bacteria
- Tomatoes, rich in lycopene
- Turmeric, containing curcumin
- Green tea, abundant in catechins
- Dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa) in moderation

Conversely, highly processed foods, excessive sugar, refined carbohydrates, trans fats, and excessive alcohol promote oxidative stress and chronic inflammation.

Supplements That Support Healthy Ageing

Scientific research continues to identify nutrients that help regulate inflammatory pathways:

- Omega-3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA): reduce inflammatory cytokine production.
- Vitamin D: supports immune regulation and may reduce chronic inflammation.
- Magnesium: participates in over 300 enzymatic reactions and supports metabolic health.
- Vitamin C and Vitamin E: powerful antioxidants that protect cells against oxidative damage.
- Polyphenols: found in berries, grapes, cocoa, and green tea, they help neutralise free radicals and activate longevity

pathways.

- Curcumin: modulates NF-κB and other inflammatory signalling pathways.
- Sulforaphane: found in broccoli sprouts, activates the body's own antioxidant defence system through the Nrf2 pathway.
- Resveratrol: naturally present in grapes and berries, with potential anti-inflammatory and mitochondrial benefits.
- Quercetin: found in onions, apples, and capers, and currently being studied as part of potential senolytic strategies.

The Future of Healthy Ageing

Exciting advances are emerging in longevity science. Researchers are investigating senolytics — compounds designed to selectively remove senescent cells — as well as therapies aimed at improving mitochondrial function, reducing chronic inflammation, and slowing biological ageing. While many of these treatments remain under investigation, they represent an exciting frontier in preventive medicine.

High levels of pro-inflammatory markers in the blood and other tissues are often detected in older individuals and predict the risk of cardiovascular diseases, frailty, multimorbidity, and decline of physical and cognitive function.

In individuals with obesity, visceral fat produces pro-inflammatory and chemotactic compounds and is infiltrated by macrophages, lymphocytes, and senescent cells with a senescence-associated secretory phenotype that contributes to inflammageing.

Mechanisms potentially underlying inflammageing includes genomic instability, cell senescence, mitochondrial dysfunction, microbiota composition changes, NLRP3 inflammasome activation, primary dysregulation of immune cells, and chronic infections.

Clinical trials suggest that modulating inflammation prevents cardiovascular diseases, but studies to explore the effects on other chronic diseases, frailty, and disability are scarce and controversial.

Inflammageing can complicate the clinical features of cardiovascular disease in older individuals by causing an energetic imbalance towards catabolism and interfering with homeostatic signalling, leading to frailty.

A Pharmacist's Message

Medicines remain essential in treating disease, but healthy ageing begins long before a prescription is needed.

Daily movement, restorative sleep, stress management, nutritious food, maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding tobacco and excessive alcohol, and regular medical check-ups all work together to reduce inflammageing.

As pharmacists, we increasingly recognise that our role extends beyond dispensing medicines. We are educators, advocates, and partners in helping individuals make informed choices that preserve function, independence, and vitality. The goal is no longer simply to live longer — it is to extend our healthspan, ensuring that the years we gain are lived with strength, clarity, and quality of life. So what I am saying is, the next time you visit your pharmacy, do pick our brains. Literally.

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