

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "You don't start communities. Communities already exist. The question to ask is how you can help them do better." – Mark Zuckerberg

Qs & As

National Crime Agency: How Independent Will It Really Be?

*Constitutional status alone
will not guarantee independence*

The proposed National Crime Agency is set to be a major new pillar in Mauritius' fight against serious and organised crime. Its success will depend on the right safeguards to ensure real independence, accountability and protection from political interference.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

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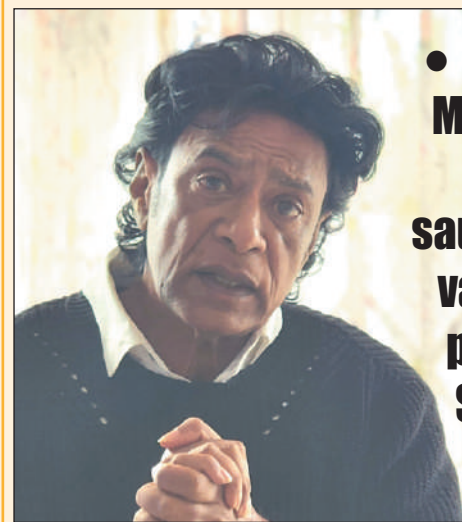
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**"Les Mauriciens ont vu les
alliances; ils attendent désormais
un gouvernement qui gouverne"**



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MSM ne serait
que pour
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Mauritius has spent decades congratulating itself, with some justification, on the achievements of its education system. From a relatively modest starting point, the country built a broad-based education structure, expanded access and produced generations of professionals who helped transform the economy. Education was one of the great instruments of social mobility and economic development. But the latest PISA findings should force us to ask a more uncomfortable question: is the education system that served Mauritius reasonably well in the past still capable of preparing the country for the future it now wants? The answer, judging from the performance of our 15-year-olds, cannot be reassuring.

The picture is not entirely bleak. Mauritian students demonstrate qualities that should not be underestimated. Some 82% say they are curious about many things, compared with 73% in OECD countries, while 75% say they make greater efforts when confronted with difficulties, compared with 60% in the OECD. These are valuable attributes. Curiosity and perseverance are precisely the qualities a modern economy needs. Yet the paradox is striking: we appear to have curious and persistent young people whose educational performance does not adequately reflect that potential.

Only about 44% of Mauritian students attain the minimum proficiency level in mathematics, compared with 65% across the OECD. In reading, only 48% reach the baseline level. In science, the situation is somewhat better, with around 60% achieving basic proficiency. But at the highest levels, the gap is even more revealing: only about 1% of Mauritian students reach Levels 5 or 6 in mathematics, compared with 8% in the OECD, while almost none do so in reading. This is not merely an education statistic. It is an economic warning.

Our future ambitions

The Mauritius of tomorrow cannot compete primarily on low labour costs, favourable geography or traditional services. Our future ambitions increasingly revolve around knowledge-intensive activities: artificial intelligence, fintech, cybersecurity, biotechnology, advanced financial services, digital businesses, engineering, research, innovation and higher-value professional services. All of these sectors require people who can do more than remember information and reproduce it in an examination. They require individuals capable of analysing unfamiliar problems, interpreting complex information, questioning assumptions, working with data, distinguishing fact from opinion, communicating clearly and developing solutions that do not already exist. These are precisely the skills that PISA is designed to test.

The implications therefore extend far beyond the classroom. If Mauritius produces too few young people capable of operating at the highest cognitive levels, we may eventually face a serious contradiction between the

PISA's Uncomfortable Warning

Why Mauritius Must Rethink Its Classrooms for Tomorrow's Economy



economy we aspire to build and the human capital we are producing to build it. We cannot seriously proclaim Mauritius an emerging AI hub while allowing weaknesses in mathematics, reading comprehension and analytical reasoning to persist. AI specialists tell us that artificial intelligence does not eliminate the need for human intelligence; in many respects, it raises the premium on it. The ability to formulate the right question, assess the reliability of an answer, identify bias, interpret data and exercise judgement becomes even more important when machines can generate information instantly.

Indeed, the findings on reading deserve particular attention in the age of AI. The decline of sustained reading cannot simply be dismissed as a generational change. Digital technology has enormous educational potential, but there is a difference between accessing information and understanding it. If students increasingly rely on summaries, instant answers and AI-generated material without learning to compare sources, infer meaning and construct an argument themselves, they may become more efficient at producing answers while becoming weaker at thinking independently. That would be a dangerous trade-off.

Learning trajectories and weaknesses

The issue, however, should not be reduced to blaming students or technology. The findings presented by educators, as reported by local papers, point to a deeper systemic problem: we may not be identifying and addressing learning difficulties early enough. If a child begins falling behind in primary school and the problem is only recognised years later, intervention becomes considerably more difficult. A sophisticated education system needs reliable points of diagnosis throughout a child's journey. It needs to know not merely who is failing, but why, when the difficulty began, what intervention was attempted and whether that intervention

worked. This is where data should become an ally rather than a bureaucratic burden.

Mauritius needs an education system capable of following learning trajectories, identifying weaknesses early and allowing teachers, schools and policymakers to respond intelligently. The Mauritius Institute of Education and other relevant institutions should have the capacity to analyse educational data systematically—not to label children, but to understand where the system is failing them.

The contrast between science and mathematics is also instructive. Since 2010, science performance has improved significantly, while mathematics has declined. If certain teaching approaches—greater interaction, experimentation and inquiry—are helping students engage more effectively with science, the obvious question is why comparable methods cannot be adapted more extensively to mathematics, languages and other disciplines.

This brings us to the teachers. Experienced educators are of the view that curriculum reform without sustained teacher development is unlikely to deliver the desired transformation. Asking teachers to implement new curricula, integrate digital tools and adopt more inquiry-based approaches without continuous professional support is unrealistic. A one-off training session cannot prepare educators for a changing educational environment. Teacher development must therefore become a permanent feature of the system.

But there is another dimension that deserves attention: excellence. Education policy cannot be concerned exclusively with ensuring that struggling students cross a minimum threshold. That is essential, but insufficient. A country seeking to become a regional centre for technology, finance, research and innovation also needs an educational system capable of identifying and nurturing exceptional talent.

The fact that only around 1% of Mauritian students reach the highest mathematics levels should concern us as much as the number failing to achieve basic proficiency. We need to help the child who is struggling to read, while simultaneously giving the exceptionally capable student the opportunity to advance much further. We need better remedial support, but also stronger mathematics, science, coding, research, debate, entrepreneurship and problem-solving opportunities for those capable of excelling.

Social dimension

There is also a social dimension. Absenteeism and bullying, both highlighted in the PISA findings, remind us that academic performance cannot be separated from the environment in which children learn.

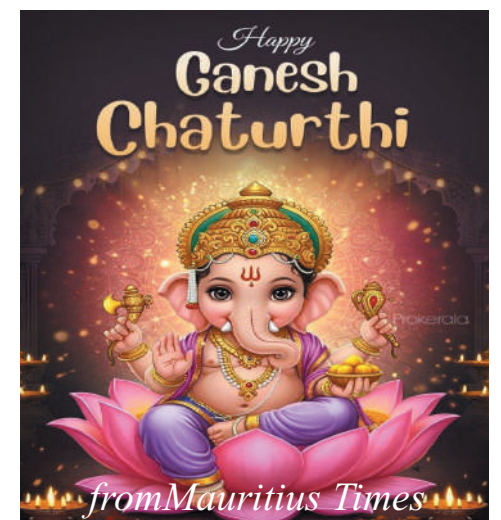
Nearly three in ten Mauritian students reported missing at least one day of school during the two weeks preceding the test, while a similar proportion reported experiencing bullying several times a month or more. A child who is disengaged, absent or bullied cannot be expected simply to perform better because the curriculum has changed.

The PISA results should therefore not trigger another round of superficial debate about rankings. Nor should they become an excuse for attacking teachers, parents or students. They should be treated as a diagnostic instrument—a warning that gives Mauritius an opportunity to correct course.

The country has ambitious plans for AI and the digital economy. It wants to attract investment, develop high-value services, strengthen research and innovation and remain competitive in a rapidly changing global economy. But every one of those ambitions ultimately depends on people. Buildings can be constructed. Technology can be imported. AI platforms can be purchased. Foreign investors can be attracted with incentives. But a sustainable knowledge economy cannot simply be imported. Its foundations have to be built inside the education system.

The Mauritius of 2040 is being shaped in today's classrooms. If managed correctly, the natural curiosity and perseverance of Mauritian students can become a key national asset. If ignored, today's educational shortfall will manifest tomorrow as low productivity, skills shortages, and economic stagnation.

The core lesson of PISA is not that Mauritius has failed, but that it is not properly preparing its children while planning for tomorrow.



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K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kummally & Kersley Ramsamy

28 Jawaharlal Street (formerly Wellington Street),

Port Louis - Tel: 5-29 29301 /

Tel/Fax: 212 1313

mtimes@intnet.mu; www.mauritiustimes.com;

facebook.com/mauritius.times

National Crime Agency: How Independent Will It Really Be?

Constitutional status alone will not guarantee independence

The proposed National Crime Agency is being presented as a major new pillar in Mauritius' fight against serious and organised crime. But its effectiveness will depend not only on the powers it is given, but also on the safeguards put in place to protect its independence, ensure accountability and prevent political interference. From the appointment of its director-general and control of its finances to surveillance powers, unexplained wealth investigations and its relationship with the DPP, several constitutional and institutional questions remain. We discuss these issues with Lex and the safeguards needed to ensure that the NCA serves the public interest while remaining subject to effective democratic and judicial oversight.

LEX

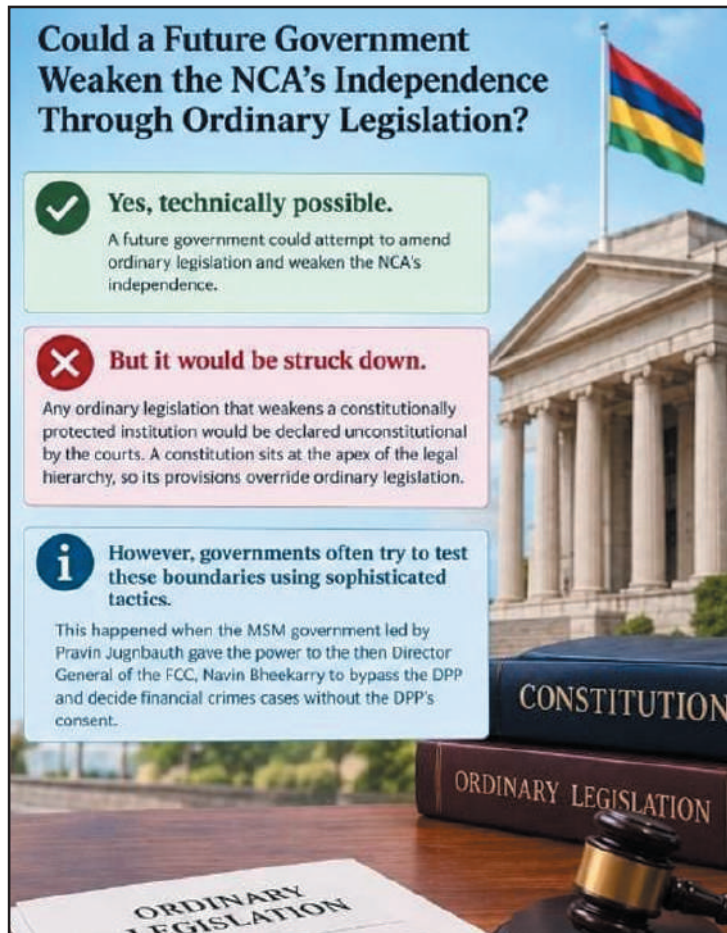
*** Recent press reports on the proposed National Crime Agency (NCA) Bill suggest that the NCA will be an independent agency with constitutional protection. But will this alone ensure its independence, or will other safeguards be needed?**

Constitutional status alone will not guarantee the operational independence of the proposed NCA. While a constitutional amendment is vital for shielding the agency from arbitrary dissolution or standard political interference, experience in Mauritius and globally demonstrates that true independence requires robust institutional safeguards. The process for selecting the director-general must be non-partisan. If the head is appointed entirely by the executive, the agency's actual and perceived neutrality could be compromised from the outset.

*** Past experience with anti-corruption bodies shows that the appointment of the director-general can be a weak point in ensuring independence. Under the proposed bill, the NCA director-general would be appointed by the President on the advice of an Independent Advisory Panel, after consulting the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Is this process sufficiently protected from political influence?**

No, this mechanism is not entirely insulated from political influence, as it still leaves significant gate keeping and final decision-making power in the hands of political actors. While the inclusion of an Independent Advisory Panel and consultation with the Leader of the Opposition are positive safeguards, experience with anti-corruption bodies around the world shows that "consultation" does not necessarily amount to a veto power. Executive discretion therefore remains a potential weakness.

This mechanism may still leave room for political influence because, even when the President acts "on the advice" of the panel, the executive may retain significant dis-



cretion to accept, reject or delay an appointment from the shortlist.

*** Should the director-general (DG) serve a fixed, non-renewable term to avoid potential political pressure, and what removal procedure — involving Parliament, the judiciary, or an independent body — is needed to secure institutional independence?**

The rules governing the NCA director-general's tenure and removal involve a balance between executive oversight and the agency's independence. Under Mauritian law, there is no single formula for determining the DG's tenure and removal; the key is to strike the right balance between accountability and institutional independence.

*** Is constitutional status alone an insufficient shield if the executive controls an agency's budget, staffing, and resources, or can legal guarantees ensure inde-**

“Constitutional status alone may not be enough to protect the NCA's independence if the executive controls its funding, staffing and resources. Without financial and operational autonomy, the government could limit its resources or influence investigations through control over appointments. Strong legal safeguards, however, can provide important protection for the agency's independence...”

pendence without complete financial and operational autonomy?

Constitutional status alone may not be enough to protect the NCA's independence if the executive controls its funding, staffing and resources. Without financial and operational autonomy, the government could limit its resources or influence investigations through control over appointments. Strong legal safeguards, however, can provide important protection for the agency's independence.

*** The proposed legislation reportedly gives the NCA modern investigative tools, including data preservation, production orders and surveillance. The government says that the most intrusive surveillance measures will require judicial authorisation. What standards would a judge apply before authorising surveillance?**

A judge must assess the request against strict constitutional and legal safeguards.

The judicial authority will generally apply a two-part test based on international human rights principles: necessity and proportionality. The government or law enforcement agency must show that surveillance is necessary and justified. The judge will assess this against clear and legitimate criteria.

The surveillance must be directly linked to the investigation of serious offences. Investigators must also demonstrate that the information or evidence sought cannot reasonably be obtained through less intrusive means.

*** What specific remedies — such as compensation, suppression of illegally obtained evidence, or disciplinary sanctions — should be available to individuals subject to unlawful privacy breaches?**

To ensure that the proposed NCA and its surveillance powers respect the Constitution of Mauritius, the law should provide clear remedies for individuals whose privacy has been unlawfully breached. Constitutional principles alone are not enough; these rights must be supported by specific legal provisions.

First, there should be financial and compensatory remedies. The law should allow individuals affected by unlawful surveillance to seek compensation from the State or the agency. This should cover material losses, such as business disruption, as well as non-material harm, including psychological distress and damage to reputation.

Second, the NCA Bill should be clearly aligned with the Data Protection Act 2017. It should explain how national security and surveillance powers interact with data protection rights and provide clear remedies where surveillance fails to meet the principles of necessity and proportionality.

Third, the law should include a strong exclusionary rule for unlawfully obtained evidence. Digital evidence, communications or location data obtained without a valid judicial order should generally be inadmissible in court. Any evidence or investigative information obtained directly from such unlawful surveillance should also be excluded. This would help deter abuse of surveillance powers and strengthen judicial oversight.

*** The NCA is expected to investigate unexplained wealth and trace assets connected to criminal activity. Should the State have to prove that assets are criminal proceeds, or can the burden in certain circumstances shift to the person concerned to explain the source of wealth?**

The investigative authority does not initially have to prove that the asset came from a specific crime. In these civil proceedings, it must first provide the court with objective evidence showing that a person's wealth or a particular property is significantly greater than their known lawful income and assets.

Can the NCA Stay Free from Political Influence?

Strong safeguards needed to ensure real independence



Transparent, non-partisan appointment process for the director-general



Fixed, non-renewable term to avoid political pressure



Removal only for proven misconduct, through an independent process



Financial and operational autonomy to prevent undue influence

"An effective NCA must serve the public interest, not political interests."

NCA
INDEPENDENCE
ACCOUNTABILITY
INTEGRITY

“The law should include a strong exclusionary rule for unlawfully obtained evidence. Digital evidence, communications or location data obtained without a valid judicial order should generally be inadmissible in court. Any evidence or investigative information obtained directly from such unlawful surveillance should also be excluded. This would help deter abuse of surveillance powers and strengthen judicial oversight...”

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Once the court is satisfied that there is a credible case of unexplained wealth, the burden shifts to the individual concerned. They must then show, on the balance of probabilities, that the property was acquired lawfully, for example through a documented inheritance, legitimate business income or verifiable salary.

*** Does past experience indicate that specific safeguards are required to prevent unexplained-wealth provisions from being used selectively against targeted individuals?**

The history of unexplained-wealth laws in Mauritius — from the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015 to their integration under the Financial Crimes Commission and the proposed National Crime Agency framework - shows the need for strong safeguards.

These safeguards are essential to prevent unexplained-wealth provisions from being applied selectively or being used against political opponents. Past legal controversies, including high-profile cases involving former and current Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, underline the importance of independent judicial oversight.

Anti-corruption bodies are often accused of conducting “witch-hunts” when investigations take place close to elections. Strong judicial safeguards are therefore necessary to ensure that unexplained-wealth laws are applied fairly, consistently and independently of political considerations.

*** The proposed framework reportedly maintains the Director of Public Prosecutions’ (DPP) exclusive responsibility for decisions on prosecution. However, tension could arise if the NCA finds sufficient evidence to charge but the DPP decides otherwise. Should the NCA have any legal power to challenge**

or review a decision by the DPP not to prosecute?

Whether the NCA should have the legal power to challenge or review a decision by the DPP raises an important constitutional issue: how to balance an independent investigative agency with the DPP’s prosecutorial authority. There is no single approach, as different countries deal with this balance in different ways.

Allowing the NCA to request a formal review ensures that a single individual or office (the DPP) does not hold an absolute, unchallengeable veto over high-profile or complex investigations. In complex cases involving financial crime, cybercrime or crimes with international ramifications, the NCA may possess specialised expertise that a general prosecutorial body like the DPP may lack. The NCA could therefore be better

wrongdoing is an innovative safeguard, but whether it provides sufficient independence remains to be seen.

*** The Independent Advisory Panel is expected to report every two years, and its report would be tabled in Parliament. Is reporting every two years adequate for an agency with such extensive powers?**

A biennial reporting system for an agency with extensive powers raises serious concerns about effective public oversight. While reporting every two years may allow for more comprehensive reviews and reduce administrative burdens, it can also create significant delays in accountability.

The accountability gap is too long. If the agency misuses its powers, acts inefficiently or causes unintended harm, Parliament and the public may not be officially informed for up to 24 months. In areas such as technology, national security and finance, problems can develop rapidly, making a two-year reporting cycle inadequate for timely parliamentary scrutiny.

Biennial reports may also contain two years of complex information, making them difficult for MPs to assess and debate effectively. By the time a report is tabled, political circumstances or responsible ministers may have changed, allowing important findings to be treated as “old news”.

The NCA should therefore have the power to issue ad hoc or interim reports to

with the former ICAC and is now the case with the FCC.

*** In light of the previous regime’s weaponisation of investigative bodies, what safeguards are required to prevent a powerful National Crime Agency from becoming a political instrument?**

To prevent the NCA from being used as a political instrument, there must be strong institutional safeguards, effective oversight and clear legal limits. When law enforcement agencies are too closely tied to the executive, there is a risk of selective prosecution and political intimidation. The NCA must therefore have both structural and operational independence.

The director-general of the NCA should serve a single, fixed term, such as five to seven years, that does not coincide with the political election cycle. This would reduce any incentive to seek favour with the government in order to secure reappointment. The appointment should require approval by a parliamentary supermajority or a bipartisan legislative committee, rather than being left to the executive alone.

The director-general should only be removed for proven misconduct or incapacity, following an independent process involving the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. The NCA’s budget should also be protected to prevent financial pressure from being used to influence its work.

A cross-party parliamentary committee should oversee the NCA’s strategic priorities, budget and broad operational framework, while having no power to interfere in ongoing investigations.

*** Would it be possible for a future government to amend ordinary legislation and weaken the NCA’s independence, despite its constitutional status?**

Yes, technically, a future government could attempt to do so. However, any ordinary legislation that undermines a constitutionally protected institution would be subject to judicial review and could be struck down as unconstitutional. As the supreme law of the land, the Constitution takes precedence over ordinary legislation.

However, governments may still use complex legislative measures to test these constitutional limits. A relevant example was the amendment introduced under the MSM government led by Pravind Jugnauth, which

Unexplained Wealth: Fair Enforcement, Not Selective Action

Strong safeguards needed to prevent misuse



The burden can shift to the individual to explain the source of wealth, once credible evidence is shown



Safeguards are essential to prevent selective use against targeted individuals



Independent judicial oversight to ensure fairness and consistency



Laws must be applied impartially, without political considerations



“Fighting illicit wealth strengthens a fairer and more transparent society.”

“Allowing the NCA to request a formal review ensures that a single individual or office (the DPP) does not hold an absolute, unchallengeable veto over high-profile or complex investigations. In complex cases involving financial crime, cybercrime or crimes with international ramifications, the NCA may possess specialised expertise that a general prosecutorial body like the DPP may lack. The NCA could therefore be better placed to assess the “sufficiency of evidence” and provide a credible assessment...”

Parliament when urgent issues involving public safety or abuse of power arise. If biennial reporting remains the statutory requirement, additional safeguards will be necessary to bridge the accountability gap.

There should also be regular parliamentary oversight, through a dedicated Parliamentary Committee, as was the case

sought to give the then director-general of the FCC, Navin Bheekarry, greater powers to initiate financial-crime proceedings without the consent of the DPP, raising important questions about the constitutional balance between investigative and prosecutorial powers.

LEX

De l'Ilovo Deal au fonds souverain: une occasion manquée pour Maurice?

Par A. Bartleby

Vingt-cinq ans après le deal Ilovo, une réflexion de Jean Mée Desveaux dans une récente interview à *Défi* remet sur la table une question qui dépasse largement les controverses entourant cette transaction: la République de Maurice aurait-elle pu transformer une partie de la richesse exceptionnelle dégagée à l'époque en un patrimoine financier destiné aux générations futures?

À la fin des années 1990 et au début des années 2000, la vente des importantes propriétés sucrières d'Ilovo représentait un enjeu considérable pour l'État. Le régime fiscal, alors applicable aux terres sous canne, rendait la transaction difficile, tandis que la suppression ou la réduction de certaines taxes aurait privé le gouvernement de recettes importantes.

Selon le récit de Desveaux, alors conseiller de Paul Bérenger, les discussions portaient notamment sur la manière de répartir plus équitablement la valeur créée par cette opération entre les intérêts publics et privés.

Desveaux affirme qu'une première formule aurait accordé deux tiers des bénéfices au gouvernement et un tiers au secteur privé, avant qu'une nouvelle configuration n'inverse cette proportion. Il soutient que cette décision aurait réduit de manière substantielle les gains revenant à l'État. Mais c'est surtout une autre observation de Desveaux qui mérite aujourd'hui l'attention. Avec le recul, il regrette que le gouvernement n'ait pas envisagé, en 2001, de créer un fonds souverain avec une partie de ce qu'il décrit comme un "butin inespéré".

L'idée est intéressante parce qu'elle déplace le débat. La question n'est plus seulement de savoir combien l'État avait obtenu à l'époque, mais ce qu'il aurait pu faire de cette richesse sur le très long terme.

Imaginons, à titre purement hypothétique, qu'une somme importante ait été placée en 2001 dans un fonds professionnellement géré et que ses revenus aient été réinvestis. Desveaux évoque des rendements annuels de 5 à 10 %. De tels rendements ne peuvent évidemment pas être considérés comme acquis: ils dépendent des marchés, de la stratégie d'investissement, des risques pris, des frais, des périodes de crise et d'éventuels retraits. Mais le principe de la capitalisation sur 25 ans est incontestable: une somme exceptionnelle, si elle est préservée et judicieusement



Une occasion manquée pour Maurice ?

investie, peut progressivement devenir un actif national majeur.

'Sovereign Fund' seychellois

C'est précisément ce qui rend le développement récent aux Seychelles particulièrement intéressant.

Le gouvernement seychellois envisage de mettre en place un fonds souverain qui pourrait atteindre environ 2 milliards de dollars sur cinq ans, avec une mise en opération envisagée à partir de 2027. Le fonds devrait, selon les informations disponibles, être placé sous la supervision du ministère des Finances tout en bénéficiant d'une gestion quotidienne confiée à une structure indépendante. Ses objectifs annoncés touchent notamment à la santé, à l'éducation, au logement, aux infrastructures et au développement du capital humain.

La comparaison avec Maurice doit toutefois être faite avec prudence. Les deux économies ont leurs particularités et les mécanismes de financement ne sont pas nécessairement comparables. Mais la philosophie sous-jacente mérite réflexion: comment une petite économie insulaire peut-elle transformer une richesse exceptionnelle ou temporaire en un actif permanent?

Une question particulièrement pertinente pour Maurice

Au fil des années, l'État a mobilisé d'importantes ressources pour financer les infrastructures, les entreprises publiques, les subventions, les pensions et divers pro-

grammes sociaux. Parallèlement, la dette publique et les besoins futurs de financement ont augmenté. Desveaux pose ainsi, indirectement, une question qui dépasse le seul dossier Ilovo: aurions-nous aujourd'hui une situation financière différente si certaines recettes exceptionnelles du passé avaient été sanctuarisées et investies au lieu d'être absorbées par les dépenses courantes?

Il serait évidemment trop facile, avec vingt-cinq ans de recul, de considérer que l'avenir était prévisible en 2001. Les priorités économiques et sociales étaient différentes, les marchés financiers aussi, et l'État avait alors de nombreux besoins à financer. Un fonds souverain aurait lui-même comporté des risques et aurait exigé une gouvernance rigoureuse.

C'est précisément ce dernier point qui constitue la véritable leçon.

Un fonds souverain n'est pas une solution magique aux problèmes budgétaires. Mal conçu, il peut devenir une simple caisse politique, exposée aux pressions

du moment. Bien conçu, avec des règles strictes sur ses sources de financement, ses investissements, les conditions de retrait, la transparence, l'audit et l'indépendance de sa direction, il peut constituer un mécanisme de transfert de richesse entre générations.

Le débat actuel aux Seychelles offre donc à Maurice une occasion de réfléchir sans nécessairement chercher à reproduire le modèle seychellois.

La vraie question pourrait être la suivante: Maurice dispose-t-elle encore aujourd'hui de sources de richesse exceptionnelle susceptibles d'être placées dans un mécanisme de long terme? Et si oui, faudrait-il envisager qu'une partie de ces ressources soit consacrée non pas aux dépenses immédiates, mais à la constitution d'un patrimoine financier national?

Le dossier Ilovo appartient désormais à l'histoire économique et politique du pays. Ses bénéfices et ses controverses continueront probablement à faire débat. Mais la réflexion de Jean Mée Desveaux ouvre une perspective plus large: dans une petite économie vulnérable aux chocs extérieurs, chaque génération ne devrait-elle pas chercher à laisser à la suivante autre chose que des infrastructures et des dettes — notamment un patrimoine financier capable de produire des revenus?

Vingt-cinq ans après Ilovo, et alors que les Seychelles envisagent de franchir ce pas, la question mérite au moins d'être posée.

Allemagne: le séisme de Saxe-Anhalt et la crise du centre politique

L'élection régionale du 6 septembre en Saxe-Anhalt constitue un tournant important dans la vie politique allemande. Avec 43,8 % des suffrages et 39 des 83 sièges, l'Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) a obtenu son meilleur résultat depuis sa création et s'est retrouvée à seulement trois sièges de la majorité absolue. En 2021, le parti n'avait recueilli que 20,8 % des voix.

Mais le véritable séisme ne réside pas uniquement dans la progression spectaculaire de l'AfD. Il est aussi dans l'effondrement de la CDU, qui passe de 37,1 % en 2021 à 17,2 %. Le parti conservateur, qui dominait la politique régionale depuis près de deux décennies, perd ainsi plus de la moitié de

son électorat. Pour le chancelier Friedrich Merz et la CDU, il s'agit d'un avertissement politique particulièrement sérieux.

Il serait toutefois trop simple de conclure que près de 44 % des électeurs de Saxe-Anhalt seraient devenus des extrémistes. Le résultat traduit un phénomène beaucoup plus complexe: l'affaiblissement des fidélités politiques traditionnelles et une crise de confiance envers les partis qui ont longtemps structuré la démocratie allemande.

Du vote de protestation au vote d'adhésion

L'AfD a été créée en 2013, initialement autour de l'opposition à l'euro et à certains

aspects de l'intégration européenne. Le parti s'est ensuite progressivement déplacé vers un nationalisme beaucoup plus affirmé, une politique anti-immigration et une critique frontale de l'establishment politique.

Pendant longtemps, une partie de son électorat pouvait être interprétée comme un électorat de protestation: voter AfD permettait d'exprimer son mécontentement à l'égard de la CDU, du SPD ou des Verts sans nécessairement souhaiter voir l'AfD gouverner.

Cette situation semble évoluer. Avec près de la moitié des suffrages en Saxe-Anhalt, l'AfD dispose désormais d'une base électorale qui peut se concevoir

comme un véritable électorat de gouvernement.

C'est une différence essentielle. Un parti populiste devient beaucoup plus difficile à contenir lorsque ses électeurs ne votent plus simplement *contre* le système, mais commencent à voter *pour* une alternative qu'ils considèrent crédible.

Immigration: catalyseur du mécontentement

L'immigration et l'asile constituent naturellement l'un des principaux moteurs du vote AfD.

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Anil Madan

Twenty-Five Years After 9/11: The New Face of Terror

On July 1, 2004, in response to a question on “Ask the White House” — an interactive forum for people to question members of the administration — Condoleezza Rice, then National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush, and later his Secretary of State, assured a questioner that the US was safer in these words: “We are safer today. But we are not yet safe. One of the hardest aspects of homeland security is that the defender has to be right 100% of the time — while the terrorist only has to be right once.”



“Condoleezza Rice, then National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush, and later his Secretary of State, assured a questioner that the US was safer in these words: “We are safer today. But we are not yet safe. One of the hardest aspects of homeland security is that the defender has to be right 100% of the time — while the terrorist only has to be right once.” Three years earlier, on September 11, 2001, the terrorists had been right — not just once, but three times. Hijacked commercial airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and into the Pentagon...” — Pic - Reuters

Three years earlier, on September 11, 2001, the terrorists had been right — not just once, but three times. Hijacked commercial airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and into the Pentagon. A fourth jet, perhaps destined to attack the Capitol, was instead brought down in a field in Pennsylvania by the heroism of passengers who refused to let the terrorist hijackers prevail.

The Brilliant Restaurant in Nairobi, Kenya, stood on Ngara Road, perched between Parklands and Pangani. It was atop a freestanding building and home to some of the most delectable Punjabi curries cooked by the Anand family. After Kenya's independence, the family moved to England and reestablished the Brilliant in Southall.

Some fifteen years after the attacks of 9-11, my wife and I had dinner at the new Brilliant. As we were leaving, we noticed that the restaurant offered for sale its highly regarded and reputed pickles. We bought a half-dozen jars of assorted varieties to bring home to Boston. When we got to Heathrow Airport for the flight home, a security official asked my wife to open her bag and retrieving a jar of picked mangoes, said: “You cannot carry this on board. You'll have to eat it or get rid of it.”

The young lady happened to be of Indian descent and

my wife thinking that she would understand, said: “But it's just mango pickle. What harm can it do?” The security official shrugged and said: “Rules, madam, it's too big to carry. Sorry.”

The mango pickle was left behind at Heathrow. That little story tells the tale of part of the legacy of 9-11. The world is in a pickle and will remain so even though we are fairly sure that Al Qaeda, the terrorist organisation founded and nurtured by Osama bin Laden, and its offshoots have been eliminated.

Security checks at airports around the world are now *de rigueur*. They were the most immediate and tangible effect of the response to the terrorist attacks, experienced directly by Americans and people across the globe. Over the years, security checks have added extra hours to travellers' journeys, remain a constant annoyance and inconvenience, and have spawned an infrastructure of security scanners, x-ray machines, conveyer belts, and airport trays, not to mention billions of dollars of expense for the government agencies charged with surveillance and inspection.

The attacks on US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 killing some 224 persons and wounding 4,000, and the attack of 2000 on the USS Cole while it was docked at the port in Aden, were also acts of Al Qaeda.

Within ten days after 9-11, President Bush declared a war on terror and noted: “Our nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack.” He added: “Freedom and fear are at war.” This was a declaration of not just a nation at war with some other entity, but a concept of freedom against an extremist ideology.

The US did not stand alone. America's NATO allies, for the first time ever, rallied under Article 5 of the NATO charter — an attack on one member is deemed an attack on all. But it is important to recognize that the US and its allies received no support from China, Russia, Iran, and the Middle East countries generally. To be sure, Russian President Vladimir Putin presented a sculpture to the United States to serve as a memorial in the fight against terror.

The attacks of 9-11 led to the US war on Iraq based on lies about a connection between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda. President Bush had also demanded that Afghanistan close the Al Qaeda facilities in its territory and deliver the leaders of Al Qaeda hiding in Afghanistan. When the Taliban ignored the demands, the stage was set for the war in Afghanistan.

In due course, Saddam Hussein became a victim of the US response to 9-11. Subsequently, Osama bin Laden was captured and killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan. He was given an unceremonious burial at sea. President Obama declared: “Justice has been done.” Ayman al Zawahiri, Osama's successor was killed by a US drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan.

During Trump's first term as President, the leader of ISIS, the successor organisation to Al Qaeda, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was located at a hideout in Idlib Province, Syria. US military dogs chased him into a tunnel where he exploded a suicide vest. President Trump declared: “The world is now a safer place.”

A caution is in order.

Many commentators declare the war on terror is over. To

be sure, Al Qaeda seems to have gone out of existence and ISIS which replaced it is a shell. However, declaring a definitive conclusion to these security challenges would be premature. The notion, expressed by Condoleezza Rice that the defender has to be right 100% of the time underscores the ongoing challenge of counterterrorism.

Today, with Iran frequently cited by Western policy-makers as a leading state sponsor of terrorism, security analysts argue that the conflict has evolved rather than concluded. Iran has attacked its neighbouring Arab nations: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Its Houthi proxies have attacked Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, and, of course, Israel. A new dimension to the war on terror has emerged.

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From the perspective of Israel and the United States, the rhetoric of Iran's Supreme Leader and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) — specifically calls for “Death to Israel” and “Death to America” — cannot be dismissed as mere posture. Similarly, several Gulf states that have previously experienced Iranian-backed strikes view Tehran's theocratic regime as an ongoing threat to regional infrastructure and economic stability.

It pays to remember that Terror does not sleep.

Cheerz...

Bwana

Mauritius Estate Development Corporation Limited

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NO:
MED/PROC/2026/09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR
THE CONDITION ASSESSMENT, DESIGN, AND
SUPERVISION OF REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO
THE AIR MAURITIUS CENTRE, PORT LOUIS

NOTICE OF PROCUREMENT

Mauritius Estate Development Corporation Limited (Medcor) invites proposals from eligible and qualified consultancy firms for the provision of professional consultancy services for the condition assessment, rehabilitation, refurbishment design, preparation of tender documentation, and supervision of refurbishment works to the Air Mauritius Centre situated in Port Louis.

The consultancy assignment shall include architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and quantity surveying services necessary for the implementation of the project.

To obtain the full tender notice, interested parties may call in personally at the office or contact:

The Secretariat
Mauritius Estate Development Corporation Limited
Level 2, Air Mauritius Centre
President John Kennedy Street
Port Louis
Tel.: 211 4446
Email: admin@medcor.mu

A joint site visit has been scheduled for
24th September 2026 at 14h00.

The deadline for receiving proposals is 09th October 2026 at 15h00.

Late submissions shall not be accepted.



Vijay Makhan

Meanwhile in Palestine... Illegality Continues in Plain Sight

As the world's attention is absorbed by Iran and Ukraine, settlement expansion and humanitarian suffering in Palestine continue with little restraint. Britain's promised action may signal a change — but only if words on legality are finally matched by consequences.

At a time when the world's attention is fixed on the Iran conflict, the disruption of sea lanes and the continuing war in Ukraine, there is a real risk that Palestine may once again be pushed to the margins.

That must not be allowed to happen.

For while new crises dominate the headlines, the old Palestinian tragedy continues unabated. Gaza remains in the grip of a humanitarian ordeal; restrictions on aid persist; and, in the West Bank, Israel's settlement policy proceeds relentlessly, creating new facts on the ground and steadily narrowing the space for any future Palestinian state.

It is in this context that Britain's new Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband, has propounded a "comprehensive reset" of his country's approach towards Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. He has indicated that the United Kingdom will act to prevent British companies from financing, building or promoting unlawful Israeli settlements. A ban on trade with settlement goods is also envisaged.

This is potentially significant. The essential question now is whether this new policy will be followed by measures capable of making a difference, notwithstanding the scathing opposition from Washington and Tel Aviv.

It is not clear whether the settlement issue was raised when Ed Miliband met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington last month. Advance reports indicated that Gaza's humanitarian crisis would be among the matters discussed, but the official statement issued after the meeting referred to Ukraine, European security and the strength of the transatlantic alliance, without mention of Gaza, the West Bank or settlements. That omission may be explained by the pressure of other crises, but it also illustrates how easily Palestine is displaced from the central diplomatic agenda. It is now known that Andy Burnham and Donald Trump exchanged on this on Monday (7th) night.

The immediate trigger is the Israeli decision to proceed with the E1 settlement project. The term sounds technical, almost innocuous. Its consequences are anything but.

E1 is the area lying between occupied East Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim, one of the largest Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Israel's plan is to build thousands of housing units and related infrastructure there. Its practical effect would be to strengthen the link between Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem, while cutting across Palestinian territory.

Why does this matter so much? Because E1 would make the West Bank still more fragmented. It would obstruct the natural link between its northern and southern parts and further separate East Jerusalem from the rest of Palestinian territory. The result would be a Palestinian entity broken into disconnected pieces—hardly the basis for a viable and sovereign state.

That is why the E1 project has been described as a 'red line'. It is not merely another settlement scheme. It is part of a wider process through which occupation is transformed, gradually but steadily, into a permanent territorial reality.

The legal position is clear. Israeli settlements in the territories occupied since 1967 have repeatedly been declared illegal under international law. The United Nations Security Council has stated that they have no legal validity. In July 2024, the International Court of Justice went further, finding Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory unlawful and recalling the responsibility of other states not to recognise or help maintain that situation.

This is the broader background against which Miliband's announcement must be judged.

A ban on settlement goods would be welcome. It would at least signal that Britain is no longer prepared to treat commerce with illegal settlements as normal business. But, as Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory, has pointed out, it cannot stop there. She has given a guarded welcome to the proposed British move, rightly describing it as an important first step. But she has also warned that a limited ban on goods alone may amount to little if the wider network sustaining settlement expansion remains untouched. Finance, insurance, construction, technology, investment and other forms of commercial involvement deserve equal scrutiny.

Her argument is difficult to dismiss. It would make little sense to prohibit products made in a settlement while permitting the financial and commercial arrangements that allow settlements to expand in the first place.

Palestinian groups, for their part, have reacted with understandable caution. They welcome the indications that Britain may be moving beyond words. But they are withholding final judgment until the details are known. They have seen too



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many declarations of concern, too many appeals to international law, and too few consequences for violations that continue openly and with impunity.

The reaction from the United States Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, has been both unfortunate and revealing. His accusation that the British government's position reflects "Jew hatred" is a distortion. Opposition to settlement-building, concern over the denial of humanitarian aid, and insistence on international law are not expressions of hostility towards Jews. They are legitimate objections to policies that have brought suffering to Palestinians and made peace ever more distant.

To suggest otherwise is to make serious discussion almost impossible.

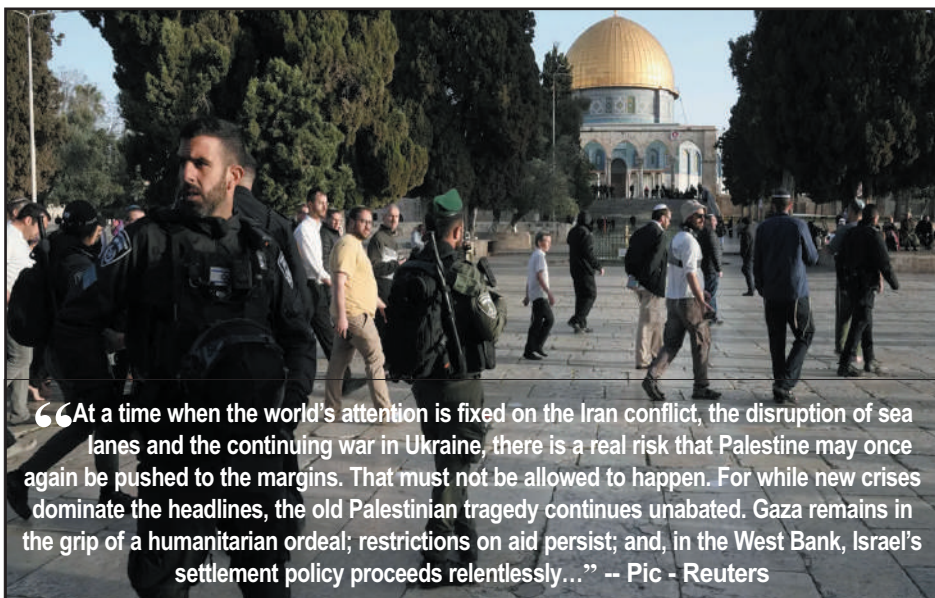
And what of the countries of the Middle East? It would be unfair to say that they have remained wholly silent. Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, Indonesia and Pakistan have collectively condemned the E1 project and called for it to be halted. Their statement is welcome.

However, statements alone cannot halt bulldozers, protect Palestinian land or revive a political process that is visibly being dismantled since 1947. The greater challenge for the region is to turn its declarations into sustained diplomatic action and, where possible, meaningful leverage.

The Iran conflict has understandably concentrated minds throughout the region. So too have the threats to energy supplies, shipping and economic stability. But Palestine cannot be treated as an issue to be revisited only when the regional agenda becomes less crowded. The Palestinian question is not separate from Middle Eastern instability—it lies at its very heart.

This is why the announced British measures matter. They will show whether London is prepared to give practical content to the principles it has long proclaimed. They may also encourage others to move from ritual condemnation towards action.

The world may be distracted. But Palestine remains. And while the world looks elsewhere, illegality continues in plain sight.



“At a time when the world's attention is fixed on the Iran conflict, the disruption of sea lanes and the continuing war in Ukraine, there is a real risk that Palestine may once again be pushed to the margins. That must not be allowed to happen. For while new crises dominate the headlines, the old Palestinian tragedy continues unabated. Gaza remains in the grip of a humanitarian ordeal; restrictions on aid persist; and, in the West Bank, Israel's settlement policy proceeds relentlessly...” -- Pic - Reuters

Nando Bodha, Leader du Rassemblement Mauricien

“Les Mauriciens ont vu les alliances; ils attendent désormais un gouvernement qui gouverne”

Mauritius Times: La victoire de l'Alliance du Changement a profondément rebattu les cartes, avec l'affaiblissement spectaculaire du MSM. Mais ce nouvel équilibre reste fragile: le Gouvernement dispose d'une large majorité, tandis que l'opposition cherche encore ses repères et tente de se recomposer. Quelle analyse faites-vous de cette nouvelle situation politique, et pensez-vous que cette configuration est appelée à s'inscrire dans la durée?

Nando Bodha: Après la belle victoire de l'Alliance du Changement, il y a eu un revirement très rapide. La période d'exaltation n'a pas duré longtemps. La communion avec le peuple est terminée. La population fait face à des difficultés liées au coût de la vie et à la hausse du trafic de drogue, tout en exprimant une déception face aux engagements pris mais non tenus.

Il y a un déficit de confiance dans le pays et une colère dans la rue. L'Opposition est divisée, certes, mais elle est présente tant au Parlement que dans les manifestations. Ses forces se dégagent à plusieurs niveaux, parfois structurées, parfois spontanées.

La victoire de l'Alliance du Changement a créé une nouvelle réalité politique qu'il faut respecter. Mais aucune situation politique n'est permanente. L'histoire nous enseigne qu'un gouvernement ne se maintient pas durablement grâce à sa majorité parlementaire. Il se maintient grâce à sa capacité à répondre aux attentes des citoyens. C'est cela qui fera la différence: «Une majorité se mesure en sièges tandis qu'un gouvernement se mesure en résultats.» Au fond, le Mauricien ne se pose qu'une seule question: Est-ce que je vis mieux qu'en 2024?

Pensons donc à leurs préoccupations. Ont-ils davantage de pouvoir d'achat? Les services publics fonctionnent-ils mieux? Les jeunes voient-ils davantage de perspectives d'avenir? L'économie crée-t-elle davantage d'opportunités? Les institutions fonctionnent-elles mieux? Et la démocratie ainsi que la liberté se portent-elles mieux? Il est difficile d'anticiper l'avenir, mais de nombreux événements se profilent, tant sur le plan politique que social.

*** Malgré les résistances rencontrées par le gouvernement de l'Alliance du Changement, notamment sur la réforme des pensions, et une marge de manœuvre budgétaire relativement limitée en raison des largesses du précédent gouvernement, rien ne semble indiquer, à ce stade, que le gouvernement soit réellement menacé. Comment évaluez-vous aujourd'hui sa solidité politique et sa capacité à maintenir le cap de ses réformes?**

La survie du gouvernement est liée au nombre de députés, mais il a déjà perdu la majorité au sein de la population. Il a perdu sa confiance. Vous parlez du cap des réformes. La question est la suivante: quelle est la feuille de route des réformes? La façon dont la réforme des pensions a été imposée a été un désastre.

En fait, les réformes sont très attendues. Le gouvernement doit comprendre que l'on ne peut pas gouverner en imposant sa politique sur des sujets qui touchent tout le monde, sans dialogue, sans consensus et sans considération de la dimension humaine. La résistance est liée à cet aspect fondamental et tout dépendra de la façon dont le gouvernement fera face à cette réalité.

Mais je crois que l'Opposition commettrait une erreur si

Après la victoire historique de l'Alliance du Changement, le paysage politique mauricien est en pleine recomposition. Face aux difficultés du Gouvernement et à une opposition qui cherche à se structurer, Nando Bodha, leader du Rassemblement mauricien, analyse les nouveaux rapports de force, l'avenir des différentes formations politiques et les perspectives d'un grand rassemblement. Il évoque également son propre positionnement et sa vision pour la prochaine décennie.



elle passait son temps à attendre son échec. Le gouvernement a été élu pour gouverner. Il doit être jugé sur son action. L'Opposition, elle, a une autre responsabilité. Elle doit construire une alternative crédible. La vraie question n'est pas: Quand le gouvernement va-t-il échouer? Mais c'est la suivante: L'Opposition sera-t-elle prête lorsque les Mauriciens demanderont une alternative?

*** Il semble se dessiner un mouvement vers une reconfiguration de l'opposition. Rama Valayden et Neelkant Dooloo ont tous deux rejoint le FPM de Paul Bérenger, encore à ses débuts, et il semblerait que d'autres ralliements soient en préparation. Assiste-t-on réellement à une reconfiguration de l'opposition, et pourquoi si tôt? Les élections ne sont pas pour demain, du moins le présume-t-on?**

Il y a une urgence dans la rue et l'Opposition est appelée à grandir et à se structurer davantage. Il y aura beaucoup de permutations à venir. Je suis sûr que certains, au

Gouvernement, pourraient se joindre à l'Opposition au fil du temps. Le bilan du Gouvernement se détériore et il y aura une plus grande pression au niveau des mandants dans les circonscriptions.

La marmite politique va continuer à bouillir, car le peuple cherche des solutions politiques concrètes face à ses préoccupations qui augmentent quotidiennement. Face aux vrais problèmes de la population - la cherté de la vie, le commerce extrêmement grave de la drogue, la fuite de notre jeunesse ailleurs -, il y a dans le pays un sentiment qu'il y a une urgence, ou plutôt une désespérance. Il y a dans la tête de beaucoup de gens: «Encore trois ans...»

Assiste-t-on actuellement à une reconfiguration de l'opposition? me demandez-vous. Oui, incontestablement. Après un bouleversement électoral d'une telle ampleur, il est naturel que les forces politiques cherchent à se repositionner. Mais je crois que nous accordons parfois trop d'importance aux mouvements individuels et pas assez à l'essentiel: le véritable enjeu n'est pas de savoir qui rencontre qui, mais quelle vision nous proposons aux Mauriciens.

Les citoyens veulent savoir où va le pays, quelles sont les priorités, qui est capable de les mettre en œuvre et comment les résultats seront évalués. Je crois que Maurice doit entrer dans une nouvelle phase de son développement. Au fond, le principal défi mauricien aujourd'hui n'est pas seulement économique ou politique: c'est un défi de confiance. Il s'agit d'avoir confiance dans nos institutions, dans notre économie, dans la capacité du pays à créer des opportunités, et dans l'avenir.

“Je suis prêt à travailler avec tous ceux qui partagent certaines convictions essentielles: la confiance dans les institutions, la bonne gouvernance, la transparence, la compétence, la responsabilité et la préparation de Maurice pour les décennies à venir. Encore une fois, «l'alliance doit être la conséquence du projet, et non le projet lui-même...”

'Un retour au MSM ne serait que pour sauvegarder les valeurs et les principes de Sir Anerood'

☞ Suite de la page 8

Lorsqu'un pays commence à douter de lui-même, tout ralentit: les investissements freinent, l'innovation stagne et les talents regardent ailleurs. À l'inverse, lorsque la confiance revient, les énergies se libèrent. C'est la raison pour laquelle la reconstruction de cette confiance doit devenir une priorité nationale.

Pendant longtemps, nous avons principalement débattu de politique politicienne. Nous devons désormais débattre davantage de productivité, d'innovation, d'éducation, d'énergie, de compétitivité et de qualité de nos institutions. Le véritable défi consiste à savoir comment Maurice pourra créer davantage de richesse tout en renforçant la cohésion sociale.

C'est cette conversation nationale qui manque aujourd'hui, et voilà pourquoi je continue de défendre une idée simple: «L'alliance doit être la conséquence du projet, et non le projet lui-même.» Si nous commençons par l'attribution des postes, nous construisons quelque chose de fragile; si nous commençons par la vision, nous construisons quelque chose de durable.

Il faut le mouvement des idées qui dynamise le mouvement des personnes.

*** Vous avez parlé récemment de la nécessité de rassembler les forces d'opposition. Pourquoi cette unité est-elle si difficile à réaliser? Est-ce principalement dû aux ambitions personnelles des différents leaders — notamment à celle de devenir Premier ministre?**

Pour moi, ce n'est pas le poste de Premier ministre qui doit primer, mais un programme, une vision et un consensus au sein d'une équipe. Cela devrait aider à dépasser les ambitions personnelles. Chaque Mauricien doit pouvoir aspirer à diriger notre pays, mais l'important, c'est que c'est le peuple qui décide en fin de compte.

J'ai toujours voulu un grand rassemblement, surtout quand il y a des abus que le peuple ne peut pas supporter, et je vais renouveler cet appel aux hommes et aux femmes de bonne volonté.

Pourquoi l'unité de l'Opposition reste-t-elle aussi difficile à construire? Parce que l'unité ne se décrète pas. Elle se construit. Je pense que, trop souvent, nous essayons de construire une coalition avant de construire un projet national. C'est une inversion des priorités. Toutefois, il est certain qu'il existe des ambitions personnelles. Dans toute démocratie, c'est normal.

Mais le véritable défi est ailleurs. Il consiste à répondre à une question fondamentale: Quel avenir voulons-nous construire pour Maurice? Et j'ajouterais: voulons-nous simplement gérer les difficultés du présent ou voulons-nous préparer le pays aux transformations qui s'annoncent?

L'intelligence artificielle, les mutations du travail, la transition énergétique, les enjeux climatiques et la concurrence internationale vont redessiner les économies du monde entier. Maurice ne peut pas se permettre d'attendre. Nous devons anticiper.

Si nous partageons une même destination, un même destin, beaucoup de divergences deviendront secondaires. Si nous ne partageons pas cette même destination, aucune alliance ne résistera à l'épreuve du temps.

La situation économique est difficile et les problèmes pour une relance sont réels, compte tenu de l'héritage de ces dernières années. Que faut-il faire? Rétablir la confiance pour l'investissement et l'innovation. Relancer la dynamique de prise de décisions pour les niches et créneaux où Maurice peut exceller, trouver des solutions immédiates pour le pouvoir d'achat et la formation, et revaloriser le travail et l'effort.

Sur le plan social, il semble que nous ne soyons pas à

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l'abri de débordements qui pourraient créer des tensions au sein du tissu social. J'ai très peur que nous ne devenions un narco-État et que l'argent de la drogue détruise tout, incluant la culture du travail et notre modèle économique.

Il faut un sursaut dans l'urgence, avec la participation de toutes les forces nationales. Les classes pauvres ne mangent plus à leur faim, la classe moyenne est en train de disparaître, l'accès à la terre est impossible aujourd'hui.

*** Que pensez-vous du Front Militant Progressiste (FMP), créé par Paul Bérenger après son départ du MMM? Peut-il réellement s'imposer comme une nouvelle force politique, ou risque-t-il de rester essentiellement un mouvement construit autour de la personnalité de Paul Bérenger?**

L'avenir nous le dira certainement. Dans tous les cas de

figure, le FPM est très actif et je suis convaincu qu'il réussira à réunir la grande famille militante. Il en a le potentiel. Paul Bérenger reste une personnalité importante de la vie politique mauricienne.

*** Chetan Baboolall est aujourd'hui Leader de l'Opposition et représente une nouvelle génération au sein du FPM. Le fait qu'il occupe désormais cette fonction change-t-il votre perception du FPM et de son potentiel politique? Pensez-vous qu'il puisse contribuer à faire évoluer le mouvement au-delà de Paul Bérenger?**

Le poste de Leader de l'Opposition est un poste clé. Il permet une action politique très efficace au Parlement et dans le pays. C'est une force de frappe pour être la voix du peuple et interpellier le Gouvernement sur les grandes questions, les grands dossiers, les scandales, et poser les questions dont la population exige une réponse.

Faire évoluer le mouvement au-delà de Paul Bérenger? L'avenir nous le dira. Mais le FPM permet à Paul Bérenger de mener ce combat constant qui a été le sien depuis toujours.

Toute émergence de nouvelles figures est positive pour notre démocratie. Maurice a besoin de renouvellement. Cependant, le renouvellement ne se résume pas à une question d'âge. Il doit se traduire par de nouvelles idées et une nouvelle capacité à répondre aux défis du monde dans le futur.

Aujourd'hui, lorsque je pense à l'avenir du pays, je pense d'abord à nos jeunes. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter qu'une partie de notre jeunesse considère l'émigration comme sa seule meilleure perspective. Ce qui m'inquiète le plus, ce n'est pas que certains jeunes partent. Maurice a toujours été ouverte sur le monde. Ce qui m'inquiète, c'est qu'ils partent parce qu'ils ont perdu confiance dans les perspectives ici.

Notre responsabilité collective est de leur redonner des raisons de croire en leur avenir à Maurice. Nous devons leur redonner confiance dans la classe politique - dans la politique avec ses lettres de noblesse -, pour s'engager à bâtir le pays.

*** Paul Bérenger a confirmé avoir eu des contacts avec vous. Qu'est-ce qui pourrait vous convaincre de rejoindre le FPM et, inversement, quelles seraient les conditions qui vous feraient refuser une telle alliance?**

J'ai rencontré beaucoup de leaders politiques, mais aussi des observateurs politiques, des acteurs de la société civile et des «captains of industry» sur l'évolution de la situation dans le pays. Avec Paul Bérenger, nous avons discuté des grands problèmes, de la situation économique et sociale, et de la manière dont on en est arrivé là. Nous allons continuer à approfondir ces discussions. Je ne raisonne pas en termes de partis politiques mais en termes de projet.

J'ai ma propre vision, claire et précise, sur ce que je veux faire pour diriger le pays, sortir du gouffre où nous sommes aujourd'hui et préparer l'avenir.

Je suis prêt à travailler avec tous ceux qui partagent certaines convictions essentielles: la confiance dans les institutions, la bonne gouvernance, la transparence, la compétence, la responsabilité et la préparation de Maurice pour les décennies à venir. Encore une fois, «l'alliance doit être la conséquence du projet, et non le projet lui-même.»

*** Êtes-vous toujours convaincu qu'un parti politique indépendant peut s'imposer à Maurice en dehors des grandes formations traditionnelles et des alliances électorales?**

Il y a quelque chose qui a changé fondamentalement: il y a de plus en plus de personnes qui souhaitent non pas un changement, mais une transformation de notre pays pour les générations futures.

☞ Suite en page 10

'Paul Bérenger reste une personnalité importante de la vie politique mauricienne'

☞ Suite de la page 9

Pour moi, c'est clair que seule une grande plateforme - avec des hommes et des femmes de bonne volonté, ayant la compétence et l'intégrité pour diriger le pays - peut s'imposer aux prochaines élections. Le peuple ne souhaite pas des «60-0» qui créent d'immenses espoirs se terminant en catastrophe, mais un gouvernement solide qui prend les décisions qu'il faut, et ce, dans son intérêt.

Notre système électoral favorise naturellement les regroupements. C'est une réalité. Mais l'influence politique ne se mesure pas uniquement en sièges. Ce qui compte aujourd'hui, c'est de contribuer à bâtir une alternative sérieuse, crédible et capable de gouverner. Les Mauriciens ont déjà vu des alliances; ce qu'ils attendent désormais, c'est un gouvernement prêt à gouverner: avec une équipe, un plan, des priorités claires et des résultats mesurables.

*** Vous avez aujourd'hui plusieurs options: poursuivre le combat avec le Rassemblement Mauricien, vous rapprocher du FPM ou participer à une plateforme plus large de l'opposition. Quelle voie vous paraît aujourd'hui la plus crédible?**

Je travaille avec le Rassemblement Mauricien à trois niveaux: d'abord sur les idées novatrices, ensuite sur la formation des cadres et, surtout, sur l'écoute du terrain. Je vais à la rencontre de beaucoup de Mauriciens, jeunes et moins jeunes, issus de tous les milieux... Le désir d'une transformation de notre société est omniprésent et pressant... C'est une idée qui fait son chemin depuis quelque temps: sortir des formules connues.

Je consolide le Rassemblement Mauricien avec des personnalités qui se joignent à nous pour mener ce combat. Le programme que nous allons proposer compte beaucoup, et surtout la détermination de le mettre en pratique. Le plus important, c'est avant tout de maintenir une présence permanente sur le terrain, d'être à l'écoute et de proposer de vraies solutions.

La voie la plus crédible est celle qui conduit à un gouvernement prêt à gouverner. Les Mauriciens ne veulent plus découvrir une alliance quelques semaines avant une élection. Les Mauriciens ne cherchent pas une addition des partis. Ils cherchent une solution pour le pays. Ils veulent savoir qui dirigera, avec quelle équipe, selon quel programme, avec quels objectifs et de quelle manière les résultats seront mesurés.

Je pense que le pays a besoin d'une culture politique davantage centrée sur la performance et la responsabilité. Par exemple, lorsqu'un hôpital ne répond pas aux attentes ou lorsqu'une administration accumule les retards, les citoyens doivent pouvoir constater les progrès réalisés par un gouvernement en place.

Lorsque l'émission d'un permis prend six mois au lieu de quelques semaines, c'est un problème de compétitivité; lorsqu'un patient attend trop longtemps pour accéder à certains soins, c'est un problème de gestion et de gouvernance; et lorsqu'un jeune diplômé ne trouve pas d'opportunité correspondant à ses compétences, c'est un problème de développement économique. Les promesses doivent devenir mesurables et les résultats, vérifiables.

*** Un retour au MSM est-il pour vous définitivement exclu, ou pensez-vous qu'une recomposition politique pourrait un jour rendre cette possibilité envisageable?**

C'est une question qui revient presque tous les jours. Je parle avec mes anciens amis qui ont quand même combattu avec moi pendant des années, pas moins de vingt-cinq élections.

Un retour au MSM ne serait que pour sauvegarder les



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valeurs et les principes de Sir Anerood. C'est certainement celui qui m'a le plus marqué dans ma carrière politique, celui qui m'a donné l'opportunité de servir le pays à plusieurs niveaux. Et je l'ai toujours fait pour être digne de cette confiance.

*** Aujourd'hui, Paul Bérenger construit le FPM, Chetan Baboolall émerge comme une nouvelle figure de l'opposition et le MSM cherche à se reconstruire. Où vous situez-vous personnellement dans cette nouvelle carte politique?**

Je consolide le RM et je me prépare à un grand rassemblement. Il faut sortir le pays du gouffre où il est plongé. Je me situe donc dans l'espace du rassemblement et de la transformation.

Les dix prochaines années seront déterminantes pour notre nation. Je continue le travail sur le terrain, la mise en place des structures. Je continue à parler avec tous les acteurs politiques. Si ma vision et mes solutions aux problèmes du pays rassemblent tous ceux qui veulent cette transformation que je prône, je me prépare à servir Maurice avec humilité et avec l'écoute, pas dans l'arrogance ou dans un rôle de «one man show».

Pour moi, un Premier ministre et son équipe doivent être au-dessus de tout soupçon de corruption; ils doivent donner l'exemple d'en haut et prendre les décisions qu'il faut.

Je pense que les Mauriciens aspirent à davantage de sérénité dans le débat public. Ils veulent davantage de résultats, de compétence et d'efficacité. Le vrai débat ne doit plus être exclusivement centré sur les personnes; il doit porter sur le modèle de développement que nous voulons pour le pays. Un modèle tourné vers le passé? Un modèle tourné vers la gestion du présent? Ou un modèle tourné vers la préparation de l'avenir?

Je crois profondément que la prochaine décennie sera décisive pour Maurice. Nous devons retrouver l'esprit d'ambition qui a permis à notre pays de réussir dans le passé, et nous avons besoin davantage de confiance, d'investissement dans notre jeunesse, de compétitivité ainsi que d'excellence dans l'action publique.

*** À terme, quelle est votre ambition personnelle: contribuer à une grande coalition de l'opposition, reconstruire le Rassemblement Mauricien comme une force autonome, ou jouer un rôle dans une nouvelle génération de leadership politique à Maurice?**

Une force autonome ne suffira jamais. Il nous faudra une grande plateforme avec la nouvelle génération qui prendra la relève.

Après 40 ans de vie politique et cinq mandats, et plus de 15 ans comme ministre - j'ai servi sous quatre Premiers ministres avec compétence et intégrité -, je pense avoir

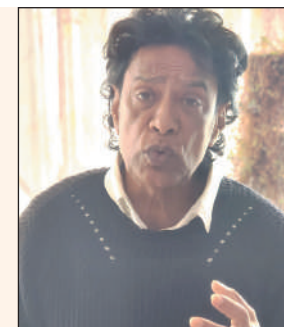
acquis suffisamment d'expérience pour partager et aspirer à diriger une équipe de ministres alliant compétence et intégrité, qui ferait honneur au pays et tracerait l'avenir des générations futures.

Mon ambition est simple: je souhaite contribuer à construire une Maurice plus forte, plus compétitive et plus confiante. Je souhaite que nos jeunes aient envie de construire leur avenir ici, en appuyant ce projet sur des institutions plus solides, une économie plus dynamique, des services publics plus performants et une plus grande confiance dans la parole publique.

Lorsque je parle de l'avenir, je pense souvent à un jeune Mauricien qui termine aujourd'hui ses études, à ses parents qui se demandent quelles perspectives lui offrir, et à cette famille qui fait des sacrifices pour lui permettre de réussir. Nous devons préparer nos enfants aux emplois de demain, pas seulement aux examens d'aujourd'hui. Mon ambition est qu'un jeune Mauricien puisse dire simplement: «*Mon avenir est à Maurice*» — et qu'il le dise non par résignation, mais par conviction.

Pour moi, c'est probablement l'indicateur le plus important. Si nos jeunes choisissent de construire leur avenir ici, c'est que nous aurons réussi. Si nos entreprises investissent davantage, c'est que nous aurons réussi. Si les citoyens retrouvent confiance dans leurs institutions, c'est que nous aurons réussi. Au fond, le succès d'un pays se mesure à la confiance qu'il inspire à sa propre population.

“Notre système électoral favorise naturellement les regroupements. C'est une réalité. Mais l'influence politique ne se mesure pas uniquement en sièges. Ce qui compte aujourd'hui, c'est de contribuer à bâtir une alternative sérieuse, crédible et capable de gouverner. Les Mauriciens ont déjà vu des alliances; ce qu'ils attendent désormais, c'est un gouvernement prêt à gouverner...”



Je suis convaincu que Maurice possède encore tous les atouts pour réussir. Ce dont nous avons besoin aujourd'hui, ce n'est pas d'un miracle, mais d'un nouvel élan de confiance: confiance dans nos capacités, dans nos institutions, dans notre jeunesse et dans notre avenir collectif. Parce qu'avant de transformer un pays, il faut d'abord lui redonner confiance en lui-même. Lorsqu'un pays perd confiance, il commence à se replier; lorsqu'il la retrouve, il recommence à entreprendre, à investir, à innover et à croire en l'avenir.

La jeunesse n'est pas seulement l'avenir de Maurice; la jeunesse est déjà une partie essentielle de son présent. Pour y parvenir, nous devons améliorer la vie quotidienne des familles aujourd'hui tout en préparant l'avenir. Ce qui nous manque parfois, ce n'est pas la capacité de réussir, mais la confiance nécessaire pour croire à nouveau en notre réussite collective. C'est cette confiance qu'il nous faut reconstruire. Et voilà pourquoi, au fond, ma démarche peut se résumer en une seule phrase: Je ne travaille pas pour la prochaine élection. Je travaille pour la prochaine décennie de Maurice.

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Ecuadorean court sentences former President Bucaram in Covid corruption case

An Ecuadorean court sentenced former President Abdala Bucaram to nine years and four months of imprisonment on Wednesday for his involvement in a criminal organisation that fraudulently sold medical supplies during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bucaram, 74, who was in power from August 1996 to February 1997, may serve his sentence under house arrest due to his age, in accordance with Ecuadorean law, reports Reuters.

One of Bucaram's sons, Jacobo Bucaram, was also convicted in the same case.

"The defendants formed an organized criminal structure that, repeatedly and in a concerted manner, committed crimes," the prosecutor's office said in a statement on the ruling.

A total of four individuals were accused by the Attorney General's Office of having obtained financial benefits by negotiating the purchase of some 21,000 rapid Covid-19 tests and other medical supplies between March and August 2020, while Ecuador was experiencing one of the worst outbreaks of the pandemic in the region.

Bucaram's son was sentenced to the same term as his father. The others were a former traffic officer who was sentenced to 13 years and four months, while an Israeli citizen received a reduced sentence of two years



Bucaram, 74, may serve his sentence under house arrest due to his age. Pic - FMT

and eight months for his cooperation during the trial.

Case Intricacies

Prosecutors said that traffic police officers provided security for two foreign nationals who were transporting the supplies to Bucaram's residence in the coastal city of Guayaquil.

"According to the investigation, those involved pretended to be members of the diplomatic corps or agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

World's highest-paid Prime minister sees 64% salary hike, pledges difference to charity

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced on Tuesday that ministerial salaries in the city-state -- already among the highest globally -- will increase starting October 15. The overall framework revision boosts the Prime Minister's benchmark annual remuneration by 64 per cent, raising it from S\$2.2 million (approx. MUR 81.5 million) to S\$3.6 million (approx. MUR 133.4 million).

Justifying the revised compensation structure, Wong stated that competitive pay remains necessary to attract top talent into political leadership and public governance.

Under the updated salary framework:

Entry-Level Ministers: The benchmark annual salary for a minister at the lowest grade will rise from MUR 40.8 million to MUR 66.7 million.

Prime Minister: The benchmark increases from approx. MUR 81.5 million to MUR 133.4 million.

The immediate implementation will not automatically place ministers at their top benchmarks. Instead, cabinet members will receive a one-time adjustment of up to 9 per cent starting October 15, based on individual performance and scope of responsibilities. Most ministers at the entry grade are expected to earn roughly MUR 50 million by the conclusion of the current political term.

While Prime Minister Wong did not disclose his exact current pay, he noted that a 9 per cent initial increase would bring his

actual compensation to approximately MUR 88.9 million. He also pledged to donate the surplus from his pay increase to charitable causes.

Rationale: The "Top 1,000 Earners" formula Singapore calculates political pay by taking the median income of the top 1,000 Singaporean citizen earners and applying a 40% discount to account for the ethos of public service. Because private sector salaries (especially in finance, tech, and law) rose significantly over the past decade while political salaries remained largely frozen since 2012, the adjustment was made to maintain competitive pay and prevent a brain drain into private markets.

The Public Diplomacy of Donating to Charity: Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's decision to donate the salary surplus to charity for five years addresses a sensitive domestic political issue. While Singaporeans generally expect clean, corruption-free governance, high ministerial pay remains a frequent point of public debate. Donating the increase balances structural policy needs with public sentiment.

Scale Compared to Other Global Leaders: Even at his pre-hike salary, Singapore's Prime Minister was the highest-paid head of government globally. For scale, the new benchmark of US\$2.85M is roughly seven times higher than the US President's annual compensation of US\$400,000.

Across the Globe

More warnings of AI extinction

Top AI pioneers backed an Anthropic researcher's warning of potential human extinction. Paul Christiano — author of an influential 2016 paper on AI safety with future Anthropic founder Dario Amodei, and a longstanding believer that the technology would take off relatively gradually and be made safe — said he now sees "meaningful risk" of "catastrophic and irreversible loss of control in the very near term."

"Most people could die," he warned, announcing that he was joining OpenAI's nonprofit safety team to reduce the risks. Meanwhile, Geoffrey Hinton, one of the three so-called "Godfathers of AI," told the BBC that a 10% risk of human extinction "seems a not unreasonable estimate," echoing a comment from one of Anthropic's top AI alignment scientists yesterday.

S. Africa to triple oil refining

South Africa announced plans to at least triple its oil refining capacity, the latest country on the continent to make moves to boost its energy independence. The war in the Middle East has exposed Africa's reliance on energy imports, which account for around 70% of the continent's refined fuel needs.

In response, several countries have made moves to boost their refining capacity: Africa's richest man recently announced he would build a mega-facility in Kenya modelled on the continent's biggest refinery in Nigeria — which he owns. Countries have also boosted their adoption of renewable energy, helping millions access reliable electricity for the first time. Think tank Ember projected Africa's adoption of solar panels would rise by 45% this year.



South Africa to look at building 'mega' petrol refinery. Pic - Business Talk

Trump sees end to Iran war

US President Donald Trump said the Iran war would end "immediately" after November's midterm election, contradicting the analysis of experts and even some of his closest advisers. Top White House officials, including the vice president and the secretary of state, have reportedly told Trump that Iran would resist the US blockade and other military tactics through the rest of his term to Inauguration Day in January 2029. Experts, noting signs of Tehran's economic resilience, likewise agree that Iran has the capacity to draw the conflict out, even if its people are made to bear the costs. "As breathing slows in parts of Iran's economy, ample oxygen will remain for the country's elite," an expert wrote in Foreign Affairs.

Chinese inflation accelerates



Chinese inflation. Pic - Reuters

China's inflation accelerated for the first time in months, compounding the economic difficulties for millions of people. Higher energy and food prices pushed inflation up, adding to cost worries in a country that until recently was threatened with deflation.

Analysts fear that a protracted conflict in the Middle East could pile more pressure on China, the world's biggest oil importer, adding to the squeeze on households at a time when youth unemployment is at almost 18%.

Thousands have taken to criticizing authorities on social media, despite the risks of retribution. In the past, a single critique of China's leadership would have been noteworthy; "today, you see so much of it that it barely even registers anymore," an analyst said.

UN nuclear watchdog board 'reports' Iran to the UN Security Council for the first time in two decades

The UN atomic watchdog's board on Wednesday reported Iran to the UN Security Council for the first time in 20 years for failure to cooperate in a long-running investigation into uranium traces detected by inspectors at various undeclared sites in Iran.

Twenty-three countries on the IAEA's 35-member board of governors voted for the resolution at IAEA headquarters in Vienna, reports PTI.

China, Russia and Niger opposed it, while eight countries abstained and one didn't vote as it was in arrears, according to diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the outcome of the closed-door vote.

The resolution was put forward by the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

The diplomatic move has been under consideration since June 2025, when the IAEA Board formally found Iran in non-compliance with its non-proliferation obligations, citing Tehran's lack of cooperation in a long-running investigation into uranium traces detected by inspectors at several undeclared sites in Iran.

Western officials suspect that the uranium traces



UN Security Council. Pic - Facebook

could provide further evidence that Iran had a secret nuclear weapons program until 2003.

Iran says that it's not pursuing nuclear weapons, and its program is entirely peaceful.

Iran's referral to the UN Security Council comes amid a further escalation in the US war with Iran.

Reporting Iran to the UN Security Council now shifts

the responsibility to a higher authority that is able to enact further measures, including sanctions or asset freezes.

But specific punitive measures by the UN are unlikely in this case since Iran's allies Russia and China hold veto power on the UN Security Council.

Since Israel and the US struck Iran's nuclear sites during the 12-day war in June 2025, Iran hasn't given IAEA inspectors access to nuclear sites that were affected by the strikes.

The IAEA also has been unable to verify the status of the stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium since the June bombing.

According to the IAEA, Iran maintains a stockpile of 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60% purity -- a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

That stockpile could allow Iran to build as many as 10 nuclear bombs, should it decide to weaponise its program, IAEA chief Grossi warned in an interview last year with the AP. He said that it doesn't mean that Iran has such a weapon.

AI 80s photo trend: Best prompts to turn your photos into glamorous 1980s film camera shots

A fresh trend has taken over the feed of social media platforms this week, with users prompting AI to transform their pictures into versions from the 1980s.

The trend reimagines modern-day portraits as grainy, hazy pictures taken from the film cameras of the 80s. Featuring fashion trends from that period, the internet has now become a blur of puffy sleeves, bright colors and glamorous makeup.

Here's how you can recreate these nostalgic portraits. Use these prompts to

transform your photo into stunning 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90s-inspired looks using ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Google Flow or any other AI photo-editing tool, reports HT.

The rebellious 60s

The 60s sported blouses with puffed sleeves

Prompt: "Transform this photo into a 1960s-inspired portrait without changing the facial identity, features or skin tone. Add era-appropriate clothing with clean geometric lines, accessories, and a structured hairstyle with volume. Use a mid-

century backdrop, soft directional lighting and light film grain for an authentic analogue feel."

The disco-era 70s

Prompt: "Transform this photo into a 1970s portrait, keeping the facial identity, structure and skin tone unchanged. Style with flowing fabrics, earthy or warm tones, statement jewellery and feathered or layered hair. Use golden warm lighting, a vintage interior backdrop and a slightly faded, grainy analogue texture."

The bold, dramatic 80s

Prompt: "Transform this photo into a glamorous 1980s portrait, preserving the exact facial identity, expression and skin tone. Add a bold silhouette outfit, state-

ment earrings, voluminous hair and dramatic studio lighting. Use rich, saturated colors, soft-focus flash photography and authentic film grain."

The minimalist 90s

Prompt: "Transform this photo into a 1990s-style portrait without altering the facial identity, features or skin tone. Style with understated, chic clothing, natural-glossy makeup and era-appropriate hair. Feature a simple background like a bedroom or café setting, with soft natural lighting and slightly desaturated colors."

The trend has moved quickly beyond ordinary social media users, with several celebrities and public figures also sharing their own transformed portraits.

Across the Globe

Hard-right UK party investigated

British police launched a criminal investigation into the hard-right party Reform UK's finances, although similar legal pressures on other European populists have not dented their popularity. Two Reform aides and the party leader were caught on camera apparently discussing illegal foreign donations to their campaign; they deny wrongdoing. The impact may be limited: Germany's AfD has had offices raided over alleged bribery, been investigated for foreign donations, and had one party worker jailed for spying for China, yet achieved its best-ever result in a state election this week. In France, Marine Le Pen, the leader of the National Rally, was convicted of embezzling EU funds; she is nonetheless leading the polls for the 2027 presidential election.

Apple unveils \$2,000 iPhone

Apple unveiled its first folding phone — and the most expensive iPhone to date, starting at \$1,999. As usual with Apple, it is not the first to pioneer a new technology; Samsung and Huawei have had folding phones for years. But, as with touchscreens, it hopes to "redefine the experience," per new CEO John Ternus. The higher cost is noteworthy mainly because of smartphone prices' staggering consistency: The original iPhone cost \$499 on release in 2007 (equivalent to \$800 today), while 2025's base-level iPhone 17 cost \$799. Samsung and Google



Apple's folding phone. Pic - LBC

also kept prices broadly level, despite huge capability increases. That changed this year as AI demand drove memory costs up: Samsung, Google, and now Apple have all raised starting prices.

Student performance falls across OECD

Students' learning continued to decline across wealthy countries, denting hopes that a 2022 slump was a short-lived COVID effect.

The OECD PISA scores saw reading and math fall by the equivalent of more than a year's learning since 2015, with a smaller drop in science.

One exception was England, which climbed in science and otherwise stayed steady since 2022 — and by doing

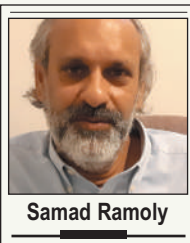
so entered the world's top 10 in all subjects.

A *Financial Times* data journalist highlighted "the deluge of digital distractions" as a potential cause. An educational researcher agreed, but added that England's performance could be explained by its abandoning of "evidence-free fads" such as teaching transferable skills and focusing on traditional knowledge-based curricula and objective testing.

Netanyahu rejects new Oct. 7 reporting

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to sue Haaretz over its report that he ignored the UAE president's explicit warning about Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks, revelations that caused an uproar in Israel and widened Netanyahu's rift with Abu Dhabi. The allegations, which Netanyahu denies, have energized his domestic opponents, some of whom are viewed more favourably in Abu Dhabi, ahead of critical Israeli elections next month; polls show the prime minister appears to be losing ground. Netanyahu is targeting a record seventh term but faces hawkish candidates who blame him for undermining national security. "Everyone in Israel shares a sense of historical crisis, and his name is all over it," an Israeli analyst told Reuters.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah



Samad Ramoly

The Pillars of Lee Kuan Yew's Hands-On Approach

In contemporary management circles, the phrase “hands-on leadership” frequently suffers from a branding crisis. Mention the term to an executive, and it conjures images of the suffocating micromanager — the boss who hovers over spreadsheets, polices inbox response times, and hoards decision-making authority.

Yet, true hands-on leadership is not about stifling control; it is about architectural engagement. To understand this style at its zenith, one must look to the man who transformed Singapore from a vulnerable, third-world port into a global economic powerhouse: Lee Kuan Yew.

Lee's approach offers a masterclass in how a leader can roll up their sleeves to shape operational reality while maintaining a razor-sharp focus on macro strategy.

Systems Over Supervision

The primary distinction between a micromanager and a hands-on leader lies in *intent*. While the micromanager seeks to control individuals, a hands-on leader seeks to optimise systems.

When Lee assumed leadership, he did not spend his days peering over the shoulders of civil servants. Instead, he occupied himself with architecting robust frameworks. He established highly efficient state institutions, such as the Economic Development Board (EDB), and ruthlessly aligned them with clear, measurable mandates. He pushed authority down to brilliant technocrats, ensuring they were equipped with the tools and intellectual freedom to execute, whilst remaining deeply involved in setting the institutional standards of absolute meritocracy and zero corruption.

The Obsession with the ‘How’

A strategy is only as good as its weakest operational link. Lee understood that global reputation is built on the flawless execution of mundane details.

This was famously demonstrated by his manicured



“Lee Kuan Yew viewed leadership as a permanent educational campaign. Through public addresses and national initiatives, he worked tirelessly to reshape the cultural behaviour of the population, embedding values of self-reliance and long-term thinking...”

“Clean and Green” campaign. Lee was intimately involved in urban planning, waste management, and even the specific types of trees planted along the highway from Changi Airport.

To the untrained eye, this might look like trivial meddling. In reality, it was a highly strategic lever. Lee knew that international investors flying into Singapore would judge the nation's governance by its physical environment. A pristine, orderly city signalled a disciplined, reliable workforce. He got hands-on with execution because he knew that details **are** the strategy.

Pragmatism and the Teaching Mindset

Effective hands-on leaders do not rely on hierarchy to win arguments; they rely on cold, hard data. Lee's governance was entirely devoid of ideological sentimentality. If a policy failed to deliver tangible benefits in the real world, it was dismantled without hesitation.

Furthermore, he viewed leadership as a permanent edu-

cational campaign. Through public addresses and national initiatives, he worked tirelessly to reshape the cultural behaviour of the population, embedding values of self-reliance and long-term thinking. He was a master teacher, ensuring that his framework for problem-solving was internalised by the entire organisation.

Balancing the Scales: The LKY Model

The British Executive's Takeaway	The Organisational Risk
Flawless Institutionalisation: By building world-class systems, the operational rhythm survives long after the leader departs.	The Risk of Over-Dependence: A highly dominant leader can inadvertently create a culture where subordinates wait for a rubber stamp before acting.
Unshakable Trust: Delivering immediate, tangible improvements breeds immense institutional loyalty.	The Threat of Burnout: A culture with zero tolerance for administrative failure can create a high-stakes, high-stress environment.

The Modern Manager's Blueprint

To adopt the Lee Kuan Yew model without suffocating your team, modern leaders must focus on three core disciplines:

- **Identify Leverage Points:** Do not monitor every email. Identify the foundational systems—such as your customer onboarding process or core data architecture—and get deeply, uncomfortably involved in perfecting them.
- **Demand Unvarnished Data:** Foster an environment where hierarchy is secondary to evidence. Challenge your team on the practical execution of their ideas, not just the theory.
- **Build to Abdicate:** The ultimate goal of getting your hands dirty today is ensuring the machinery runs smoothly tomorrow. Teach your team **how** to think through your operational frameworks, so that eventually, they can execute flawlessly without your intervention.

In an era obsessed with detached, high-level visionaries, Lee Kuan Yew reminds us that true leadership is an active, operational craft. The best leaders are not distant figures in ivory towers; they are the architects on the ground, ensuring the foundations are built to last.



Dr Gleb Tsiursky

Forum

Mauritius Needs an AI Decision-Rights Map Before it Scales

In his August 31 interview with *Mauritius Times*, IT Minister

Avinash Ramtohul made the central challenge of the country's AI push unusually clear. Mauritius can invest in infrastructure and tools, but it still has to build capability inside government, universities, businesses, and communities. He also stressed that AI cannot substitute for leadership or administrative responsibility.

That distinction should shape the next stage of adoption. Technical skills matter. Yet people also need explicit rules for when AI can act, when it can only recommend, when a human must verify its output, and who carries responsibility when the answer matters.

Mauritius should turn those rules into a simple decision-rights map for AI-enabled work.

A decision-rights map begins with the work itself. Every organisation can divide recurring tasks into four categories: AI may execute with routine monitoring; AI may recommend but a person approves; AI output requires independent verification before action; and the decision remains human because accountability, context, or consequences demand it.

This classification prevents two common operational problems. Without clear boundaries, employees may trust polished AI output more than they should. Others may respond by reviewing everything so heavily that automation saves little time. A shared map gives teams a middle path based on the consequences of error.

The second part should define verification standards. “Human in the loop” sounds reassuring, but it says little about what the human should actually do. For a low-risk internal draft, a quick check may suffice. For a procurement recommendation, benefits decision, financial action, hiring judgment, or public communication, the reviewer may need to compare the AI output against independent records, policy, or professional standards before approving it.

That matters because review quality depends on whether the reviewer retains enough knowledge to recognize a problem. If people gradually stop doing the underlying work, they can become supervisors in name while losing the competence needed to challenge the system. Organizations should therefore identify which skills employees must con-

tinue to practise without AI and test those skills periodically.

The third part should name escalation and override authority. Employees need to know who can stop an AI-enabled workflow, who resolves disagreement between an automated recommendation and professional judgment, and what evidence should trigger escalation. These rules become especially important when AI moves from drafting or search into workflows that affect citizens, customers, employees, money, or safety.

The fourth part should create a feedback loop. When an employee catches an AI error, overrides a recommendation, or discovers a useful new application, the organisation should record what happened and update the workflow. The goal is not a large bureaucracy. A short exception log can show where models repeatedly fail, where review consumes too much time, and where guardrails can safely loosen because performance has become reliable.

Mauritius already has a useful place to teach these habits. The new AI Innovation Lab* was created for practical learning and AI experimentation by students, professionals, technology entrepreneurs, and members of civil society. Training there can go beyond learning what tools can do. Participants can practise classifying decisions, checking outputs, documenting exceptions, and de-

signing human escalation paths.

Universities can use the same approach with students. Employers can apply it to customer service, finance, HR, operations, and knowledge work. Government agencies can adapt it to public services, administrative decisions, and internal analysis. The categories will differ, but the governing question stays the same: what authority are we delegating, and what human competence must remain strong enough to supervise it?

The minister's warning that Mauritius cannot purchase its way into becoming an AI nation points in the right direction. Capability grows through repeated practice inside real decisions. Infrastructure expands what AI can do. A decision-rights map helps institutions decide what AI should do, what people must still understand, and where responsibility ultimately sits.

* AI Innovation Lab:

<<https://mitci.govmu.org/mitci/first-of-its-kind-ai-innovation-lab-launched-to-democratise-access-to-emerging-technologies/>>

Gleb Tsiursky, PhD, is a behavioural scientist, CEO of Disaster Avoidance Experts, and author of 'The Psychology of AI Adoption at Work: From Resistance to Results, (Georgetown University Press, 2026).

<https://disasteravoidanceexperts.com/aibook>

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

Is the Time Ripe for a University in Mauritius?

Anybody coming across a copy of *Le Mauricien* of 24th February last must have been amused by the stupidity contained in one of its articles bearing the same title as ours. And if anyone wants to laugh a little, I recommend him to the same.

In the article, my friend (professor, I should say) Epsilon (mute 'e' of the Greek alphabet) has been speaking about Municipal Elections, Labour Government and a lot of other things. Totally out of place. He has been lamenting, for most of the time, about the sort of teachers teaching in Aided Secondary Schools. Well, one need not climb a tree to see that all this has nothing to do with the creation of a university here in Mauritius.

It is no more a secret that *Le Mauricien* and all its acolytes (...) cannot see any reason why a university should be instituted here, as it may prove harmful to themselves. As far as the wealthy class is concerned, it is a trifle for one of that community to go to England and pursue higher studies there. But what of the thousands of poor, but intelligent students, who have to put an end to their studies after secondary education only, just because they cannot afford to study abroad owing to acute financial difficulties? (...)

Mauritius is moving fast towards independence, and in order to achieve its goal, she must improve her economic and social activities, among which education finds a prominent place.

We need men with a higher degree of intelligence and understanding here; to produce them, it is very essential that we have a university. The standard of education is very low. Technologists are scanty. Secondary education is being imparted to the ignorant by the ignorant. Unemployment is increasing daily through the fact that the people are not qualified for the jobs they are seeking. Numberless are those half-baked



intellectuals who can neither fulfil the requirements of the jobs of their dreams, nor take up a manual occupation, just because neither academic nor technical education has ever been imparted to them. What has destiny in store for them? But if these same young people could be trained in a university, they would have a sound knowledge of their jobs. They should not necessarily become doctors or lawyers or teachers; they could become manual workers as well.

We should not forget that we learn, not for school, but for living a worthier life. Thus, the prestige of the common man too would be elevated, as he would have acquired a good knowledge of the world, as well as a good education.

The scandalous state of affairs prevailing in our secondary schools too would be put an end to. We would have many local graduates to teach the various subjects in these schools.

Now, there are many whose parents have the means to send them abroad (because there is no university here). But, according to reports, most of them take a far longer time than necessary to obtain their degrees, because, being under no control, they waste their time frequenting clubs, theatres and cinemas. This is also a sheer waste of money. But if they had stayed here and attended a local university, they would

be under better control and guidance in their environment. Moreover, the amount of Mauritian money spent abroad would stay here.

Now, some people may say that at a time when Mauritius is facing a financial crisis, how can it afford to spend money on a university which is no small project after all? But if we scrutinise the point, we shall see that the Government will have to spend practically nothing on it. Of course, in the beginning it will have to find the money to make it stand. But afterwards, everything will be running smoothly.

In the first instance, we find that the Government is annually spending Rs 240,000 on the six scholarship winners. By making them stay here, only a fraction of that sum will be needed; moreover, the number

of scholarship winners will not only be increased, but the rest of the money may be granted to the university.

Next, the fees obtained by the students will help a great deal. Funds may be raised by the university itself by organising sports, dramas and other social activities. So, we see that, as far as finance is concerned, the Government has not to worry itself much about it. In the beginning it will be difficult for the university to be independent, as we have not enough experts to teach here. So, although the coaching will be done here, the examinations may be carried out, and the diplomas issued, by English universities.

If we want an 'Entité Mauricienne', this is a fine way to foster it. A university here will train people of different communities to live happily together and understand one another.

I hope this is sufficient to show 'Epsilon' that the time is ripe for a university in Mauritius. I am not a great writer as he is. I am only a poor student who would have liked to benefit from the privileges of a university. I have not disproved him, because he has not been able to say anything in so many beautiful words, but here I have only written what I do know, and I should like to remind him that it is high time we had a university in Mauritius.

A Mauritian Student

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much. Mauritius Times

NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

TAKE NOTICE that I, Mr Avinash Baboolall, will apply to the District Council of Rivière du Rempart for a Land Use Permit for the conversion of an existing CIS structure for use as a Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Workshop (Mechanical Workshop) at Pave Road, Petit Raffey, with installation of the following equipment:

- 100 L Silent Air Compressor – 2.2 kW
- Two-Post Vehicle Hoist, 4 Ton Capacity – 2.2 kW
- MIG/MMA Welding Machine, 200A – 7.0 kW
- Bench Drilling Machine, 16 mm – 0.75 kW
- Manual Hydraulic Vehicle Lift, 3 Ton Capacity – Manual Operation (0 kW)

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

Date: 11.09.2026

Allemagne: le séisme de Saxe-Anhalt et la crise du centre politique

☞ Suite de la page 5

Le parti réclame des contrôles plus stricts aux frontières, une politique d'asile plus restrictive et davantage d'expulsions.

Mais l'immigration ne suffit pas à expliquer le résultat.

Derrière cette question se trouve souvent une inquiétude plus large concernant l'identité, la sécurité, la capacité de l'État à contrôler ses frontières et la concurrence pour l'accès au logement, aux services publics ou à certaines prestations sociales.

Il existe d'ailleurs un paradoxe. Certaines régions qui votent fortement AfD connaissent elles-mêmes une pénurie de travailleurs. L'Allemagne vieillit et certains secteurs dépendent déjà de la main-d'œuvre étrangère. Une politique migratoire beaucoup plus restrictive pourrait donc entrer en contradiction avec les besoins économiques du pays.

Le débat n'est ainsi pas simplement: "immigration ou pas immigration?" Il concerne aussi la capacité de l'État à organiser l'immigration, à intégrer les nouveaux arrivants et à maintenir la confiance de ceux qui ont le sentiment que leurs propres difficultés sont négligées.

Insécurité économique et sentiment de déclassement

La deuxième grande explication réside dans la situation économique.

L'Allemagne, longtemps considérée comme le moteur économique de l'Europe, traverse depuis plusieurs années une période difficile. Les problèmes de l'industrie, les coûts de l'énergie, la concurrence internationale, les transformations de l'automobile et

les incertitudes concernant le modèle économique allemand ont alimenté un sentiment de vulnérabilité.

En Allemagne de l'Est, ces inquiétudes sont renforcées par une histoire particulière. Trente-six ans après la réunification, les différences économiques, démographiques et psychologiques entre l'Est et l'Ouest n'ont pas complètement disparu.

Dans ce contexte, le vote populiste peut devenir une manière d'exprimer un sentiment de déclassement ou d'abandon: "Nous avons fait les sacrifices, mais nous ne sommes pas les bénéficiaires du système."

Ce sentiment n'est pas nécessairement fondé sur une situation de pauvreté absolue. Il peut être lié à la peur de perdre son statut, son emploi, son pouvoir d'achat ou la sécurité sociale dont on bénéficiait.

Crise des partis traditionnels

Le résultat de la CDU est, à cet égard, presque aussi important que celui de l'AfD.

Pendant des décennies, les grands partis allemands bénéficiaient d'une fidélité électorale relativement forte. Aujourd'hui, les électeurs sont plus mobiles. Ils peuvent abandonner un parti qui ne répond plus à leurs préoccupations et se tourner vers une formation qui, quelques années auparavant, aurait été considérée comme marginale.

C'est l'une des caractéristiques de la politique contemporaine en Europe: les partis traditionnels perdent progressivement leur capacité à monopoliser certaines catégories d'électeurs.



Le phénomène ne concerne d'ailleurs pas uniquement la droite. Le SPD, les Verts et Die Linke sont, eux aussi, confrontés à une fragmentation de l'électorat.

Lorsque les partis traditionnels se ressemblent davantage aux yeux des électeurs, le choix peut se déplacer vers les formations qui proposent une rupture plus radicale.

Piège du "AfD-lite"

Friedrich Merz est confronté à un dilemme particulièrement délicat.

Pour empêcher l'AfD de monopoliser les questions d'immigration et de sécurité, la CDU a elle-même durci certaines de ses positions. Mais cela pose une question fondamentale: si les partis traditionnels adoptent une partie du discours de l'AfD, pourquoi les électeurs devraient-ils choisir la copie plutôt que l'original?

Le fait de se rapprocher du discours

populiste peut permettre de récupérer certains électeurs. Mais cela peut aussi contribuer à normaliser les thèmes et les arguments du parti que l'on cherche à contenir.

L'enjeu pour les partis démocratiques n'est donc pas simplement de devenir plus fermes sur l'immigration. Il est de démontrer qu'ils peuvent apporter des réponses crédibles aux préoccupations économiques, sociales et sécuritaires qui alimentent le mécontentement.

La véritable leçon allemande

Le résultat de Saxe-Anhalt dépasse donc largement la montée de l'extrême droite. Il révèle surtout l'érosion du centre politique.

L'AfD progresse parce qu'elle a réussi à capter plusieurs frustrations: immigration, insécurité économique, sentiment de déclassement, défiance envers les élites, rejet de certaines transformations culturelles et scepticisme à l'égard de la politique étrangère du gouvernement, notamment sur l'Ukraine.

Mais elle progresse aussi parce que les partis traditionnels peinent à convaincre une partie croissante de l'électorat qu'ils disposent encore de réponses aux problèmes de leur vie quotidienne.

C'est là le véritable avertissement pour l'Allemagne — et au-delà pour d'autres démocraties. On ne combat pas durablement le populisme uniquement en dénonçant les populistes. Il faut comprendre les raisons qui poussent les citoyens vers eux.

La question centrale n'est donc plus seulement: "Comment empêcher tel ou tel parti d'arriver au pouvoir?"

Elle devient: "Comment restaurer suffisamment de confiance dans les partis démocratiques traditionnels pour que les électeurs ne voient plus dans le populisme la seule manière de se faire entendre?"

11 septembre: vingt-cinq ans qui ont changé le monde

Le 11 septembre 2001, près de 3 000 personnes perdaient la vie dans les attentats les plus meurtriers jamais commis sur le sol américain. Vingt-cinq ans plus tard, l'impact du 11 septembre dépasse largement le bilan humain de cette journée tragique. Les attentats ont profondément modifié la politique étrangère des États-Unis, les stratégies de sécurité, les relations internationales et, plus largement, la manière dont les démocraties appréhendent la menace terroriste.

L'analyse publiée récemment par le Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) invite, toutefois, à regarder au-delà de l'événement lui-même car si le 11 septembre a changé le monde, c'est aussi parce que la réponse américaine a produit des conséquences qui se font encore sentir aujourd'hui.

La naissance de la "guerre contre le terrorisme"

Avant septembre 2001, la lutte contre le terrorisme n'occupait pas le premier rang des priorités de l'administration George W. Bush. Les attentats ont brutalement changé cette situation. Washington lança une "Global War on Terrorism", mobilisant ses moyens militaires, diplomatiques, financiers et ceux de renseignement contre Al-Qaïda et les organisations considérées comme étant liées au terrorisme.



Le 11 septembre 2001, près de 3 000 personnes périssaient dans les attentats qui allaient durablement bouleverser la sécurité mondiale et les relations internationales. P - Le Nouvelliste

L'Afghanistan fut le premier théâtre majeur de cette nouvelle stratégie. Le régime des talibans fut renversé et Al-Qaïda, sévèrement frappée. Mais la victoire militaire initiale ne déboucha pas sur une solution durable. Après près de vingt années de guerre, les forces américaines quittèrent finalement l'Afghanistan en 2021, tandis que les tali-

bans reprenaient le pouvoir.

Cette issue constitue l'un des paradoxes les plus frappants de l'après-11 septembre: la première grande intervention de la "guerre contre le terrorisme" s'acheva sans que les objectifs politiques annoncés aient été pleinement atteints.

Irak: le tournant de la surenchère

La guerre en Irak représente une autre conséquence majeure. Saddam Hussein n'était pas directement responsable des attentats du 11 septembre et son régime n'était pas à l'origine de ceux-ci. Pourtant, l'invasion de 2003 fut intégrée à la stratégie américaine de l'après-11 septembre.

Le conflit allait profondément déstabiliser la région. La chute du régime irakien, suivie de l'affaiblissement des institutions de l'État et de violences confessionnelles, contribua à créer un environnement dans lequel des organisations extrémistes purent prospérer.

Pour le CFR, l'une des grandes leçons est précisément là: la puissance militaire peut permettre de renverser un régime ou de neutraliser des organisations, mais elle ne suffit pas nécessairement à résoudre des problèmes politiques, sociaux ou idéologiques complexes.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 17

11 septembre: vingt-cinq ans qui ont changé le monde

Suite de la page 16

Révolution dans le renseignement et la sécurité

Le 11 septembre a également transformé les méthodes de lutte contre le terrorisme. Les États ont renforcé la coopération entre leurs services de renseignement, développé la surveillance électronique, amélioré le partage des données et accru le suivi des mouvements financiers et des communications.

Aux États-Unis, la *Patriot Act* et la création du *Department of Homeland Security* ont marqué cette nouvelle architecture sécuritaire. Drones, bases de données, surveillance numérique et, aujourd'hui, intelligence artificielle permettent de détecter et de suivre des individus ou des réseaux avec une précision qui aurait été difficilement imaginable en 2001.

Mais cette évolution a également posé une question fondamentale: quelles sont les limites d'une démocratie au nom de la sécurité sans affaiblir les libertés qu'elle cherche précisément à protéger?

Mutations du terrorisme

Al-Qaïda a été considérablement affaiblie et Oussama ben Laden tué en 2011. Pourtant, le terrorisme n'a pas été éradiqué. Il s'est transformé.

L'État islamique, ses filiales et d'autres groupes ont adopté des structures plus décentralisées. Les réseaux sociaux et les nouvelles technologies permettent désormais à des individus isolés de se radicaliser, de communiquer et parfois de passer à l'acte sans appartenir formellement à une organisation.

D'ailleurs, le CFR souligne que la menace actuelle est beaucoup plus diversifiée qu'en 2001. La technologie, notamment les drones et



11 septembre 2001: La comparaison avec Pearl Harbour est éclairante — en 1941, les États-Unis affrontaient un État organisé; en 2001, un réseau transnational, bien plus difficile à combattre par des moyens conventionnels. P - Radio-Canada

l'intelligence artificielle, ouvre également de nouvelles possibilités aux groupes extrémistes.

Puissance américaine: une hégémonie fragilisée

L'un des enseignements les plus importants du bilan établi par le CFR concerne les limites de la puissance. Dans le climat de peur qui suivit les attentats, les dirigeants américains ne pouvaient évidemment pas connaître l'avenir. Ils étaient confrontés à la crainte d'attaques encore plus meurtrières.

Mais, avec le recul, la question se pose: la réponse américaine était-elle proportionnée aux objectifs qu'elle prétendait atteindre?

Selon James M. Lindsay, la "guerre contre le terrorisme" a échoué à produire une victoire décisive parce que ses objectifs dépassaient largement ce que la puissance américaine pouvait réellement accomplir.

La comparaison avec Pearl Harbour est éclairante: en 1941, les États-Unis affrontaient un État organisé avec des objectifs militaires identifiables. En 2001, ils faisaient face à un réseau transnational et à un phénomène politique et idéologique beaucoup plus difficile à combattre par des moyens conventionnels.

Prévenir plutôt que réagir

Vingt-cinq ans après, le principal enseignement du 11 septembre pourrait finalement être moins militaire que politique: prévenir vaut mieux que réparer.

Les attentats ont démontré les conséquences catastrophiques d'un échec du renseignement et de la prévention. Mais les guerres qui ont suivi ont également montré qu'une réaction excessive peut créer de nouveaux problèmes et engendrer des coûts humains, financiers et géopolitiques considérables.

Le 11 septembre a donc changé le monde de deux manières.

- D'abord, il a révélé la vulnérabilité d'une superpuissance face à un réseau non étatique.
- Ensuite, il a démontré que même une puissance militaire sans équivalent ne peut pas tout résoudre.

Vingt-cinq ans après, le défi consiste peut-être moins à gagner une "guerre contre le terrorisme" qu'à comprendre comment prévenir la radicalisation, renforcer la coopération internationale, protéger les populations et préserver les libertés démocratiques.

La véritable leçon du 11 septembre est peut-être celle-ci: vaincre une organisation terroriste est possible; éliminer les conditions politiques, sociales et idéologiques qui permettent à l'extrémisme de renaître est infiniment plus difficile.

Malaise créole: quinze ans après le rapport Vérité et Justice, l'heure des faits

La messe de la Saint-Louis, célébrée le 25 août à la cathédrale de Port-Louis en présence du Premier ministre Navin Ramgoolam, de plusieurs membres du gouvernement, de parlementaires et de personnalités publiques, a pris cette année une dimension particulière. Dans son homélie, Mgr Jean Michaël Durhône a placé la discrimination à l'emploi au centre de sa réflexion sur la justice sociale.

L'évêque de Port-Louis a surtout annoncé une initiative destinée à dépasser les discours et les perceptions. La Commission diocésaine pour la cause créole et la Commission Justice et Paix vont travailler conjointement sur les discriminations perçues dans l'accès à l'emploi et aux promotions, tant dans les secteurs public que privé. Leur démarche reposera sur trois éléments: les faits et les études existantes, l'écoute des personnes qui affirment avoir été victimes de discrimination et l'examen des voies juridiques susceptibles d'être ouvertes. Cette initiative intervient quinze ans après le rapport de la Commission Vérité et Justice (CVJ), lequel avait déjà soulevé la question de la situation socio-économique de différentes sections de la population et formulé des recommandations. La Commission avait notamment recommandé des audits auprès des employeurs publics et privés afin d'identifier d'éventuelles pratiques discriminatoires, ainsi que la mise en œuvre effective de la législation sur l'égalité des chances.

La question mérite donc d'être posée: qu'est-ce qui a réellement changé depuis 2011?

Le malaise créole n'est évidemment pas un phénomène apparu récemment. Dès les années 1990, l'expression s'était imposée dans l'espace public pour désigner un ensemble de difficultés économiques, sociales, culturelles et politiques ressenties par une partie de la population créole. Chômage, pauvreté, habitat précaire, décrochage scolaire, faible représentation dans certains secteurs de l'économie et sentiment d'exclusion des centres de décision alimentaient alors le débat.

Mais il serait insuffisant d'attribuer toutes ces difficultés à la discrimination. La question essentielle est précisément de distinguer ce qui relève de la discrimination de ce qui résulte de facteurs

socio-économiques, éducatifs, culturels, historiques ou géographiques. C'est la raison pour laquelle l'appel de Mgr Durhône à privilégier les faits, les données et les études est particulièrement pertinent.

Le rapport Vérité et Justice constitue à cet égard un point de départ incontournable. Il avait relevé une absence marquée de personnes créoles dans certains secteurs, et avait établi un lien entre cette situation et des désavantages historiques. Il avait également attiré l'attention sur les difficultés persistantes liées à l'héritage de l'esclavage, et à l'accès à la terre et au capital.

Ces éléments doivent toutefois être actualisés. Quinze ans après le rapport, Maurice dispose-t-il de statistiques suffisamment détaillées pour mesurer la représentation des différentes composantes de la population dans les catégories professionnelles, les postes de responsabilité, les entreprises privées et les institutions de l'État? Les procédures de recrutement et de promotion sont-elles suffisamment transparentes pour permettre d'identifier d'éventuelles discriminations?

C'est là que l'idée d'un audit indépendant de l'emploi public et privé prend toute son importance. Il ne s'agirait pas de présumer que telle ou telle communauté est victime de discrimination, mais de déterminer, sur la base de données vérifiables, si des écarts existent et, le cas échéant, leurs causes.

Il faut néanmoins éviter un autre piège: transformer tout malaise quel qu'il soit en une opposition entre communautés. Une politique d'égalité ne peut signifier que l'on remplace une discrimination supposée par une discrimination avérée envers un autre groupe. L'objectif doit être l'égalité des chances, fondée sur des critères transparents et vérifiables.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la démarche annoncée par l'Église mérite d'être suivie avec attention. En appelant à "la vérité au cœur de la justice sociale", Mgr Durhône pose une exigence simple: écouter les victimes présumées, mais aussi vérifier leurs témoignages à la lumière des faits.

Les trois prochains mois de travaux des commissions diocésaines pourraient ainsi constituer une première étape utile. Leur

rapport devra idéalement identifier les problèmes documentés, distinguer les perceptions des réalités mesurables et proposer des solutions concrètes.

Après quinze ans, il est temps de recentrer le débat. La véritable question est de déterminer, preuves à l'appui, quelles inégalités persistent dans la société contemporaine, pourquoi elles persistent et ce que l'État, les employeurs du secteur privé et la société peuvent mettre en place pour les réduire.

Une démocratie ne se juge pas seulement à ses lois contre la discrimination, mais à sa capacité à vérifier que ces lois produisent réellement l'égalité dans la vie quotidienne. À cet égard, le temps est venu de passer du malaise exprimé au diagnostic établi par les faits, puis du diagnostic à l'action.

Enfin, pour que ce diagnostic soit complet et véritablement nuancé, il serait opportun qu'une étude approfondie soit menée afin d'analyser les disparités socio-économiques internes à la communauté créole elle-même.

Il s'agirait d'abord d'identifier précisément quelles sections sont les plus vulnérables et de vérifier s'il existe une corrélation avec l'affiliation religieuse.

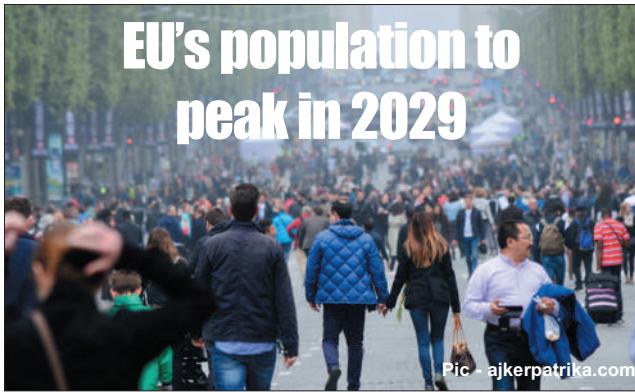
Dans la même logique, cette recherche devrait analyser pourquoi les Créoles rodriguais semblent moins touchés par la détresse socio-économique que certaines fractions de la population créole mauricienne, et si cela se confirme, en comprendre les raisons structurelles alors même que Rodrigues souffre d'un désavantage marqué en matière d'opportunités économiques par rapport à Maurice.

Bien qu'il s'agisse peut-être à ce stade de simples perceptions, seule une étude rigoureuse basée sur des données probantes permettrait d'aller au fond des choses.

Enfin, un examen critique ne saurait ignorer une observation d'ordre politique. Dans le contexte multiculturel mauricien, il convient de s'interroger objectivement sur les ressorts politiques, stratégiques et médiatiques qui expliqueraient la résurgence cyclique de ce débat.

A. Bartleby

EU's population to peak in 2029



Pic - ajkerpatrika.com

The EU's population is expected to peak in 2029 and decline by 53 million people by the end of the century, according to a European Commission report.

Italy and Poland are expected to experience particularly sharp declines, while 18 of the EU's 27 member states will see their populations shrink.

Even in countries projected to maintain or increase their populations, growth will depend mainly on immigration.

The report reflects the Commission's changing approach to migration, stating that inward migration can only slow, rather than reverse, demographic decline.

* * *

Copenhagen named the world's most liveable city

Copenhagen topped the Economist Intelligence Unit's ranking of the world's most liveable cities for the second year in a row, though Chinese metropolises made the largest gains. Tokyo was the world's only megacity to break into the top 10 of the ranking, which uses criteria such as healthcare, culture and environment, education, infrastructure, and stability. Four of the five fastest-rising cities in the index were in China, led by Fuzhou -- a 9-million-person city in the country's southeast -- which climbed seven spots up the ranking. The index also reflected the fallout of the Iran war: All five of the biggest fallers were in the Middle East, with Oman's capital dropping a staggering 14 spots.

* * *

Claude's answers vary by language

Anthropic's Claude chatbot appears to express different values depending on the language it uses, supporting the view of analysts who argue that AI models are shaped rather than simply built.

Anthropic's research found that Claude showed greater deference in Arabic than in English, although its answers tended to be less detailed. It was more candid in Dutch and showed the greatest warmth in Hindi.

The differences were modest but measurable.

Researchers continue to discover unexpected traits in AI models. Recently, OpenAI had to intervene when ChatGPT became obsessed with goblins.

While sometimes amusing, these unintended behaviours could become more serious as AI systems grow more powerful and are as-signed greater responsibilities.

"We [aren't] sure how much of this variation is desirable," Anthropic noted.



Anthropic study finds Claude is more warm and friendly when you talk to it in Hindi



Wastewater Management Authority

VACANCIES

The WMA is looking for dynamic, motivated and result-oriented candidates to fill the following positions on permanent basis:

1. ACCOUNTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates should: -

- (i) possess a pass at the final examination required for admission to membership of one of the following bodies-
 - (a) The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
 - (b) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland
 - (c) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland
 - (d) The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
 - (e) The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
 - (f) The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
- (ii) be registered with the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA) in accordance with Section 51(2) of the Financial Reporting Act 2004;
- (iii) reckon at least three years' experience at a senior or middle management level in a commercially oriented organization;
- (iv) be computer literate and have a knowledge of computerized accounting systems preferably in standard accounting packages; and
- (v) have personal credibility and integrity and excellent financial control skills.

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

For the year 2026, the discounted initial salary would be Rs 38,980.

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANT(MECHANICAL) -- (SHIFT)

QUALIFICATIONS:

By selection from among candidates who :-

- (i) Show proof of having read up to Form V; and
- (ii) Possess the Mechanical and Electrical and Electronics Technicians Diploma awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute or the 'Brevet de Technicien' in Maintenance and Production Mechanics or Automobile Mechanics awarded jointly by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in conjunction with the Technical School Management Trust Fund and the Lycée Polytechnique of Flacq or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

NOTE:

Technical Assistants (Mechanical) -- (Shift) will be required to work on a shift system on a 24-hour basis including night duty, Sundays and Public Holidays.

SALARY: Rs 25445 x 300 - 26945 x 320 - 28865 x 350 - 30965 x 400 - 31765 x 425 - 33040 x 560 - 35840 x 725 - 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 47950

For the year 2026, the discounted initial salary would be Rs 23,617.

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (ELECTRONIC/ INSTRUMENTATION)--(SHIFT)

QUALIFICATIONS:

By selection from among candidates who :-

- (i) Show proof of having read up to Form V; and
- (ii) Possess the "Brevet de Technicien" in Electrotechnics/Electronics awarded jointly by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in conjunction with the Technical School Management Trust Fund and the Lycée Polytechnique of Flacq or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.

Practical experience in electronics is desirable

NOTE

Technical Assistants (Electronic/Instrumentation) -- (Shift) will be required to work on a shift system on a 24-hour basis including night duty, Sundays and Public Holidays.

SALARY: Rs 25445 x 300 - 26945 x 320 - 28865 x 350 - 30965 x 400 - 31765 x 425 - 33040 x 560 - 35840 x 725 - 37290 x 925 - 39140 x 970 - 46900 x 1050 - 47950

For the year 2026, the discounted initial salary would be Rs 23,617.

MODE OF APPLICATION

- Application forms and detailed list of duties are available at the Human Resource Section of the WMA and can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.wmamauritius.mu>

- Qualified candidates should submit the application form duly filled in and signed together with copies of all academic and professional certificates and written evidence of knowledge/experience claimed to:

The General Manager, Wastewater Management Authority, Jerningham Street, Curepipe.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION

The closing date for submission of application is not later than **Friday 25 September 2026 at 15.30 hrs.**

NOTE:

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

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

07 September 2026

WMA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Covid-19 may awaken dormant viruses linked to long Covid

Covid-19 may reactivate viruses that have remained dormant in the body for years, potentially offering new clues to the causes of long COVID, according to research involving Boston Children's Hospital and 15 biomedical research institutions across the United States.

The study, funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and published in *Nature*, followed 1,154 patients at 20 U.S. research hospitals. Researchers analyzed more than 200,000 samples and used genomic sequencing to identify signs that previously dormant viruses had become active during Covid-19 infection.

Within 40 days of hospital admission, they detected 11 reactivated viruses, including Epstein-Barr virus, herpes simplex virus type 1, cytomegalovirus

(CMV) and viruses belonging to the Anelloviridae family.

One finding was particularly significant. Reactivation of Anelloviridae, a poorly understood family of viruses that is latent in around 90% of the population, was strongly associated with long-term physical disability and long Covid. Researchers say this association could eventually help improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of the condition.

The study also produced an unexpected finding about Epstein-Barr virus and CMV. Their reactivation appeared to be associated with inflammation rather than immune suppression, challenging the traditional assumption that dormant viruses mainly become active when the immune system is weakened.



Dr Ofer Levy, director of the Precision Vaccines Program at Boston Children's Hospital and a site principal investigator, said the findings could provide important insights into the molecular and viral mechanisms associated with long Covid.

The researchers caution that the findings show an association, not proof that reactivated viruses cause long Covid. Further research will be needed to determine whether viral reactivation contributes directly to persistent symptoms or is instead a consequence of severe illness.

The researchers say understanding these mechanisms could help develop better treatments for long Covid and prepare for future coronavirus pandemics.



What would you see if you had one eye on the back of your head and the other in the front?

Some animal species have their eyes positioned on their heads differently than how people do – and it comes with pluses and minuses for how they see.

Have you ever tried to quickly grab that last cookie while your mother's back was turned? Even without turning around, I bet she noticed. As the saying goes, moms can sometimes seem like they have eyes on the back of their heads.

What would their vision be like if they really did have one eye in front and one eye in back?

As an optometrist, I work daily to make sure my patients' eyes are seeing well and partnering with one another to provide a single, clear image to the brain. As a clinical professor, I help my students understand how binocular vision – the use of two eyes – works. Sometimes, this may include using animal examples to illustrate how important it is for humans to have two eyes that face in the same direction.

Normal human vision

As you can see by looking at yourself in the mirror, our two eyes sit side by side on the front of our heads. Since our eyes are a couple of inches apart, each eye has a slightly different perspective on the world around you.

There's a good bit of overlap between what each eye sees, though. Close one eye at a time – you should still be able to see the words in the middle of the page with each eye individually. The words on the left side, though, might only be clear when your left eye is open, and with the same true for the right side and the right eye.

Someone with normal side vision can see about 180 degrees around them while looking straight ahead. In other words, your view of the world should be everything directly in front of you stretching back to roughly your ears – about half of a circle. This whole area that you can see at once is called your field of vision. About 70% of that field is an overlap between the images captured by each eye.

Next, your brain takes these images from each eye and combines the overlapping portion into one 3D image. The ability to see in three dimensions is called stereopsis, or depth perception.

This is how you can tell which objects in front of you are closer or farther away. Depth perception allows you to better navigate around objects and is important for hand-eye coordination. Without 3D vision, it would be hard to perform all the complicated tasks that people do in their daily lives – writing, reading, cooking, playing sports, driv-



ing and so much more.

Influenced by evolution: Prey vs. predator

Animals have evolved to have different eye placements based on the jobs they need their eyes to do.

For example, predators – animals that need to hunt other animals for food to survive – will have eyes on the front of their heads, just like us. This setup allows for depth perception. They will be able to more accurately scan specific areas and pick out animals that may be hiding.

Predators also tend to have more crystal clear vision and better contrast sensitivity, meaning they're able to tell the difference between an object and its background. All of these adaptations help them hunt.

In contrast, prey animals' job is to detect and get away from predators that are trying to eat them. They have eyes closer to the sides of their heads, which increases their side vision. This larger field of view allows them to scan a wider area to watch for incoming danger. Of note: Their vision isn't as sharp as predators'.

A good example of a predator-prey relationship is a fox and a rabbit. The fox has forward-facing eyes to help it find and hunt the rabbit. The rabbit has eyes on the side

of its head to help it scan and escape from the fox.

An owl is an example of an animal that gets the best of both worlds. Owls are predators whose eyes are positioned on the front of their heads, giving them excellent depth perception. Because of how their eyes are shaped, though, they can't move them in their eye sockets. Instead, they have adapted to have very mobile necks so they can turn their head to be facing completely backward. This gives them a much wider field of vision than most animals with forward-facing eyes, while preserving their depth perception.

The trade-off: Depth perception vs field of view

So what would it be like for us to have one eye in front and one in back?

This setup would be most similar to a prey animal. You'd have a wide field of view and be able to see almost all of your surroundings – forward and behind at the same time.

But the cost would be loss of depth perception. With eyes on opposite sides of your head, the images they capture would not overlap, causing your vision to be less three-dimensional.

Also, if the switch from side by side to one-front/one-back happened instantaneously, your brain would get confused about how to interpret the images delivered from each eye, since the setup would be quite different from what you were used to.

What to watch out for

In my patients, especially kids, my goal is to make sure their vision is clear and their eyes are working together to achieve depth perception.

If your eyes ever have trouble pointing in the same direction, or you notice double vision or eyestrain when reading, headaches, or other visual symptoms, visit an eye care specialist to check your eyes. They can make sure you are using your eyes the way evolution intended – two eyes in the front of the head working together for clear, binocular vision. It's important to keep your forward-facing eyes healthy – especially if you're a mom who needs to watch out for cookie bandits.

Abigail Witmer

Assistant Clinical Professor of Optometry,
The Ohio State University



Mother Teresa Reaches Heaven

Mother Teresa reaches Heaven and is met by God in person. God asks her if she would like something to eat, and she says yes. So, he opens a can of sardines, picks up some bread and makes her a sandwich.

While they are eating, she looks through a crack in the floor and sees what appears to be Hell. There are flames everywhere and horrible beasts, but the people are eating fried chicken and lobster and having crême brûlée for dessert.

For days, she notices that the people in Hell are enjoying gourmet food all day. But when she meets God, he simply opens another can of sardines.

"God, I'm not complaining. I'm grateful for everything I've been given, but I can't help wondering: why are we having canned-fish sandwiches while the people in Hell are eating such lavish food?" she asks.

"Well," God replies, "with just the two of us up here, I figure, why cook?"

* * *

The Bad Word

A man is driving his young son to a friend's house when another car races in front of them and cuts them off, nearly causing an accident.

"Douchebag!" the father yells.

A short while later, he realises his indiscretion. He pulls over, turns to face his son and says:

"Sorry, son. I just said a bad word, but that was no excuse for what I said. It was wrong. Just because I said it doesn't make it right, and I don't ever want you using such words."

His son looks at him and says:

"Too late, douchebag."

* * *



We Need the Eggs

A man goes to see a psychiatrist and says:

"Doc, my brother's crazy. He thinks he's a hen."

The doctor replies:

"Why don't you turn him in?"

The man says:

"We would, but we need the eggs."

* * *

An Elderly Man Goes to the Doctor

An elderly man goes to the doctor and says:

"Doctor, I swallowed a key. Can you please get it out of my belly?"

The doctor asks:

"When did you swallow it?"

"About three years ago."

"Really? Why are you coming in so late?"

"Well... I lost my spare key!"

* * *

The Lunch Question

A wife casually calls her husband at the office one afternoon.

Wife: "Hi, how are you?"

Husband: "I'm fine."

Wife: "What did you have for lunch today?"

The husband sighs.

Husband: "Don't you have anything else to ask? It's always the same silly questions: What did you eat? What are you wearing? Who did you meet? What song did you listen to?"

Wife: "Oh, okay. Then answer this: How should the central bank fight inflation with minimum intervention in the money market? And what role should the Finance Ministry play in controlling the flow of money into and out of the country?"

There is a long silence.

Husband: "I had a chicken sandwich and orange juice."

Moral: Never underestimate the intelligence of your wife!

* * *

The Clever Boy

An old man in Mississippi was sitting on his front porch, enjoying the sunrise, when he saw the

neighbour's boy walking by carrying something large under his arm.

Old Man: "Hey, boy! What you got there?"

Boy: "A roll of chicken wire."

Old Man: "What are you going to do with that?"

Boy: "I'm going to catch some chickens."

The old man laughed.

Old Man: "You silly boy! You can't catch chickens with chicken wire!"

The boy just smiled and kept walking.

That evening, the boy walked past the old man's house again. To the old man's surprise, he was dragging the chicken wire behind him, with about 30 chickens caught in it.

The next morning, the old man was sitting on his porch again when he saw the boy walking by carrying something round in his hand.

Old Man: "Hey, boy! What you got there?"

Boy: "A roll of duct tape."

Old Man: "What are you going to do with that?"

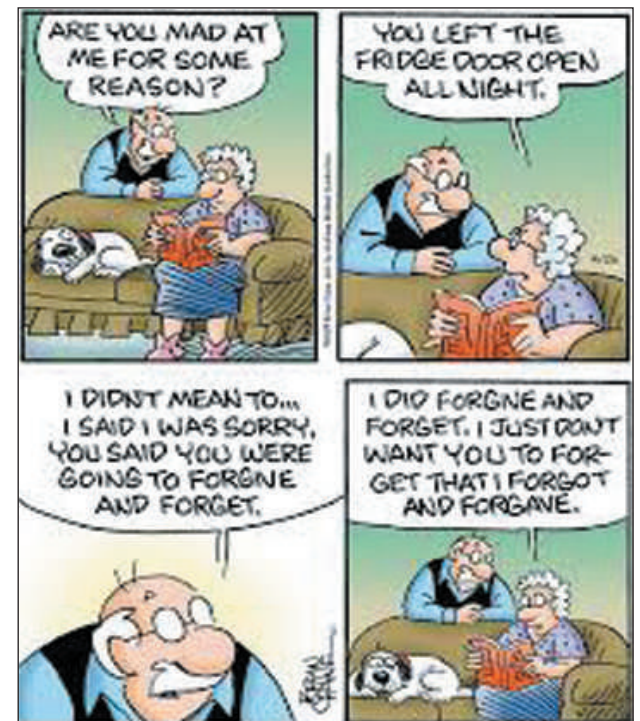
Boy: "I'm going to catch some ducks."

Old Man: "You silly boy! You can't catch ducks with duct tape!"

The boy laughed and continued on his way.

That evening, the boy came walking home, dragging the unrolled duct tape behind him, with about 35 ducks caught in it.

The following morning, the old man saw the boy



walking by carrying a long stick with something fuzzy on the end.

Old Man: "Hey, boy! What you got there?"

Boy: "It's a pussy willow."

The old man immediately stood up.

Old Man: "Wait up... I'll get my hat!"

* * *

The Lawyer's Fee

A man asks a lawyer, "What's your fee?"

"I charge \$50 for three questions," the lawyer replies.

"That's awfully steep, isn't it?" the man asks.

"Yes," the lawyer replies. "Now, what's your final question?"

Inspiration

Echoes of Happiness

By Madisyn Taylor

“It is easy to laugh when we feel good, but it is when the world appears dim that we most need laughter in our lives.”

As children, we laugh hundreds of times each day, delighted by the newness of living. When we reach adulthood, however, we tend to not allow ourselves to let go in a good belly laugh. Inviting laughter back into our lives is simply a matter of making the conscious decision to laugh. Though most of us are incited to laugh only when exposed to humor or the unexpected, each of us is capable of laughing at will. A laugh that comes from the belly carries with it the same positive effects whether prompted by a funny joke or consciously willed into existence. When our laughter comes from the core of our being, it permeates every cell in our physical selves, beginning in the center and radiating outward, until we are not merely belly laughing but rather body laughing.

Laughter has been a part of the human mode of expression since before evolution granted us the art of speech. Through it, we connected with allies while demonstrating our connection with people we didn't know. In the present, laughter allows us to enjoy positive shared experiences with strangers and loved ones alike. Yet solitary laughter carries with it its own slew of benefits. An energetic and enthusiastic bout of whole-body



laughter exercises the muscles, the lungs, and the mind in equal measure, leaving us feeling relaxed and content. When we laugh heartily at life's ridiculousness instead of responding irritably, our focus shifts. Anger, stress, guilt, and sadness no longer wield any influence over us, and we are empowered to make light of what we originally feared. Laughter also opens our hearts, letting love and light in, changing our perspective, and enabling us to fix our attention on what is positive in our lives.

It is easy to laugh when we feel good, but it is when the world appears dim that we most need laughter in our lives. Our laughter then resonates through our hearts, filling the empty spaces with pure, unadulterated joy. We regain our footing in the moment and remember that no sorrow is powerful enough to rob us of our inborn happiness. When we understand that uninhibited laughter is the food of the soul, nourishing us from within, we know instinctively that life is worthwhile.

Daily Om

The Short Story

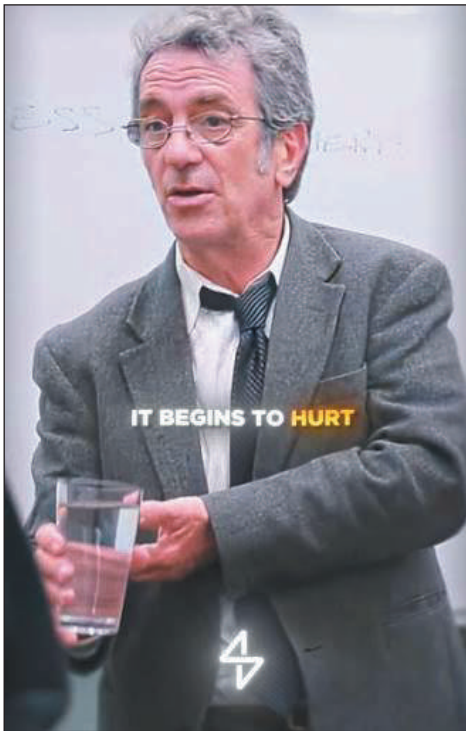
The Weight of the Glass

A psychology professor walked around a room while teaching stress management to students. He raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass?"

Answers ranged from eight ounces to a pound.

The professor replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, my arm will ache. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralyzed. The weight of the glass hasn't changed, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

The Lesson: Carrying your past heart-breaks, worries, and resentments all day is exhausting. Put the glass down.



Zero Tolerance for Self-Doubt

“Take my advice and wait for the man that never lets you fall asleep at night questioning your own self-worth.”

-- Cody Bret

* * *

On Knowing What You Want

“She doesn't want to build someone into [being a partner]... She's just asking for a man who knows what he wants, and chooses her without hesitation.”

-- Cody Bret

Benefits of Detoxing Your Space

“The nervous system is always listening, reacting not just to our thoughts and emotions, but also to the aesthetics of our surroundings.”

Our environment plays a silent role in how our bodies feel. A pile of unopened bills on the counter, a cluttered corner, or even toxins hiding in household cleaners can subtly impact how you think and move through your day. The nervous system is always listening, reacting not just to our thoughts and emotions, but also to the aesthetics of our surroundings and the products we put into the air and absorb through the skin.

When the things around us are congested or chaotic,

that heaviness is often reflected back to us as stress, fatigue, or anxiety. But when we clear away what no longer supports us -- be it a pile of laundry, a broken object that never got fixed, or swapping out a harsh chemical product for something gentler -- something inside of us softens. Tension relaxes, breathing slows, the immune system strengthens, and a sense of safety begins to return from within.

As this becomes a practice, tending to your space starts to feel less like a chore and more like self-love. Each drawer you organize, each surface you clear, and each object you consciously choose to keep creates a quieter backdrop for your life. What remains doesn't have to be a perfect home, but a space that regulates our nervous system and creates more room for clarity, calm, and well-being to naturally unfold.

Daily Om

A Mother by Choice

The Story of Two Orphaned Boys

Back in the day, Ms Anaya was 38 years old. She was a primary school teacher in a remote river-side village in the Indian state of Odisha.

Despite her age, Anaya had never married. People whispered various rumours -- some said she was too choosy, while others claimed that she had suffered a broken heart and never recovered.

But those who truly knew her understood something else: she had chosen to devote her entire heart to her students.

That year, a devastating flood swept through the region.

A couple, Rakesh and Leela, were tragically drowned when their fishing boat capsized while crossing the swollen river.

They left behind twin boys, only seven years old -- Arjun and Aman.

Too young to grasp the magnitude of their loss, the two children sat silently beside their parents' coffins, their eyes vacant, as if waiting for someone to come and take them home.

Among the mourners stood Anaya, deeply moved.

That very evening, she walked to the village panchayat office and made a quiet request:

“I may not have a family of my own,” she said, “but I can offer them a home.”

No one objected.

Ms Anaya was respected by everyone, known not only for her wisdom but also for her extraordinary compassion.

And just like that, Arjun and Aman found a mother.

From that day on, her modest tin-roofed cottage echoed with laughter once again.

The boys called her “Maa Anaya” without hesitation.

She cooked for them, tutored them, walked them to school and carefully saved her modest salary to ensure they never lacked for anything.

Life wasn't easy.

Once, Arjun fell gravely ill and had to be rushed to the district hospital. Anaya sold the gold earrings her mother had left her to pay for his treatment.

Another year, Aman failed his university entrance examination and wanted to give up.

Anaya sat beside him all night, gently holding his hand and whispering:

“I don't need you to be better than anyone -- only to never give up.”

Eventually, Arjun went on to study medicine, while Aman pursued economics.

They worked hard, determined not to let their mother down.

During their university years, they took turns sending home whatever little scholarship money they could spare.

In 2024, during the annual opening ceremony of the school where Anaya had once taught, something unexpected happened.

The headmaster called her to the stage and announced a “very special recognition” for her...

Relationships

Singlehood as an Opportunity for Personal Growth

Society has long taught us that a romantic relationship is the ultimate milestone of a fulfilled life. From a young age, being single is frequently framed as a temporary state or a problem that needs to be fixed. However, this narrative is shifting as more young adults choose to delay partnerships or embrace singlehood entirely. New research reveals that being single can be a powerful catalyst for personal growth, rather than just an idle waiting period between relationships.

Elina Moreno, a PhD student in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences at the University of Toronto, teamed up with Yuthika Girme, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University, to explore this dynamic. Their published research in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* introduces the concept of "singlehood self-expansion potential"—the belief that being single offers unique opportunities for self-improvement and discovery.

Through multiple studies, the researchers tracked single adults and discovered a fascinating pattern. Those who viewed their singlehood as a chance to grow were significantly more likely to try novel experiences, feel optimistic about their status, and report higher overall life satisfaction. Interestingly, these self-expanding activities did not have to be done alone. About 80 percent of the reported growth activities—such as traveling, hiking, or social outings—were completed alongside friends and family. This highlights a crucial truth: singlehood does not equal isolation. Strong community connections provide the emotional safety net needed to step out of one's comfort zone.

Furthermore, even simple interventions, like imagining exciting future possibilities enabled by single-

hood, provided immediate boosts in mood and self-expansion. Whether singlehood is a deliberate choice or an unexpected life chapter, it offers a valuable canvas. By shifting our mindset away from cultural pressures and toward personal discovery, we can transform singlehood into an active, thriving period of life focused on building confidence, exploring new passions, and understanding oneself deeply.

Tips for Thriving

Navigating your twenties and thirties often involves figuring out who you are while building an independent life. Yet, cultural expectations continually push the narrative that settling down, coupling up, and starting a family are the ultimate markers of success. Despite these persistent pressures, singlehood is on the rise, particularly in Canada, where a growing majority of young adults are unattached or delaying traditional marriage milestones.

Yuthika Girme, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University, leads a research lab focusing on the complexities of relationships and singlehood. Her work highlights a vital insight: while societal pressures can make single people feel excluded or pitied, many singles are actually happy and thriving. To combat negative internal narratives and find genuine fulfillment, thriving singles often rely on several core strategies.

First, feeling secure with oneself is paramount. Secure singles are comfortable depending on close relationships while happily maintaining their autonomy. Second, robust friendships play a massive role. Research shows that single people frequently invest more deeply in their social networks, fostering a strong sense of



belonging and higher self-esteem. Third, happy singles find healthy ways to meet their intimacy and emotional needs, which diminishes the anxiety often tied to relationship status.

Additionally, priorities shift with age. As individuals approach midlife, they often care less about societal expectations and lean heavily into values that prioritize freedom, fun, and personal creativity. Being single during young adulthood is not a deficit or a placeholder. Instead, it serves as a prominent, invaluable window to focus on self-development, career aspirations, and diverse community connections. By embracing these building blocks, singles can craft a deeply satisfying life regardless of their relationship status.

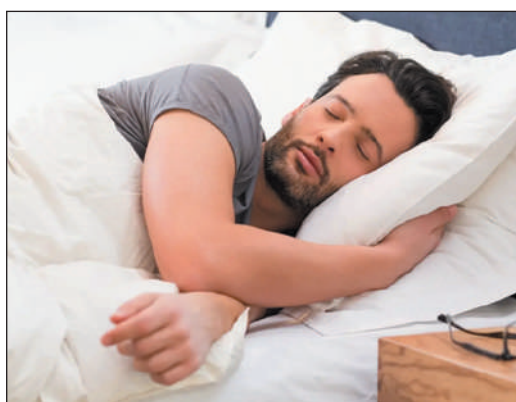
Health Matters

Why You Can Forget the Eight-Hour Rule

For generations, the cultural prescription for a healthy adult life has relied on a simple numerical rule: sleep for exactly eight hours every night. This rigid benchmark traces its origins back to the mid-nineteenth century industrial push for balanced segments of work, recreation, and rest. However, contemporary scientific evidence suggests that a universal eight-hour requirement may be an oversimplification that does not suit everyone.

Derk-Jan Dijk, a Professor of Sleep and Physiology and Director of the Surrey Sleep Research Centre at the University of Surrey, alongside Anne Skeldon, a Professor of Mathematics and Head of the School of Mathematics & Physics at the University of Surrey, point out that modern sleep science challenges these old assumptions. Researchers studying pre-industrial hunter-gatherer communities—who live without artificial lighting or digital screens—find that natural sleep durations often average between 5.7 and 7.1 hours a night. These shorter rest cycles appear entirely sufficient, with individuals waking naturally near dawn without daytime compensation.

Large-scale studies in industrialized societies reinforce this nuance, suggesting that



optimal health outcomes—such as cellular longevity and organ maintenance—frequently align with sleep windows ranging from 6.4 to 7.8 hours, depending on individual physiology and sex. Furthermore, current recommendations from health institutions emphasize broad individual ranges rather than strict single-digit mandates, acknowledging that adults aged 26 to 64 naturally vary in their requirements.

Beyond total duration, sleep timing and regularity are equally critical. Modern lifestyles often delay our natural body clocks relative to the light-dark cycle, leading to chronic weekday sleep debt. While consistency matters, catching up on rest during weekends remains beneficial. Ultimately, people require different amounts of rest, and worrying excessively over a bad night's sleep is counterproductive. The core message is simple: secure enough rest when and where you can without stressing over rigid historical rules.

Becoming a better you

The Real Reasons You Procrastinate—and How to Stop

Faced with an important task or upcoming deadline, many of us find ourselves endlessly delaying action, opting instead for comforting distractions or mindless scrolling. Procrastination affects roughly one in five adults, frequently dragging down grades, career progress, and overall mental health. A persistent misconception is that procrastination stems from sheer laziness or a lack of caring. However, this false premise only breeds guilt and prevents genuine solutions.

Itamar Shatz, an Affiliated Lecturer in the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge, highlights that procrastination is rarely about laziness. In fact, chronic procrastinators typically intend to work just as hard as their peers. Instead, procrastination represents a frustrating gap between intention and action, rooted deeply in how our brains process short-term emotional regulation.

Fundamentally, our brains are hardwired to prioritize immediate emotional relief over long-term benefits. When facing a task anticipated to be difficult, stressful, or prone to imperfection, our

brains trigger a defense mechanism to postpone expected psychological pain. Perfectionism heavily exacerbates this cycle, particularly when individuals fear external judgment. Combined with exhaustion, burnout, or neurodevelopmental factors like ADHD, procrastination quickly transforms into a vicious, draining loop.

Fortunately, understanding the underlying triggers provides a clear roadmap for change. Overcoming procrastination starts with identifying the specific root cause behind a delay. Are you exhausted? Are you paralyzed by fear of failure? Implementing targeted strategies can break the cycle. Breaking daunting tasks down into manageable micro-steps makes progress feel attainable. Establishing psychological distance by evaluating the situation as if advising a friend helps clear mental fog. Furthermore, silencing the inner pessimist through consistent minor wins builds vital self-belief. Ultimately, overcoming procrastination requires abandoning the urge to simply "try harder" and instead addressing the emotional and cognitive blockers standing in your way.

Preity Zinta weighs in on the eight-hour workday debate

At the trailer launch for her upcoming film *Vibe*, actor Preity Zinta shared her perspective on working hours in the film industry, addressing the ongoing conversation surrounding Deepika Padukone's advocacy for an eight-hour workday. While Padukone's stance has sparked widespread discussion across Bollywood, Zinta revealed that her own recent filming schedule required her to work nearly 18 hours a day.

Zinta explained that her decision to endure grueling shifts was driven by personal priorities as a mother. Based in the United States with her family, she traveled to India for a concentrated 30-to-40-day shooting block. Her primary goal was to complete her scenes as quickly as possible so she could return home to her children. Despite the film being a comedy, Zinta described the shoot as physically demanding, involving extensive action sequences, unpredictable weather, and tight deadlines. She noted that while 18-hour days were tough, she willingly accepted the grueling pace to minimize her time away from home.

The debate stems from statements made by Deepika Padukone in 2025, where she criticized the industry's culture of overwork and burnout. Padukone revealed that her production office enforces a strict five-day, eight-hour workweek, complete with parental leave policies. She argued that working beyond eight hours degrades productivity and health, calling for systemic changes to replace the industry's unstructured "chalta hai" (anything goes) attitude.

Furthermore, Padukone pointed out a double standard in media coverage, noting that several top male stars have quietly adhered to strict eight-hour, weekday-only schedules for years without facing public backlash. The contrasting approaches of Zinta and Padukone highlight the complex balance actors must navigate between personal circumstances, industry norms, and structural reform.



'3 Idiots' returns: Iconic Bollywood comedy set for sequel 20 years later

More than a decade after captivating audiences worldwide, the beloved trio of Rancho, Farhan, and Raju is preparing to return to the big screen. A sequel to the massive 2009 Bollywood hit *3 Idiots* is officially in development, as confirmed by director Rajkumar Hirani.

Speaking about the upcoming project, Hirani revealed that the team has laid the groundwork for the sequel, with the narrative picking up two decades after the events of the original film. "Aamir [Khan] had read a very early draft; the overall idea is there... But we are still in the process of writing because we are also very excited about it," Hirani shared. Addressing fan curiosity about potential new main characters, the director clarified, "Honestly, there's no 4th idiot, it's 3 Idiots only, it's 20 years later."

If all goes as planned, original stars Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan,

and Sharman Joshi will reprise their iconic roles. However, Hirani stressed that the team is taking its time to ensure the script meets high expectations rather than rushing the release.

The original 2009 film followed three engineering students navigating intense academic pressure while challenging a rigid, grade-obsessed education system. Blending heartfelt comedy with poignant commentary on societal expectations, *3 Idiots* became a global phenomenon. It earned an impressive \$51 million worldwide within its first 10 days and dominated the 2010 International Indian Film Awards, winning 16 accolades, including Best Film and Best Director. Its timeless soundtrack, featuring hit anthems like "Aal Izz Well," further cemented its status as a classic.

BollyBytes

How a chance opportunity launched Kriti Sanon's acting career

National Award-winning actor Kriti Sanon recently opened up about her unconventional entry into the film industry, revealing that her transition from engineering student to leading lady began with a series of unexpected events. Initially, Sanon had no explicit ambitions to pursue acting or modeling as a long-term profession. The idea first emerged casually when acquaintances suggested that her tall frame and physique were well-suited for modeling.

Curious about the experience, Sanon decided to test the waters by entering a local "fresh face" contest. With no professional portfolio, she submitted informal photographs taken by her sister. To her surprise, she was selected. The initial opportunity caused minor friction at home; while her father worried that modeling would distract her from her academic pursuits, her mother encouraged her to sign the contract and explore the opportunity.

Sanon's interest in the performing arts truly took root when she began booking television commercials. Working in front of a moving camera made her realize that she enjoyed the process of acting, even in short-form advertisements. This newfound passion prompted a shift in her career goals. Recognizing that she



wanted to pursue acting full-time, she made the decision to move to Mumbai with the complete support of her parents.

Reflecting on her journey, Sanon acknowledged the role of subconscious manifestation and family support in shaping her path. What began as a random experiment eventually led to her Hindi film debut and a successful, multi-genre career. Today, Sanon stands as one of contemporary Hindi cinema's most prominent figures, having built a diverse filmography from an unplanned start.

Evolving roles: How changing audiences empower mothers in Bollywood

Parineeti Chopra has highlighted how shifting audience attitudes are transforming Bollywood, allowing female actors to continue thriving in their careers after becoming mothers. Reflecting on the evolving landscape of the Hindi film industry, she credited viewers for creating a culture where motherhood no longer signals a decline in an actor's relevance or career prospects.

Historically, female stars often faced reduced opportunities after having children. However, Chopra emphasized that today's audiences no longer dismiss working mothers. Because film production operates on supply and demand, this shift in viewer perspective has empowered writers, directors, and producers to greenlight projects featuring mothers in lead roles. While acknowledging the hardship faced by previous generations of actresses who paid a professional price due to older industry norms, she expressed gratitude that her peers—including Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone, and her cousin Priyanka Chopra Jonas—can maintain high-caliber careers alongside family life. In fact, Chopra believes many actors are delivering even stronger performances during this phase of their lives.

For Chopra, who last starred in the 2024 biographical drama *Amar Singh Chamkila*, becoming a mother has only reinforced her professional dedication. Rather than altering her script selection or scaling back her artistic ambitions, she aims to be the best version of herself on screen for her son. She maintains a clear distinction between her personal and



professional commitments, dedicating her full energy to both acting and parenting without compromising on either.

Equally crucial to this balance is equal partnership at home. Chopra shared that she and her husband, politician Raghav Chadha, approach parenting as an equal 50-50 effort. By coordinating their work schedules so that one parent is always present, they ensure their child benefits from the active involvement of both mother and father.



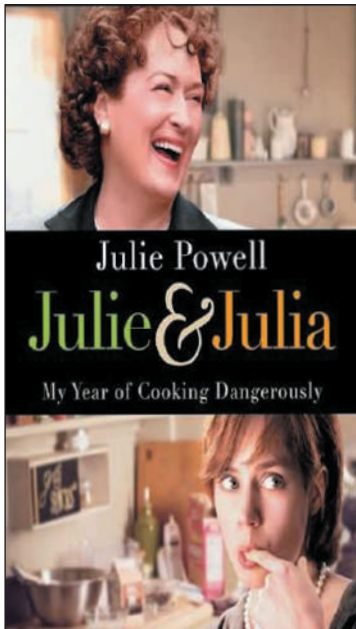
Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 11 septembre	06.15 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour 08.17 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 09.02 Tele: La Desalmada 09.30 Film: Cellar Door 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Rosalinda 13.20 Tele: Lying Heart 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: Annie Cast: Aileen Quinn, Albert Finney	11.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 12.00 26em Edision Festival Kreol 13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.25 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 14.40 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 15.00 Local: Artizan 17.01 Local: La Sosiete 19.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 19.45 Local: Evasion 20.15 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout 21.45 Local: La Sosiete 22.37 Local: Generations J 23.30 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.35 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 00.44 Local: Metie 00.57 Local: Mangeons 01.20 Les Grandes Lignes 01.43 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 01.56 Local: Evasion 02.09 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Amrit Vani 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.14 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Rivaaj 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 Geeta Gawai Ke Naya Pehaloo 19.30 Khel Khiladi 20.00 Tenali Rama 21.30 Beyhadh 2 21.52 Shrimad Ramayan 22.16 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.15 Local: Mati Ke Mol	06.40 Mag: Asia 2050 07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.29 Doc: Healthy Eyes 09.57 Doc: Smart New World 11.27 Mag: Eco India 12.03 Mag: Asia 2050 12.47 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.55 Doc: Healthy Eyes 15.00 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.10 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 17.24 D.Anime: Action Kidz 17.33 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.30 News 20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie 21.35 Doc: Kubota's Kimonos 22.28 Doc: The Masters Of Rome 23.18 Doc: Ikea Loves Wood	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama 15.22 Film: Aao Pyar Karen Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Shilpa Shetty 18.00 Samachar 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: Aao Pyar Karen Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Shilpa Shetty
samedi 12 septembre	06.16 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 06.40 Serial: La Brea 07.31 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk 08.20 Serial: New Amsterdam 09.10 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions 09.50 Serial: Nautilus 10.50 Serial: Heartland 11.32 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: Asintado 14.52 Doc: Quotes By Famous... 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.30 Film: Annie 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors 19.30 Le Journal 21.00 Film: Lee Miller 22.56 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk 23.43 Le Journal 00.18 Serial: Berlin Station	06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux 06.40 Local: Point Culture 07.40 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.05 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 09.20 Local: La Sosiete 12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.45 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 13.55 Local: Evasion 14.10 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout 14.50 Local: Point Culture 15.00 Local: Tous Egaux 18.10 Tele: Wildflower 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 19.45 Local: Metie 20.15 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.45 Gran Concert Solidarite Engegiste Au Theatre Serge Constantin, Vacoas 21.45 Local: Glwar Dantan	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.26 Local: Abhyas Yog 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 11.04 Dikri Vahalo Dariyo 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 14.00 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.30 Film: Beta Cast: Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Aruna Irani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Puranya Pakwan 18.57 Local: Sangeet Sarita 19.42 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 20.00 Live From Trianon Convention Centre the 12th Edition Of Miss India Worldwide Mauritius 2026 00.15 Puranya Pakwan 00.41 Sangeet Sarita 01.26 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah	06.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.25 D.Anime: Les Quiquois 08.19 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm 08.43 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 09.09 D.Anime: Yetili 09.42 D.Anime: Harrison & Me 10.03 Serial: So Awkward 13.08 Doc: The Masters Of Rome 15.05 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.08 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 16.00 D.Anime: Peanuts 16.22 D.Anime: Dragons 19.00 Doc: Initiative Africa 19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.50 Tele: Love Of My Life 22.23 Doc: By Train Along The... 23.07 Doc: Can't Feel Nothing 23.54 Doc: Delivered 00.34 Mag: In Good Shape 01.00 Doc: Challenging Traditional	08.00 Pandya Store 10.02 Mannat - Har Khushi Panne Ki 12.08 Udaariyaan 14.02 Anupamaa 16.21 Shrimad Ramayan 17.30 Vidrohi 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Dil Tera Aashiq With: Salman Khan 21.30 Beyhadh 2 21.51 Crime Patrol
dimanche 13 septembre	06.05 Tele: Terre D'esperance 06.28 Film: Selma 08.26 Serial: Nautilus 09.15 Serial: Columbo 10.49 Serial: Heartland 11.30 Tele: Terre D'esperance 12.35 Film: Pmpei 14.20 Doc: China Farm 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Selma 17.30 Doc: Country Dreams 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: Le Masque De Zorro Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Antonio Banderas 22.37 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria 23.20 Le Journal Televisé 23.55 Serial: Berlin Station	08.30 Local: Fam Model 09.10 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.30 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 14.30 Local: Priorite Sante 15.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 15.30 Local: Generations J 17.00 Local: Tous Egaux 17.17 Local: Les Petits Genies 17.40 Local: Glwar Dantan 18.10 Tele: Wildflower 19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.15 Local: Les Klips 22.45 Local: Itinerer Moris 22.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol 23.22 Local: Coin Jardin 23.35 Local: Nos Aines	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Puranya Pakwan 10.30 Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Champion Cast: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Puranya Pakwan 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Sanskriti Ki Baatein Guest 19.09 Bollywood Musical Evening 20.30 Tenali Rama 20.51 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il... 21.45 Sajana Bai Ho Gaile Hamar 00.40 Sanskriti Ki Baatein Guest 01.18 Bollywood Musical Evening Held At Svcc On The Occasion Of Utsav India-Mauritius Shopping Festival	06.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 06.19 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie 07.07 D.Anime: Zig's Space... 08.41 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 09.03 D.Anime: Yetili 10.30 Serial: So Awkward 11.57 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.27 Doc: By Train Along The East 13.56 Doc: Delivered 15.02 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.09 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 15.14 D.Anime: Caillou 16.00 D.Anime: Peanuts 16.23 D.Anime: Dragons 17.24 D.Anime: Action Kidz 18.00 Mag: REV Special 18.14 Mag: Travel 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 21.45 Film: The Greay Cast: Liam Neeson, Dermot Mulroney, Frank Grillo	08.00 Dhruv Tara 10.05 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Serial: Laughter Chefs 12.38 Dance Deewane Juniors 14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.30 Film: Parwana Cast: Ajay Devgan 21.30 Beyhadh 2 21.50 Mahabharat
lundi 14 septembre	05.08 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 06.50 Tele: S.W.A.T. 07.54 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 08.17 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 08.40 Tele: La Desalmada 09.10 Film: Papillon 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Rosalinda 13.15 Tele: Lying Heart 13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Le Masque De Zorro 17.32 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.07 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Le Journal 20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.40 Film: Burnt 22.20 Tele: Rosalinda	09.15 Local: Metie 09.30 Local: En Forme 11.00 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.05 An Evening With Baron Fenwick Fundraising... 15.00 Rodrig: Komanter 15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Journal Rodrig 21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 22.00 Plateau: Avec Pere Laval 22.36 Local: Grand Titre 22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Local: Sajana Bai Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Seeta Aur Geeta Cast: Hema Malini, Sanjeev Kumar, Dharmendra 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 19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.09 Local: Charcha 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Bachpan Cast: Sanjeev Khan, Tanuja 23.03 Shrimad Ramayan 00.00 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.22 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.48 Doc: Ocean Wild 09.21 Doc: Charlotte Knobloch 10.05 Doc: Three Women 11.36 Mag: REV Special 11.50 Mag: Travel 15.00 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.09 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 15.14 D.Anime: Caillou 15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 15.59 D.Anime: Peanuts 16.21 D.Anime: Dragons 16.44 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails 17.23 D.Anime: Action Kidz 19.00 Students Support Program... 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie 22.31 Doc: Game Of Drones 23.18 Mag: Tomorrow Today 23.44 Doc: Back To The Bunker? 00.36 Mag: Eco Africa	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Mr Joe B. Carvalho Cast: Arshad Warsi, Soha Ali Khan 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Ude Ki Aasha 19.00 Do Chutki Sindoor 19.30 Pandya Store 20.00 Mannat 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari



Mardi 15 Septembre - 20.25



Mercredi 16 Septembre - 20.40



Mercredi 16 Septembre - 15.00



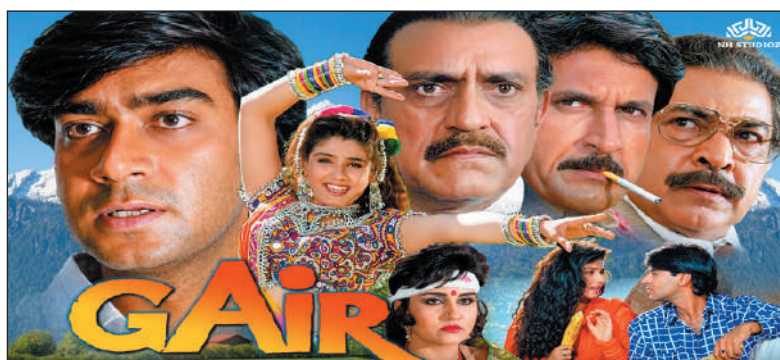
Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 15 septembre	05.18 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 07.17 Serial: Nautilus 08.05 Tele: All The Flowers 08.29 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 09.15 Tele: La Desalmada 09.45 Film: Kramer Contre Kramer 11.35 Tele: Happily ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Rosalinda 13.15 Tele: Lying Heart 13.45 Tele: Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie 15.30 Film: Burnt 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Film: Julie Et Julia Cast: Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Stanley..	09.40 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 11.35 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Rodrig: Komanter 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.30 Local: Coin Jardin 14.45 Local: Tous Egaux 15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 15.56 Local: Avan Tro Tar 18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 20.00 Journal Rodrig 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.15 Local: The Me Time 22.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol 23.20 Local: Fam Model 23.32 Grand Concert Solidarite Enregistre Au Theatre Serge Constantin, Vacoas	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.29 Local: Ayush 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Vighnaharta Shree Siddhi Vinayak Cast: Ramesh Deo, Parmeet Sethi, Divya Dutta, Ashalata 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.41 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Darshan 19.00 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Rani Aur Lalpari 23.16 Shrimad Ramayan 23.39 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 06.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics 07.43 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie 08.29 D.Anime: Les Quiquois 08.55 Film: Leafie 10.35 Mag: In Good Shape 11.53 Doc: The Secrets Of Wetlands 12.39 Doc: Australia's Towering 13.30 Film: Georges, Le Petit Curieux 14.56 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.31 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 15.55 D.Anime: Peanuts 16.17 D.Anime: Dragons 17.19 D.Anime: Action Kidz 18.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.53 Tele: Eclats De Vie 21.35 Mag: Business Africa	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Bahubali The Beginning Starring: Prabhas, R. Daggabuti, Anushka Shetty 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Uadne Ki Aasha 19.03 Do Chutki Sindoor 19.33 Pandya Store 20.06 Mannat - Har Khushi... 20.29 Saavi Ki Savaari 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Serial: Aladdin 23.30 Film: Bahubali The Beginning Starring: Prabhas, R. Daggabuti, Anushka Shetty
mercredi 16 septembre	05.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 08.16 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 08.52 Tele: La Desalmada 09.20 Film: Annie 11.35 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Rosalinda 13.15 Tele: Lying Heart 13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 14.15 Tele: Eclats De Vie 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Julie Et Julia 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.40 Film: La Chambre Des Merveilles 22.15 Tele: Rosalinda 23.00 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 The Me Time 10.30 Local: J'ai Faim 11.30 Local: Les Petits Genies 12.01 Local: Nos Aines 12.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 13.02 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog 13.15 Local: Metie 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.30 Local: J'ai Faim 16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.30 Rodrig: Coin Zen 16.50 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 20.45 Drogue Une Urgence... 21.15 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 21.30 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.56 Local: Les Klips 22.47 Local: Grand Titre 23.08 Journal Kreol	08.00 Sanskriti Ki Baatein 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Parivaar Cast: Mithun, Meenakshi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.47 Radha Mohan 16.30 Shiv Shakti 15.24 Radha Mohan 17.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yatra 19.01 Local: Swadharma 19.58 Local: Virasat 20.13 Serial: Kaam Daam 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.01 Film: Chori Chori Cupke 23.32 Shrimad Ramayan 23.56 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.03 Local: Yatra	06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 06.52 Mag: Made In Germany 11.42 Mag: Shift 12.09 Mag: Made In Germany 13.30 Doc: Les Merveilles De La Nature 14.25 Mag: Euromaxx 15.00 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.09 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 16.22 D.Anime: Dragons 16.58 Teen Serial: Pan Tau 17.34 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.31 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Saving Beavers And... 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie 21.39 Doc: La Chine Du Futur 22.33 Mag: Close Up 23.01 Mag: Focus On Europe	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.22 Film: Eana Meena Deeka Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Uadne 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 Wagle Ki Duniya 22.54 Aladdin 23.30 Film: Eana Meena Deeka Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla
jeudi 17 septembre	05.21 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 07.03 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 08.06 Tele: All The Flowers 09.14 Tele: La Desalmada 09.40 Serial: Columbo 11.14 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Rosalinda 13.03 Tele: Lying Heart 13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie 15.30 Film: La Chambre Des Merveilles 17.16 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: Crazy Cukkad Family Cast: Swanand Kirkire, Shilpa Shukla, Zachary Coffin...	10.35 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 10.46 Local: Les Klips 11.38 Local: Grand Titre 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.26 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 14.00 Local: Drogue Une Urgence 14.21 Agir Ensemble 18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.25 Local: Viens Decouvrir L'Aventure Du Sucre 20.00 Journal Rodrig 20.45 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.15 Local: Encounter 21.40 Local: Music Tour 2025 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol 23.32 Local: La Sosiete 23.58 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 00.20 Local: Tous Egaux	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.03 Local: Yatra 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Andaz Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.29 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.42 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Amrit Vani 18.42 Bhajan Sandhya 19.35 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 20.50 Serial: Shakti	06.25 Mag: Planet A 08.42 Mag: Close Up 09.15 Mag: Focus On Europe 11.19 Mag: Afrimaxx 14.01 Mag: Close Up 14.29 Mag: Focus On Europe 15.01 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 15.59 D.Anime: Peanuts 16.44 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails 16.58 Teen Serial: Pan Tau 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Doc: Vegetarian Delights 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.30 Live: New 20.50 Tele: Eclat De Vie 21.30 Doc: Food Up! 22.21 Doc: Unorthodox Careers 23.12 Doc: A Gold Rush In Space	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Gair Cast: Ajay Devgn 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Uadne Ki Aasha 19.00 Do Chutki Sindoor 19.30 Pandya Store 20.00 Mannat - Har Khushi Paane Ki 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Aladdin 23.31 Film: Gair Stars: Ajay Devgn



Jeudi 17 Septembre - 15.30 Stars: Ajay Devgn, Raveena Tandon, Reena Roy



Jeudi 17 Septembre - 20.20

Stars: Swanand Kirkire, Shilpa Shukla, Zachary Coffin, Nora Fatehi, Kiran Karmarkar, Jagat Singh





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Despite the Odds: Finding One's Path

In the distance, the sunset casts its last rays on the endless sea in an array of glowing red and yellow colours, soon to be covered by the dark pall of clouds moving slowly across the sky. The waves lap gently on the shore of the lagoon as the birds flock together among the branches of the filao trees, bidding good-bye to one another in a noisy meeting before settling in their nests for the night.

"My youngest pupil among the oldest is 82 years old in Mauritius," Sweta says, as we roll back our mats and enjoy a few minutes' conversation under the filao trees before parting. Julie is a young lady from Martinique and is a descendant of the local French community known as 'Béké' there. She has been to quite a number of islands and, as an islander, feels at home in all of them.



"Mauritius was a unique experience for me," she tells us, her eyes glowing and a broad smile on her face. "I was really not expecting it." What was so special about Mauritius? "The crowd in Mauritius," she answers. "The people in the streets, in public places. A different atmosphere. I was drawn to them. Like a magnet."

In fact, the well-being she experienced awakened something deep within her, something that had been lying in wait. It opened a window on another way of living.

"Maybe in a past life..." I said in jest. "You already had it sleeping in your cells."

"Oh sure!" she giggled. It was like a call she had been waiting for.

I referred to Sri Aurobindo's chapter on 'Memory of Cells', something quite a number of Westerners are familiar with, I noticed, surprisingly, in encounters with seekers of deeper knowledge. So, the Mauritian experience kindled a strong desire in her to pack up and fly to India. There, she spent a few months in Varanasi and Rishikesh with yoga masters. She looks as though she spent years in India. The way she moves slowly around and gently clinks a bell at the end of the relaxation exercise, with a saffron-coloured shawl around her shoulders. Such sweetness emanates from the young lady.

"I found my path, what I want to be and how I intend to live," Julie acknowledged. And now, she is in touch with the locals near a Kovil in the south of Réunion, where she continues the learning process.

Sweta is already an experienced yoga teacher in Mauritius. She gives regular courses to a group of elderly nuns in a convent in a village, all above 80 and very enthusiastic. A major obstacle is the availability of halls for yoga lessons, let alone the price. Open-air lessons are an option, provided that owners are

willing to let their lawns be used. What we see on television on Yoga Day, being celebrated in the garden of high-ranking public figures, she said, is a one-off event with the participation of the High Commission of India. Otherwise, there is a flat refusal to let the lawn be used for yoga.

The other challenge is finding accommodation at a reasonable price. Thirty-year-old single people need to get away from their parents' house and find a space of their own. The smallest apartment charges Rs 15,000. What is called a 'studio' is built in a haphazard way, with little thought for comfort and adequate layout for the kitchen and bathroom. From what I have observed in Mauritius, such accommodation glaringly lacks aesthetic appeal. An elderly Indian national who is a yoga teacher, she relates, is currently encountering an uphill battle to find some kind of decent accommodation between the twin towns of Quatre Bornes and Belle Rose and has to sleep in his car between lessons.

So, we put forward the idea of creating awareness among elderly couples who are likely to rent a room in their house and whose children have already flown out of the parental cocoon.

We discussed the necessity of setting up a properly structured federation of yoga teachers that would enable them to earn a decent living from giving lessons on a regular basis. The second point is about raising awareness of the importance of yoga and other disciplines. Those who should be in the frontline in showing interest in yoga are not sufficiently sensitized to the subject and are still wading their way knee-deep in merry-making, focusing on career advancement and material acquisitions. Indeed, the nuns at the convent are free from such worries.

A 'retreat' centre at Petite Rivière is generously offered for five-day Vipassana meditation sessions. Vipassana was initiated by a Buddhist monk in Myanmar, and its followers hold free sessions in many countries across the world. Participants meditate for hours without moving or talking. At some point, they can ask the organiser questions about the practice and its philosophy. It is open to people of all creeds and backgrounds. Not everyone can adjust to the demands of the discipline. It appears those who cannot stand the immobility and silence, give up and go home, are largely local Mauritians.

There used to be free yoga courses in the late afternoon within the precincts of state colleges. Not only is there an urgency for a national organisation with regular funding to enable teachers to earn a living from the knowledge they impart to the public, but also a need for an awareness campaign to understand the functioning of the body and the health benefits derived from yoga exercises.

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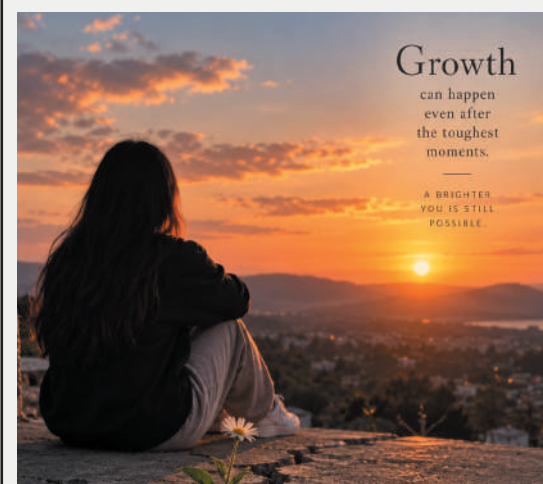
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Tree of Knowledge



Accepting Yourself A Dynamic Choice-Maker



To label yourself good or bad is to think too small. There is no such thing as a good person or a bad person. There are choices and actions that lead us in different directions, and it is through those choices and actions that we create our realities. Sometimes we choose or do something that takes us in the opposite direction of the reality we want to create for ourselves. When we do this, we feel bad — uneasy, unhappy, unsure. We might go so far as to label ourselves "bad" when a situation like this arises. Instead of labeling ourselves, though, we could simply acknowledge that we made a choice that led us down a particular path, and then let it go, forgiving ourselves and preparing for our next opportunity to choose and act in ways that support our best intentions.

Many of us experienced childhoods in which the words "good" and "bad" were used as weapons to control us — you were good if you did what you were told and bad if you didn't. This kind of discipline undermines a person's ability to find their own moral centre and to trust and be guided by their own inner self. If you were raised this way, you may find yourself feeling shockwaves of badness when you do something you were taught was wrong, even if now you don't agree that it's bad. Conversely, you may feel good when you do what you learned was right. Notice how this puts you in something of a strait-jacket. An important part of our spiritual unfolding requires that we grow beyond what we learned and take responsibility for our own liberation on our own terms.

You are a human being with every right to be here, learning and exploring. To label yourself good or bad is to think too small. What you are is a decision-maker, and every moment provides you with the opportunity to move in the direction of your higher self or in the direction of stagnation or degradation. In the end, only you know the difference. If you find yourself going into self-judgment, try to stop yourself as soon as you can and come back to centre. Know that you are not good or bad; you are simply you.

Madisyn Taylor