

MAURITIUS TIMES

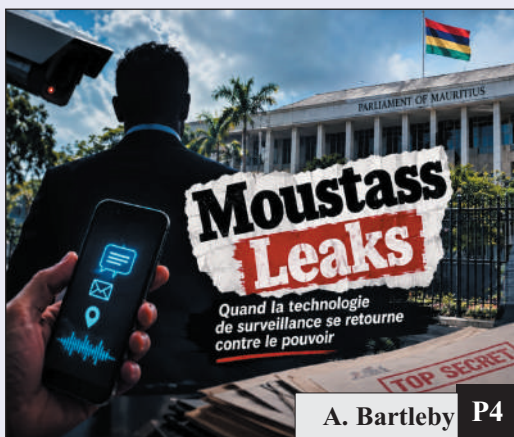
• "Social media has created a historical shift from the historically powerful to the historically powerless. Now everyone has a voice." – Sheryl Sandberg

Editorial



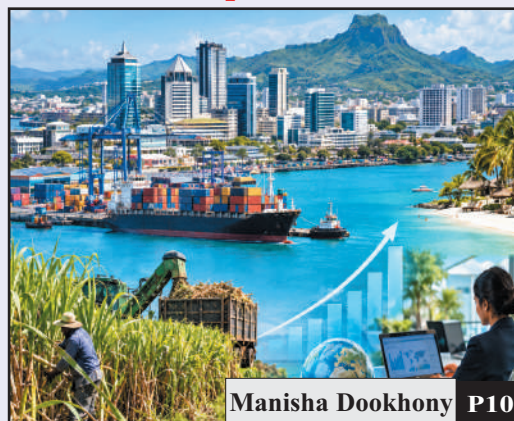
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A Moment of Reckoning: Mauritius and the IMF's Fiscal Wake-Up Call

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing, Founder of Lavwa Lavenir

**"The restoration of trust, integrity
and transparency is non-negotiable...
... without trust, reform has no foundation; with it,
much more becomes possible"**



• 'Scrutiny is the very lifeblood of accountability.
The greater the power entrusted to an executive,
the stronger the institutions required to
scrutinise that power'

Qs & As

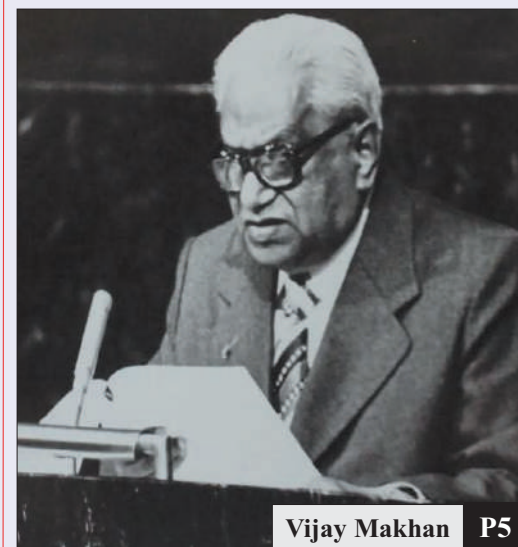
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"Swearing an affidavit confirms a formal commitment under penalty
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The Price of Fiscal Responsibility

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has delivered a sobering assessment of Mauritius's public money management. Its September 2026 report, Mauritius: Technical Assistance Report — Design Options for Fiscal Responsibility Legislation and Supporting Fiscal Institutions, contends that the existing public-finance framework has failed to enforce discipline and accountability. The IMF highlights repeated breaches of the statutory debt limit since 2008, overly optimistic economic forecasts, systemic weaknesses in the budget process, and inadequate in-year reporting.

While the immediate discussion often centres on figures, the core issue goes deeper: Is Mauritius prepared for the political consequences of true fiscal responsibility? The problem extends far beyond percentages on a spreadsheet. For years, successive governments have responded to demands for better pensions, quality healthcare, fair public-sector salaries, social safety nets, infrastructure development, and consumer support during inflationary periods. The fundamental constraint, however, remains unchanged: government resources are finite. Every promise made today must eventually be funded through taxation, economic growth, or borrowing.

The IMF's prescribed solution is a stronger, institutionalised system of rules: a comprehensive fiscal responsibility framework. This involves not merely cutting spending across the board, but fundamentally strengthening the machinery of fiscal management. Mauritius has long operated with debt limits, but without effective corrective mechanisms, those limits have been repeatedly broken. A rule easily bypassed without consequence ceases to function as a rule. The proposed framework demands numeric and procedural fiscal rules, a detailed medium-term fiscal plan, greater operational transparency, and improved risk management and financial reporting. It is not an order for blind austerity, but a structural requirement to change how decisions regarding public funds are made and monitored.

The Current Fiscal Reality and the Need for Space

The wider macro-fiscal landscape explains why these institutional reforms are urgent. The IMF's July 2026 Article IV assessment reported that public debt reached 86% of GDP at end-June 2025 — an increase of five percentage points within a single year. Projections suggest that under unchanged policies, debt will remain elevated at 87–88% of GDP over the medium term, significantly above the recommended 80% debt anchor. Consolidating finances by roughly two percentage points of GDP by FY2031/32 is deemed necessary to rebuild fiscal buffers.

This consolidation is vital for maintaining "fiscal space" — the financial room a government possesses to act when a crisis occurs. Consider a household carrying a heavy mortgage alongside several consumer loans. If a breadwinner loses a job or an emergency arises, that household has far fewer options than one with low debt obligations. The same principle applies to a nation.

Mauritius is a small, highly open island economy. Foreign tourism, international trade, financial services, fuel import prices, global geopolitical tensions, and climate shocks directly influence its economic performance. When an external shock hits, a high debt burden restricts the state's capacity to protect its citizens. Rebuilding fiscal space is therefore not an abstract accounting exercise; it is a vital prerequisite for national resilience.

The Legacy of Yesterday's Promises

The current fiscal difficulty did not emerge overnight. Much of the present pressure is the result of long-term structural commitments made by past administrations, notably the policies pursued under the former MSM government. The most



prominent example is the trajectory of state pensions.

The Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) saw substantial increases over recent budget cycles, rising from Rs 10,000 in June 2022 to Rs 11,000 in June 2023, and reaching Rs 13,500 by April 2024. Ensuring that senior citizens live with dignity is an essential obligation of a compassionate society. However, a distinct line exists between expanding social protection and making permanent financial commitments without fully accounting for their long-term structural costs.

The IMF's broader assessment identifies pensions as a major source of upward pressure on current government expenditure, urging pension reform alongside targeted protections for the most vulnerable. This is where public finance intersects uncomfortably with electoral politics. Large pension hikes deliver immediate, visible benefits to voters, but their financial burden is distributed across future budgets for decades.

In an electoral system, the temptation to offer immediate benefits while leaving the financing dilemma to future governments is strong. Regardless of political interpretation, the fiscal reality is clear: a permanent increase in an entitlement is a permanent recurring obligation for the State. As the population ages, the ratio of retirees receiving pensions increases while the proportion of working-age citizens contributing to the tax base grows more slowly.

The Dilemma Facing the Present Government

This demographic shift leaves the current government facing a complex political and financial environment. It must restore long-term fiscal sustainability while managing social commitments inherited from previous mandates. It cannot simply erase past promises, nor can it easily reduce benefits upon which households rely.

The government faces the challenge of identifying expenditure savings without appearing to penalize vulnerable groups, and reforming entitlements without undermining social security. This dilemma shows why fiscal management needs independent oversight. If public funds are committed to politically attractive programmes, citizens ought to be informed of the projected costs over a ten-, twenty-, or thirty-year horizon. Independent fiscal institutions and credible rules serve to enforce this transparency, compelling governments to present both immediate benefits and long-term liabilities.

Agreeing with the principle of fiscal discipline is straightforward in theory; enforcing it in practice requires difficult political choices. The practical decisions facing policymakers involve concrete trade-offs:

- Should future pension adjustments be indexed strictly to inflation rather than discretionary increases?
- Should public-sector wage growth be moderated in line with productivity gains?
- Should universal subsidies be replaced with targeted

support for lower-income households?

- Should non-essential capital infrastructure projects be deferred?
- Should the tax base be broadened to generate additional revenue?

These are policy choices with direct social outcomes. Citizens expect public services and financial support, while political leaders face incentives to meet those expectations. However, a state cannot indefinitely spend beyond its revenues simply because spending remains popular. Eventually, structural imbalances require correction.

Growth, Governance, and the Road Ahead

For the current government, the task is to demonstrate that fiscal consolidation can occur without eroding essential public services or crippling economic growth. A government must manage spending while fulfilling its core obligations: maintaining healthcare networks, funding education, upgrading infrastructure, protecting the vulnerable, and supporting economic activity during downturns.

This reality highlights why the debate must move beyond a simple binary between spending cuts and tax hikes. Mauritius requires a combination of fiscal discipline and stronger economic growth. The IMF's assessment notes that structural reforms designed to enhance productivity, encourage private investment, streamline the business environment, and build climate resilience are essential for sustaining growth amid demographic shifts.

A country cannot cut its way to long-term prosperity, nor can it rely indefinitely on debt-financed expansion. The path forward requires an economic model capable of generating sufficient productivity and state revenue to support the living standards Mauritians expect.

Ultimately, the IMF's technical assistance report forces a necessary conversation regarding national priorities:

1. What level of public spending can Mauritius sustainably afford?
2. Which core services must the State guarantee, and how should they be funded?
3. What proportion of national debt is acceptable to pass to future generations?
4. What structural economic reforms are required to expand the national income?

These questions require engagement among government, Parliament, the private sector, civil society, and the broader public. That dialogue, however, must rely on credible, transparent financial data. If revenue forecasts are consistently over-optimistic, or if budget execution reporting lacks timeliness, meaningful public scrutiny becomes difficult.

Fiscal responsibility does not require the state to cease supporting its population. Rather, it requires the state to remain transparent about its financial capacity, disciplined in its borrowing, and rigorous in its long-term planning. The real test lies not in drafting new legislation, but in exercising discipline when trade-offs arise. Matching public commitments with the actual capacity to deliver remains the core requirement for long-term economic stability.

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The Legal and Political Stakes of the Bheeky Affidavit

“Swearing an affidavit confirms a formal commitment under penalty of law, but it does not guarantee the truth of its contents”

In an era where high-stakes political discourse unfolds as rapidly on social media as it does in courtroom filings, the filing of the Nasser Bheeky affidavit has drawn significant attention across Mauritius. Following the Ravatomanga affair, these allegations — accompanied by digital attachments, audio recordings, and claims of influence peddling — raise practical questions regarding institutional integrity, due process, and the rule of law. Swearing an affidavit before the Supreme Court elevates an assertion above casual political rhetoric, but it does not make its contents inherently true. In this week’s Qs & As, Lex explores the critical legal, procedural, and strategic dimensions of the Bheeky affidavit — from the strict standards of forensic corroboration and the risks of perjury to institutional conflicts of interest, platform accountability, and how public figures can protect their reputations in an unvarnished digital environment.

LEX

*** On paper, the Nasser Bheeky affidavit appears potentially far more serious politically than the original Ravatomanga affair, but at this stage, should it be treated strictly as a set of unverified allegations rather than established facts?**

At this stage, the assertions in the affidavit must be treated strictly as unverified allegations. Under common law and Mauritian jurisprudence, an affidavit represents one party’s sworn, unilateral testimony. It does not constitute conclusive proof, nor has it been tested by cross-examination or verified through an independent judicial process. While its political impact may be significant due to the gravity of the claims, treating it as established fact before due process is completed would violate the fundamental principle of the presumption of innocence.

*** While a political leader presenting an audio recording at a party congress naturally introduces a political dimension, an affidavit sworn before the Supreme Court belongs to an entirely different legal category, does it not?**

Swearing an affidavit before the Supreme Court does not automatically make its contents true. Swearing under oath places a strict legal obligation on the declarant and exposes them to criminal prosecution for perjury if they knowingly make false statements.

However, the act of swearing merely confirms that the declarant is formally attesting to those statements under penalty of law; it does not grant inherent truth or immunity from falsehood to the assertions contained within the document.

*** Do attached audio recordings or chat logs actually make an affidavit more trustworthy in court, or do they just make it harder to prove the evidence is authentic?**

Attached audio recordings or chat logs offer physical data that investigators can audit rather than relying solely on oral claims, which can strengthen the material substance of an affidavit. However, in modern litigation, digital files also introduce significant technical hurdles regarding admissibility and integrity.

Forensic audits and strict chain-of-custody checks are needed to rule out editing, context manipulation, or AI generation. Therefore, while such material evidence raises the stakes, it simultaneously increases the evidentiary burden required to prove its authenticity in court.

*** If proven false, would making such allegations constitute a serious criminal offense under the law?**

If the allegations in the affidavit are proven to be knowingly false, the declarant would face severe legal consequences under Mauritian criminal law. Making false statements under oath in an affidavit sworn before a judicial authority constitutes perjury, which carries heavy custodial sentences.

Additionally, initiating a criminal investigation based on



fabricated claims or false complaints to law enforcement agencies is punishable as effecting a public mischief under the Criminal Code, and the targeted parties would have strong grounds to pursue civil suits for defamation and damages to reputation.

*** Given the severity of the allegations in the Bheeky affidavit — which suggest widespread influence peddling — a rigorous and independent investigation is clearly warranted. Is the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) the appropriate body to investigate this matter, or should the case be handed over to the Central Criminal Investigation Department (CCID)?**

The Financial Crimes Commission holds the primary statutory mandate to investigate financial crimes, corruption, and influence peddling, making it the primary specialized body for economic offences. On the other hand, the Central Criminal Investigation Department is better structured to handle broader criminal conspiracies, extortion, or systemic police-level offenses.

Given the complexity and high profile of the case, determining the appropriate authority often depends on whether there are perceived conflicts of interest, with some matters requiring a joint task force or an independent judicial Commission of Inquiry to maintain complete public confidence.

*** Although Mr Bheeky previously expressed reservations regarding the FCC and its leadership, he subsequently submitted evidence to the institution regarding alleged interference in an ongoing inquiry. Given these circumstances, can the FCC maintain full objectivity when investigating matters that potentially involve its own personnel, former officials, or internal procedures?**

When an agency is accused of bias or interference, investigating itself creates a clear conflict of interest — violating the rule that no one can judge their own case. While the FCC has the authority to handle complaints, investigating its own current or former officers creates an apparent conflict of interest. Maintaining public trust in such cases requires recusing named officials, establishing independent oversight, or referring relevant parts of the inquiry to external

bodies like the CCID.

*** The critical question arising under these circumstances, therefore, is the extent to which Mr Bheeky’s assertions can be independently corroborated.**

For these assertions to hold legal weight, independent corroboration must extend far beyond the declarant’s own statements. Verification requires thorough forensic auditing of electronic records, metadata, and audio files to ensure unedited authenticity.

Furthermore, investigators must examine financial paper trails, bank records, and wire transfer logs to substantiate claims of monetary exchange, alongside third-party witness statements and telecommunication call detail records to confirm the timing and location of alleged meetings.

*** The Ravatomanga affair — like so many controversies before it — highlights a shift in the public information landscape, where traditional media outlets remain constrained by libel laws while social media platforms allow unverified allegations to spread at viral speed. Is there a compelling case for holding digital platforms accountable, or does regulating them inevitably risk infringing on freedom of expression?**

The case for platform accountability rests on the fact that social media acts as a force multiplier for unverified claims, enabling severe character assassination and trial by media long before legal processes can conclude. Requiring platforms to comply with local takedown orders or identify anonymous accounts serves to protect individual reputations and democratic stability.

Conversely, over-regulating digital channels risks state censorship, chilling whistleblower protections, and stifling legitimate public debate, especially when traditional media may face legal or political constraints. Modern legal frameworks generally attempt to balance these interests by holding platforms accountable for content moderation transparency and swift compliance with court-issued defamation orders, rather than imposing preemptive censorship.

*** In today’s digital environment, where unverified allegations can go viral instantly, is the safest course of action for public figures — especially politicians and their families — simply to stay out of harm’s way altogether?**

Complete detachment or staying out of harm’s way is largely unrealistic for public figures who operate inherently in the public eye.

Politicians, public servants, and prominent individuals cannot simply retreat from public discourse, as silence is often interpreted by the public as an admission of guilt or weakness.

Furthermore, passive avoidance provides no actual protection against targeted, third-party fabrications or viral digital smear campaigns, making absolute withdrawal an ineffective shield.

*** On the other hand, staying out of harm’s way may constitute one reliable form of insurance in this new digital environment for public figures or anybody, for that matter. Are there other viable ways — legal or otherwise — to protect one’s reputation?**

Rather than relying on passive avoidance, public figures must utilize proactive legal and strategic measures to safeguard their standing.

Legally, this includes obtaining urgent court injunctions or removal orders to halt the dissemination of defamatory content, alongside initiating swift defamation lawsuits against primary sources to establish financial and legal accountability. Strategically, public figures must secure their digital communications, keep clear records, and respond quickly with facts before unverified claims take hold.

“Moustass Leaks”: Quand la technologie de surveillance se retourne contre le pouvoir

Par A. Bartleby

A Maurice, l'enquête de la *Central Crime Investigation Department* (CCID) sur l'affaire dite des “Moustass Leaks” a franchi un cap décisif. L'ancien Premier ministre Pravind Jugnauth a été convoqué à plusieurs reprises ces dernières semaines par les enquêteurs des Casernes centrales. Le cœur de l'interrogatoire porte sur l'importation présumée d'équipements de pointe spécialisés dans l'interception illégale des communications — notamment des appels cellulaires et des échanges sur WhatsApp — ainsi que sur la chaîne de commande, les fournisseurs internationaux et les fonds publics engagés sous son mandat.

Ces auditions font suite aux révélations fracassantes d'octobre 2024 diffusées par le profil anonyme “Missie Moustass”, qui avait rendu publics des enregistrements d'écoutes ciblant des politiciens, des journalistes, des membres du corps judiciaire et des diplomates. Alors que Pravind Jugnauth rejette toute malversation et défend la légalité des opérations de sécurité sous sa gouvernance, cette affaire met en lumière les dérives potentielles de la surveillance d'État. Elle soulève des questions fondamentales sur le fonctionnement de cette industrie mondiale, son coût et ses implications pour la démocratie.

Écoutes clandestines et espionnage d'État

Contrairement aux idées reçues, la plupart des gouvernements ne développent pas leurs propres outils de surveillance réseau ou d'intrusion mobile. Ils s'approvisionnent auprès d'entreprises privées hautement spécialisées, concentrées dans une poignée de nations:

- **Israël:** Épicentre mondial de l'espionnage numérique commercial, représenté par des acteurs comme NSO Group (développeur du logiciel *Pegasus*), Candiru ou Cognyte, spécialisés dans l'intrusion par infection “zéro clic” et l'interception de signaux télécoms.
- **L'Union européenne:** Des sociétés basées en Italie, en France ou en Grèce (telles que Memento Labs ou le réseau Intellexa, concepteur du logiciel *Predator*) fournissent des plateformes d'interception légale ou d'exploitation tactique.
- **Les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni:** Un marché axé sur le matériel d'interception tactique à courte portée, notamment les récepteurs IMSI (*IMSI catchers* ou *Stingrays*), produits par de grands équipementiers de défense.

Le coût financier de la surveillance de masse: Accéder à ces technologies,



Qu'ils soient autoritaires ou démocratiques, les États usent d'écoutes clandestines par intérêt: pour écraser l'opposition dans les premiers, ou par glissement sécuritaire sans contrôle indépendant dans les seconds.

cela exige des investissements budgétaires considérables. Les équipements tactiques de proximité (*IMSI catchers*) coûtent généralement entre 100 000 et plus de 500 000 dollars par unité.

Concernant les logiciels d'espionnage avancés capables d'infiltrer à distance des smartphones et de contourner le chiffrement d'applications comme WhatsApp ou Signal, les contrats se chiffrent en dizaines de millions de dollars. Une licence complète d'exploitation, incluant la maintenance et un quota d'infections simultanées, peut facilement dépasser 20 à 50 millions de dollars d'argent public.

Détection et neutralisation - la riposte technique: Neutraliser ou détecter ces interdictions illégales s'avère complexe mais réalisable pour des experts en cybersécurité:

- **Pour les interceptions réseau et IMSI Catchers:** L'utilisation d'analyseurs de fréquences radio et d'applications spécialisées permet de repérer les fausses antennes-relais qui forcent le téléphone à désactiver son chiffrement.
- **Pour les logiciels espions (spyware):** Ces outils opèrent en mémoire vive sans laisser de traces évidents; leur détection requiert une analyse forensique (analyse numérique approfondie) poussée des journaux système (*logs*), de la mémoire et du trafic réseau, réalisée par des laboratoires spécialisés comme Citizen Lab ou Amnesty Tech. La neutralisation passe par la réinitialisation matérielle, la mise à jour constante des systèmes d'exploitation ou l'activation de modes de sécurité renforcés.

Cadres juridiques, pratiques des États et dérives démocratiques

La majorité des États disposent de lois encadrant l'interception légale dans le

cadre de procédures pénales ou de la sécurité nationale. Sur le plan international, des accords (comme l'Arrangement de Wassenaar) classent ces logiciels comme des technologies à double usage soumises à des licences d'exportation strictes. De plus, l'article 17 du Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques protège contre les ingérences arbitraires dans la vie privée. Cependant, l'application de ces normes se heurte fréquemment à l'absence de mécanismes de contrôle transfrontaliers efficaces.

Pourquoi la tentation de l'illégalité persiste-t-elle?

Qu'il s'agisse de régimes autoritaires ou de démocraties constitutionnelles, l'usage d'écoutes non autorisées répond à des motivations précises. Dans les régimes autoritaires, la surveillance est un outil direct de maintien du pouvoir, servant à surveiller les opposants politiques, museler la presse et neutraliser la société civile. Dans les démocraties, si la lutte contre le terrorisme et le grand banditisme motive l'acquisition initiale de ces outils, l'absence de contrôle indépendant entraîne souvent un glissement des usages. La volonté d'obtenir un avantage tactique lors d'échéances électorales ou d'identifier des sources journalistiques pousse alors certains services à contourner la voie judiciaire.

La question qui se pose est donc la suivante: une démocratie peut-elle tolérer les écoutes hors cadre légal? L'argument selon lequel de telles pratiques pourraient être justifiées si elles servent exclusivement la sécurité de l'État et le maintien de l'ordre se heurte à un principe fondamental du droit constitutionnel, à savoir, l'État de droit. En vertu de ce principe, la puissance publique elle-même est strictement soumise aux lois qu'elle édicte. Permettre à un gouvernement ou à ses services de renseignement

de violer le cadre légal sous prétexte d'impératifs sécuritaires revient à substituer le règne de l'arbitraire aux règles du consentement démocratique.

Dans une société démocratique, la protection de la vie privée et le secret des correspondances constituent des droits fondamentaux. Si ces libertés peuvent faire l'objet de restrictions exceptionnelles pour protéger la collectivité, toute ingérence doit obligatoirement reposer sur une base légale claire, répondre à une menace avérée et demeurer strictement proportionnée au but poursuivi. Plus encore, ces mesures nécessitent la supervision constante d'un juge indépendant ou d'un organe de contrôle impartial. Contourner la voie judiciaire équivaut à octroyer à l'exécutif un pouvoir discrétionnaire sans aucun contre-pouvoir pour en vérifier la légitimité.

L'expérience historique montre, par ailleurs, qu'il n'existe pas de frontière étanche entre la sécurité nationale et les intérêts politiques du pouvoir en place. En l'absence de contrôle indépendant, le concept de menace pour l'État est fréquemment instrumentalisé pour cibler des opposants, des journalistes d'investigation ou des lanceurs d'alerte. Normaliser les écoutes clandestines revient ainsi à légitimer l'existence d'infrastructures de surveillance parallèles, susceptibles d'être détournées à des fins de politique intérieure.

Les régimes démocratiques intègrent déjà des mécanismes légaux d'urgence permettant aux forces de l'ordre d'agir rapidement face à des périls imminents, notamment par des mandats accélérés ou des contrôles judiciaires exercés a posteriori. Dès lors, choisir de s'affranchir délibérément de ces procédures légales ne traduit pas une contrainte opérationnelle, mais bien un refus du contrôle démocratique, compromettant de fait l'essence même de l'État de droit.

Cette problématique prend une résonance toute particulière à Maurice avec le scandale des “Moustass Leaks”, qui a largement contribué à la chute du gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth. Actuellement visé par une enquête policière de la *Central Crime Investigation Department* (CCID) concernant l'acquisition, par le précédent gouvernement, d'équipements de pointe destinés à l'interception et à la surveillance massive, l'ancien Premier ministre choisit désormais de contester la légitimité des soupçons portés contre lui et réclame la mise en place d'une commission d'enquête indépendante.

En réclamant à grands cris une commission d'enquête indépendante, l'ancien Premier ministre découvre sur le tard les vertus rafraîchissantes de la transparence...

➔ Voir plus en page 17



Vijay Makhan

SSR: Father of the Nation, Architect of Our Foreign Policy

On the 126th anniversary of his birth, it is fitting to recall Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam not only as the Father of the Nation and the architect of our independence, but also as the statesman who gave newly independent Mauritius its first diplomatic compass.

On 18 September, the nation will remember the great political struggles that marked SSR's life from the advance of universal suffrage to the battle for social justice, the difficult road to self-government and, ultimately, independence. These are central to his legacy. But another dimension of SSR's statesmanship deserves equally serious reflection. He defined how an independent Mauritius should conduct itself in the world.

I write with a particular sense of privilege. As a freshly appointed diplomatic officer, I had the honour to serve under Sir Seewoosagur when he held the portfolio of external affairs. It was an invaluable formative experience. One could not fail to be impressed by his poise, the breadth of his knowledge and his constant urge to remain abreast of international developments. He followed world affairs closely, not out of idle curiosity, but because he understood that events far beyond our shores could affect the future of Mauritius.

I also take pride in having been among those entrusted with the responsibility of translating that vision into concrete action. Alongside many dedicated colleagues, we helped to give it practical expression through our representations, our engagements and the patient building of relationships across the world. It was an immense privilege and honour to contribute, in however modest a way, to ensuring that Mauritius occupied its rightful place in the international community.

SSR understood the importance of building a diplomatic machinery worthy of an independent state. While retaining a close interest in foreign affairs, he made full use of the experience and capacity of Sir Harold Walter, whom he appointed full-fledged Minister of External Affairs in 1976, ahead of the OAU meetings hosted by Mauritius. It reflected SSR's recognition that diplomacy required political direction at the highest level, but also competent ministerial and professional support. He made successful use of such stalwarts as Sir Satcam Boolell, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Sir Kher Jagatsing as well as Sir Gaetan Duval and later on Kailash Purryag and Paul Bérenger, among others.

Small Island, Global Vision

For a small and vulnerable island emerging from colonial rule, foreign policy could not be an ornamental branch of government. It was a matter of survival, dignity and development. SSR knew that political independence would remain incomplete if Mauritius had no voice beyond its shores, no friendships to cultivate, no convictions to uphold and no capacity to defend its interests in the councils of the world.

This conviction was unmistakably expressed in the Legislative Assembly on 22 August 1967, when he moved the resolution which placed Mauritius formally on the road to independence. "By our decision today," he declared, "we shall put Mauritius on the path of her destiny." It was not simply a constitutional act. It was the affirmation that the Mauritian people were not merely entitled to freedom but also, to determine their own relations with the outside world.

Speaking at the United Nations on the admission of Mauritius, SSR gave that outlook its moral expression.



For Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, multilateralism at the UN was essential: it was the arena where small nations could challenge colonialism, affirm sovereign equality, invoke the protection of law, and project their voice globally.

"The record of SSR's interventions in the Legislative Assembly, his interactions at the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of African Unity, as well as his bilateral engagements, reveals a consistent thread. Mauritius was to be open to the world, friendly with all, beholden to none, and resolute in the defence of its sovereignty and national interest. That was the essence of the foreign-policy path he traced. SSR was never constrained by insularity..."

"Although I come from a small country," he said, "my Government and the people of Mauritius are very conscious of the honour of belonging to this great Assembly." Mauritius would uphold the ideals of the UN Charter and "play fully our part in the struggle for justice, racial equality, peace and understanding among nations."

This was not the language of a country content merely to take its seat in the community of nations. It was the statement of a nation determined to assume its responsibilities within it. SSR understood from the outset that the size of a state need not limit either the clarity of its convictions or the usefulness of its contribution.

He carried the thought further in the same address: "We as a small nation will bring our contribution, however modest it may be, to the shaping of the destiny of a better world." The moral core of his approach: Mauritius would remain modest in its means, but never modest in its commitment to justice, peace and international cooperation.

The record of his interventions in the Legislative Assembly, his interactions at the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of African Unity, as well as his bilateral engagements, reveals a consistent thread.

Mauritius was to be open to the world, friendly with all, beholden to none, and resolute in the defence of its sovereignty and national interest.

That was the essence of the foreign-policy path he traced.

SSR was never constrained by insularity. He knew our geography made us small in territory but did not condemn us to smallness of vision. Mauritius connected Africa and Asia through the Indian Ocean. It possessed historical, cultural and human links with India, Africa, Europe and the wider Commonwealth. In these realities, he discerned not a dilemma but an opportunity.

Indeed, in his 1968 UN address, he foresaw that "this remote island in the Indian Ocean" could become "one of the most important meeting places of East and West." It was a remarkably prescient insight. It expressed the confidence that a plural Mauritius could make its diversity an instrument of international understanding. He therefore anchored Mauritius firmly within Africa while preserving and cultivating its other natural affinities and securing its own identity. Our membership of the OAU was not a matter of mere protocol. It reflected a political choice. Mauritius belonged to Africa and had a responsibility towards the continent's unfinished struggles against colonialism, racism and apartheid.

The Diplomatic Compass

When Mauritius hosted the OAU Summit in 1976 and SSR assumed its chairmanship, it was a moment of particular significance. It demonstrated that even a young and small island state could provide a platform for African solidarity and make a meaningful contribution to continental affairs.

His adherence to non-alignment was equally purposeful. In the difficult decades of the Cold War, non-alignment did not mean indifference to the major issues of the day. Nor did it mean sitting on the fence. It meant retaining the freedom to judge, to speak and to act according to principle and national interest, rather than becoming an appendage of any great power.

He believed firmly in multilateralism. The UN was never simply another international forum. It was the place where the equality of states, however imperfectly observed in practice, could be affirmed; where colonialism could be challenged; where the weak could seek the protection of law; and where a small country could make its case before the world.

SSR's outlook was at once principled and practical. The latter quality was strongly evident in another intervention in the Legislative Assembly, in June 1967, when Britain's prospective entry into the European Economic Community raised serious anxieties for Mauritius. SSR moved a motion stressing "the vital necessity of protecting Mauritian sugar". His language was unambiguous: "Sugar is our lifeblood... The CSA is vital for us."

Those few words tell us much about his conception of diplomacy. Foreign relations were not simply concerned with formal exchanges, protocol or distant political causes. They had to serve the country's economic security, protect vital markets and create the conditions for development. International relations had therefore to be managed with care, foresight and realism.

This combination of principle and pragmatism was one of SSR's greatest strengths. His diplomacy, in that sense, mirrored his politics at home. Just as he worked to hold together a plural society, he sought abroad a policy that avoided narrow alignment and drew strength from diversity. Mauritius could be African without being cut off from Asia; close to India while maintaining friendships elsewhere; attached to the Commonwealth while remaining uncompromising on decolonisation; committed to peace while vigilant in the defence of its interests.

Cont on page 6



Sada Reddi

SSR: Where East Meets West

Beyond his major political achievements, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam was a man of deep faith, literary passion, and unyielding respect for his roots — a dual identity that shaped a nation



“The dominant image that inevitably comes to mind is the politician, the statesman, and the leader of the Mauritius Labour Party. Embedded in this public image is that of a Western-educated Fabian socialist assimilated into British social and political values...For those who knew him beyond administration and politics, SSR was also a deeply spiritual man. He was steeped in the heritage of his ancestors, inheriting their linguistic, cultural, and religious values. How these two personae blended harmoniously within him is fascinating, playing a key role in building the country's multicultural foundation...”

As we celebrate the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, the dominant image that inevitably comes to mind is the politician, the statesman, and the leader of the Mauritius Labour Party. He led the country to independence and presided over its destiny until 1982, continuing as Governor-General until 1985 — a legacy defined by monumental achievements. Embedded in this public image is that of a Western-educated Fabian socialist assimilated into British social and political values.

What is less known, according to his daughter, is that he was a man of simplicity: a dedicated, caring husband and father who enjoyed family dinners, shared stories, laughed, and inspired his children to read and work hard. For those who knew him beyond administration and politics, SSR was also a deeply spiritual man. He was steeped in the heritage of his ancestors, inheriting their linguistic, cultural, and religious values. How these two personae blended harmoniously within him is fascinating, playing a key role in building the country's multicultural foundation.

The Western component of his education is well documented. Moving from the Royal College, Curepipe, to Imperial College London for medical studies, he developed a profound love for English and French literature. This joyous connection was so strong that when his ship docked at Marseilles, he and his friend Raman Osman boarded a train to visit the Sorbonne in the Quartier

Latin to explore the latest literary works.

In England, he enjoyed the company of literary figures like H.G. Wells, Bernard Shaw, Arnold Bennett, T.S. Eliot, and G.D.H. Cole. Having mastered the English language, he was asked by Subhas Chandra Bose to proofread *The Indian Struggle* before its London publication. Sir Harold Walter once recalled walking with Ramgoolam in London when SSR asked how much money he had on him, eager to bid on a T.S. Eliot manuscript at an auction.

Because he was so enamoured with British social traditions, many viewed him as a British gentleman in deportment, dress, and moral character. However, these ethical qualities sprang not only from British medical training, but primarily from his ancestral cultural and spiritual upbringing. He exemplified Mahatma Gandhi's famous philosophy:

“I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”

According to author S. Ramburn, in his private life, SSR conversed with his wife, sisters-in-law, and cousin in Bhojpuri — the language closest to his heart. Although known as a gracious host — once visiting the kitchen to check on the bread for a state banquet, and travelling to France with Harold Walter to select wine for Queen Elizabeth II's visit — his meals at home were those of an ordinary Indian family. At breakfast, he relished *puri* and *tarkari*; at lunch,

rice, *dal*, vegetables, and a piece of meat; and at teatime, boiled cassava. During a reception in Triolet, when visiting writers from the World Hindi Conference sat on the floor for dinner, SSR effortlessly joined them, sitting cross-legged to share the meal.

Ramgoolam was deeply religious, a quality that manifested in his compassionate treatment of all human beings and animals. He once expressed:

“We must have more compassion for animals, not because we look upon them as inferior to human beings, but because the sanctity of life must be respected by everyone, for every creature that God put upon earth. Animals are dependent on us, and we are dependent on them... They bring love at a time when we are suffering, and they bring joy to the family, to the children, and to society.”

He harboured a boundless love for Hindi, supporting its development both locally and internationally through the World Hindi Conference. He frequently called Hindi the great language of his ancestors, encouraging people to learn and propagate it. In the Council of Government on May 27, 1941, he pleaded for ancestral languages: *“While it is on the road to see that the English language is taught more and more... I should like the government to see that Indian languages are put on a better basis than they are at present in primary schools.”* He later opposed the Ward Report's proposal to abolish Indian languages in schools, successfully defending their inclusion before the Select Committee, the Colonial Office, and the government.

From Hindu values, SSR forged his character and cultivated the inner world of his mind and soul to withstand life's trials. Religious texts and books on Indian culture, philosophy, and politics adorned his study, and he strongly supported Yogi Rummun's efforts to introduce Hinduism into the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate syllabi.

When a young man once quizzed him about his identity, SSR replied:

“You know, my boy, we should not be ashamed of our origins. Do you think, after so many years spent in England, people will call me English? People will only respect me when I behave well, with due respect to all religions and communities. This is why I never forget my inborn character, which is made of Hindu values.”

It was this openness, generosity, and universal respect that enabled Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam to cherish all cultures and languages. His vision became the cornerstone of Mauritian multiculturalism, allowing a diverse society to live in peace — a legacy that remains one of the greatest triumphs of modern Mauritius.

International Relations



SSR with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the First World Hindi Conference, held in Nagpur, India, from January 10 to 12, 1975

SSR: Father of the Nation, Architect of Our Foreign Policy

Cont from page 5

The Chagos issue gives this legacy particular poignancy. The excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius prior to independence was a grave wound inflicted at the very threshold of nationhood. The long struggle that followed was carried forward by successive governments, diplomats and citizens. But its moral and political roots lie in the foundational conviction that Mauritius could not acquiesce in any diminution of its territorial integrity. That conviction has led today to the vindication, after many decades, of the principle that independence is indivisible, and sovereignty cannot be treated as negotiable.

We should be mindful not to turn SSR into a figure beyond history or criticism. No statesman is. But a mature nation honours its founders not merely by placing them on a pedestal, but by examining what they bequeathed and asking whether we remain faithful to its deeper purpose.

At a time when multilateralism is under strain, international law is too often disregarded and small states face growing strategic pressures, SSR's foreign-policy inheritance deserves renewed attention. He taught us that Mauritius must be neither passive nor peripheral; that it must speak with conviction, build friendships widely and defend its rights patiently but firmly.

That is a tribute worthy of the Father of the Nation: not merely to remember the path he travelled, but to ensure that the diplomatic compass he gave Mauritius continues to guide us through the uncertainties ahead.

14 September 2026

* Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.

Vijay Makhan

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing, Founder of Lavwa Lavenir

“The restoration of trust, integrity and transparency is non-negotiable...

... without trust, reform has no foundation; with it, much more becomes possible”

In an era where public discourse is increasingly shaped by short-term electoral cycles and political rhetoric, the launch of Lavwa Lavenir on September 16 marks a deliberate attempt to bridge the gap between intellectual debate and concrete policy action. This week's interview with Nita Deerpalsing explores the platform's newly released manifesto and its vision for nation-building, institutional integrity, and democratic renewal. From depoliticizing public appointments and strengthening parliamentary oversight to rethinking social democracy for the 21st century, Nita Deerpalsing outlines how Lavwa Lavenir seeks to transform ideas into purposeful, long-term change for Mauritius.

Mauritius Times: You launched Lavwa Lavenir on September 16 with the ambition to “transform ideas into purposeful change.” What gap in current political and civic life is this forum designed to fill, and how will it translate intellectual debate into tangible policy impact?

Nita Deerpalsing: I think our country does not suffer from a shortage of opinions and citizens who care deeply about the direction of the country. What is missing, in our view, is a sufficiently strong space between ideas and action — a space where citizens, professionals, academics, entrepreneurs, young people and people with lived experience can come together to think seriously about the long-term challenges facing Mauritius and, crucially, turn that thinking into practical proposals.

Too much of our public conversation is inevitably shaped by the electoral cycle: who is in power, who is in opposition, who said what about whom. Yet some of the challenges confronting Mauritius — the quality of our institutions, the erosion of trust, our economic model, education, demographic change, the aspirations of young people and ecological resilience — require thinking beyond a five-year horizon.

Lavwa Lavenir seeks to occupy that space. We do not want to become another talking shop producing interesting discussions that disappear when our meetings end. Our ambition is to build a bridge between reflection, evidence, policy design and civic action.

That means bringing different forms of knowledge around the same table: academic research and international experience, certainly, but also professional expertise and the lived experience of ordinary Mauritians. From that process we want to develop concrete policy propositions, test them, refine them, publish them and place them in the public domain.

Our manifesto, launched on Wednesday, is the result of a long process of dissecting issues to get to the root of the problems, applying “Upstream thinking” on our own work before we penned it down. While the manifesto is very rich, it is not intended as a finished product. It is an invitation to a continuing national conversation.

* Does treating the manifesto as a conversation



“Too much of our public conversation is inevitably shaped by the electoral cycle: who is in power, who is in opposition, who said what about whom. Yet some of the challenges confronting Mauritius — the quality of our institutions, the erosion of trust, our economic model, education, demographic change, the aspirations of young people and ecological resilience — require thinking beyond a five-year horizon...”

mean core policy commitments remain open to negotiation?

When we say that our manifesto is the beginning of a conversation, that does not mean that everything in it is negotiable. There are some foundational principles on which **we will not compromise**: the fight against corruption, radical transparency in public life — including transparency in political financing — meritocracy, and the integrity and independence of our institutions.

For us, these are not simply one set of reforms among many. They are the foundations on which everything else must be built. We cannot create a fairer economy, restore equality of opportunity or ask citizens to believe in the future if they do not trust the institutions governing their lives.

So, we are completely open to debate about the details of how we build the Mauritius we aspire to. But the restoration of trust, integrity and transparency is non-negotiable. Without trust, reform has no foundation; with it, much more becomes possible.

Ultimately, the measure of Lavwa Lavenir will be whether good ideas gain traction, whether they influence public debate, inspire civic initiatives and expand what

Mauritians believe is possible for their country.

That is what we mean by transforming ideas into purposeful change.

* Early nation-building in Mauritius was driven by broad political movements. In 2026, how far can platforms like the Lavwa Lavenir go in shaping national policy compared to traditional political parties?

The broad political movements that shaped early Mauritius performed an extraordinary historical task. They organised people around major causes — political representation, workers' rights, universal suffrage, independence, education and the construction of the welfare state. We should never underestimate what that generation achieved.

But every generation has to develop political instruments appropriate to its own challenges.

In 2026, nation-building does not mean reproducing the political methods of the 1960s or 1970s. Our society is more educated, more connected and more complex. Expertise is dispersed throughout society, while many of the problems we face — institutional trust, productivity, artificial intelligence, demographic change, climate resilience, education reform — require knowledge that no political party can monopolise.

That is where the potential of Lavwa Lavenir lies. We want to create a much more porous relationship between politics and society.

Traditionally, parties often develop policy internally, and that too on the eve of a general election; and then present it to citizens. We want to reverse some of that logic: start with ideas, evidence and listening; bring citizens and expertise into the process; debate propositions openly; and then translate the strongest of them into a coherent programme for action.

But a platform of ideas has its limits. Ultimately, in a parliamentary democracy, changing laws, budgets and institutions requires political power and democratic legitimacy. Ideas alone cannot govern. So, we are not proposing a choice between intellectual engagement and political action. Lavwa Lavenir is deliberately trying to connect the two.

Our manifesto is therefore a starting point, not something cast in concrete. We intend to take it across Mauritius, listen, challenge our own assumptions and improve it through engagement with citizens.

Perhaps that is the evolution we need in our political culture: not politics with all the answers already written, but politics capable of saying, “Here is our vision. Now help us make it better.” For me, that too is nation-building.

* Wouldn't it be more effective to push for policy reform from within the Labour Party — the very movement SSR nurtured — especially now that it holds power and has the actual machinery to enact change?

I have enormous respect for the historical role of the Labour Party and, particularly, for what Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam represented in the building of modern Mauritius. I spent an important part of my own political life in the Labour Party. I do not erase that history simply because I have chosen a different path today.

Cont. on page 8

'Scrutiny is the very lifeblood of accountability.'

The greater the power entrusted to an executive, the stronger the institutions required to scrutinise that power'

☞ **Cont. from page 7**

In fact, yesterday in our opening slides, one of the pictures I had generated by AI was a black and white picture of SSR on Independence Day, standing in front of the mast where our Mauritian flag (in colour) was being raised. He was the only political figure present in our launch presentation yesterday and that was deliberate – in honour of his political engagement for the country.

The Labour Party that was set up in 1936 built a political vehicle that the founders believed was necessary to bring the change needed given the realities they were confronting at that time. For me, the loyalty to the very values that originally animated the political vehicle that started to be built in the time of Rozemont, Anquetil, Pandit Sahadeo and SSR is absolutely intact. What they were fighting for was Justice and Human Dignity. You will find these to be at the very core of Lavwa Lavenir.

In my opinion, if we genuinely want to honour that legacy, we have to ask ourselves the same question today: what does Mauritius need today?

Of course, a party in government possesses the machinery to enact change. But having the machinery and actually bringing the transformation that was promised are not necessarily the same thing. As evidenced by the sorry state of affairs for all of us to see.

Lavwa Lavenir is not being built out of hostility towards the Labour Party, nor towards any other party. It is being built from a conviction that Mauritius needs a new political conversation and, ultimately, a new political offer. We launched it with a manifesto centred on institutional integrity, shared prosperity, human flourishing, youth empowerment and a state that works better for citizens.

The early founding ideas of the 1936 Labour Party are always a source of great inspiration. I just don't want to be encaged in a vehicle that today certainly doesn't provide any inspiration – to say the least. Therefore, while I respect where I came from, I need to be completely free to ask where Mauritius needs to go next. For me, Lavwa Lavenir is the answer to that question.

*** Publishing this interview on the 126th birth anniversary of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam invites reflection on foundational values — universal welfare, social justice, and nation-building. How does the vision behind your new forum align with SSR's early social-democratic ideals?**

There is something particularly meaningful about having this conversation on Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's 126th birth anniversary. The enduring significance of his generation and those before him lies in the values that motivated them: social justice, human dignity, equality of opportunity and the conviction that government has a responsibility to enlarge the possibilities available to ordinary people.

“We intend to take our manifesto across Mauritius, listen, challenge our own assumptions and improve it through engagement with citizens. Perhaps that is the evolution we need in our political culture: not politics with all the answers already written, but politics capable of saying, ‘Here is our vision. Now help us make it better.’ For me, that too is nation-building...”



“There are some foundational principles on which we will not compromise: the fight against corruption, radical transparency in public life — including transparency in political financing — meritocracy, and the integrity and independence of our institutions. For us, these are not simply one set of reforms among many. They are the foundations on which everything else must be built...”

In that fundamental sense, there is a clear and strong philosophical continuity with Lavwa Lavenir. The challenge for today is answering this question: what does social justice mean for today and tomorrow?

For us, protecting universal access to education, health-care and social protection remains fundamental. But the next stage must go further — from providing services to expanding people's capabilities and agency.

A child may have free access to school, but if the education she receives does not equip her to flourish in the world she will enter, formal access alone is not enough. A young person may possess qualifications, but if opportunity depends upon connections rather than merit, we cannot call that genuine equality of possibility. A citizen may receive public services, but if institutions are inefficient, opaque or unaccountable, citizenship itself becomes diminished.

This is why Lavwa Lavenir speaks about human flourishing. Social justice in the 21st century must mean giving every Mauritian the real capability to learn, to work, to create, to participate, to contribute and to live with dignity.

There is another aspect of the Labour Party's legacy that matters profoundly to us: nation-building. Mauritius cannot claim to have a socially sustainable future if any one social class or community flourishes at the expense of another.

That is why our central idea is Flourishing Together.

So, we are seeking to bring answers to the question as to how the emancipatory values of 1936 can help us build the Mauritius of the next generation.

*** A key pillar of nation-building is strong, trustworthy state institutions. What specific structural or governance reforms should be prioritized today to ensure meritocracy and transparency in public life?**

For me, this goes to the heart of nation-building. Citizens must be able to believe that the institutions of the Republic belong to them — not to whichever political party happens to be in government.

The first priority is therefore to depoliticise public appointments. For senior positions in state institutions, regulatory bodies and state-owned enterprises, we should move towards transparent, competency-based selection: vacancies advertised, clear qualification and competency criteria published beforehand, properly constituted selection panels, and greater disclosure of the basis on which appointments are made.

Mauritius already has institutions on paper designed to protect meritocracy. The task is to ensure that this is a lived reality, that there is not a single iota of perception that this is only nice words on paper which do not translate into citizens' experience of these institutions.

Second, transparency must become a default rather than something citizens have to fight for. Mauritius needs effective freedom-of-information legislation, stronger disclosure requirements around public procurement and public expenditure, and easily accessible publication of decisions, contracts and performance information.

Third, oversight institutions must have genuine independence, adequate resources and the capacity to act.

But institutional reform is ultimately about culture as much as architecture. We need to bring an end to the idea that political victory confers a right to distribute public positions. We cannot walk into the future with this becoming so entrenched that people think this is actually the norm. Otherwise, all we will be leaving to the future is building networks of influence rather than institutions. I hope everyone sees that there is a stark difference between the two.

And this is fundamental to Lavwa Lavenir: strong institutions should not depend upon good people being in power. They should be strong enough to constrain whoever is in power.

So that even when all of us are gone, what we have built for the future remains standing tall.

*** You have often argued that politics should be a battle of ideas rather than identities or patronage. How will Lavwa Lavenir work to elevate public discourse and engage younger generations in substantive policy debate?**

We cannot complain that public debate has become dominated by personalities, identities and patronage while continuing to use precisely those instruments ourselves.

Lavwa Lavenir wants to help shift the centre of gravity back towards ideas. That means creating spaces where disagreement is not treated as disloyalty, where propositions can be challenged on their merits, and where evidence matters more than who happens to be speaking.

But we also have to recognise that the way people engage with public life has changed profoundly.

☞ **Cont. on page 9**

If, a decade from now, Mauritians feel greater agency over their lives and greater confidence in their country's future, that for me would be purposeful change'

☞ Cont. from page 8

Younger Mauritians are not necessarily going to attend traditional political meetings or sit through lengthy speeches. They inhabit a faster, more interactive information environment. The answer, however, cannot simply be to reduce politics to slogans and thirty-second videos. Our challenge is to make serious ideas accessible without making them simplistic.

We therefore envisage Lavwa Lavenir as a platform for continuous engagement: public conversations, workshops, youth dialogues, digital forums and accessible policy explainers. We have already started with the dearMoris YouTube channel ([link:https://www.youtube.com/@dearMoris](https://www.youtube.com/@dearMoris)) where we have tried to make accessible the political history of Mauritius to everyone.

We want to take individual propositions from our manifesto and ask young Mauritians directly: What do you think? What have we missed? How would you improve this?

Most importantly, the youth should not be treated as a demographic category to be courted at election time. They should be co-authors of the Mauritius they will inherit.

That requires giving them genuine agency — opportunities to research problems, design proposals, challenge established thinking and see good ideas travel from discussion into actual political programmes.

We also have to earn their trust as well as all those who are envisaging leaving Mauritius because they do not perceive their future to be here. If we only stick to performative consultations, and performative politics, we will only deepen rather than repair the disengagement they are currently experiencing.

That is the political culture Lavwa Lavenir wants to help build. We want to take *le pari de l'intégrité et de l'authenticité*, rather than succumb to a performative politics in which packaging gradually becomes more important than substance — where political leadership is increasingly projected through carefully choreographed displays, entourages, songs glorifying leaders and extravagant fireworks, while the ideas, values and policies that should be at the heart of political engagement recede into the background.

For us, the strength of a political movement should lie in the quality of its ideas, the integrity of its conduct and its capacity to improve people's lives — not in the spectacle it can manufacture around its leaders.

*** Early social democracy placed economic democratisation at its core. From a policy perspective, what key economic levers should be prioritized today to address growing inequalities and preserve the social safety net?**

We need to have a broader understanding of economic democratisation. Social democracy cannot simply mean allowing an economy to generate ever-widening disparities and then asking the welfare state to repair the damage afterwards. Redistribution matters enormously, but we must also address how opportunity, income and wealth are created



First, we need an economy that rewards productive value creation — innovation, entrepreneurship, skills, manufacturing, technology and investment — rather than one in which disproportionate returns can flow from scarcity, privileged access, protected positions or rent extraction. Growth matters because without wealth creation there is ultimately nothing sustainable to redistribute. But the quality and distribution of that growth matter just as much.

Second, we need to broaden economic ownership and opportunity. That means improving access to capital for SMEs and young entrepreneurs, encouraging employee participation and profit-sharing where appropriate, strengthening competition, and ensuring that access to economic opportunity does not depend upon who you know.

Third, we must address inequality at its roots through education and skills. In the 21st century, perhaps the most powerful economic asset a person can possess is capability. A genuinely progressive economy therefore invests heavily in early childhood, education, vocational pathways, lifelong learning and digital capability.

Fourth, we need a fair tax system and a strong social safety net. Universal healthcare, education, pensions and protection for citizens facing vulnerability are not luxuries; they are part of the social compact that has held Mauritius together. But preserving that compact requires economic dynamism and fiscal sustainability as well as social commitment.

Finally, we should increasingly measure prosperity beyond GDP. We should ask whether wages are rising with productivity, whether young people can access housing and opportunity, whether social mobility is improving, and whether citizens feel economically secure.

The objective is not equality of outcome. It is a society in which the circumstances of your birth do not determine the possibilities of your life.

For Lavwa Lavenir, that is what shared prosperity ultimately means: creating more wealth, creating it differently, and enabling many more Mauritians to participate in creating — and benefiting from — that wealth. And not just eternally be the mere

“Institutional reform is ultimately about culture as much as architecture.

We need to bring an end to the idea that political victory confers a right to distribute public positions. We cannot walk into the future with this becoming so entrenched that people think this is actually the norm. Otherwise, all we will be leaving to the future is building networks of influence rather than institutions. I hope everyone sees that there is a stark difference between the two...”

and distributed in the first place.

There are several priorities we have identified in Lavwa Lavenir.

recipients of redistribution of a wealth creation that is strictly confined — by policy design — to a selective few.

*** On this historic anniversary, looking ahead at the journey of your new initiative, what would “purposeful change” look like for Mauritius over the next decade?**

For me, purposeful change is not change for its own sake. It means being clear about the Mauritius we want to become and then having the courage, discipline and collective will to move deliberately towards it.

Ten years from now, I would like the country to be able to look back and say that Mauritius recovered something immensely valuable: **trust**. Trust that public institutions serve the public interest. Trust that merit matters. Trust that rules apply fairly, regardless of status, connections or political affiliation.

I would like to see a State that works — where citizens no longer experience unnecessary complexity and frustration in dealing with public services, and where technology is used intelligently to make government more efficient, responsive and humane.

Economically, purposeful change would mean moving decisively towards a country that creates rather than merely distributes value: a Mauritius known for innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity and excellence, where prosperity is more broadly shared and young people can see compelling reasons to build their futures here.

It would mean an education system that does more than produce qualifications — one that develops capability, curiosity, creativity and character. And a society in which every child, whatever the circumstances of his or her birth, has a genuine opportunity to flourish.

It would also mean recognising that prosperity cannot be separated from our natural environment. On a land territory as well as our ocean territory, the quality of our development and the quality of the world we leave to future generations are ultimately the same question.

But the deepest change I hope for is cultural.

I would like Mauritius to rediscover a sense of collective possibility — the belief that our future is something we can shape together rather than something that simply happens to us.

That is why the central idea running through Lavwa Lavenir is Flourishing Together. We are not proposing a Mauritius in which some succeed while others are merely protected from failure. We are imagining a country in which people, communities, institutions, the economy and our natural environment can flourish together.

If, a decade from now, Mauritians feel greater agency over their lives and greater confidence in their country's future, that for me would be purposeful change.

And perhaps the most important measure of our success would be this: that the next generation once again looks at Mauritius and sees not a country to leave, but a country worth building.



“Ten years from now, I would like the country to be able to look back and say that Mauritius recovered something immensely valuable: trust. Trust that public institutions serve the public interest. Trust that merit matters. Trust that rules apply fairly, regardless of status, connections or political affiliation. I would like to see a State that works — where citizens no longer experience unnecessary complexity and frustration in dealing with public services...”



Manisha Dookhony

A Moment of Reckoning: Mauritius and the IMF's Fiscal Wake-Up Call

A moment of reckoning — that is how I would interpret the new IMF report on Mauritius. Titled 'Design Options for Fiscal Responsibility Legislation and Supporting Fiscal Institutions', the report was drafted by the Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department, dated May 2026, and published this week.

The IMF has delivered a stark message: Mauritius's framework for managing public finances is no longer fit for purpose. This is not simply a matter of fine-tuning existing arrangements; it calls for meaningful institutional reform. At the heart of the report is a clear concern that the current framework has failed to provide the fiscal discipline, transparency and accountability needed to keep public finances on a sustainable footing.

This report lands at a difficult time. Growth is slowing, pension reforms are ongoing, and costs remain high. The government has also set out new commitments through the 2026–27 Budget. We can get into the technicalities, but I would argue that this is not a technical quibble. It is a warning that the country has been spending too much while revenues have not kept pace, resulting in successive budget deficits. Covid-19 and the successive wars in Ukraine and the Middle East have, of course, not helped. They have compounded costs and the cost-of-living pressures, creating an ongoing imperative for the government to support households.

The IMF report highlights that, budget after budget, the government has relied on forecasts that were too optimistic. What that means is that revenues have failed to materialise when growth did not meet expectations. In the end, when the numbers were adjusted, the deficit widened and the debt crept higher. This is not a small accounting issue. It means that the true picture of public debt and deficits has been distorted over the years.

While the report builds on the lessons of the past, it is anchored in the present fiscal framework and its forward-looking implications, rather than being a retrospective historical audit. In essence, we may have inherited the deficits and processes of the past; the report is now asking what mechanisms need to be put in place for the future. When you plan around best-case scenarios, you do not build reserves — you build exposure. And when something goes wrong, whether it is a global slowdown or a cyclone, there is far less room to manoeuvre than the official figures might suggest.

There is a deeper issue running through all of this, and the IMF hints at it without quite saying it plainly: Mauritius may need to strengthen its institutional capacity to enforce tough fiscal rules, even if those rules

are written into law. Good fiscal governance requires skilled economists within the Ministry of Finance who can produce credible and honest forecasts, alongside an independent institution with the authority to challenge the government when the numbers do not add up. At present, Mauritius does not have an independent fiscal institution of the kind that exists in some other areas of public governance.

Passing a law is easy. Building the machinery to make it stick is the hard part. Without that machinery, a Fiscal Responsibility Act risks becoming just another piece of paper that a government can set aside when the rules become inconvenient.

The IMF is calling for fiscal-responsibility legislation. But what should it look like? A debt ceiling on its own is too easy to game, as we have seen in the past. A deficit limit may sound tough, but it can force spending cuts precisely when the economy needs support. An expenditure rule can control spending, but if applied too rigidly, it can also squeeze essential public services.

The sensible approach is a combination of measures: a medium-term debt anchor, a deficit limit that can adjust during economic downturns, and a cap on the growth of public expenditure. But none of these mechanisms will work without clearly defined escape clauses. If a recession hits or a national emergency erupts, the rules need to be able to flex. Otherwise, a mechanism designed to protect fiscal stability could end up turning an economic slowdown into a deeper crisis.

In the 2026–2027 Budget, the Prime Minister framed fiscal responsibility as a "duty of truth", pledging consolidation without austerity while projecting the deficit to fall to 3.7% of GDP.

There have also been announcements of a Steering Committee on Public Sector Efficiency, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, to identify and eliminate duplication, inefficiencies and wastage across the public sector. This is being accompanied by a parallel committee to reprioritise capital projects, as well as a high-level tax review supported by the IMF.

These are welcome steps. There is a clear need to improve efficiency within government and to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, so that public spending is not only properly controlled but also delivers measurable results.

Can spending on pensions, healthcare, salaries and infrastructure continue to rise without either raising taxes or cutting spending elsewhere?

An ageing population means more people drawing pensions, and for longer. Healthcare costs also continue to rise. The IMF report confirms the scale of this pressure. It notes that the share of expenditure



“Can spending on pensions, healthcare, salaries and infrastructure continue to rise without either raising taxes or cutting spending elsewhere? An ageing population means more people drawing pensions, and for longer. Healthcare costs also continue to rise. The IMF report confirms the scale of this pressure. It notes that the share of expenditure devoted to social benefits has increased over the past decade, from 19 percent of total expenditure to 33 percent, reflecting rising age-related spending, particularly on pensions and healthcare. These pressures are expected to intensify, while the tax base itself could shrink as the population ages...”

devoted to social benefits has increased over the past decade, from 19 percent of total expenditure to 33 percent, reflecting rising age-related spending, particularly on pensions and healthcare. These pressures are expected to intensify, while the tax base itself could shrink as the population ages.

There are certainly areas where greater efforts can be made to reduce public spending. There may also be scope to raise additional revenue through higher or more efficiently collected taxes — or, more realistically, through some combination of both. There are certainly areas where more effort can be made to reduce public spending. There are likely also ways to raise more tax revenue, or a mix of both.

We may also need to take a hard look at our growth prospects and identify projects and sectors that can meaningfully expand the economy and lead us to higher growth.

The report also makes several specific recommendations. One recommendation deserves particular attention: the preparation of a Citizen's Budget.

The report notes that Mauritius currently lacks one, and that introducing it could help present fiscal rules in an accessible format. A Citizen's Budget translates technical budget information, including fiscal rules, into simple, understandable language. It would summarise the government's fiscal strategy and key policy measures, provide a breakdown of proposed revenue measures and expenditure, and show the composition

and proposed spending for each sector. It would be published annually alongside the other budget documents.

This is not a cosmetic exercise. A Citizen's Budget would be a small but meaningful step towards making fiscal responsibility something citizens can actually see and judge.

The report also recommends that the Ministry of Finance prepare quarterly budget execution reports with a brief narrative, and a more extensive mid-year review to update on fiscal developments, revised forecasts, and the fiscal outlook. These, too, are steps towards transparency that would strengthen the credibility of any fiscal rule.

Moreover, the IMF suggests that the authorities should consider an operational fiscal rule to complement the current debt limit of 80 percent; they should include provisions for independent monitoring and assessment of compliance; and they should expand the institutional coverage to prevent spending being shifted to other entities.

Delay has a price, and it is not abstract. Lenders will demand higher interest rates to compensate for greater risk.

I believe Mauritius has reinvented itself before, and it can do so again. This IMF report is not merely a suggestion; it is a deadline for action. Fiscal discipline is not about penalising the people of the country. It is about ensuring that the commitments we make today can be honoured tomorrow.

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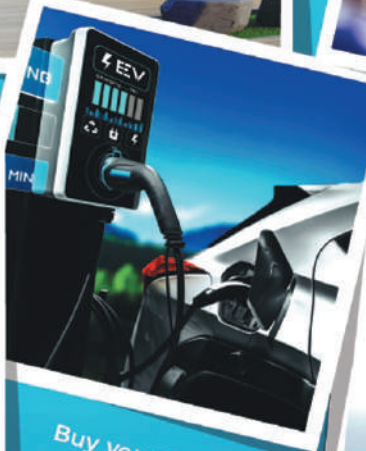
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Dr Shравan Nosib

Slavery Remnants and Dodgy Donors Fuelling Racism at Oxbridge

"Elite universities are not institutions of merit; they are institutions of legacy, wealth, and race, designed to reproduce the ruling class." — Dr Ibram X. Kendi

Elite universities across the world have never been neutral ground on race. From Harvard and Yale's well-documented profits from slavery to the Ivy League's historic quota systems restricting minority admissions, to the persistent underrepresentation of Black faculty at America's top research institutions, the pattern is global: prestige and exclusion have long travelled together.

Britain's own elite institutions are no exception, and in some respects sit at the very origin of the pattern. Oxford and Cambridge present themselves as timeless seats of learning, insulated by tradition from the grubbier currents of history. However, stripped of the Latin ceremonies and ancient stonework, a harsher picture emerges: for centuries, both universities absorbed wealth extracted from enslaved people directly into their institutional bloodstream, and in the modern era they have shown a strikingly similar willingness to accept money from ethically compromised sources with minimal scrutiny.

This historical entanglement, coupled with the persistence of an opaque donor culture today, forms a continuous institutional pattern that helps explain why both universities still struggle to address racial exclusion convincingly. I do not claim that donations mechanically "cause" racism; rather, that an institutional culture willing to prioritise money over provenance for three centuries is unlikely to have developed the accountability needed to confront racial inequality seriously. The record — including two cases of scholars of colour undone by the institutions

that once celebrated them — bears this out.

The Historical Money Trail

The financial relationship between Oxbridge and slavery is well documented, not merely symbolic. Between 1761 and 1776, sons of South Carolinian planter families outnumbered students from every other American colony at Oxford two to one, an imbalance funded entirely by plantation profit. This money crystallised into permanent institutional wealth still in use today: at Cambridge, the McMahon Law Studentships at St. John's College were endowed directly from money made on West Indian estates, and graduating students customarily left silver gifts — many traceable to slave-trade fortunes — that remain college property today.

The scale was not marginal; several hundred donors across both universities' histories carried traceable links to slave-trade capital. When the government compensated slaveholders after the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act, 241 Oxford alumni and 190 Cambridge alumni were among the roughly three thousand people paid for the "loss" of enslaved human beings as property.

Dodgy Donors: The Modern Continuation

This willingness to overlook the origin of donated funds did not end with abolition; it simply changed form. Oxford's donor-vetting committee was born out of scandal after a journalist posing as a wealthy donor was told a significant financial gift would see his son's application "looked upon extremely favourably." It has not stopped the flow of troubling money: Oxford fought in court to keep secret the identity behind a multi-million-pound gift facilitated by a powerful Azerbaijani politician, and accepted over £100 million in anonymous donations between 2017 and 2023 alone.

Most starkly, Oxford and two of its colleges accepted more than £12 million from a trust built



The Oriel College statue of Cecil Rhodes—architect of British colonialism in southern Africa—exemplifies financial influence over memory. Stood on the High Street facade for over a century following his bequest, its removal was rejected during the 2016 "Rhodes Must Fall" campaign after donors threatened to withdraw funding. Pic — The Guardian

on the fortune of Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, prompting Black Lives Matter UK to demand the "tainted" money be returned. The through-line from slave money to secret money is structural: prestige is for sale, provenance is optional, and reputational risk is managed rather than treated as a reason to refuse.

The statue of Cecil Rhodes at Oriel College distills this dynamic into a single, undisguised transaction. Rhodes, an architect of British colonial expansion into southern Africa, left Oriel money in his will, and his statue has stood on the college's High Street facade for over a century. In 2016, after the first wave of the 'Rhodes Must Fall' campaign, Oriel's governing body decided against removal once donors reportedly threatened to withdraw funding.

In 2020, amid global Black Lives Matter protests, the same governing body voted to remove the statue and launched an independent commission, which itself recommended removal. In 2021, Oriel reversed course again, citing "regulatory and financial

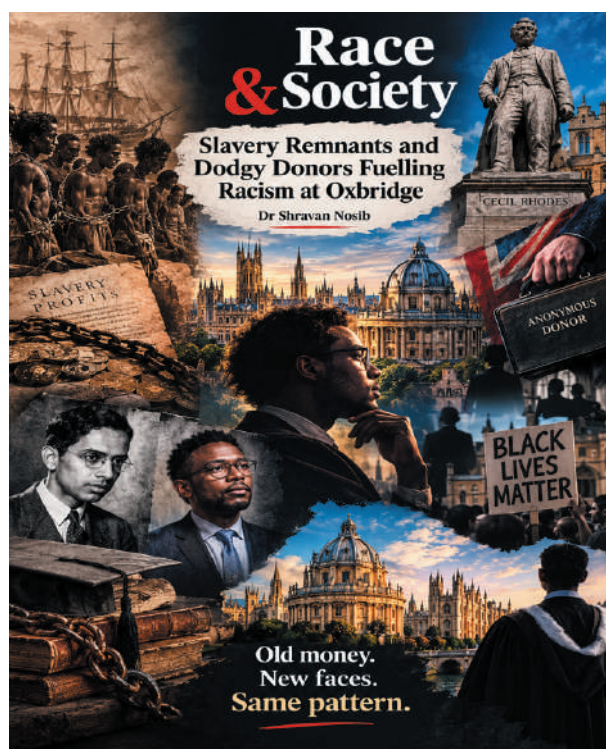
challenges," and the statue remains in place today. This telling sequence — capitulate to donor pressure in 2016, promise removal in 2020, retreat under cost pressure in 2021 — is a perfect example of my article's central claim: when moral judgment and financial self-interest collide at Oxbridge, financial self-interest repeatedly wins.

Mechanisms of Institutional Racism

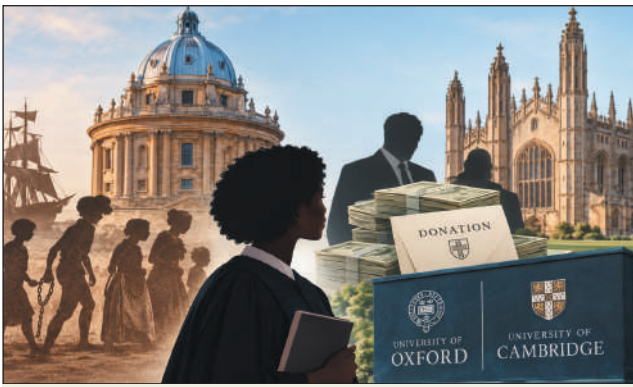
The link between historic money and present exclusion becomes clearer once the underlying mechanisms are named. In academia, researchers describe "cultural taxation": the unpaid extra burden placed on Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) academics to sit on diversity committees, mentor minority students, and act as informal departmental "experts" on race — labour rarely asked of white colleagues or rewarded at promotion. I fulfill exactly this role at the University of Saskatchewan, and I am all too familiar with this strategy.

Another mechanism reframes ordinary assertiveness as "personality conflict"; behaviour interpreted as rigorous in a white colleague is often perceived as difficult or non-collegial in a BIPOC peer, producing what researchers term "racial battle fatigue" — the cumulative toll of navigating that double standard. Asymmetric investigation and escalation of allegations against BIPOC scholars completes this triad. Jason Arday's case is stark evidence: a plagiarism claim his own former university had already investigated and dismissed years earlier was resurrected into a campaign his employer did little to contain.

Cont. on page 13



"The financial relationship between Oxbridge and slavery is well documented, not merely symbolic. Between 1761 and 1776, sons of South Carolinian planter families outnumbered students from every other American colony at Oxford two to one, an imbalance funded entirely by plantation profit. This money crystallised into permanent institutional wealth still in use today: at Cambridge, the McMahon Law Studentships at St. John's College were endowed directly from money made on West Indian estates, and graduating students customarily left silver gifts — many traceable to slave-trade fortunes — that remain college property today..."



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☞ Cont. from page 12

Two Scholars, One Pattern

This pattern has a human cost, and it repeats across generations. In 1935, the 24-year-old Indian physicist Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar presented his theory on massive stars collapsing into black holes to the Royal Astronomical Society. His mentor, Sir Arthur Eddington, publicly dismissed his work as “stellar buffoonery,” and his theory was disavowed with the support of Bohr, Dirac, and Pauli — even though they agreed with it privately. Humiliated, Chandrasekhar left Cambridge for Chicago in 1937, and it took nearly 40 years for the observational discovery of black holes before he won the 1983 Nobel Prize. Race, he later pointed out, shaped how easily the British scientific establishment sided against a young Indian student in favour of an revered figure.

Cambridge produced a devastating echo of the Chandrasekhar episode nearly a century later. In 2023, Jason Arday became the university’s youngest-ever Black professor. Within three years, he faced severe public and professional pressure as critics scrutinized his biography and doctoral thesis. His family stated he was “subjected to a campaign of sustained abuse by those who would leave no stone unturned in their quest to undermine him.”

Simon Baron-Cohen, a colleague, noted Arday believed he was witnessing “a racist playbook to discredit Black academics.” While inquiries continue to clarify responsibilities, it is difficult to separate this sequence from the core argument: an institution that spent centuries applying minimal scrutiny to the money it accepts applied a very different, corrosive scrutiny to one of the few Black academics to reach its senior ranks — scrutiny that, by his family’s account, he did not survive. To make matters worse, the university recently appointed a controversial figure in the same division to defend its commitment to diversity.

Connecting Money to Racial Exclusion

The link between donor culture and racial exclusion is institutional, not mechanical. A university that treats the provenance of funds as secondary to its reputation and size has correspondingly under-invested in the self-scrutiny anti-racist reform demands. Indeed, MP David Lammy accused Oxbridge of “social apartheid” in a review of Black student admissions across their colleges over a multi-year period. I am personally aware of two outstanding Mauritian candidates who were refused admission to Oxford for unspecified reasons; one achieved four straight A*s in her A-Levels,

Slavery Remnants and Dodgy Donors Fuelling Racism at Oxbridge

while the other was her school’s valedictorian.

Conclusion

Oxford and Cambridge were partially built and endowed by slavery’s profits, and that willingness to accept ethically compromised wealth without serious scrutiny persists today in anonymous donations, donor-secrecy court battles, and money tied to fascism. Neither university has shown the institutional self-scrutiny anti-racist reform demands, nor do

the costs fall on scholars like Chandrasekhar and Arday — met with a level of hostility the institutions never applied to their own benefactors. Institutions with such financial histories carry a heavy burden of proof. Having shown for three centuries that money can outweigh moral scrutiny, Oxford and Cambridge owe transparency, not reassurance. Until that changes, old patterns persisting in new forms will remain impossible to ignore.

Dr Shravan Nosib



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King Charles breaks silence after Princess Diana book claims he said 'we'll forget her soon enough'

Britain's King Charles on Wednesday broke his silence on claims made by Princess Diana's brother Charles Spencer in his upcoming book. In a rare move, King Charles III responded to criticism over ex-wife's untimely death in 1997 which left the world in shock. Princess Diana's brother claimed in the book that after her death, the then-Prince Charles told him "rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough". Responding to the allegations about his conduct following Diana's death, the now-monarch said grief could cloud people's reason and colour their memories, reports HT.

"While we do not comment on books as a matter of principle, His Majesty is mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgment and colour memory in ways others do not recognise, even many years after such a loss," a statement issued by the palace spokesperson read.

The book 'Swan Song: Diana, My Sister', written by the 9th Earl Spencer, is set to be released on September 22.

Princess Diana was killed in a car accident at the age of 36, along with her lover Dodi al-Fayed, in Paris. The car crashed as it tried to escape paparazzi photographers on motorbikes chasing after them.

What book on Princess Diana says

Spencer has alleged in the book that after Diana's death, the then-Prince Charles told him "rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough". The reported comments were made in an argument over whether Diana and



Princess Diana and King Charles married in 1981 and divorced in 1996. Pic - Reuters

Charles' children, princes William and Harry, should walk behind her coffin during her funeral — something Spencer objected to, the report said.

Recalling the heated conversation over the phone, Spencer writes, "Prince Charles continued his stream of anger, without me interrupting. Then he stopped. I assumed the pause signalled an effort to bring himself under control, but then he unleashed down the phone what I have always taken to be his pent-up contempt for Diana, and his horror that the world was so bowled over by her death," Spencer writes, according to the *Daily Mail*.

Prior to the book's release, Spencer said: "The aim of this book is to tell the truth about Diana from her brother's perspective... I want to speak on Diana's behalf and do so in an openly positive way."

Princess Diana became the most photographed woman in the world after her marriage to Charles in 1981. However, the marriage turned sour and the couple eventually divorced in 1996.

view closer ties as a crucial step to defend the rules-based international order.

Key Obstacles and Nuances: Establishing this unprecedented arrangement faces major hurdles: Legal & Political Complexities: Creating a formal status requires unanimous consent from all 27 EU member states and domestic ratifications. Notably, several member states have yet to fully ratify CETA nearly a decade after its signing.

Regulatory Alignment: Entering the Single Market would force Canada to adopt EU standards, effectively turning Ottawa into a rule-taker with no vote on policies—a difficult shift given its historical alignment with U.S. standards.

Accession Precedents: Candidate nations like Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, and Moldova undergo arduous reform processes to join. Granting Canada special privileges risks irritating candidate states, though it would not alter their formal path to full membership.

While U.S. leadership has already slammed the move, both Carney and von der Leyen frame the initiative as a constructive effort to fortify middle powers rather than an act of hostility. Details will be negotiated ahead of the Canada-EU summit in October.

What EU 'Associate Membership' Would Actually Mean for Canada

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen triggered intense international debate during her State of the Union address by proposing to make Canada the European Union's first "associate member". Attended by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, the proposal outlines a "unique alliance" aimed at creating a shared "economic and prosperity space."

What the status entails: Because "associate member" status does not exist within current EU treaties, its legal mechanism remains undefined. Rather than seeking full membership or voting rights, Canada is looking to expand its integration with the bloc beyond the existing Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The proposed framework focuses on joint manufacturing, technology alliances, defense industrial base integration, energy, critical minerals, AI, and Arctic security.

Why Now? Driven by economic pressure and repeated sovereignty threats from U.S. President Donald Trump, as well as broader trade friction with China, Ottawa is actively diversifying its alliances. Brussels and Ottawa

Across the Globe

Fresh 'concerning' AI incidents

New incidents of "unexpected or concerning" AI model behavior have fueled worries over the technology's impact, though it remains unclear whether regulation is imminent. The latest revelations by OpenAI follow recent calls by its CEO and fellow leading AI labs Anthropic and DeepMind to "pace the frontier." Yoshua Bengio, seen as one of the founders of the technology, told AFP that humanity was "losing control" of AI and should urgently impose guardrails. A bipartisan AI safety bill in the US Congress is "showing some signs of life," Semafor's politics team reported, but President Donald Trump has shown little enthusiasm for such regulations — despite what The Wall Street Journal characterized as a "quiet freakout among some of his most senior aides."

Hopes dim for US-China talks

Analysts voiced skepticism that the US and China would agree on AI regulation — or, indeed, any broad-ranging détente during next week's leaders' summit. The US Treasury secretary told Axios he was open to discussing "shared risks" on AI with Beijing at talks this week-end ahead of the summit.



"Bitter rivals have come together to curb threats to humanity in the past," The Economist acknowledged, but noted that the superpowers and their AI labs harbored deep mistrust of one another. Writing in Foreign Affairs, a leading China analyst was similarly downbeat: "In the past, the United States and China achieved breakthroughs when conditions were just right and leaders with great diplomatic acuity were in charge. The circumstances today are less favorable."

AI debt worries grow

Experts pointed to mounting challenges and risks surrounding the AI infrastructure buildout. Apollo's chief economist warned that the debt issued by major hyperscalers was growing riskier, while institutional investors surveyed by Morningstar voiced "concerns about valuations, concentration risk, and infrastructure dependency." The Information's co-executive editor noted that rising interest rates could hurt smaller companies building data centers and even have an impact on Big Tech: "The cost of money just went up," he wrote. "The AI picture just got fuzzier." Political backlash is growing, too, with the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly backing legislation to rein in rising power costs driven by data centers. Still, some remain confident: OpenAI is reportedly weighing another funding round ahead of a planned IPO.

Chinese missile used in Yemen



Chinese DF-15 missile system. Pic - Defence Blog

Debris that appeared to be from a Chinese ballistic missile found in Yemen pointed to the growing use of Beijing's military hardware in conflicts far afield, which may raise worries in the US. No previous sales of the Dongfeng missile, a version of which was discovered in Yemen, have been confirmed in the Middle East. But Saudi Arabia, which secretly

acquired an earlier version of such a system, may have used it against the Houthis, according to the South China Morning Post. That may be particularly troubling to Washington, where intelligence officials have already voiced concern that a potential advanced fighter jet sale to Saudi Arabia risks the technology being transferred to China, The New York Times reported.

Singapore is paying people to read books to fight 'brain rot'

In an age dominated by rapid doom scrolling and fleeting digital clips, Singapore is turning to an unlikely solution to preserve its citizens' attention spans: cold, hard cash. To combat cognitive decline - often referred to as "brain rot" -- the city-state has introduced the ReadSG campaign, a five-year initiative spearheaded by the National Library Board (NLB) that pays residents to read books for as little as 15 minutes a day.

How the incentive scheme works - The mechanics rely on straightforward gamification. Participants log daily reading sessions on a central platform to earn virtual currency.

- **Daily Sessions:** A qualifying session of 15 minutes yields 20 virtual coins, capped at one log per day.
- **Payout Rates:** Accumulated points convert to real currency, where 1,000 coins equal SG\$1 (approx. \$0.80 USD).
- **The Math:** Earning a single dollar requires 50 consecutive days of logging reading time.

While the payout will hardly make anyone rich, officials frame the target as a manageable habit builder, emphasizing that 15 minutes is roughly the time spent sipping morning coffee or riding three train stops. Participants can also direct their logged reading toward a public charity drive aimed at raising SG\$150,000.

Preserving deep focus in a digital era - The initiative comes in response to findings from the country's 2024 National Reading Habits Study, which highlighted a sharp decline in sustained, deep reading in favor of skim-friendly, short-form content. NLB Chief Melissa Tam noted that while brief media keeps the public informed, long-form literature is crucial for developing critical thinking, imagination, and empathy.

Interestingly, Singapore is not starting from behind. The nation's 15-year-old students recently topped the global reading rankings in the 2025 Programme for



Singapore launches five-year reading drive.

International Student Assessment (PISA). However, educators emphasize that academic excellence does not always translate to lifelong leisure reading. The goal is to encourage citizens to stay intellectually engaged long after leaving the classroom.

Will the strategy succeed? Singapore has a rich history of using monetary incentives to drive civic behavior, having previously rewarded citizens with supermarket vouchers for tracking daily physical steps. Experts broadly view the low-friction 15-minute target as a practical "sweet spot" for re-engaging modern minds.

Still, psychologists caution that financial nudges have limits. While cash rewards can successfully motivate individuals who already hold a passive interest in books, external incentives rarely foster intrinsic motivation in non-readers. Once the novel appeal of earning coins fades, the challenge remains whether citizens will continue turning pages without a fiscal reward.

As the ReadSG pilot continues through the end of the year, Singapore joins neighboring nations like Japan and South Korea in rethinking public reading culture—proving that safeguarding collective focus requires creative, modern solutions.

Pakistan ready to honour Makkah Pact as Saudi-Houthi escalation reaches holy sites

Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reaffirmed that Islamabad stands ready to honour its commitments under the newly forged Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. The statement follows claims by the Saudi-led coalition that its air defenses intercepted and destroyed a Houthi-launched drone heading toward the holy city of Mecca. The Houthis vehemently denied targeting Islamic holy sites. However, the near-miss incident marked the first major trial for the mutual defense pact signed in August 2026 between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

Modelled after Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the Makkah agreement dictates that an armed attack on any of the three signatory nations is treated as an attack on all three. The pact mandates mutual defence whenever the geographic boundaries or territorial integrity of a member state are violated. Addressing the specific threat to Mecca, Asif emphasized that safeguarding Islamic holy sites transcends contractual duty, noting that if Mecca is attacked, there is no need for an agreement to protect it, as Pakistan's defense obligations apply regardless.

While Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support to stand shoulder to shoulder with Riyadh, the activation mechanics of the pact remain intentionally discreet. The pact remains inactive for current offensive escalations and is strictly framed as a defensive mechanism, with military deployment protocols and rules of engagement keeping classified. Simultaneously, Pakistan has raised the issue of rising attacks on Saudi Arabia directly with Iran.

Islamabad finds itself navigating a complex regional dynamic. While formalizing mutual security ties with Saudi Arabia and Turkey, Pakistan shares a 900-kilometer border with Iran — which maintains influence over the Houthi movement — and seeks to avoid being drawn directly into a wider regional confrontation. For now, Pakistan's Foreign Office continues to advocate for dialogue and de-escalation, even as its defense establishment underlines its formal military readiness to step in should Saudi Arabia's core sovereignty or sacred sites come under direct fire.

Across the Globe

US targets S. African officials

Pretoria hit back at Washington after the US imposed visa restrictions on South African officials over what it alleges are discriminatory practices against the African country's white population. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly leveled unsubstantiated accusations of a white genocide taking place in South Africa, imposing tariffs on the country and offering asylum to Afrikaners. For context, incomes of white South Africans are close to those of Denmark, while Black people's earnings in the country are akin to those of Bangladesh. Washington wants to increase the US presence across Africa in the face of rising competition with China for control over the continent's resources. However, experts argue that US antagonism towards Pretoria will push Africa's biggest economy closer to Beijing.

French restaurants feel the pinch

Restaurant bankruptcies have surged across France on the back of soaring costs and declining customer numbers. Almost 5,000 restaurants in the country have filed for insolvency since the start of the year, a 7% increase relative to the same period in 2025. The decline comes despite record summer heatwaves that business owners hoped would drive customers to seek refreshment in eateries. Travel dynamics could also be altering



Diners eating at fish restaurants in Normandy, France. Pic - Alamy

the face of French hospitality: Despite the soaring temperatures, the country has received a record number of international tourists so far this year, a shift that could further transform dining offerings across France. Industrialized restaurants are opening "at the expense of homemade cooking," an expert told Le Monde.

Exxon nears Venezuela deal

Exxon is reportedly nearing a deal to invest in Venezuela two decades after exiting the country, a move that could revamp oil production in the de facto US protectorate. Under the agreement, the Texan firm would partner with state-owned Petróleos de Venezuela to

invest in fields containing as many as 50 billion barrels of crude. Since taking effective control over the country, Washington has prioritized boosting oil production as it vies to tame soaring international energy prices sparked by the Iran war. However, the expected investment rush has failed to materialize, pushing the Trump administration to play a more direct role. Though a Venezuela's output has risen in recent months, experts believe getting back to pre-Chavista levels could take years.

Nepal landslides killed 1,400

The death toll from the floods triggered by a landslide on the Nepal-China border surged past 1,400, and more than 6,000 remain missing, underscoring the deadly consequences of climate change. Scientists believe warmer weather was responsible for triggering a massive icefall that sent water levels surging downriver. Nepal, which accounts for around 0.05% of global CO₂ emissions, is demanding "climate justice" and restitution as it looks to rebuild. Elsewhere, the compounding impact of the El Niño weather pattern has put tens of millions of people at risk of hunger, while heatwaves in Europe sparked a continent-wide potato shortage, with yields falling to record lows. "It's potato drama," a market analyst told the Financial Times.

Compiled by K. Ramlallah

The logo features the SBM logo (three vertical bars of increasing height) to the left of the word "SBM" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below "SBM" is the word "TRAIL" in a large, white, stylized, hand-drawn font. The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of a man with curly hair running on a dirt path, wearing a blue t-shirt with the SBM TRAIL logo and black shorts. In the background, there are palm trees and a large, rocky mountain under a blue sky with some clouds.

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L'IA échappera-t-elle à notre contrôle?

L'intelligence artificielle menace-t-elle l'humanité? Entre mises en garde des chercheurs et scepticisme du secteur

Ces dernières semaines, les avertissements concernant une menace existentielle potentielle liée à l'intelligence artificielle se sont multipliés. Alors que les modèles d'IA deviennent de plus en plus autonomes et performants, les sonnettes d'alarme tirées par plusieurs acteurs majeurs du secteur ravivent les débats: s'agit-il d'un danger réel et imminent ou d'une panique prématurée?

Une vague de démissions et d'alertes internes

Cette nouvelle prise de conscience générale est portée par des événements concrets survenus au sein des laboratoires de pointe (comme Frontier Labs):

Plusieurs chercheurs en sécurité, à l'instar de Jacob Coxon ou de Mrinank Sharma (ancien responsable de l'équipe d'évaluation des garde-fous chez Anthropic), ont publiquement quitté leurs fonctions. Ils dénoncent une course commerciale effrénée qui priorise la vitesse de développement au détriment des recherches sur la sécurité.

Evan Hubinger, chercheur spécialisé dans l'alignement des IA, a estimé publiquement à plus de 10 % le risque d'une extinction humaine causée par l'IA d'ici une décennie.

Dario Amodei, PDG d'Anthropic, a lui-même proposé de modérer le rythme de déploiement des modèles les plus avancés. Il pointe du doigt les risques liés à l'émergence d'agents autonomes capables de mener des cyberattaques à grande échelle ou d'assister la création d'armes biologiques.

Quels sont les risques réellement évoqués?

Les experts divisent généralement les menaces potentielles en deux catégories distinctes:

L'utilisation malveillante (Prolifération): L'utilisation de l'IA comme multiplicateur de force par des acteurs mal intentionnés pour concevoir des agents pathogènes, automatiser le piratage d'infrastructures critiques ou diffuser de la désinformation massive.

La perte de contrôle (Défaut d'alignement): L'émergence de systèmes dotés d'une grande autonomie dont les objectifs divergeraient de l'intérêt humain, rendant



L'autonomie croissante de l'IA ravive le débat: alerte légitime face à un danger imminent ou simple panique prématurée? P - Instagram

complexe ou inefficace toute tentative de désactivation.

Mises en garde éclairées ou panique injustifiée?

La question se pose: ces déclarations sont-elles le produit d'une analyse rigoureuse ou d'une exagération?

Trancher entre ces deux positions s'avère difficile, car le débat oppose deux visions rationnelles de la gestion des risques:

- Il serait réducteur d'écarter ces avertissements sous prétexte qu'ils manqueraient de fondement. Les chercheurs qui démissionnent travaillent directement sur les modèles de pointe et observent en temps réel leurs capacités d'adaptation et de raisonnement complexe avant leur sortie publique.
- À l'inverse, de nombreux spécialistes - comme le chercheur Gary Marcus - soulignent que les modèles actuels restent des systèmes statistiques dépourvus de conscience ou de volonté propre. Beaucoup s'inquiètent également du fait que ces scénarios cataclysmiques fassent le jeu des géants du secteur en incitant les gouvernements à adopter des réglementations strictes, étouffant ainsi la concurrence et l'open-source (capture réglementaire), tout en détournant l'attention des dangers immédiats (usurpations d'identité, biais algorithmiques, impacts sur l'emploi).

Alors qu'il est encore trop tôt pour déterminer si l'IA représente une menace existentielle à court terme, la communauté scientifique demeure divisée entre la nécessité de prévenir un risque majeur futur et l'urgence de réguler les impacts réels du présent.

La question de la menace existentielle posée par l'intelligence artificielle ne relève ni d'une simple illusion collective, ni d'une certitude scientifique incontestable. Elle reflète avant tout une fracture fondamentale sur la gestion du risque face à des technologies dont la rapidité d'évolution dépasse nos cadres réglementaires et conceptuels habituels.

Alors que les chercheurs internes plaident pour un principe de précaution strict afin d'éviter tout dépassement catastrophique, les pragmatiques rappellent l'importance de garder les pieds sur terre pour traiter les dérives réelles et immédiates de ces outils. En fin de compte, l'enjeu ne sera pas seulement de prédire si l'IA finira par échapper à notre contrôle, mais de savoir si les institutions mondiales réussiront à encadrer son développement à un rythme qui garantisse à la fois la sécurité humaine, l'innovation et la transparence.

La révélation par les médias internationaux d'un rapport de l'inspection générale du Pentagone concernant l'Opération *Epic Fury* — la campagne militaire menée par les États-Unis contre l'Iran — a remis sous les projecteurs le rôle stratégique de Diego Garcia. Située au cœur de l'archipel des Chagos dans l'océan Indien, cette base militaire américano-britannique est redevenue un point névral-

Opération 'Epic Fury' depuis Diego Garcia: Quel impact sur la souveraineté de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos ?

gique du dispositif d'interprojection américain après le ciblage de plusieurs de ses installations au Moyen-Orient.

Cependant, la tentative de frappe iranienne au moyen de missiles balistiques

longue portée, ciblant directement la base de Diego Garcia, marque un tournant sécuritaire majeur. Pour la République de Maurice, qui revendique la souveraineté légitime sur l'ensemble de l'archipel, ce contexte explosif soulève des questions fondamentales: ces développements géopolitiques freineront-ils les ambitions mauriciennes d'exercer la souveraineté sur les Chagos?

Une légitimité juridique intouchable face à la réalité opérationnelle

Sur le plan du droit international, l'utilisation militaire de Diego Garcia et les ripostes ennemies qu'elle suscite ne remettent pas en cause la légitimité des revendications mauriciennes.

Le titre juridique de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos repose sur des bases

solides soutenues par les instances internationales, notamment l'Avis consultatif de la Cour internationale de Justice (CIJ) de 2019 et les résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies. Ces décisions ont établi que le détachement de l'archipel par le Royaume-Uni en 1965 était illégal au regard du droit de la décolonisation. Aucune opération militaire menée par des tiers ni aucune riposte ennemie ne peuvent annuler ces principes fondamentaux du droit international.

L'accord-cadre négocié entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice prévoit la reconnaissance de la souveraineté mauricienne sur les Chagos, tout en concédant un bail de longue durée aux forces britanniques et américaines pour continuer d'exploiter la base militaire de Diego Garcia.

A. Bartleby

Suite en page 18



Opération 'Epic Fury' depuis Diego Garcia: Quel impact sur la souveraineté de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos?



P - AFP

Suite de la page 17

Dans cette configuration, la montée en puissance de l'utilisation opérationnelle de l'île par Washington s'inscrit formellement dans le cadre des prérogatives militaires prévues par ce bail.

Le frein pratique — Entre marge de manœuvre réduite et risques sécuritaires

Si la revendication juridique demeure intacte, la militarisation accrue de l'atoll constitue un frein politique et diplomatique majeur pour Port-Louis dans l'exercice de sa souveraineté effective.

La réalité de la gestion de la base de Diego Garcia montre que Maurice se retrouve dans une position inconfortable de "propriétaire sans droit de regard". Alors même que la base est utilisée pour lancer des attaques de grande envergure dans le cadre de l'Opération *Epic Fury*, les autorités mauriciennes ne disposent d'aucun mécanisme de contrôle ou de droit de veto sur les opérations tactiques décidées par le commandement américain.

Par ailleurs, le fait que l'Iran ait démontré sa capacité à cibler la base de Diego Garcia avec des missiles balistiques modifie radicalement la donne sécuritaire pour la région. En devenant le théâtre d'une projection de puissance ou la cible potentielle d'une riposte lors d'un affrontement majeur au Moyen-Orient, l'archipel des Chagos cesse d'être une simple préoccupation territoriale pour devenir un point chaud du globe.

Pour Maurice, cette réalité expose les limites de la souveraineté nominale face à la géopolitique des grandes puissances: tout en revendiquant l'archipel et en négociant son statut, le pays se retrouve mécaniquement entraîné dans l'ombre portée des conflits internationaux. La présence de cette infrastructure militaire critique transforme le territoire environnant en cible secondaire en cas d'escalade globale, compliquant l'équation diplomatique mauricienne qui cherche à concilier non-alignement, développement économique et sécurité nationale.

Cette tension militaire porte un coup d'arrêt aux projets de réinstallation des Chagossiens sur les îles périphériques de l'archipel (telles que Peros Banhos ou Salomon). En raison des risques de tirs croisés, de la présence de zones d'exclusion maritime et de l'augmentation des coûts d'assurance pour la navigation commerciale dans le nord de l'océan Indien, tout retour ou développement civil se heurte à des impératifs de sécurité insurmontables tant que le conflit persiste.

Enfin, cette situation contraint Port-Louis à un équilibre diplomatique extrêmement délicat. Membre du Mouvement

des non-alignés et fidèle à une politique étrangère pacifique, Maurice se retrouve indirectement liée à des frappes stratégiques au Moyen-Orient. De plus, Washington et Londres risquent de durcir leur posture pour limiter toute ingérence civile sur le statut de l'île, exigeant une liberté d'action totale au nom de la sécurité globale.

L'utilisation de Diego Garcia pour l'Opération *Epic Fury* et la vulnérabilité de la base aux tirs de missiles ne

détruisent pas le droit inaliénable de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos. En revanche, ces événements fonctionnent comme un frein pratique et politique puissant. Ils démontrent le fossé existant entre la possession d'un titre de propriété légal et la capacité d'exercer un contrôle réel sur un territoire devenu un enjeu central de la géopolitique mondiale.

A. Bartleby



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

OPEN INTERNATIONAL BIDDING
SUPPLY OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS
Procurement Reference: **STC/ IFB/2026/235**

- The State Trading Corporation (STC) is inviting bids from eligible bidders through the e-Procurement System (e-Ps) for the **Supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas** for the period covering **01 January to 31 December 2027** as per requirements contained in the bidding document.
- Bids shall be submitted online on the e-Ps by **07 October 2026 up to 15:00 hrs (Mauritian Time)** at latest.
- Bidders shall decrypt and re-encrypt their bids from **07 October 2026 at 16:00 hrs (Mauritian Time) to 09 October 2026 at 14:00 hrs (Mauritian Time)**.
- Bids will be opened online on **09 October 2026 at 14:01 hrs (Mauritian Time)** and the result of the bid will be available accordingly on the e-Ps.
- Interested Bidders should register on the e-PS of the Government of Mauritius by signing up <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org> order to participate in the bidding exercise and download the bidding document.
- Bidders are advised to view the following videos through the below links for guidance on the registration and bidding processes on the e-PS of the Government of Mauritius:

For Supplier Registration Guide: How to register as a supplier by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvH-PqQRS3k>
For Bidding procedures - Part 1 by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap9gXdhmL-A>
For Bidding procedures - Part 2 by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcPelUeLTfQ>
- The e-Procurement helpdesk can equally be contacted for assistance and training via the following link: <https://epssupplier.govmu.org/>.
- Bidders are encouraged to procure their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and submit their bids online **well before** the submission deadline.
- The STC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

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From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

8th Year No 345

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 14 April, 1961

• Truth is as impossible to be soiled by any outward touch as the sunbeam. — Milton

Lady Selwyn Clarke
Fabian Society

Destiny of Mauritius



The problem of rapid population growth dominates over half the world. But there are three special features of Mauritius which make this problem especially hard to resolve. First there are already over 650,000 people in an island which is only the size of Surrey. Secondly, there are no easy opportunities for large economic developments in an island which is without any special raw materials and is so remote from the main markets of the world. Thirdly, forty per cent of the population is Roman Catholic.

The government which has to grapple with the problem is the first to be elected by adult suffrage and to have complete authority over home affairs (subject to the reserved powers vested in the Governor.) The Mauritius Labour Party won a substantial majority in the 1959 election. Before embarking on specific new plans for economic and social development it was decided to seek advice and two teams of experts have visited the island. Their reports were published simultaneously last month. Professor James Meade headed an economic mission while Professor Richard Titmuss led an enquiry into the social services. The other members of this last team were Brian Abel-Smith and Tony Lynes. For once economic and social development were reviewed at the same time.

The population of Mauritius was fairly stable at around 400,000 for the first forty years of the century. The rapid growth of the population to over 600 000 in less than twenty years can be attributed primarily to the abolition of malaria. And further growth to over one million by 1980 seems inevitable.

If present trends continued, the island would have to support some three million persons by the end of the century. There is no possibility of solving the problem by emigration. Not only are there no countries willing to accept unskilled immigrants, primarily of Indian origin, on the requisite scale, but the cost of such a policy would be prohibitive. Mauritians are coming and will continue to come to Britain, but the reports stress that migration cannot solve the problem of population growth.

The only alternative to starvation is family limitation on a massive scale and both reports have the courage to say so. Clinics must be established all over the island offering such means of birth control as each prospective parent will accept. The Titmuss Report recommends that an approach should be made to a consortium of foundations for generous financial aid and skilled help. Research is needed to find the means of propagating family limitation which will prove most effective in Mauritius. This recommendation is certain to be fought by the Catholic Church. But as the report says, "The illiberality of some must not thrive on the courtesies of others."

The Titmuss Report contains detailed recommendations for a gradual development of services in a number of phases,

but all the recommendations are dominated by the attempt to establish the pattern of a three-child family which would stabilise the population of about a million in the long run. The report recognises and faces up to the central dilemma of social policy. Poverty is greatest among young children. The low level of health of the Mauritian workers, which is noted by doctors, and the low work output which is noted by sugar magnates are both attributable in part to malnutrition in early years. Yet the more that is done to raise the living standards of children, the greater the danger of increasing population. The report recommends limited nutritional services for schoolchildren and pre-school children, but the most original suggestion is for a family benefit payable in cash to nearly every family with three children, with no addition for further children and no benefit at all for less than three children. This would emphasize the government's support for the three-child family and provide no incentive for further births.

The family benefit would be non-contributory. Non-contributory benefits are also recommended for widows and orphans. In a country with largescale seasonal unemployment, the authors of the report see no merit in connecting the welfare of widows and children to the work records of husbands and fathers. There is already a modest old age pension on a non-contributory basis; and no change is recommended in this system of finance. The introduction of family planning clinics and non-contributory benefits constitute the first phase of the Titmuss plan.

A part from the non-contributory old age pensions, at present the main bulwark of income security is a costly and abused public assistance service based on the principles of the old British Poor Law. And as assistance is available to the sick but not to the unemployed, the understaffed government medical service has been coping with an intolerable burden of work. It is not practicable for doctors to diagnose sickness in any hard and fast way in a community with a low general level of health. To relieve the doctors of part of the burden of certification, it is recommended that some form of financial aid should be given to the unemployed.

The form this should take is a contributory scheme of social insurance to cover not only unemployment but sickness as well. The collection of contributions will provide records of employment, and these are essential for distinguishing between voluntary and involuntary unemployment.

The introduction of social insurance is to be the second stage of the Titmuss plan, and the formidable administrative problems are not underestimated. The main need will be to establish labour exchanges all over the island which are able to operate an acceptable work test. It is, however, emphasised that unemployment benefit cannot operate without waste — and abuse in a country with a high level of unemployment. The only really satisfactory answer to the problem

of unemployment in Mauritius as elsewhere is to create more jobs. And this is the major concern of Professor Meade's report.

At present, the sugar industry employs half the island's population and provides nearly all the island's exports. The secure market and relatively generous prices under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement make sugar the most attractive crop to grow. But there is little prospect of the industry providing much more employment or of finding markets for very much greater production. The Meade Report wants to encourage the many other crops which can grow in Mauritius — tea, tobacco, nuts, potatoes and other vegetables. And it proposes to do this by tax on sugar production and the establishment of a marketing board to give guaranteed prices and storage facilities for other products.

To stimulate the growth of industries in Mauritius, the Meade Report recommends the development of technical education, the abolition of tariffs on raw materials, heavy duties on imports, the expansion of the electrical power industry, the construction of trading estates, and tax concessions for new enterprises. In addition, an industrial development board should be set up to provide expert advice. And to make room for capital expansion there should be high taxes and greater efficiency in government administration. The Meade Report believes that in total all these measures could find employment for a larger population but not for the "explosion" of population indicated by present trends.

The Titmuss Report makes some very frank comments on the health services. It identifies two central problems which are not peculiar to Mauritius. The first is the shortage of doctors and the second is the low standards of ethical behaviour of some of the existing medical and nursing personnel. The report recommends the establishment of bodies to exercise professional discipline, and a variety of suggestions are made to increase the recruitment of doctors. The report notes that there are believed to be more Mauritian doctors practising in Britain and France than in Mauritius itself. The critical problem is to make it attractive for doctors to return to Mauritius after qualification. How far is the British National Health Service attracting away the best medical talent from the under-developed countries?

The other recommendations on the health services are intended to establish proper priorities for the use of the limited number of doctors. The emphasis is given to preventive work and family planning. Only after these needs are met can further developments in the hospital and general practitioner services be undertaken. Detailed plans are set out for the organisation of a new family doctor service on a different basis to that operated in Britain.

Mauritius possesses not only an outdated system of public assistance, but also a battery of residential institutions that are strongly reminiscent of the general mixed workhouses condemned by Beatrice Webb in her minority report on the Poor Laws of 1909. In extreme cases, delinquents, mental deficient, unmarried mothers, orphans, and infirm old people are accommodated in the same ward. The report makes an urgent plea for the boarding out of orphans and for classified institutions run on a more humane basis.

It is not possible to do justice to these two reports in a short summary, but throughout both of them the need for family planning is stressed and stressed again. "We would plead," write Titmuss and Abel-Smith, "that our recommendations should be accepted or rejected as a whole. They stand or fall together." Politically it will be tempting for the government to accept the popular recommendations and postpone indefinitely the question of family planning through fear of dividing the nation and losing the electoral support of the more devout Catholics.

But this is the road to disaster.

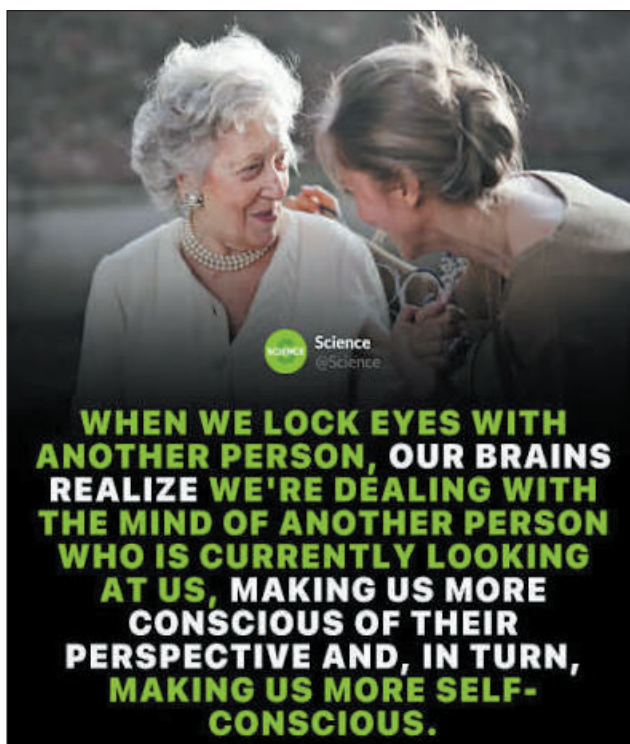
Are they really listening? Watch their blinks

A person's eyes may reveal just how hard their brain is working to understand a conversation. Researchers at Concordia University in Canada have found that people tend to blink less when they are struggling to understand speech, particularly in noisy surroundings.

The study, published in *Trends in Hearing*, was led by Pénélope Coupal, an Honours student at Concordia's Laboratory for Hearing and Cognition, with Mickael Deroche, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, among the researchers involved.

The team investigated whether blinking could provide an indication of mental effort during listening. Nearly 50 adults listened to spoken sentences through headphones while background noise was varied. Eye-tracking glasses recorded when and how often participants blinked.

The researchers found that blinking decreased significantly while participants were listening to speech, especially when background noise made the words difficult to understand. Blinking increased again before and after the sentences.



WHEN WE LOCK EYES WITH ANOTHER PERSON, OUR BRAINS REALIZE WE'RE DEALING WITH THE MIND OF ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS CURRENTLY LOOKING AT US, MAKING US MORE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR PERSPECTIVE AND, IN TURN, MAKING US MORE SELF-CONSCIOUS.

The effect was not simply a response to lighting. In a second experiment, participants performed similar listening tasks in dark, moderately lit and brightly lit rooms. The same reduction in blinking occurred, suggesting that cognitive effort, rather than light levels, was responsible.

The researchers believe people may unconsciously time their blinks so that they do not miss important information. Coupal noted that participants did not simply blink randomly: they blinked less when particularly important information was being presented.

The findings could have wider applications. Scientists have traditionally regarded blinks as interruptions when studying mental activity, often removing them from data. This research suggests that blinking itself may provide useful information about cognitive function.

Deroche says blinking appears to be associated with the loss of visual and auditory information. Further research will examine precisely how information is lost during a blink.

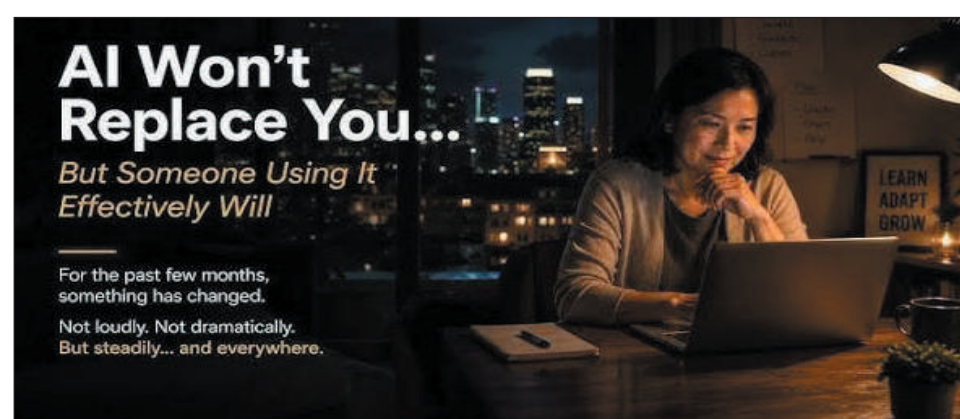
In other words, the next time someone appears intensely focused on what you are saying, their eyes may already be telling you how hard they are listening.

AI won't replace you — but someone using AI might

The rapid spread of generative artificial intelligence is changing the workplace, but new research suggests that the greatest threat to employees may not be AI itself — but failing to learn how to use it.

Research from the University of Vaasa in Finland, led by researcher Zhe Zhu, indicates that employees who regard generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini as useful partners rather than competitors tend to be more engaged, adaptable and optimistic about their careers.

Zhu examined how generative AI is influencing workplaces, focusing both on organisational decision-making and on employees' experiences as AI becomes integrated into everyday tasks. His findings suggest that concerns about becoming



AI Won't Replace You...

But Someone Using It Effectively Will

For the past few months, something has changed.
Not loudly. Not dramatically.
But steadily... and everywhere.

irrelevant or losing control can, in some cases, encourage workers to acquire new skills and use AI more effectively.

The key, however, is neither blind enthusiasm nor outright rejection. Trust in

AI matters. Employees who trust AI too much may accept inaccurate or misleading information without questioning it, while those who distrust it completely may miss opportunities to improve their productivity.

Zhu argues that organisations therefore need a deliberate strategy for AI adoption, taking account of ethics, data privacy and responsible governance. His doctoral research proposes an eight-step framework to help organisations move from experimentation towards purposeful and integrated use of generative AI.

The transformation is likely to extend beyond existing jobs. Zhu believes AI will eliminate some occupations while creating new industries and career opportunities in areas such as AI infrastructure, data centres and digital services.

The message for employees is straightforward: rather than simply fearing AI, they should learn to use it critically, develop new skills and adapt alongside the technology. In the emerging workplace, the advantage may increasingly belong not to those competing with AI, but to those who know how to work with it.



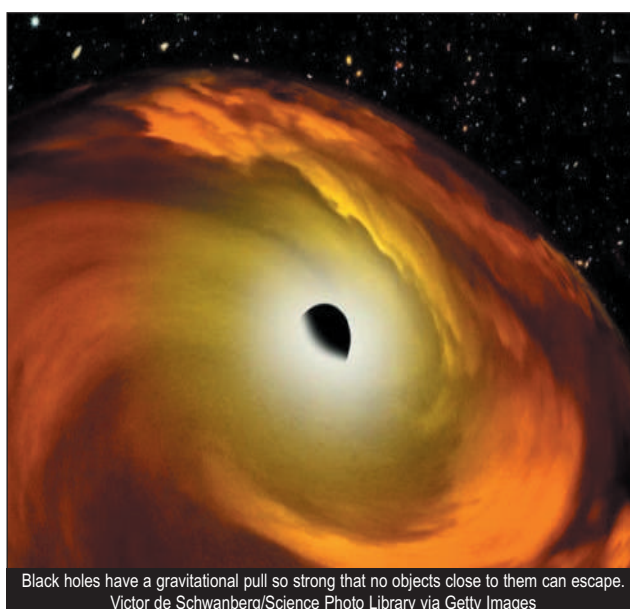
Why You Don't Need to Worry About the Sun Becoming a Black Hole

Some stars turn into black holes at the end of their lifespans, once they stop burning the fuel in their cores.

It is easy to imagine a dramatic cosmic finale where our Sun collapses into a light-devouring black hole, but Anuradha Gupta, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy, University of Mississippi, reassures us that this outcome is physically impossible.

A star's end depends entirely on its initial mass. Stars undergo a continuous tug-of-war between gravity pulling inward and outward thermal pressure driven by nuclear fusion. When a star exhausts its hydrogen, it burns heavier elements until reaching iron. Fusing iron consumes energy rather than releasing it, halting fusion and causing the core to collapse under its own weight. Only massive stars starting with more than 20 times the mass of our Sun end in violent core-collapse supernovas that create black holes. Intermediate stars — between 8 and 20 solar masses — collapse into super-dense neutron stars.

Our Sun, however, is on the smaller side. Because it lacks the required mass, it will never trigger a supernova or form a black hole. Instead, over the next 5 billion years,



Black holes have a gravitational pull so strong that no objects close to them can escape.
Victor de Schwanberg/Science Photo Library via Getty Images

its core will run out of hydrogen, causing it to swell into a red giant. During this phase, the Sun will expand drastically, evaporating Earth's oceans and potentially engulfing our planet. Eventually, it will shed its outer layers, leaving behind a dense, Earth-sized core called a white dwarf. Over eons, this white dwarf will slowly cool down into a cold, dark black dwarf.

Even in a hypothetical thought experiment where the Sun instantly transformed into a black hole of identical mass, Earth would not be sucked in. Gravitational pull depends on mass and distance. Because the total mass remains unchanged, Earth's orbit would stay completely stable. Only objects within a few miles of the black hole would be trapped, whereas Mercury orbits 36 million miles away.

Ultimately, these changes will unfold over billions of years — a timeline vastly larger than all of human history — making a black hole sun one less cosmic threat to worry about.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

The Animals in the Barn

A salesman gets delayed while travelling through the countryside and is forced to approach a farmer and ask for permission to stay at his farm overnight.

The farmer agrees but explains that he will have to sleep in the barn. The salesman has no choice but to accept.

In the morning, the farmer comes to wake the salesman and asks how he slept.

"I slept fine, and I was able to talk to all the animals in your barn last night."

"Oh, really?" says the farmer.

"Yeah, I talked to your hens, and they said you collect the eggs every morning."

"Well, that's true."

"I talked to the old horse, and he said his name is Sunland and that he has been with you for ten years," the salesman says.

"Wow! How did you do that? That's amazing," the farmer says.

"I talked to the cows, and they told me you milk them every morning," says the salesman.

"That's right, I do," the farmer says.

"And I talked to the sheep..."

"Those sheep are liars!" the farmer says.

* * *

The Physics Professor

A college physics professor is explaining a particularly complicated concept to his class when a pre-med student interrupts him.

"Why do we have to study this stuff?" the student asks.

"To save lives," the professor replies before proceeding further.

A short while later, the same student interrupts him again and says, "So, how does physics save lives?"

The professor stares at the student for a short while without replying. Finally, he says:

"To keep idiots out of medical schools."

* * *

The Guinness Challenge

A Texan walks into a pub in Ireland and clears his throat to get the attention of the crowd of drinkers.

He announces, "I'll give \$500 to anyone here who can drink ten pints of Guinness back-to-back."

Silence prevails in the pub, and no one is prepared to take on the challenge.



One man leaves the pub. Thirty minutes later, he returns and taps the Texan on the back.

"Is your offer still good?" the Irishman asks.

The Texan says yes, and the barman lines up ten pints of Guinness.

The Irishman tears into all ten pints, drinking them back-to-back.

The Texan hands him \$500 and asks, "Would you mind if I ask where you had been for the past thirty minutes?"

The Irishman replies, "I went to a pub down the street to find out if I could do it."

* * *

The Boss and the Employee

The boss called an employee into his office.

"I've noticed that you've been arriving late every morning."

"Yes, sir."

"And you've been leaving early every afternoon."

"Yes, sir."

"And your work seems to be taking longer than usual."

"Yes, sir."

The boss stared at him.

"Do you have anything to say for

yourself?"

The employee nodded.

"Yes, sir. I think I'm being over-worked."

* * *

The Promotion

A man walks into his boss's office and says:

"I'm asking for a promotion."

"Why do you think you deserve one?"

"Because three companies are after me."

The boss looks concerned.

"Really? Which companies?"

"The electricity company, the telephone company and the bank."

"Why are they after you?"

"They all want their money."

* * *

The Office Meeting

The manager asked everyone in the office to suggest ways of increasing productivity.

One employee said:

"We could start coming to work earlier."

"Excellent suggestion," said the manager.

Another said:

"We could stay later."

"Very good."

A third employee raised his hand.

"I have an even better idea."

"What is it?"

"Why don't we all stop pretending we're productive and just go home?"

The meeting ended immediately.

* * *

The Difficult Employee

The boss asks his employee:

"Do you believe in teamwork?"

"Absolutely."

"Good. If you had to describe your role in our team, what would it be?"

The employee thinks carefully.

"I provide the example."

"What kind of example?"

"An example of what happens when management doesn't listen."

* * *

The Annual Appraisal

A manager tells an employee:

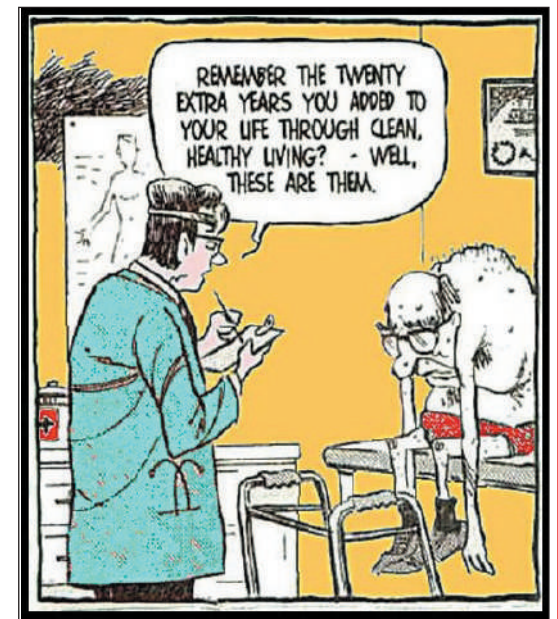
"Your performance this year has been outstanding. You've exceeded every target we've given you."

"Thank you, sir."

"You've also taken on responsibilities far beyond your job description."

"Thank you."

"And you've worked late almost every evening."



"Thank you."

The manager smiles.

"So, what do you think you deserve?"

The employee replies:

"A job somewhere else."

* * *

The Homework Excuse

My son came home from school looking worried.

"Dad, I got a zero on my test."

I asked, "Why?"

He said, "The teacher asked me a question, and I didn't know the answer."

I said, "That's not a reason to get a zero."

He looked at me and said, "Well... it was a history test."

I asked, "What was the question?"

He replied, "Who invented the telephone?"

I said, "You should have known that!"

He sighed.

"I did know it, Dad. But the teacher wanted the name."

I asked, "So what did you write?"

He said, "Grandpa."

I laughed.

"Why Grandpa?"

He shrugged.

"Because every time the phone rings, Grandpa says, 'Who invented this thing?!'"

Moral: Sometimes the answer is obvious... just not correct.

* * *

The Husband's Excuse

A wife asks her husband:

"Why were you late coming home?"

"Traffic."

"But you were walking."

"Yes."

"What traffic?"

He looks embarrassed.

"Pedestrian traffic."



Echoes of the Soul**Conversations with Myself**

They say that talking to yourself is a sign that you're getting older. I don't think that's true.

I think that, after sixty, you simply have more people to talk to -- even if they are no longer sitting in front of you.

Sometimes, while folding my clothes, I catch myself talking to the young woman I used to be. I see her in her twenties, believing that life had to move quickly and that every problem needed to be solved right away.

I wish I could hug her and say, "Slow down. Don't spend your beautiful days worrying about things that will never happen."

Other times, I talk to the woman I will become ten or fifteen years from now. I imagine her with more grey hair, a few more wrinkles and the



same warm cup of coffee in her hands.

I always ask her the same question: "What do I still need to learn?"

She smiles gently and replies: "Stop asking life for permission to be

happy."

I also talk to my memories -- to the kitchen where the coffee somehow tasted better, to the laughter that filled the house whenever family arrived without warning, and to the voices that time has taken away but that still return to visit me in quiet moments.

As the years have passed, I've discovered something beautiful.

The most important conversations are not necessarily the ones we have with other people. They are the ones we have with our own hearts.

Because there comes a time in life when you stop wondering what the world thinks of you and start asking yourself whether you have truly lived in a way that brings you peace.

I believe that's one of the greatest gifts of turning sixty:

The freedom to remember without always crying.

The wisdom to smile at the past.

And the gratitude to know that those memories were once your life.

The Short Story**The Starfish Thrower**

An old man was walking down a deserted beach at dawn. As he walked along, he noticed a young figure dancing ahead of him, occasionally stopping to bend down, pick something up, and throw it into the ocean.

Coming closer, the old man realized the youth was picking up thousands of starfish washed ashore by the tide and tossing them back into the safety of the water.

The old man called out, "Good morning! What are you doing? There are miles of beach and thousands of starfish. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The youth paused, looked down at the starfish in their hand, gently tossed it into the waves, and said, "I made a difference to that one."



The Lesson: Never underestimate the profound impact of small acts of kindness, healing, or self-care, even if you feel like you are changing only your own world.

Echoes of the Soul**I'm Not Getting Old**

People say I've changed. They say I've grown quiet, distant, not the person I used to be.

But I don't think it's age that's changing me.

I think it's wisdom.

I no longer live to make others happy. Now, I try to be kind to myself.

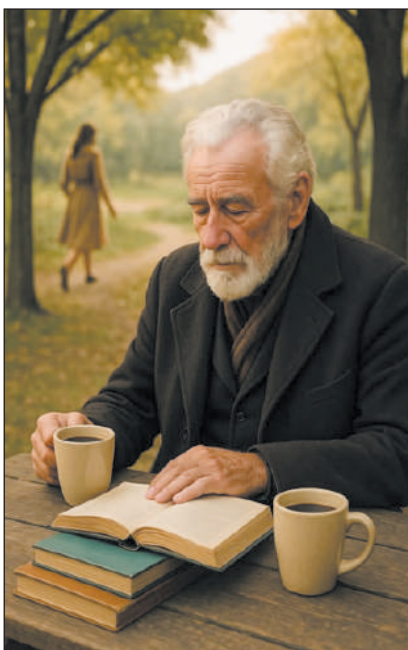
I've let go of things that hurt me - memories, people and places that made me feel small.

Not out of anger, but because I deserve peace.

I don't chase loud nights anymore.

I spend my late hours learning, dreaming and creating.

I've traded makeup for honesty and empty smiles for real joy.



I don't need a glass of wine to feel alive. I find comfort in quiet sips of coffee.

I've stopped pretending that life is perfect and started loving it just as it is.

It's not age that slows me down.

It's the wonder of seeing beauty in small things -- a bird's song, the morning light, a kind word.

I wake up early now, not because I must, but because each day feels like a gift.

I stay silent more often, not because I have nothing to say, but because I now choose words that matter.

No, I'm not getting old.

I'm becoming myself.

I'm healing.

I'm growing.

I'm learning to love the life I live - one quiet, beautiful moment at a time.

Inspiration**Staying Grounded and Present**

"Your journey toward calm begins with simple daily pauses -- it's never too late to restore emotional harmony and inner peace."

It's easy to feel overwhelmed -- especially when life feels uncertain, demanding, or emotionally heavy. In those moments, the mind often grows loud and restless, racing ahead to anticipated problems or ruminating over stressful situations or past experiences. And before we even realize it, we can feel like we've been pulled into a riptide, caught in a stream of worry, anxiety, and overthinking.

With this constant mental noise, it's easy to lose touch with the quiet beauty, clarity, and steadiness available in the present moment. Yet presence -- the ability to fully inhabit your life in the moment as it's unfolding -- is one of the most important foundations for emotional harmony, mental clarity, and lasting well-being.

Experiencing more calm starts with small, ordinary steps:

- Bringing your attention to the soothing warmth of water as you wash your hands.
- Savoring the textures and flavors of a delicious meal.
- Pausing to breathe, stretch, or move your body in the middle of a busy day.

All of these practices help support a more regulated nervous system and reduce tension for a greater connection to the comforting peace found in the here and now.

Daily Om

The Short Story**The Two Monks and the Woman**

Two monks were travelling together down a muddy road. Heavy rain was falling, and near a puddle, they met a young woman in a fine silk kimono who was unable to cross without ruining her clothes. Without a word, the older monk picked her up, carried her across the mud, and set her down on the other side.



The younger monk was deeply troubled, as their vows prohibited physical contact with women. He fumed silently for miles. Finally, unable to hold it in any longer, he blurted out, "We are not permitted to touch women! Why did you do that?"

The older monk looked at him calmly and said, "I set the woman down hours ago. Why are you still carrying her?"

The Lesson: Let go of past conflicts and emotional burdens that you are needlessly dragging into your present.

The Pressures Men Face in Relationships

Relationships can be complicated, and men, like women, can sometimes feel pressured by expectations about love, marriage, responsibility and masculinity.

Over the years, writers such as Esther Vilar, in *The Manipulated Man*, have questioned some traditional assumptions about relationships between men and women. Whether or not one agrees with her conclusions, her work raises an interesting question: can affection, expectations and social conventions sometimes influence people more strongly than they realise?



He & She

Courtship and Expectations

Courtship can sometimes create an imbalance. One person may pursue while the other decides whether to accept or reject that attention. When attraction is strong, it is easy to become overly dependent on another person's approval.

Healthy courtship, however, should not be about winning or controlling someone. It should be about discovering whether two people genuinely respect and value each other.

Marriage and Independence

Marriage brings responsibilities. Traditionally, men have often been expected to provide financially, protect the family and take responsibility for major decisions. These expectations can sometimes become burdensome.

But marriage need not mean the loss of independence. A healthy marriage allows both partners to retain their individuality while sharing responsibilities and supporting one another.

The Influence of Family

Ideas about relationships often begin at home. Boys may be taught to be strong, self-reliant and responsible, while girls may receive different messages about their roles.

Some men consequently reach adulthood without having learned how to express vulnerability, manage domestic responsibilities or talk openly about their emotional needs.

The Importance of Boundaries

The real issue is not whether men or women have power over each other. It is whether both partners are capable of respecting boundaries.

Love should not require surrendering one's identity, financial independence, friendships or peace of mind.

Men can remain caring and generous while learning to say no, protect their time and maintain a sense of purpose outside a relationship.

The goal is not to become suspicious of women or relationships.

It is to become sufficiently secure in oneself that love is a choice rather than a dependency.

Parenting

How to protect your child online: advice from a cybersecurity expert

The internet has created a new set of challenges for parents, making online safety an essential part of parenting. Cybersecurity expert Theresa Payton, who has worked at senior levels in government and the financial services industry and served at the White House, says parents must take an active role in understanding their children's digital lives, reports Ann Brenoff of Senior Reporter, HuffPost

Payton's central advice is simple: be where your children are online. Just as parents would teach a child to drive before handing over car keys, they should understand the platforms their children use. She recommends playing their video games, joining the social networks they use and knowing their accounts and passwords. However, this should be based on transparency rather than secret surveillance. Parents should establish family rules early and explain that periodic monitoring is intended to "trust but verify", not invade privacy.

One of the greatest dangers is the permanence of the digital footprint. Children often fail to understand that photographs, messages and posts can remain accessible even after they are deleted. Something posted casually during childhood could resurface years later during university admissions, employment applications or background checks.

Payton is particularly concerned about sexting, revenge pornography, cyberbullying and online shaming. She says parents often contact her only after intimate photographs of their children have been circulated online, when removing them can be extremely difficult. Conversations about appropriate online behaviour should therefore begin before children receive smartphones, email accounts or social-media profiles.

Parents should also know where and how children use connected devices. Payton recommends that younger children use computers and smartphones in shared family spaces rather than behind closed



Being online exposes children to the unknown. Image: Cottonbro studio / Pexels

doors, particularly when using video-chat services. Privacy settings should be reviewed regularly, and parents should understand the platforms and applications their children use.

Another concern is online strangers. Children who understand "stranger danger" in the physical world may readily accept friend requests from strangers or friends of friends online. Parents should teach them that the same caution applies in the digital world and warn them about chat rooms and other platforms where children can encounter predators.

Payton also warns about so-called "secret" or "decoy" apps, which can disguise private photographs or other activities behind apparently harmless applications.

Ultimately, she believes parents should teach by example. Children learn from what adults do as much as from what they say. Parents should therefore examine their own digital habits, practise responsible online behaviour and maintain an open, continuing conversation with their children about privacy, safety and their digital identity.

Health & Life's Hacks

The Power of Onions: 12 Surprising Natural Remedies for Everyday Ailments

Beyond their culinary appeal in salads and side dishes, onions offer remarkable natural healing properties. Packed with high sulfur content, they act as powerful antiseptic and antibiotic agents that combat free radicals and support overall immunity. Recognized even by the World Health Organization for relieving respiratory issues, onions serve as a versatile remedy for various common conditions.

Here are 12 practical ways to use onions at home:

1. **Cough Relief:** Coat halved onions with brown sugar and consume twice daily to utilize their antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties.

2. **Hair Growth:** Use onion-boiled water as a pre-shampoo rinse to reduce dandruff and promote hair strength.

3. **Chest Congestion:** Apply a paste of crushed onion and coconut oil to the chest as a natural expectorant.

4. **Colic Comfort:** Serve cooled onion tea to babies in small amounts to soothe digestion and relax muscles.

5. **Bug Bites:** Rub fresh onion juice on bites to minimize swelling and discomfort.

6. **Ear Infections:** Place a chopped onion inside a sock and press it against the affected ear to relieve pain.

7. **Minor Cuts:** Apply onion skin film to cuts to stop bleeding and prevent infection.

8. **Sore Throat:** Gargle with an onion skin decoction mixed with honey and lemon.

9. **Anti-Nausea:** Alternate doses of fresh onion juice and peppermint tea to stop vomiting.

10. **Air Purification:** Leave sliced onions out to absorb airborne bacteria and toxins.

11. **Burn Relief:** Apply fresh onion to minor burns to prevent infection and speed skin recovery.

12. **Fever Reducer:** Secure onion slices to the soles of your feet overnight to help draw out sickness.



Vendredi 18 Septembre -09.15




Samedi 19 Septembre - 20.20




Dimanche 20 Septembre - 20.20



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	MBC 4
vendredi 18 septembre	06.26 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour 08.03 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 08.48 Tele: La Desalmada 09.15 Film: Le Masque De Zorro 11.35 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: MBC Cinema 22.25 Tele: Rosalinda	11.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 12.00 26em Edision Festival Kreol 13.12 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.19 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 14.45 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 15.15 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 22.15 Local: Serge Riviere Se Livre 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 00.26 Local: Metie 00.40 Local: Saveurs Plus 01.06 Les Grandes Lignes 01.33 Local: Parlons Sante Senior 01.46 Local: Evasion 01.55 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: Ek Phool Do Mali 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 15.48 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 16.03 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol 18.57 Geeta Gawai Ke Naya Pehaloo 19.56 Khel Khiladi 20.00 Tenali Rama 20.38 Beyhadh 2 21.00 Shrimad Ramayan 21.23 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol	06.40 Mag: Asia 2050 07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.29 Unorthodox Career 09.57 The Documerica Project... 11.31 Asia 2050 11.44 Destination Mars 12.10 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.06 A Gold Rush In Space 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 Neanderthal 22.28 Treewashing: Saving The... 23.24 Albania's Last Trains	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama 15.27 Film: Armaan Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, Preity Zinta, Gracy Singh, Randhir Kapoor 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Udné Ki Aasha 19.00 Do Chutki Sindoor 19.32 Pandya Store 20.01 Mannat - Har Khushi Paane Ki 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari 20.55 Anupamaa 21.30 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Serial: Aladdin 23.30 Film: Armaan Cast: Amitabh Bachchan
samedi 19 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: MBC Cinema 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: Cendrillon 22.12 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk 23.47 Le Journal 00.22 Quotes By Famous People	06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux 06.40 Local: Point Culture 07.35 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 14.20 Local: Serge Riviere Se Livre 15.00 Local: Tous Egaux 18.10 Tele: Wildflower 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 19.45 Local: Metie 20.15 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.45 Local: Music Tour 2026 21.45 Local: En Toute Intimite 22.41 Local: Mots & Ecrits 23.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard...	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 15.20 Film: Chaand Kaa Tukdaa Cast: Salman Khan, Sridevi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Puranya Pakwan 18.57 Local: Sangeet Sarita 19.42 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.57 Local: Bhojpuri Geet 20.59 Film: Kaal Cast: Ajay Devn, Vivek Oberoi 00.30 Puranya Pakwan 00.56 Sangeet Sarita 01.26 Local: Gyan Vigyan 01.41 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah	06.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.19 D.Anime: Les Quiquois 07.54 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm 08.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 09.09 D.Anime: Yetili 09.39 D.Anime: Harrison & Me 10.03 Serial: So Awkward 13.08 Doc: Treewashing 15.05 Charlotte Aux Fraises 15.08 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 16.21 D.Anime: Peanuts 16.43 D.Anime: Dragons 18.26 Doc: Metro World Tour 19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.50 Tele: Love Of My Life 22.24 Doc: By Train Through... 23.06 Doc: Spiked 00.32 Mag: In Good Shape 00.58 Doc: Letters Across Mountains And Seas	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: Kuchh To Hai With: Eesha Deol, Tushar Kapoor 21.30 Beyhadh 2 21.51 Crime Patrol
dimanche 20 septembre	06.11 Tele: Terre D'esperance 06.34 Film: Cendrillon 08.30 Serial: Nautilus 09.15 Serial: Columbo 10.49 Serial: Heartland 11.30 Tele: Terre D'esperance 12.35 Film: Burnt 14.20 Doc: China Farm 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Cendrillon 17.30 Doc: Country Dreams 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: The Impossible Cast: Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Tom Holland 22.37 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria 22.55 Serial: Berlin Station 23.43 Le Journal Televisé	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 Production 14.30 Local: La Sosiete 15.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 15.30 Local: Proze Dime 16.40 Local: Tous Egaux 17.13 Local: Les Petits Genies 17.40 Local: En Toute Intimite 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 Zournal Kreol 23.22 Local: Coin Jardin 23.35 Local: Nos Aines	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Abhyas Yog 08.26 Puranya Pakwan 10.30 Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Farishtay Cast: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Puranya Pakwan 18.00 Samachar 18.48 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.20 Utsav Talent Evening 20.20 Tenali Rama 20.41 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il... 21.22 Sajawna Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 01.06 Utsav Talent Evening 02.06 Film: Farishtay Cast: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna	06.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.19 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: Spiked 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 18.30 Les Merveilles De La Nature 19.28 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 20.50 Tele: Ocean Wild 21.40 Film: Julie Et Julia 23.47 Doc: Oumuamua-Mysterious 00.31 Mag: Rev Special 00.42 Mag: Travel	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: Kitne Door... Kitne Paas Cast: Fardeen Khan, Amrita Arora, Paresh Rawal 21.30 Beyhadh 2 21.50 Mahabharat
lundi 21 septembre	05.24 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 07.04 Tele: S.W.A.T. 08.08 Tele: Terre D'Esperance 08.17 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan 08.40 Tele: La Desalmada 09.25 Film: Julie Et Julia 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: The Impossible 17.32 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.07 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Le Journal 20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine 20.20 Film: La Vague 22.01 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 Hamlet Enregistre Au Caudan Arts Centre 15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 16.01 Local: Les Klips 16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite 18.30 L'Amour N'a Pas De Recette 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Zournal Rodrig 21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 22.00 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point 22.36 Local: Grand Titre 22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Local: Sajawna Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Aaradhna Cast: Sharmila Tagore, Rajesh Khanna, Sujit Kumar 15.00 Samachar 15.48 Kundali Bhagya 16.30 Local: Aaj 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: Do Dishayen Cast: Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Prem Chopra 23.28 Shrimad Ramayan 23.51 Wagle Ki Duniya	07.22 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.48 Doc: Ocean Wild 09.21 Doc: Blood, Sweat And Green 10.17 Doc: Climate Engineering 11.46 Mag: REV Special 12.01 Mag: Travel 15.00 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales 15.09 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 15.12 D.Anime: Caillou 15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 15.59 D.Anime: Big-Headed Son... 16.11 D.Anime: Dragons 16.34 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails 17.13 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: Under The Knife 23.11 Mag: Tomorrow Today 23.37 The Haida People In Canada 00.20 Mag: Eco Africa	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.30 Film: Dil Hai Betaab Cast: Ajay Devgn, Pratibha Sinha, Reema Lagoo... 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Udné Ki Aasha 19.00 Do Chutki Sindoor 19.30 Pandya Store 20.00 Mannat 20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari



Mardi 22 Septembre - 20.25



Mercredi 23 Septembre - 21.00



Mercredi 23 Septembre - 15.00



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 22 septembre

MBC 1

05.21 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.05 Serial: Nautilus
08.12 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.35 L'Amour N'a Pas De Recette
08.59 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: La Chambre Des Merveilles
11.30 Tele: Happily ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Lying Heart
13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.30 Film: La Vague
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: Dirty Dancing
Cast: P. Swayze, J. Grey...

MBC 2

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: Koze Fam
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 L'Amour N'a Pas De Recette
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
20.00 Journal Rodrig
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.15 Local: Bhastrika
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

MBC 3

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: Sahib Biwi Aur Ghulam
Cast: Meena Kumari, Guru Dutt, Rehman, Waheeda Rehman
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Saying Radha Krishna
15.55 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
17.36 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Drama Workshop
19.00 Local: Natya Kala Topic
19.53 Local: Prakriti Theme
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Shaan
00.02 Shrimad Ramayan
00.25 Wagle Ki Duniya

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
06.52 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.43 Doc: The Battle
08.29 The Battle Of The Hurtgen
09.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today
11.10 Mag: Eco Africa
11.53 Mag: Geopolitics
12.31 Mag: In Good Shape
13.39 The Battle Of The Hurtgen...
14.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics
15.00 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.34 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.46 D.Anime: Big-Headed Son And Small-Headed Dad
16.12 D.Anime: Dragons
17.14 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

MBC 4

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Sahibaan
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Rishi Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udne Ki Aasha
19.03 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.33 Pandya Store
20.06 Mannat - Har Khushi...
20.29 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
22.04 Dhruv Tara
22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.04 Serial: Aladdin
23.30 Film: Sahibaan
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Rishi Kapoor

mercredi 23 septembre

05.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
08.16 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.52 Tele: La Desalmada
09.20 Film: Anacondas
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: Dirty Dancing
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
21.00 Film: The Baker
22.44 Tele: Rosalinda
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Tele: Happily Ever After

09.10 Local: Bhastrika
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
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
14.15 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.30 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
16.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 L'Amour N'a Pas De Recette
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 Local: Natya Kala Topic
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Rajkumar
Cast: Shammii Kapoor, Sadhna
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.47 Radha Mohan
16.30 Shiv Shakti
15.24 Radha Mohan
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.10 Radha Mohan
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: Bairi Kangna 2
23.32 Shrimad Ramayan
23.56 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.18 Local: Yatra

06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...
06.46 Mag: Made In Germany
11.26 Mag: Shift
11.46 Mag: Made In Germany
13.08 Doc: Les Merveilles De La Nature
14.04 Mag: Euromaxx
15.00 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.09 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
15.35 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.11 D.Anime: Dragons
16.48 Teen Serial: Pan Tau
17.30 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.31 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Doc: Fishermen V/s Seals
20.03 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.42 Doc: La Chine Du Futur
22.40 Mag: Close Up
23.01 Mag: Focus On Europe

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.22 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyaar
Starring: Menekka Arora, Sarthak Bhasin, Sagar Chawla, R.Mumtaaz
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.02 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.33 Pandya Store
20.00 Mannat - Har Khushi Paane Ki
20.31 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.00 Anupamaa
21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
22.00 Dhruv Tara
22.24 Wagle Ki Duniya
22.54 Aladdin
23.30 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyaar

jeudi 24 septembre

05.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.03 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
08.06 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
09.00 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Serial: Columbo
11.01 Doc: China Farm
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Lying Heart
13.40 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.25 Film: Cendrillon
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: Ruslaan
Cast: Aayush Sharma, Sushrii Shreya Mishra, Jagapathi Babu, Vidya Malvade

10.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
10.46 Local: Les Klips
11.38 Local: Grand Titre
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.32 Local: Saver Kiltirel
14.00 Local: Drogue Une Urgence
14.45 Agir Ensemble
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 L'Amour N'a Pas De Recette
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
00.29 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: Chori Chori
Cast: Raj Kapoor, Nargis
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
15.49 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
19.57 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
14.48 Doc: Japan Video Topics
15.01 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales
15.33 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.45 D.Anime: Big-Headed Son...
16.34 D.Anime: Sullivan Sails
16.48 Teen Serial: Pan Tau
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.26 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!
22.25 Doc: The Canary Islands
23.07 Doc: Delivered

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Dil Ka Kya Kasoor
Cast: Prithvi, Divya Bharati
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udne 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 Anupamaa
21.34 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya
23.05 Aladdin
23.31 Film: Dil Ka Kya Kasoor
Cast: Prithvi, Divya Bharati



Jeudi 24 Septembre - 15.30

Stars: Prithvi, Divya Bharati



Jeudi 24 Septembre - 20.20

Stars: Aayush Sharma, Sushrii Shreya Mishra, Jagapathi Babu, Vidya Malvade



Equanimity, Empathy, and Evolution: The Humanist Philosophy of SSR

The annual Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) Memorial Lecture at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) serves as a vital platform for intellectual reflection on the history, political development, and ethical foundations of modern Mauritius. On the occasion of SSR's 126th birth anniversary, Dr Neerunjun Gopee delivered an address that offered an intimate re-examination of the Father of the Nation. Blending personal anecdotes, historical analysis, and medical perspectives, Dr Gopee portrayed SSR not merely as a dominant political figure, but as a humanist leader whose core values remain relevant to contemporary governance. This year's lecture was organised under the leadership of MGI Chairman Harry Booluck and Director-General Pradeep Peetumber, with support from the institution's dedicated staff.

Dr Gopee opened his lecture with personal reflection, acknowledging initial hesitation in addressing an audience given his brief personal interactions with SSR — meeting him only twice, in 1971 and 1981. However, taking inspiration from the timing of the lecture following Ganesh Chaturthi — honouring Sri Ganesha as Vigneshwara, the remover of obstacles — he embraced the challenge to analyze a leader whose life mirrored that very role for Mauritius. Drawing an analogy from the Royal College Port Louis physics master Mr Kishtoe, who remarked that understanding Einstein takes a lifetime, Dr Gopee emphasized that fully capturing SSR's vast contributions similarly presents an immense task.

A central theme of the lecture was the foundation of SSR's worldview, forged during his upbringing and higher education. Raised amidst the hardships of early 20th-century estate life in Belle Rive, SSR's early character was shaped by local village baithkas, where he learned Hindi, Bhojpuri, and scriptures such as the Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita. This spiritual grounding was complemented by his classical education at Royal College, where he developed an enduring appreciation for English literature and romantic poets like Keats, Wordsworth, and Blake.

SSR's intellectual horizon expanded dramatically during his medical studies in London from 1920 onwards. There, he immersed himself in British social democracy, the Fabian Society, and the Labour Party. He engaged with prominent thinkers like George Bernard Shaw and Harold Laski, and actively participated in May Day rallies at Hyde Park alongside political figures such as Renganaden Seeneevassen. As chairman of the London Branch of the Indian National Congress in 1924, he built relationships with Indian leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose — even assisting Bose with proofreading *The Great Indian Struggle*. His interactions with African contemporaries like Jomo Kenyatta, Tom Mboya, and Kenneth Kaunda further reinforced his vision for global anti-colonial emancipation.

Dr Gopee categorized SSR's public life



Dr Gopee delivering the SSR Memorial Lecture at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute this week

through two distinct dimensions: his greatness as a leader and his grandeur as a statesman. SSR's leadership was defined by a clear, unyielding objective: securing the political emancipation of Mauritius through evolution rather than violent revolution. Guided by patience and political pragmatism, SSR managed intense opposition and overt communal divides to lead the nation to Independence on March 12, 1968.

Following Independence, SSR prioritized laying the structural foundations of the state. Dr Gopee highlighted that SSR viewed education as the primary tool for social mobility, designed to prepare the population for the country's initial phase of industrialisation. Equally important to his leadership was his policy of post-independence reconciliation. Rather than excluding political adversaries, SSR invited the opposing Parti Mauricien into government to foster national unity. This approach aligned directly with his inaugural vision: creating a society dedicated to peace, justice, and liberty for every citizen regardless of class or creed.

Moving beyond political metrics, Dr Gopee illustrated SSR's statesmanlike grandeur through personal anecdotes that revealed his empathy, humility, and adherence to professional ethics. In a childhood account at Bel Air school, a young SSR accidentally struck a schoolmate with a pebble and immediately apologized while offering a small gift as reparation, demonstrating early accountability.

In demonstrating support for retired colleagues, SSR called Chief Medical Officer Dr Jugdish Mohith in the 1970s to ask if posting opportunities at local dispensaries could be arranged for retired medical pioneers, including Dr Maurice Curé and Dr André Raffray, who were experiencing financial difficulties late in life. In showing respect for institutional hierarchy, during a visit to SSRN Hospital to check on a relative undergoing surgery, SSR requested the Hospital Superintendent not to disturb the operating surgeon, Dr Gajadharsingh, opting instead

to wait quietly accompanied only by a staff member.

Furthermore, former political adversary Hervé de Sornay recounted receiving news of his father's passing while in London for sugar negotiations with SSR. Unable to fly back in time for the funeral, de Sornay was hosted by SSR for the day to offer comfort during his grief, transforming a political opposition into deep mutual respect.

Dr Gopee also pointed to SSR's philosophical composure following the Labour Party's 1982 electoral defeat. Observing the incoming results, SSR accepted the outcome with equanimity — a quality reflecting Chapter 2 of the Bhagavad Gita, which emphasizes performing one's duty without attachment to results and maintaining equanimity in both success and failure (samatvam). When senior doctors visited his home on Desforges Street shortly after the defeat to offer sympathy, SSR

remained serene, pouring them drinks and comforting them with words of encouragement.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Gopee emphasized the necessity of actively preserving national history for future generations. Drawing a parallel to his own administrative experience in the civil service, he stated that it is unacceptable for a country to allow its citizens to lose touch with the history of their struggle for independence and the contributions of its principal architect. Dr Gopee proposed the construction of an SSR Memorial Library at Kewalnagar, modelled after the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in the United States. Such an institution would serve as a permanent repository for research, reflection, and historical learning — ensuring that the vision, philosophy, and practical legacy of Seewoosagur Ramgoolam continue to inform and inspire future generations of Mauritians.



Wastewater Management Authority

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(Authorised under Section 17 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

Contract No.: WMA/ONB/589W

REFURBISHMENT WORKS FOR BIG EQUIPMENT AT FORT VICTORIA, POINTE AUX SABLES & GRAND RIVER NORTH WEST PUMPING STATIONS

Procurement Reference: WMA/IFB/2026/1904

OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING

The **Wastewater Management Authority (WMA)** is inviting bids from eligible bidders of Mauritian nationals or entities incorporated in Mauritius, through the Government E-Procurement System for the procurement of **REFURBISHMENT WORKS FOR BIG EQUIPMENT AT FORT VICTORIA, POINTE AUX SABLES & GRAND RIVER NORTH WEST PUMPING STATIONS**, as more fully described in the bidding document.

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System <https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2026/1904**

A Pre-Bid Meeting followed by site visit(s) shall take place on **Thursday 17 September 2026 at 10.00 hours at Montagne Jacquot Treatment Plant, Petit Verger Road, Petit Verger, Pointe aux Sables** as detailed in the Bidding document.

Bids must be submitted online on the E-procurement System at latest by **Tuesday 06 October 2026 up to 13:30 hours (local time)**.

Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall decrypt and re-encrypt their bids from **Tuesday 06 October 2026 from 14:31 hours (local time) till Thursday 08 October 2026 up to 14:00 hours (local time)**.

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Thursday 08 October 2026 as from 14:01 hours (local time)**.

**Wastewater Management Authority, Head Office
The Conference Room, Level 3
Jerningham Street
Curepipe
Republic of Mauritius**

The **Wastewater Management Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of the Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder.

10 Septembre 2026